



# NSI participation in European programmes and projects

Bulletin № 6, 2014-2015

## Twinning projects



## European Commission projects to provide expertise and technical assistance on specific programmes

### *Completed Twinning project with the State Statistical Office of Macedonia*

On June 30 and July 1, 2014 in Skopje was held a final meeting on the twinning project "Support to the State Statistical Office of Macedonia for capacity building and improving compliance of statistics with EU standards", started in 2012. At the meeting were presented and discussed the results in all project components. Parties on the project are the Federal Statistical Office of Germany (lead partner) and the State Statistical Office of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (beneficiary). Junior MS project partner is Statistics Denmark. Experts from Bulgaria, the Czech Republic and France also participated in the project. The overall budget is € 1.2 million and duration is 24 months. The National Statistical Institute of Bulgaria participated in the implementation on the twinning project with six experts who realized 11 missions in the field of national accounts, statistics and accounts for environment, transport, culture and health. BNSI carried out 14 activities related to the project. During the final seminar BNSI received high praise from both the leader partner and the beneficiary.



## Twinning projects



### *Training a delegation of the Committee on Statistics of the Republic of Kazakhstan in the field of census*

From 1 to 5 June 2015 National Statistical Institute of Bulgaria hosted study visit from the Committee on Statistics of the Republic of Kazakhstan. The visit was held within the framework of twinning project funded by the World Bank and implemented by a consortium between the Federal Statistical Office of Germany and the Committee on Statistics of the Republic of Kazakhstan. The aim of the study visit was statisticians from Kazakhstan to acquire theoretical and practical knowledge to implement the preparatory and basic work on organization and implementation of the Census 2020 in Kazakhstan based on the experience of the advanced countries in this field. During the visit, the experts from the Head Office of the BNSI and Regional Statistical Office - Varna provided training and acquainted Kazakh colleagues with Bulgarian experience in Population census. The main emphases of the training were: legislative framework of Census; organization, conduction and methodology; methods of data registration; Information System "Census 2011" - automation of processes; update of the statistical register of persons with census data; Information System "Demography" - basic tool for production of current demographic statistics and quality and dissemination of census data. The bilateral meeting will contribute for strengthening the cooperation in the field of statistics and for further development of good relations between the two institutions.



### *BNSI started second Twinning project with Republic of Azerbaijan*

On September 23, 2015 started the implementation of the twinning project AZ/14/ENP/ST/32 'Support to the State Statistical Committee in Modernisation of the National

## Twinning projects



Statistics System of the Republic of Azerbaijan in line with European standards'. It is financed by a grant of the European Union and is implemented by a consortium between the Federal Statistical Office of Germany - DESTATIS (Lead Member State Partner) and the National Statistical Institute of Bulgaria (Junior Member State Partner). The Beneficiary is the State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The implementation period of the project is 24 months and the total value amounted to EUR 1.178.763. The project also involves statisticians from Slovenia and Netherlands. Mr. Arslan Ahmedov, Chief expert at "Multi-Domain and Geostatistics" Department, is designated as Resident Twinning Advisor. For 2 years he will organize and coordinate on spot overall activity for the implementation of the twinning project. The BNSI's team includes ten experts and is headed by Mr. Sergey Tsvetarsky, President of the BNSI, who will be involved in overall project management cycle as Junior Member State Partner Project Leader. Proved experts in the field of quality management, GIS, statistics on income and living conditions, statistics on people with disabilities and statistics on tourism will participate in the project activities. Mr. Bogdan Bogdanov PhD, Deputy President of the BNSI, and Ms. Irena Dudova, Senior expert "Multi-Domain and Geostatistics" Department, are leaders of two of the five project components.

