

FINAL VERSION

1. Basic information

- 1.1 **CRIS Number:** 2009/021-665
- 1.2 **Title:** Support to the State Statistical Office for capacity building and improving compliance of statistics with EU standards.
- 1.3 **ELARG Statistical code:** 2.18
- 1.4 **Location:** Skopje

Implementing arrangements:

1.5 **Implementing agency**

The Central Finance and Contracting Department (CFCD) will be the contracting authority and will be responsible for all administrative and procedural aspects of the tendering process, contracting matters and financial management including payment of project activities, upon conferral of management. The Head of CFCD will act as the Programme Authorizing Officer (PAO) of the project.

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1.6 **Beneficiary (including details of SPO)**

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The other actors in the Statistical Program (National Bank, Ministry of Finance, Republic Health Care Office, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Justice, Employment Agency, pension Fund, Hydro-meteorological Office), will be included as a beneficiary where applicable.

Financing:

1.7 Overall cost (VAT included)¹ EUR 1 600 000

1.8 EU contribution EUR 1 465 000

1.9 Final date for contracting

Two years from the date of the conclusion of the Financing Agreement.

1.10 Final date for execution of contracts

Two years from the final date for contracting

1.11 Final date for disbursements

One year from the final date for execution of contracts

2. Overall Objective and Project Purpose

2.1 Overall Objective

The overall objective to which this Project contributes is the improvement of decision making by government institutions, businesses and citizens in the country, through producing exhaustive and comparable statistics in line with EU and international standards, aiming at further advancing of democracy and market oriented economy.

2.2 Project purpose

The project purpose is to develop the capacity of the State Statistical Office to improve compliance with the EU acquis in statistics, with a focus on national accounts, economic statistics, and social statistics.

2.3 Link with AP / NPAA / EP/ SAA

2.3.1 Link with AP

The Accession partnership highlighted the further harmonization of statistics with European Statistical System (ESS) standards as both short-term and medium term priorities (Chapter 18). Among those, the Council declares “Further develop all areas of statistics, achieve full harmonisation in key areas in terms of frequency, scope, classifications, timeliness and quality and put in place a uniform management and production system”.

2.3.2 Link with the NPAA

The National Programme for Adoption of EU Acquis, 2008-2010, is the general framework for the planned activities on compliance with European standards, where the Chapter 18 refers

¹ The total cost of the project should be net of VAT and/or other taxes. Should this not be the case, the amount of VAT and the reasons why it should be considered eligible should be clearly indicated

to Statistics, related to the improving of the availability, quality, comparability and timeliness of statistical data towards their aligning with the statistical *acquis*.

2.3.3 Link with SAA

Also, Article 82 from the SAA is referring to the development of an efficient statistical system harmonized with European standards.

2.3.4 Link with the Progress report

The latest progress report (2008) makes the following evaluation: “Overall, progress has been made towards improving both the statistical infrastructure and sector statistics. Alignment of the classifications with the *acquis* has advanced well. Further efforts are needed in order to achieve and maintain sufficient quality in the statistics.”

2.4 Link with MIPD

The MIPD 2008-2010 supports the production of *statistics* of good quality and their dissemination. Continuous assistance in the area of statistics may be foreseen, especially to further development of the statistical infrastructure.

2.5 Link with National Development Plan

The National Development Plan highlights the ‘insufficient integrated systems of data collection and management of registers, insufficient analysis capacities to support creation and implementation of policies’ as one of the weaknesses in the country. The NDP recognises that appropriate statistics is an essential element of development planning that needs further strengthening.

2.6 Link with national/ sectoral investment plans

The objectives of the project follow the priorities of the Strategic Plan of the State Statistical Office 2009-2011. The Pre-Accession Economic Programme (PEP) aims at preparing the country for participation in the multilateral surveillance and economic policy coordination by the EU. Regarding statistics, the activities foreseen in the PEP confirm that national statistics are crucial for developing appropriate policies. The PEP has identified necessity for:

- The enhancement of the quality of health, education, and research and development statistics;
- The progress and the further development of court statistics in line with the Law on Courts;
- Introducing the LAEKEN indicators.

3. Description of project

3.1 Background and justification

Official statistics are a tool for national and international policy makers, businesses and the society at large, when making decisions and measuring their effect. Consequently they are an essential basis for the development of democratic and market oriented societies.

The main actor and co-ordinator of official statistics in the country is the State Statistical Office, which produces more than 70% of the official statistics. The main duties and the scope of activity of the institution are defined in State Statistics Act.

Official statistics play a dual role in the Stabilisation and Association Process and in the EU accession process. First, an individual chapter of the *acquis* defines the harmonisation of statistics with EU standards and rules and has to be implemented in the pre-accession period. Second, official statistics serve other policy areas and chapters by providing the data from which policies can be developed, changes monitored and impacts assessed.

In the process of adopting the EU Acquis in statistics, the country strongly supports the harmonization process of the State Statistical Office through strengthening the human capacities of the institution. In this context the number of staff was raised in 2008 by 31. Moreover, there is strong commitment by the Government in supporting project activities, demonstrated by co-financing of the implementation of such projects.

Currently the SSO is in process of intensifying the preparatory activities for the Population Census 2011. For the last two Censuses, the SSO has received technical assistance for preparing and conducting of Censuses. All activities for the 2011 Population Census (both professional and operational) will be conducted by the SSO and supported with national budget. The draft plan for the Census activities was prepared recently. The Census methodology is completely adjusted to UN Recommendations for 2011 Population Censuses and the pilot Census will be conducted in May 2009.

