



COMPASS TOWARDS STABILITY,
SECURITY AND SUSTAINABILITY

SOUTH-EAST EUROPEAN COOPERATION PROCESS
SOFIA CHAIRMANSHIP-IN-OFFICE 2025-2026

Association of Balkan Statisticians

Athanasios C Thanopoulos, President of the Hellenic Statistical Authority

High-level Conference "EU Enlargement:
The role of Comparable and Reliable Official Statistics"

11-12 September 2025, Hotel "Bulgaria", Burgas, Bulgaria

The Association of Balkan Statisticians (ABS)

Founded in 1994

Revisited in 2018



Regional initiative for cooperation among Balkan statistical offices

The idea:

- Strengthen statistical capacity across the region
- Serve as a chamber for knowledge exchange
- Support policymaking through cooperation and comparability



145 years
BULGARIAN
STATISTICS

eurostat 



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Who qualifies as Balkan

Geography? Politics? Identity?

Balkan



Balkan Statistical



Shared Characteristics of the Balkans

Geography
→ our shared space



Migration
→ both inbound and outbound



Trade
→ direct flows



Mirror



Statistics

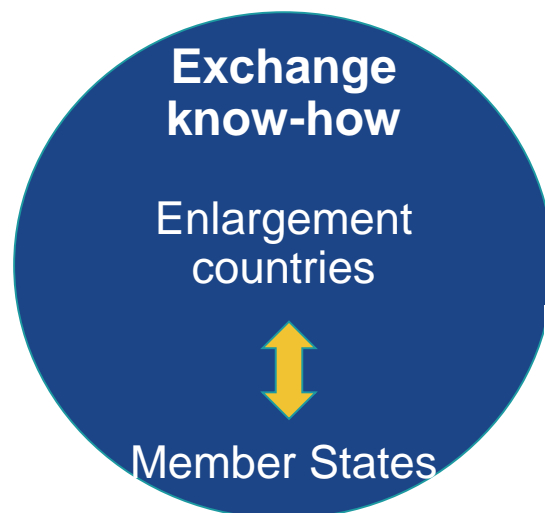
Multinational character
→ a global basis



Environment
→ waste, cross-border climate



What the ABS Can Do – Supporting EU Accession



A Yearly ABS Summit



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What: *Annual gathering of Balkan statistical offices*

Model: *Inspired by Nordic cooperation model*

Why:

- Exchange of ideas & setting priorities
- Stronger regional voice in ESS
- Sustainable platform for dialogue & mutual learning

A Call to Action

The ABS can be the backbone of regional statistical cooperation:

Build bridges between statisticians, offices, and countries

Support SEECP's mission of stability and integration

Be the voice of Balkan statistics



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*Faleminderit për
vëmendjen tuaj*

Vă mulțumesc pentru atenție

*Dziękuję za
uwagę*

*Thank you for your
attention*

*Dikkitiniz için teşekkür
ederim*

*Hvala na
pažnji*

*Благодаря ви за
вниманието*

*Ευχαριστώ για την προσοχή
σας*

*Hvala na
pozornosti*

*Дякую за
увагу*

*Hvala za vašo
pozornost*

*Ви благодарам за
вниманието*

*Хвала на
пажњи*