Стр. | 3

## Participation in missions within TAIEX



### Participation in missions within TAIEX

#### *Providing expertise in the field of Information Society*

In relation to a request for technical assistance by the Kosovo Agency of Statistics experts from 'R&D, Innovation and Information Society' Department provided training in the field of Statistics on Information Society. The expert mission took place within the period 26 - 28 May 2015 in

Pristina. The aim of the training was for Bulgarian statisticians to acquaint their Kosovo colleagues with their experience in the implementation of European legislation in the field of statistics on the information society. During the visit Bulgarian experts Ms. Vanya Jeleva and Ms. Maya Papazova presented issues on data collection, methodology used, processing and dissemination of the survey results. Study visit of statisticians from the National Statistical Institute of Bulgaria in the Kosovo Agency of Statistics and its results will be a good basis for further development of the bilateral relations between the two institutions. The visit is funded by the instrument of the European Commission for implementation of the acquis - TAIEX, which provides short-term technical assistance in form of seminars, study visits and expert missions.

Стр. | 4



### *Providing expertise in the field of Non-observed Economy*

#### Participation in missions within TAIEX



In the period from 8 to 11 June 2015 BNSI experts participated in the mission to provide technical assistance in the field of existing mechanisms and instruments for assessing the level of shadow economy at the invitation of the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of Ukraine. The main objective of the mission was providing technical assistance for the assessment of trends and changes in the informal/shadow economy, including familiarization with best practices in the EU about methods for assessing the level of development of the informal/shadow economy, exchange of experience for the introduction of measures to its limitation and illumination. During the training Ms. Elka Atanasova, Director of "Macroeconomic Statistics" Directorate, and Ms. Elena Bakalova, State expert of "Nonfinancial Accounts" Department presented and discussed the description of the general approach to exhaustiveness, the frequency of review of the allowances for exhaustiveness, the current situation in the compilation/recording of non-observed

economy in Bulgaria. The visit is funded by the instrument of the European Commission for implementation of the acquis – TAIEX.

## Study visits and consultations

In 2014 and 2015, the National Statistical Institute of Bulgaria continued successful cooperation with experts from the State Statistical Office of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. BNSI experts provided technical assistance in the form of training and consultations organized jointly with the State Statistical Office of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia under the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA 2012). Missions were conducted in the following areas:

### *Expert mission in the field of Income and Living Conditions (SILC)*

In the period from 20 to 22 January 2014 BNSI experts consulted colleagues from the State Statistical Office of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in the field of income and living conditions (SILC). During this mission Ms. Desislava Dimitrova, Chief expert in "Households Income, Expenditure Statistics and Quality of Life" Department and Ms. Tsveta Tsonkova - Senior expert in the same department, introduced the Macedonian experts with the implementation of Regulation № 1177/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning Community statistics on income and living conditions (EU-SILC), and in particular the experience of BNSI during the income and living conditions survey. The Macedonian statisticians were acquainted with the methodology of the survey, the guidelines for its conduction, the questionnaires, work of interviewers and data entry. There was a strong emphasis on the formation of the target

### Study visits and consultations

## Study visits and consultations

## Study visits and consultations



variables (cross-sectional and longitudinal), preparation of data files and their validation, as well as issues related to the statistical disclosure control, transmission and dissemination of survey data.



### *Expert mission in the field of Environmental Accounts*

From 4 to 6 August 2014 in Skopje BNSI experts consulted colleagues from the State Statistical Office of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in the field of environmental accounts. In this training BNSI experts introduced the Macedonian experts with conceptual issues of Regulation (EC) № 691/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council and its implementation. Other main topics of this training were: basic categories of environmental taxes and borderline cases; defining the data sources of revenue from environmental taxes; defining the methods of allocation of environmental taxes and other economic activities. The training is under the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA 2012).