Although the basic principles and the framework for producing statistics are in place, numerous gaps need to be filled before the statistical system of the country becomes fully harmonised and sustainable. This project aims to address the need for developing an overall system for production of quality statistics, including: further improvement of the National Accounts (NA), such as implementation of National Classification of Activities (NACE Rev.2) in NA, improvement of Input/Output(I/O) and Supply and Use tables (S/U tables), developing set of euro and sustainable development indicators; establishing surveys for transport-passenger mobility and external trade - real price import/export indices; further alignment of agricultural statistics in areas such as organic farming supported by a pilot survey, sustainable forest management; environmental statistics – Pilot survey on environment protection expenditures; improving data collection according to EU requirements in the areas of culture, health and crime statistics, and further development of Laeken indicators; quality review of statistics in the course of revision of the set of national statistical methodologies in line with the EU standards including quality standards; establishing a Centralized Backup and Disaster Recovery System and purchasing equipment; usage of Geographic Information System (GIS) tools for producing thematic maps and availability of advanced online services for data collection.

The programming of activities for IPA 2009 is based on results to be achieved in the IPA 2007 national programme and the Multi-Beneficiary programmes, at the same time assuring 'complementarity' of the projects and avoiding duplicity.

Last but not least, one of the main recommendations from the IT assessment report made in the CARDS 2005 project was a revision of the backup and archiving strategy. As data volumes continue to expand, it is not possible to have a similar increase in IT resources to manage all these new data. Backup has to become more automated, more intelligent, larger, faster and more reliable.

3.2 Assessment of project impact, catalytic effect, sustainability and cross-border impact

The national statistical system of the Republic of Macedonia has made progress towards compliance with the EU *acquis* and international standards. Furthermore the SSO has managed to maintain a solid base of competent staff. However, further alignment with the *acquis* is needed, and administrative capacity needs to be substantially strengthened. Further progress in this area will require both international support and additional financial resources from the national budget.

The project is expected to improve the exhaustiveness and quality of statistical data in the country, which will enable the national authorities to better monitor activities in various sectors and to make policy decisions based on relevant data. The areas covered by this project will have an impact on decision making with regard to economic, social and regional policies.

Having good quality statistics plays a key role in the development of appropriate policies by the Government, and is also relevant to other stakeholders such as businesses, NGOs, academia etc. The increased scope and quality of statistics is of crucial importance for the European Union as well, as it will provide adequate statistical information to evaluate the progress in various areas and chapters. Furthermore, additional statistical indicators will help to identify areas for future assistance.

Several pilot surveys will be conducted that will find their place in the regular Annual Statistical Programme.

3.3 Results and measurable indicators

Results and measurable indicators in relation with Component 1: Further improvement of the National accounts

The specific results to be achieved in this component include:

- Improved national accounts methodologies and indicators;
- Implemented NACE Rev.2 in national accounts calculations;
- Developed set of euro indicators and sustainable development indicators.

The measurable indicators include,

- additional national accounts indicators produced, both new and lower aggregated,;
- number of euro indicators and sustainable development indicators produced,
- number of staff trained .

Results and measurable indicators in relation with Component 2: Improving Sectoral Statistics

Activity 2.1 - Establishing survey on passenger transport:

The specific results to be achieved in each of the activities include:

- Transport statistics made more exhaustive and conducting pilot survey.

The measurable indicators include:

- survey documentation,
- assessment of pilot survey results,
- number of staff trained.

Activity 2.2 - Establishing Pilot survey on external trade real price and real price import/export indices

The specific results to be achieved in each of the components include:

- External trade statistics made more exhaustive and establishing survey on real price import/export indices after conducting pilot survey

The measurable indicators include:

- survey documentation,
- assessment of pilot survey results,
- number of staff trained.

Activity 2.3 - Further alignment of agricultural statistics in areas such as organic farming, sustainable forest management, and pilot survey in organic farming

The specific results to be achieved in each of the components include:

- Assessment made based on pilot survey results for possibility of establishing regular survey on organic farming;
- A comprehensive set of indicators on sustainable forest management.

The measurable indicators include:

- survey documentation,
- assessment of pilot survey results,
- set of indicators on sustainable forest management produced,
- number of staff trained.

Activity 2.4 - Improved environmental statistics

The specific results to be achieved in each of the components include:

- Upgrading the system of Environmental statistics according the EU standards by conducting a pilot survey on environment protection expenditures.

The measurable indicators include:

- survey documentation,
- assessment of pilot survey results,
- number of staff trained.

Activity 2.5 - Improving data collection according to EU requirements in areas of culture, health and crime statistics, and further development of Laeken indicators

The specific results to be achieved in each of the components include:

- Social statistics data harmonized in certain areas like crime, health and culture by improving data collection and processing, and
- produced Laeken indicators.

The measurable indicators include:

- improved data in the areas of culture, health and crime statistics,
- additional set of Laeken indicators produced,
- number of staff trained.

Results and measurable indicators in relation with Component 3: Institutional building

Activity 3.1 - Quality review of statistics

The specific results to be achieved in each of the components include:

- Elaborated guidelines for improvement of the processes and process change management which ensures that SSO provides statistics that comply with the European quality standards;
- Accepted and implemented standards and common tools in order to satisfy the Eurostat transmission programme in chosen statistical area;
- ESS policies and tools for harmonized confidentiality management implemented.

The measurable indicators include:

- written manuals, guidelines and work plan for implementation of European quality standards,
- increased data transmission to Eurostat,
- number of staff trained.

Activity 3.2 - Using of GIS tools for producing thematic maps

The specific results to be achieved in each of the components include:

- Application developed for producing thematic maps in GIS environment.

The measurable indicators include:

- number of thematic maps produced,
- number of staff trained.

Results and measurable indicators in relation with Component 4: Technical assistance and purchase of equipment for establishing a Centralized backup and Disaster Recovery system and support for advanced online data collection services

Activity 4.1 - Establishing Centralized backup and Disaster Recovery system and purchasing equipment

The specific results to be achieved in each of the components include:

- Fully operational Centralized backup and Disaster Recovery System put in place that will provide more automated, more intelligent, larger, faster and more reliable backup.

The measurable indicators include

- documented SSO needs for archiving, backup and disaster recovery,
- elaborated strategy for implementation of the centralized backup system,
- detailed specification made for purchasing of equipment,
- number of staff trained in using centralized backup system ,
- purchased equipment,
- centralised backup system installed and fully operational.