### *Expert mission in the field of Environmental Accounts and Environmental Taxes*

On 27 and 28 October 2014 BNSI hosted training on which experts from 'Macroeconomic Statistics' Directorate acquainted their Macedonian colleagues with Bulgarian experience in the field of environmental accounts and environmental taxes. The study visit was concentrated on the evaluation of the work on the distribution of energy taxes using Supply and Use Tables from National accounts; distinguishing the share of environmental taxes paid by non-residents; discussion on possible tools for distribution of transport, pollution and resource taxes according to A64 Nomenclature; statistical survey on environmental taxes; possible sources of administrative data for environmental



## Study visits and consultations



## Study visits and consultations

related taxes. The meeting was opened by the Deputy President of BNSI - PhD. Bogdan Bogdanov. The study visit was conducted by Mr. Stefan Tsonev, Head of the "Environmental and Energy Statistics" Department, Ms. Romyana Ivanova, State expert in "Environmental and Energy Statistics" Department and Ms. Margarita Tzvetkova, State expert in "Non-financial National Accounts" Department.



### *Expert mission in the field of budget expenditures on Research and Development*

In the period 17-20 November 2014 Bulgarian statisticians held 4-day consultation with Macedonian statisticians in the area of budget expenditures on research and development (GBAORD). The main topics of the training were: the implementation of Regulation (EC) № 995/2012 of the Commission in the field of R & D and its adaptation to national legislation; R & D by socio-economic objectives; national survey of R & D - a strategy, methodology, organization of research, method and type of study, used classification, method of data collection, statistical units, statistical tools and reporting the quality of survey data and distribution data. Recommendations were made to the Macedonian statistics regarding future steps to develop statistics on budgetary expenditure for R & D to full harmonization with EU legislation. The expert mission was funded under the Instrument for Pre-Accession of the European Commission (IPA 2012) Multi-beneficiary Statistical Co-operation Programme.



### *Expert mission in the field of Agri-Monetary statistics*

On 8 and 9 December 2014 statisticians from State Statistical Office of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia visited Sofia for training in the field of agri-



## Study visits and consultations



monetary statistics. Study visit was conducted by Ms. Girgina Nikolova - Head of "Agriculture and Forestry Statistics" Department and Ms. Maria Iordanova - State expert at the same department. The training covered the following topics: presentation of the Bulgarian experience in the preparation of accounts in agriculture and agri-monetary statistics; description of data flows contributed to the process of economic accounts in agriculture (EAA) data compilation; presentation of the Bulgarian experience in this field and the use of a Eurostat questionnaire; review of the administrative data used and analyze their applicability, quality and scope.



### *Expert mission in the field of Energy statistics*

On 28 and 29 April 2015 the National Statistical Institute of Bulgaria hosted two days study visit on which experts from the 'Macroeconomic Statistics' Directorate acquainted their Macedonian colleagues with Bulgarian experience in the field of surveying the energy consumption in households by type of use. The main points of the study visit were devoted to: review of the legislation; acquaintance with the questionnaires and the methods used during the project "Development of detailed statistics on energy consumption in households" conducted in 2010; sampling of households surveyed; review of the prepared by the Macedonian colleagues' questionnaire and giving of opinions and suggestions for improvement. The study visit was chaired by Mr. Stefan Tsonev, Head of the "Environmental and Energy Statistics" Department, with the participation of the Energy statistics experts and Ms. Rositsa Balakova, State expert in "Statistics on Living Conditions Department". The National Statistical Institute of Bulgaria provided technical assistance to the State Statistical Office of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) in the framework of Energy Community project 'Improvement of conducting survey on energy



## Study visits and consultations



## Study visits and consultations

consumption in households’.



### *Expert mission in the field of Customer Price Statistics*

On 22 – 25 June 2015 BNSI hosted 4 days study visit during which experts from “Macroeconomic Statistics” Directorate acquainted statisticians from FYROM with the Bulgarian experience in the field of customer price statistics. The main topics of the training were: review and implementation of the legislation in the field of consumer price statistics; establishing a pilot production system for HICP-CT indices; establishing the compilation system of the HICP - administered prices (HICP-AP); experimental implementation of the concept of consumption segments and the HICP standards for particular products; recommendations on the compilation of the inventory of sources and methods for price statistics and practice concerning data dissemination on HICP. The training of Macedonian experts was chaired by Ms. Albena Dancheva, Head of “Consumer Price Statistics and PPP” Department, involving experts from the Department. The BNSI provided technical assistance to the State Statistical Office of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia within the framework of IPA 2012 Multi-Beneficiary Statistical Co-operation Programme (IPA 2012).