Activity 4.2 - Availability of advanced online services for data collection

The specific results to be achieved in each of the components include:

- Fully operational system for on line data collection in which all the necessary data and network security measures are incorporated. This system should be integrated with the existing system for data collection at SSO.

The measurable indicators include:

- project specification prepared for tendering procedure for online data collection software (SW) development,
- developed application for on-line data collection,
- data collected on -line at least for two 2 surveys,
- integration with the existing system for data collection at SSO confirmed,
- number of staff trained..

3.4 Activities

In the indicated areas covered with the project, the following activities, listed by components, are foreseen:

Component 1 - Further improvement of the national accounts

Various improvements have been introduced in the field of national accounts, but further progress needs to be made. This project will provide assistance to State Statistical Office in different areas of national accounts as S/U and I/O tables, implementation of NACE Rev.2 in NA, seasonal adjustments in quarterly accounts data, indicators for quarterly estimations and annual calculations, development of euro indicators and sustainable development indicators, further development of regional accounts and establishing the health accounts.

Activities foreseen under this component include:

- Calculation of indicators needed for compilation of S/U and I/O in constant prices;
- Implementation of certain methodological issues according to the revised SNA 93;
- Seasonal adjustments in quarterly accounts data, improvement of the indicators for quarterly estimations as well as annual calculations;
- Ensuring preparation of NA aggregates series according to NACE Rev.2;
- Ensuring data and methods for health accounts statistics;
- Compiling euro indicators and sustainable development indicators in accordance with transmission tables.

Component 2: Improving Sectoral Statistics

Activity 2.1 - Establishing surveys for-passenger transport

SSO in the field of transport statistics has established all relevant transport surveys according to Acquis. However there is a need for further development of the established surveys especially the passenger transport statistics. Having in mind that the passenger mobility is connected with the passenger statistics, we will put the accent on development of the passenger statistics and in line with this statistics to gain knowledge about passenger mobility as well.

Activities foreseen under this component include:

- Preparation of all phases of the pilot survey;
- Training of the statistical staff;
- Conducting the survey on field;
- Assessment of the survey results;
- Recommendations for the future activities.

Activity 2.2 - Establishing Pilot survey on external trade real price and real price import/export indices

SSO based the unit value index calculation on the UN standards, definitions and recommendations. However, there is a lack of knowledge about the methodology used and index calculation for real price import/export indices. The real price import/export indices are variables which have to be provided in accordance with the EU Regulative for Short Term Statistics (EC No 1503/2006 - Output prices of the non-domestic market and import prices).

Activities foreseen under this component include:

- Preparation of methodology for the survey on real price import/export indices based on Acquis;
- Preparation of enterprise sample and product sample for each enterprise;
- Preparation and testing of questionnaire;
- Training of the statistical staff;
- Conducting the pilot survey on field;
- Assessment of pilot survey results and implementing the recommendations;
- Conducting of a regular survey (SSO);
- In addition, to be made assessment and verification of the regular survey results that will be conducted by SSO.

Activity 2.3 - Further alignment of agricultural statistics in the areas of organic farming and in sustainable forest management

The main purpose is to provide new agricultural statistics in areas of organic farming and to explore possibilities to find relevant indicators for sustainable forest management in accordance with EU and international standards. These indicators are necessary for supporting the national policies, such as the strategy for sustainable development of forestry adopted in 2007 by the Government. The area of organic farming is relatively new and no knowledge is available in SSO.

Activities foreseen under this component include:

2.2.1 Pilot survey for statistics on organic farming

- Preparation of all phases of the pilot survey;
- Training of the statistical staff;
- Conducting the survey on field;
- Assessment of the survey results;
- Recommendations for the future activities.

2.2.2. Producing measurable indicators for the sustainable forest management

- Carrying out a pilot study on forest management.

Activity 2.4 - Environmental statistics – Pilot survey on environment protection expenditures

Environmental statistics are important for measuring the state of environment by establishing the indicators to evaluate the sustainable development of the country and its impact upon the economic and social life. The objectives of this project are: development of a specific classification for environment protection, development of an inventory of the producers of environment protection services, design of a survey system for the collection of environment protection data and establishment of a database and development of publications for the dissemination of environment statistics.

Conducting the pilot survey on environment protection expenditures will be done after the examination of availability of data on the environment indicators in the system of national accounts that is to be implemented within the SIDA project.

Activities foreseen under this component include:

- Preparation of all phases of the pilot survey;
- Training of the statistical staff;
- Conducting the survey on field;
- Assessment of the survey results;
- Recommendations for the future activities.

Activity 2.5 - Improving data collection according to EU requirements in social statistics in certain areas such as culture, health and crime statistics, and further development of Laeken indicators

Based on recommendation that will be given after assessment made in areas of crime and culture within the IPA 2007 national programme for statistics, the purpose of this component is to implement the recommendations given as to improve the data collection according to the EU standards. Improvement of data collection in area of health statistics in accordance with Acquis will contribute to harmonize the statistics in this area that is in synergy with component 1 on national accounts developing health accounts. Further development of Laeken indicators based on the SILC survey will provide harmonized statistics for living standard and labour market areas.

Activities foreseen under this component include:

- Development of methodologies, quality control procedures and methods of statistical analysis;
- To implement recommendations given within IPA 2007 national project concerning crime and culture statistics;
- To improve health statistics according EU standards;
- To develop Laeken indicators based on SILC survey;
- To have staff trained in relevant methods and procedures.

It is believed by the SSO that concerning the pilot projects to be carried out under twinning contract, please note that there is a need of consultancy to be provided prior to conduction of the pilot surveys and after their conduction for analysing the survey results and giving recommendations. It is of essential importance to ensure that close relations among the expertise provided and actual conduction of surveys that can be achieved by including these surveys under the twinning mechanism.

Component 3 - Institutional building by enhancing SSO capacity through STA trainings and study visits

Activity 3.1 - Quality review of statistics

Revision of a priority set of national statistical methodologies in line with the EU standards in order to reach a higher degree of compliance including quality standards. Within this project component SSO staff should be trained for use of quality standards and common tools for secure exchange of statistical data and metadata on national and international level.

Activities foreseen under this component include:

- Elaborating guidelines for improvement of the processes and process change management which ensures that SSO provides statistics that comply with the European quality standards;
- Accepting and implementing standards and common tools in order to satisfy the Eurostat transmission programme in chosen statistical area;
- Implementation of the ESS policies and tools for harmonized confidentiality management.

Activity 3.2 - Using of GIS tools for producing thematic maps

Thematic maps for different needs are prepared in the desktop mapping environment. Having in mind that GIS tools are becoming the base for spatial data management which will be required for development of the country's regions, it is logical that the production process of thematic maps is re-oriented towards using the GIS tools.

The main activities for this component include technical assistance for the development of applications for automatic production of different thematic maps based on statistical data, and presentation of spatial data on the WEB.

Activities foreseen under this component include:

- Defining elements for application in GIS environment for automatic production of thematic maps;
- Developing of application in GIS environment for automatic production of different types of thematic maps;
- Using of latest technological approaches for presenting of spatial data on web that will enable better services towards the users.

Component 4 – Technical assistance and purchase of equipment for establishing a Centralized backup and Disaster Recovery system and support for advanced online data collection services

Activity 4.1 - Establishing a Centralized backup and Disaster Recovery system in SSO and purchasing of equipment (technical assistance and supply contract)

One of the main recommendations from the IT assessment report made by the CARDS 2005 National project was the revision of the backup and archiving strategy. As data volumes continue to expand it is not possible to have a similar increase in IT resources to manage all this new data. Backup has to become more automated, more intelligent, larger and faster and more reliable. The main activities for this component are support in definition of specifications, training staff and procurement of software and hardware.

Activities foreseen under this sub-component include:

- Assessment of the SSO needs for archiving, backup and disaster recovery;
- Creation for data protection strategy that encompasses current and future data requirements;
- Evaluation of the backup software choices and their specific features;
- Preparation of a detailed specification for purchasing centralized backup and disaster recovery system;
- Installation of the system and make it functional;
- Support in the implementation of strategy, training on backup system usage.

Activity 4.2 - Availability of advanced online services for data collection (twinning and service contract)

In line with e-government strategy for improving the level of sophistications of on line services offered by the public administration, SSO tends to develop a system for online filling the statistical questionnaires. This would be step further in the efforts to decrease the burden of data reporting. The main activity will be preparation of project specification and software development and implementation in daily practice.

Activities foreseen under this sub-component include:

- Drafting ToR for the project specification;
- Preparation of the project specification;
- Implementation phase of the system;
- Testing of the system;
- Approval of the system based on the data collect for at least two surveys;
- Training for maintenance of the system.

Project Management and Administration

The project consists of several components and for its successful implementation it is crucial to ensure a strong coordination mechanism.

The SPO will be responsible for the overall management, representation (coordination with the EU and other international bodies), and reporting. The coordination of activity development in the different components of the project is important. The SPO is responsible for appropriate management of resources.

The government body that will benefit from expert services is the State Statistical Office. The Project management arrangements on Twinning will be defined in Twinning Project Fiche.

The contracting arrangements are expected to be:

- One Twinning contract :
 - contract duration of 24 months,
 - deployment in the twinning project is to start one month after contract is signed, expected deployment date is 2011 - Q1;
 - in this contract components 1, 2, 3 and 4, will be included;

- the contract value of the twinning (including the pilot projects) is approximately EUR 1 200 000, of which the IPA funds will be EUR 1 140 000 and co-financing from the beneficiary will be EUR 60 000.
- One supply contract will be concluded. The implementation of this contract is expected to start in Q1 2012 with duration of 18 months (duration of a supply contract consist of implementation period 6 months + 12 months warranty period). The contract value of the supply contract will be approximately EUR 300 000, of which the IPA funds will be EUR 225 000 and the co-financing from the beneficiary will be EUR 75 000.
- One framework contract should be concluded for supporting the software solutions.
 - The contract value of the service contract will be approximately EUR 100 000, of which the IPA contribution will be EUR 100 000. The framework contract is not a subject of national co-financing.
 - The framework contract will refer to component 4.

3.5 Conditionality and sequencing

In order to ensure successful implementation of this project, the following conditions must be fulfilled:

1. Appointment of counterpart personnel by the beneficiary before the launch of the tender process (SSO must have a sufficient capacity and adequate human resources to coordinate and implement this IPA project, which would be properly trained and motivated to assist in implementation and co-operation with consultants during their assignment. Adequate working conditions, including workspace and necessary equipment must be provided for all employees involved)
2. Allocation of working space and facilities by the beneficiary for technical assistance and twinning prior to the launch of the tender process;
3. Participation of the beneficiary in the tender process in accordance with EU regulations;
4. Selection and appointment of members of steering and coordination committees, seminars by the beneficiary in accordance with TOR/work plan of the project;
5. Designating relevant staff by the beneficiary to participate in training activities as per work plan;
6. Examination of availability of data on the environment indicators in the system of national accounts that is to be implemented within the SIDA project is prerequisite for conducting the pilot survey on environment protection expenditures under Sub-component 2.4: Pilot survey on environment protection expenditures.

3.6 Linked activities

The country has been receiving EC, (PHARE and CARDS), support for the development of a sustainable and EU harmonised statistical since 1996. These projects include:

PHARE 1996 project provided technical assistance to the SSO concerning classifications, national accounts and external trade statistics, as well as equipment for modernisation of the office.

PHARE 1998 project focused on improving the statistical registers and links between statistical registers and administrative data sources, and improving statistics in the area of agriculture, external trade and labour market.

PHARE 2000 project assisted the SSO with the processing of data from the Population Census conducted in November 2002 (software licences, furniture and equipment, security system installation) and supported the international monitoring mission.