### *Expert mission in the field of Harmonized Indexes of Consumer Prices (HICPs)*

At the end of March and beginning of April, and in September 2015 experts from the National Statistical Institute of Bulgaria consulted their Macedonian peers in the field of harmonized index of consumer prices (HICP) in Skopje. The main purpose of the consultations was to provide technical assistance in order to improve the quality and comparability of the Macedonian HICP and to introduce

the HICP at constant tax rates (NIPC-CT). The study visits were devoted on: preparation to implement the requirements of the CR 1114/2010 as regards minimum standards for quality of HICP weightings, presentation the requirements of the CR 1687/1988 (coverage of goods and services) and the requirements of CR 1688/1998 (geographic and population coverage); presentation of Bulgarian experience in implementation of CR 330/2009 on treatment of the seasonal products. In the consultation participated four Bulgarian experts from "Consumer Price Statistics and PPP" Department. The consultations were under the Instrument for Pre-Accession of the European Commission (IPA 2012) Multi-beneficiary Statistical Co-operation Programme.

## Operational Programmes



## Operational Programmes

### ***Project: "Managing the demographic changes in East Europe - Migration and human capital as the key to sustainable economic growth" (SEEMIG)***

National Statistical Institute of Bulgaria hosted a fourth working meeting on the project "Migration management and its influence in Southeast Europe - international activities for developing strategies based on evidence" (SEEMIG) held on 28 and 28 January 2014 in Sofia. The workshop was attended by project partners from eight countries (Austria, Bulgaria, Hungary, Italy, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia and Slovenia). In the participants were members of the national statistical institutes as well as researchers from the Institute for Demographic Research (Hungary), University of Trento (Italy), University of Vienna and others. At the meeting BNSI presented systems for production of data on migration, and the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy presented the topic of labor migration in

## Operational Programmes



Bulgaria. The other aim of the working meeting was to monitor the progress achieved on the individual work packages (Conceptual framework and definition of migration; Improving systems for production of data, Forecasts; Strategies and capacity increase). On its basis was adopted a plan of activities by the end of the project period.

From 20 to 22 October, 2014 in Budapest, Hungary was held the final conference of the SEEMIG project. During the final conference were presented and discussed strategic outcomes/results of project activities for the development of transnational database and best practices and institutional experience; the national and local strategies for collection and use of data on migration; the scientific and social aspects of the project and its impact on policy development.

In November successfully completed the implementation of the international project "Migration management and its influence in Southeast Europe - international activities for developing strategies based on evidence" (SEEMIG). The project, with duration of 30 months, was financed under Operational Programme for Transnational Cooperation "South East Europe 2007 - 2013". The manager and coordinator was the Hungarian Central Statistical Office, and the activity was carried out by Consortium for partnership with participation of institutions and research institutes from eight countries (Hungary, Bulgaria, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Serbia, Austria and Italy). Bulgaria was represented by National Statistical Institute of Bulgaria and Regional administration – Montana. As a result of the project at the BNSI were developed the following basic documents: Historical dynamic analysis of long-term trends in migration, labor market and human capital for the period 1950 - 2011 year; Report about System for production of data on migration; Prepared and submitted data for the database of Southeast Europe - population and demographic processes, social

statistics, labor market - data from the Labor Force Survey, the main macroeconomic indicators; an Action plan for improving the System for production of data on migration and human resources in Bulgaria; Strategy to enhance / improve the quality of statistics on migration.