CARDS 2005 National Programme has started in June 2006 and was finalised in September 2008. It assisted SSO in capacity building, harmonisation of national accounts to meet EU standards, improvement of the statistical programme, with a focus on business and social statistics, strengthening the capacity of the information and communication technology (ICT) of the SSO, strengthening the performance and quality monitoring practices in the SSO, enhancing the overall consultation, cooperation and communication strategy of the SSO vis-à-vis public stakeholders, the end-users and the media.

CARDS Regional Programme 2001 on statistics covered 3 pilot projects: purchasing power parities, external trade and business statistics. This programme also delivered training to the SSO in the form of experts' missions to SSO, participating in seminars, international meetings and Eurostat working groups.

CARDS Regional Programme 2003 on statistics started in July 2006 and ended in March 2008. It covered: pilot projects in the areas of purchasing power parities, external trade statistics, migration statistics and labour market statistics, as well as transfer of know-how by training, traineeships, study trips, consultations and participation in Eurostat working groups.

IPA 2007 national programme on statistics is in phase of finalising. The project will address four priority areas for technical assistance and one for supplies that need further development, and the results expected are:

- development of a quality system for all processes in the production of statistics (among which establishing uniform system for storing data, standards and guidelines for production and dissemination of statistics including a micro data access policy);
- further harmonized national accounts and other economic statistics (ESA 95, financial and balance payment statistics, government sector statistics);
- improved business statistics (structural business -establishing surveys on services, and short term statistics by establishing surveys for input prices index in construction and distributive trade);
- improved social statistics (analysis of the SILC pilot survey results and establishing of a regular SILC survey as from 2010, improved harmonized education statistics);
- Improved IT systems by providing IT equipment as to support SSO tasks successfully, and in particular some of the tasks envisaged in this project (i.e. the pilot surveys).

The ongoing EU funded multi beneficiary programmes for technical assistance of statistics are:

- The multi beneficiary IPA 2007, a horizontal project (already started) that is continuation of the previous CARDS regional programmes as well as expand on the areas covered. It will upgrade and strengthen the statistical systems in the beneficiary countries, thereby improving the availability, quality, comparability and timeliness of statistical data to be achieved through implementation of the seven sectoral pilot projects: external trade statistics, price statistics- Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices (HICP) and Purchasing Power parities(PPPs), national accounts, preparation of the population and housing censuses 2011, preparation of agricultural censuses or farm structure and transmission of statistical data. The statistical areas have been

identified based on the results from previous and ongoing assistance programmes and based on assessments undertaken by Eurostat of the state of the statistical systems in the beneficiary countries.

- The multi beneficiary IPA 2008, a horizontal project is foreseen which builds on the results and will be continuation of the work carried out under the IPA 2007 Multi-beneficiary statistical cooperation programme in order to achieve full comparability of the key data. Areas concerned are macro-economic statistics, price statistics, external trade statistics, agricultural statistics, demographic and social statistics and business statistics. This programme will continue to reinforce the regional integration and cooperation among statistical systems of the beneficiary countries.

Both multi beneficiary IPA programmes are designed in parallel with the complementary country-specific support for statistics provided by the national IPA programmes and are necessary to help achieve the objectives set out in the national developments plans.

Although the State Statistical Office is recipient of different donors' assistance programs, a specific attention is given to coordination of donor assistance in order to ensure efficient use of donor assistance and to avoid overlapping between different projects. The Department for International Cooperation and European Integration within the SSO is responsible for coordination of the projects and donor assistance in the SSO. In addition, the coordination of donor assistance is ensured through the coordination between the State Statistical Office, the Secretariat for European Affairs and Eurostat.

The statistical system is benefiting or has benefited from the assistance of other donors. These include:

The Swedish International Development and Cooperation Agency (SIDA) is providing assistance in the area of agricultural statistics through the cooperation with the Swedish Statistics. A cooperation programme between the SSO and Statistics Sweden is ongoing. Discussions on a next project phase are in its final stage and will be implemented under title the Republic of Macedonian Swedish partnership in statistics. Within this phase following areas will be included: structural agricultural statistics and farm register; some areas of environmental statistics, PC Axis tools and metadata component.

In the field of agriculture, co-operation comprises: Developing methodology for survey on private forests; Crop Production Statistics; Implementation of EU methodology for conducting survey on farm structure; Establishing Farm Register and Agro-monetary statistics (calculation of EAA by constant prices) and in the field of environmental statistics will comprises: water statistics, waste statistics, agro-environmental statistics and assistance in connecting available environment indicators in the system of national accounts.

Within the Regional SIDA programme, gender statistics project was finished, as well as two regional projects on developing environment statistics (environmental statistics as a separate component will be included in the national SIDA project) and a methodology training programme.

OECD, EFTA and Eurostat - Regional projects on Non-Observed Economy for the Western Balkan Countries aimed at achieving exhaustiveness national accounts. Phase II is finalised.

World Bank - Cooperation agreement on poverty measurement in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

IMF - Cooperation focused on improving the calculations of quarterly Gross Domestic Product (GDP) according to current and constant prices and the transfer from GFSM 1986 to GFSM 2001 for fiscal statistics. Both have finished.

USAID - Project on supporting the population census activities, 2002 (completed).

3.7 Lessons learned

EU assistance has been a constant with the SSO since 1996. There have however been sometimes gaps between EC programmes which slowed down the following of the changes in statistical Acquis. This was the chief reason for some projects being too ambitious in order to implement the recommendations included in EC progress reports or annual assessments made by Eurostat. That was the case with the CARDS 2005 twinning which was the first national project after four years and was implemented in the period 2006-2008. The commitment from both, the project partner and SSO, resulted in successful implementation of the project activities.

The lessons learned from this experience led towards better planning of the next round of IPA projects, with components leading towards realistic results. Yet, there is still need to improve the staff skills for advanced planning taking into consideration the continuing changes in the statistical Acquis, but the knowledge gained on EU standards through the projects implementation can significantly contribute to improve these capabilities.

The IPA programming is improved in quality by taking into consideration all important inputs deriving from strategy papers, the Five-year statistical programme, NPA, AP, EC reports, and at the same time take due care that human resources capacities are also addressed.

4. Indicative Budget (amounts in €)

			SOURCES OF FUNDING										
			TOTAL EXP.RE	TOTAL PUBLIC EXP.RE	IPA COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTION		NATIONAL PUBLIC CONTRIBUTION						PRIVATE CONTRIBUTION
	IB (1)	INV (1)	EUR (a)=(b)+(e)	EUR (b)=(c)+(d)	EUR (c)	% (2)	Total EUR (d)=(x)+(y)+(z)	% (2)	Central EUR (x)	Regional/Local EUR (y)	IFIs EUR (z)	EUR (e)	% (3)
<u>contract 1 – twinning arrangement</u>	X	–	1 200 000	1 200 000	1 140 000	95	60 000	5	60 000	-	-	-	-
<u>contract 2 – supply contract</u>	-	X	300 000	300 000	225 000	75	75 000	25	75 000	-	-	-	-
<u>contract 3 framework contract</u>	X	–	100 000	100 000	100 000	100	-	0	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL IB			1 300 000	1 300 000	1 240 000		60.000		60 000	-	-	-	-
TOTAL INV			300 000	300 000	225 000		75 000		75 000	-	-	-	-
TOTAL PROJECT			1 600 000	1 600 000	1 465 000		135 000		135 000	-	-	-	-

NOTE: DO NOT MIX IB AND INV IN THE SAME ACTIVITY ROW. USE SEPARATE ROW

Amounts net of VAT

(1) In the Activity row use "X" to identify whether IB or INV

(2) Expressed in % of the **Public** Expenditure (column (b))

(3) Expressed in % of the **Total** Expenditure (column (a))

In case of local or foreign training the project will fund from incidentals – whenever necessary - the renting of training rooms and equipment, the printing of training material and accessories as well as per diems/allowances for participants in the way and to the level normally financed by the government, but never higher than the per diem rates published by the EU.

5. Indicative Implementation Schedule (periods broken down per quarter)

Contracts	Start of Tendering	Signature of contract	Project Completion
Contract 1 – twinning arrangement	Q2 2010	Q1 2011	Q1 2013
Contract 2 - supply contract	Q3 2011	Q1 2012	Q3 2012
Contract 3 - framework contract	Q3 2011	Q1 2012	Q3 2012

6. Cross-cutting issues

6.1 Civil Society development and dialogue

For this particularly technical project it is not foreseen to have core activities in this field, nonetheless where appropriate best practice in this context will be observed.

6.2 Environmental considerations

The European Community has a longstanding commitment to address environmental concerns in its assistance programmes (as part of a wider commitment to sustainable development). Key references include art. 6 of the Treaty and also the Cardiff process, which foresees the systematic consideration of environmental aspects in EC development cooperation and in other policies.

The main duty of SSO is production and dissemination of official statistics for different phenomena in the society. One of the statistical topics for which significant resources will be devoted in this project is linked with the development of environmental statistics. Within this project is expected SSO to receive assistance for establishing coherence with European Principles for the Environment, where applicable.

6.3 Equal Opportunity and non-discrimination

In the implementation of the project the principle of equal opportunity will apply as regards the hiring of experts, local staff or any sub-contractor required. In the choice of staff participating in study visits, seminars, trainings or other technical assistance activities, equal opportunity requirements will be respected. Guidelines for how to carry this out in practice will be set up at the beginning of the project by the contractor and agreed with the beneficiary and the contracting authority.

6.4 Minority and vulnerable groups

At this stage it is not envisaged that the project will have a component addressing Minority issues however proper consideration will be taken into consideration of such issues where relevant and appropriate in the project.

6.5 Good governance, with particular attention to fight against corruption

Compiling sound statistics makes up part of the great context of good governance. Aspects of best practice will be included where necessary and appropriate throughout the project.

ANNEXES

- 1- Log frame in Standard Format
- 2- Amounts contracted and Disbursed per Quarter over the full duration of Programme
- 3- Description of Institutional Framework
- 4 - Reference to laws, regulations and strategic documents:
 - Reference list of relevant laws and regulations
 - Reference to AP /NPAA / EP / SAA
 - Reference to MIPD
 - Reference to National Development Plan
 - Reference to national / sector investment plans
- 5- Details per EU funded contract (*) where applicable:
 - For *TA contracts*: account of tasks expected from the contractor
 - For *twinning covenants*: account of tasks expected from the team leader, resident twinning advisor and short term experts
 - For *grants schemes*: account of components of the schemes
 - For *investment contracts*: reference list of feasibility study as well as technical specifications and cost price schedule + section to be filled in on investment criteria (**)
 - For *works contracts*: reference list of feasibility study for the *constructing works* part of the contract as well as a section on investment criteria (**); account of services to be carried out for the *service part* of the contract

(*) non standard aspects (in case of derogation to PRAG) also to be specified

(**) section on investment criteria (applicable to all infrastructure contracts and constructing works):

- Rate of return
 - Co financing
 - compliance with state aids provisions
- Ownership of assets (current and after project completion)

ANNEX 1: Logical framework matrix in standard format

LOGFRAME PLANNING MATRIX FOR PROJECT FICHE: Support to the statistical office for capacity building and improving the compliance with EU standards	Programme name and number: National Programme for the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia under the IPA Transition Assistance and Institution Building Component for 2009		
	CRIS number: 2009/021-665		
	Contracting period expires two years from the date of the conclusion of the Financing Agreement	Execution period expires two years from the final date for contracting	Disbursement period expires one year from the final date for execution of contracts
	Total budget : EUR 1 600 000		IPA budget:. EUR 1 465 000

Overall objective	Objectively verifiable indicators	Sources of Verification
The overall objective to which this Project contributes is the improvement of decision making by government institutions, businesses and citizens in the country, through producing exhaustive and comparable statistics in line with EU and international standards, aiming at further advancing of democracy and market oriented economy	SAA process requirements Follow up of Progress Reports	Commission's Progress Reports and other documents related to accession