***Cooperation agreement between National Statistical Institute of Bulgaria and Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works under Norway grants***

**Operational Programmes**



In 2014 the close cooperation between BNSI and Ministry of Regional Development and Public Work (MRDPW) continued for the implementation of the project "Bulgarian Border Dialog. Developing a Regional Cross-Border Cooperation Data Center". The project is funded by Programme "Capacity building and Institutional Cooperation" with the financial contribution of the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2009-2014. The activities are related to building statistical capacity by sharing experiences and conducting meetings and discussions between the statistical offices of the Republic of Bulgaria and the neighboring candidate countries in EU (Turkey, Serbia and Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) and the Institute of Statistics of Norway. The project objectives are to improve cross-border links between institutions, enabling harmonization of the methodology for generating bigger volume of cross-border data, attraction of foreign investments and qualified human resources. During 2014 in Sofia were held two work meetings of participants on which were discussed the indicators for measuring the sustainability of projects for cross-border cooperation under the new programme period 2014-2020. For 2014 on the project were collected and synchronized statistics for cross-border regions. After that they are to be integrated in the online platform with open access, where users will be able to extract and visualize data in different ways according to their own interests and to supplement page with

## Operational Programmes



information, statistics, photos, and copyrighted material related to the regions.

On the meeting of the international statistical group at the first half of 2015 were discussed regional data on wide range of statistical indicators and the methodology for their collection, which will be harmonized so as to be comparable for the purpose of the project. As a result of the hard work of the statistical institutes of Bulgaria, Turkey, FYROM and Serbia and with cooperation of the Norwegian Barents Secretariat managed to gather comparable data on 97 indicators. In 2015 were conducted two trainings for journalists related with processing and visualization of statistical data. At a meeting between the project partners, held on 12 November 2015 in Sofia was presented the online platform Patchwork Balkan ([www.patchworkbalkan.org](http://www.patchworkbalkan.org)). Developed under the project the online platform allows the users to retrieve and visualize the different socio-economic, geographic, demographic and other data related to cross-border regions of partner countries. It is available for free use by a wide range of stakeholders - citizens, journalists, NGOs, companies, local and national authorities. The data form platform will enable the development of analytical materials which to reflect information of development on the regions.

The project "Bulgarian Border Dialog. Developing a Regional Cross-Border Cooperation Data Center" is executed for Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works in partnership with the Norwegian Barents Secretariat. The total value of the project amounted approximately BGN 2.1 million and the duration is 3 years (03.06.2013 – 03.05.2016).



## Grant agreements of the European Commission, awarded to the National Statistical Institute of Bulgaria

### Grant agreements of the European Commission



In 2014, BNSI has successfully completed the implementation of 9 projects and continued implementation of the 18 European projects funded through grants from the European Commission and co-financed from the state budget and started in previous years in the field of macro-economic statistics, social statistics, business statistics and multi-sector statistics. The projects are included in Annual work programme on Eurostat for 2014 and Programme "Modernization of European Enterprise and Trade Statistics" (MEETS), and they are pursuant to Regulation (EC) № 99/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council on European Statistics Programme for the period 2014-2017. In 2014 BNSI applied for 15 new projects, which are to be implemented in 2014 - 2017.



### Grant agreements of the European Commission



For 2015, the National Statistical Institute of Bulgaria has completed 12 projects received a grants from the European Commission. In 2015 continue the activities in 10 projects, whose implementation started previous years. During the year, started the implementation of 17 new projects in the field of the environment, information society, statistics of prices, regional business demography and others. Summary table of BNSI's project funded under grants of the European Commission can be found at the following link:

[http://www.nsi.bg/sites/default/files/files/pages/International\\_e/1.%20%D0%A2%D0%B0%D0%B1%D0%BB%D0%B8%D1%86%D0%B0%201\\_EN.pdf](http://www.nsi.bg/sites/default/files/files/pages/International_e/1.%20%D0%A2%D0%B0%D0%B1%D0%BB%D0%B8%D1%86%D0%B0%201_EN.pdf)



[www.nsi.bg](http://www.nsi.bg)

## Contacts:

*National Statistical Institute*  
*General Administration Directorate*  
*Planning, Projects and Coordination Department*  
*1038 Sofia, 2, P. Volov Str., Phone: 00359 2 09857505*  
*E-mail: [info@nsi.bg](mailto:info@nsi.bg)*