Project purpose	Objectively verifiable indicators	Sources of Verification	Assumptions
The project purpose is to develop the capacity of the State Statistical Office to improve compliance with the EU acquis in statistics, with a focus on national accounts, economic statistics, and social statistics	Statistical indicators provided by the beneficiary Statistical Annexes to the Commission's Progress Reports	Commission monitoring and evaluation tools Commission documents Government documents Statistical publications Contractor's reports	Commitment of the national authorities to the process

Results	Objectively verifiable indicators	Sources of Verification	Assumptions
Component 1 - Further improvement of the national accounts - Improved national accounts methodologies and indicators, as well as Implemented NACE Rev.2 in national accounts calculations; - Developed set of euro indicators and sustainable development indicators.	- additional national accounts indicators produced, both new and lower aggregated; - number of euro indicators and sustainable development indicators produced number of staff trained.	Eurostat assessments; Contractor's reports; by experts and contractual reports; Eurostat's public database; Statistical publications; Commission's assessments of fiscal notification	Cooperation of official statistics producers and other key stakeholders in the country

<p>Component 2 - Improving Sectoral Statistics Activity 2.1. Establishing surveys on passenger transport - Transport statistics made more exhaustive and establishing survey on passenger mobility after conducting pilot survey</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - survey documentation; - assessment of surveys results; - number of staff trained 	Eurostat assessments Contractor's reports; by experts and contractual reports Eurostat's public database. Statistical publications Commission's assessments of fiscal notification	Cooperation of official statistics producers and other key stakeholders in the country
<p>Activity 2.2. Establishing Pilot surveys on external trade– real price and real price import/export indices - External trade statistics made more exhaustive and establishing survey on real price import/export indices after conducting pilot survey</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - survey documentation; - assessment of surveys results; - number of staff trained 	Eurostat assessments Contractor's reports; by experts and contractual reports Eurostat's public database. Statistical publications Commission's assessments of fiscal notification	Cooperation of official statistics producers and other key stakeholders in the country
<p>Activity 2.3. Further alignment of agricultural statistics in areas such as organic farming, sustainable forest management - Assessment made based on pilot survey results for possibility of establishing regular survey on organic farming - A comprehensive set of indicators on sustainable forest management</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - survey documentation; - assessment of survey results - set of indicators on sustainable forest management produced; - number of staff trained 	Eurostat assessments Contractor's reports; by experts and contractual reports Eurostat's public database. Statistical publications Commission's assessments of fiscal notification	Cooperation of official statistics producers and other key stakeholders in the country
<p>Activity 2.4. Environmental statistics – Pilot survey on environment protection expenditures - Upgrading the system of Environmental statistics according the EU standards by conducting a pilot survey on environment protection expenditures</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - survey documentation; - assessment of survey results - number of staff trained; 	Eurostat assessments Contractor's reports; by experts and contractual reports Eurostat's public database. Statistical publications Commission's assessments of fiscal notification Contractor' reports	Cooperation of official statistics producers and other key stakeholders in the country
<p>Component 3 - Institutional building Activity 3.1. Quality review of statistics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Elaborated guidelines for improvement of the processes and process change management which ensures that SSO provides statistics that comply with the European quality standards; - Accepted and implemented standards and common tools in order to satisfy the Eurostat transmission programme in chosen statistical area; - ESS policies and tools for harmonized </p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - written manuals, guidelines and work plan for implementation of European quality standards; - Increased data transmission to Eurostat; - number of staff trained 	Eurostat assessments Contractor's reports; by experts and contractual reports Eurostat's public database. Statistical publications Commission's assessments of fiscal notification	Cooperation of official statistics producers and other key stakeholders in the country

confidentiality management implemented			
Activity 3.2. . Using of GIS tools for producing thematic maps - Application developed for producing thematic maps in GIS environment;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of thematic maps produced; - number of staff trained 	Eurostat assessments Contractor's reports; by experts and contractual reports Eurostat's public database. Statistical publications Commission's assessments of fiscal notification	Cooperation of official statistics producers and other key stakeholders in the country
Component 4 - Technical assistance and purchase of equipment for establishing a Centralized backup and Disaster Recovery system and support for advanced online data collection services Activity 4.1 Establishing Centralized backup and Disaster Recovery system and purchasing equipment - Fully operational Centralized backup and Disaster Recovery System put in place that will provide more automated, more intelligent, larger, faster and more reliable backup	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - documented SSO needs for archiving, backup and disaster recovery; - elaborated strategy for implementation of the centralized backup system - detailed specification made for purchasing of equipment - number of staff trained in using centralized backup system - purchased equipment - centralized backup system installed and fully operational 	Eurostat assessments Contractor's reports; by experts and contractual reports Eurostat's public database. Statistical publications Commission's assessments of fiscal notification	Cooperation of official statistics producers and other key stakeholders in the country
Activity 4.2 Availability of advanced online services for data collection - Fully operational system for on line data collection in which all the necessary data and network security measures are incorporated. This system should be integrated with the existing system for data collection at SSO.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - project specification prepared for tendering procedure for online data collection software (SW) development; - developed application for on-line data collection - data collected on -line at least for two 2 surveys - integration with the existing system for data collection at SSO confirmed - number of staff trained 	Eurostat assessments Contractor's reports; by experts and contractual reports Eurostat's public database. Statistical publications Commission's assessments of fiscal notification	Cooperation of official statistics producers and other key stakeholders in the country
Activities	Means	Costs	Assumptions
Component 1 - Further improvement of the national accounts Component 2 - Improving of Sectoral statistics Activity 2.1. Establishing surveys for passenger transport	Twining arrangement Supply contract Framework contract	Total budget EUR 1 600 000 IPA budget EUR 1 465 000	Availability of experts

<p>Activity 2.2. Establishing Pilot surveys for external trade– real price, real price import/export indices</p> <p>Activity 2.3 Further alignment of agricultural statistics in areas such as organic farming, sustainable forest management</p> <p>Activity 2.4 Environmental statistics – Pilot survey on environment protection expenditures</p> <p>Activity 2.5 Improving data collection according to EU requirements in social statistics in certain areas such as culture, health and crime statistics, and further development of Laeken indicators</p> <p>Component 3 - Institutional building by enhancing SSO capacity through STA trainings and study visits</p> <p>Activity 3.1 Quality review of statistics</p> <p>Activity 3.2 Using of GIS tools for producing thematic maps</p> <p>Component 4 –Technical assistance and purchase of equipment for establishing a Centralized backup and Disaster Recovery system and support for advanced online data collection services</p> <p>Activity 4.1 Establishing a Centralized backup and Disaster Recovery system in SSO and purchasing of equipment (technical assistance and supply contract)</p> <p>Activity 4.2 Availability of advanced online services for data collection (twinning and service contract)</p>			
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Preconditions

- 1) Endorsement by all key stakeholders of the Terms of Reference and specifications;
- 2) Appointment of counterpart personnel by the beneficiary before the launch of the tender process;
- 3) Allocation of working space and facilities by the beneficiary for technical assistance before the launch of the tender process;
- 4) Participation of the beneficiary in the tender process in accordance with EU regulations;
- 5) Selection and appointment of members of working groups, steering and coordination committees, seminars by the beneficiary in accordance with TOR/work plan of the project;
- 6) Designating the relevant staff by the beneficiaries to participate in training activities as per work plan;

ANNEX 2:

	2011				2012				2013			
Contracted	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Twinning contract	1 140 000											
Framework contract					100 000							
Supply contract					225 000							
Cumulated	1 140 000				1 465 000							
Disbursed												
Twinning contract	456 000				570 000				114 000			
Framework contract					60 000		40 000					
Supply contract					135 000		90 000					
Cumulated	456 000				1 221 000		1 351 000		1 465 000			

ANNEX 3: Description of Institutional framework

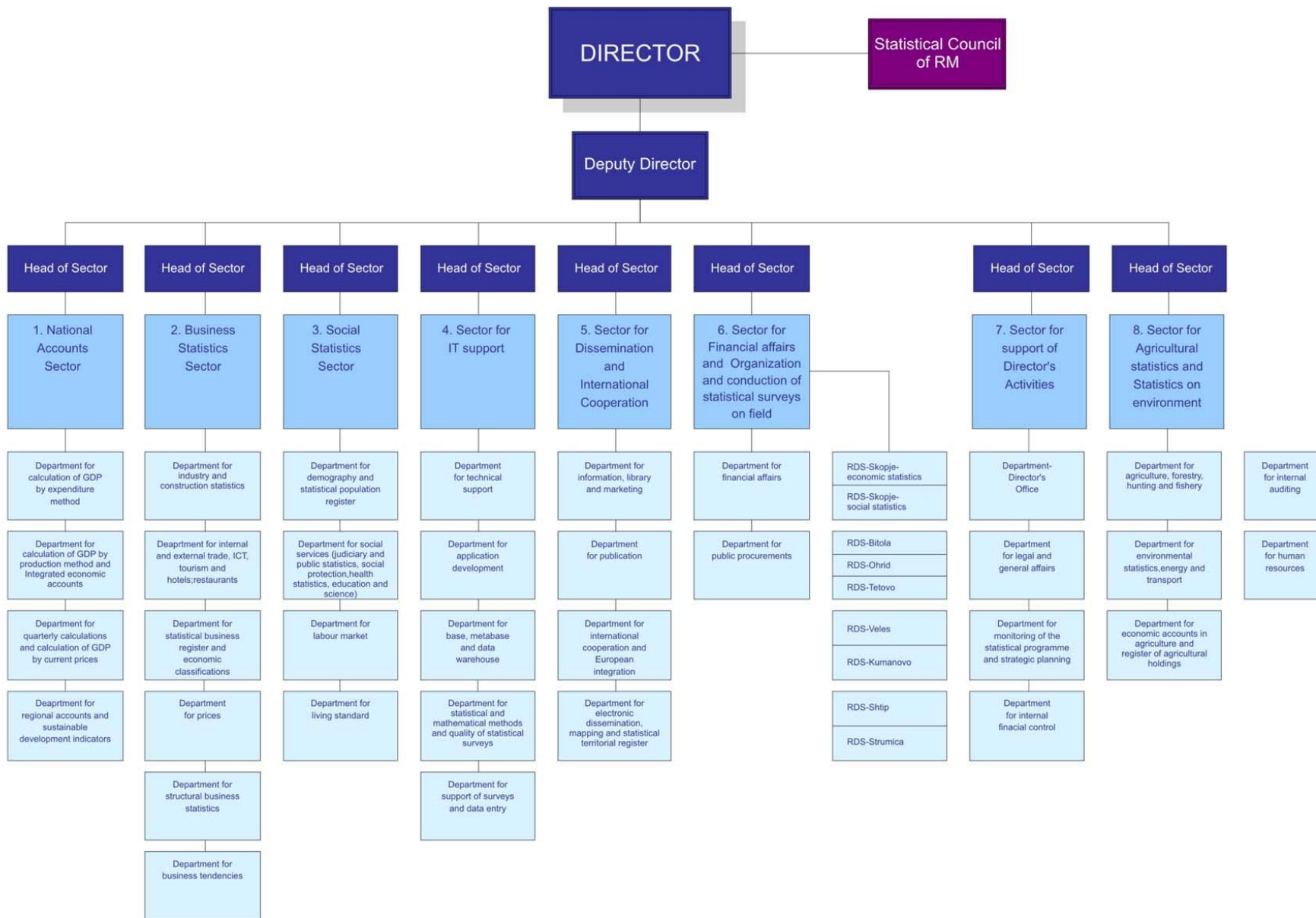
The SSO is the main producer of official statistics in a centralized statistical system where it holds a coordination role. The law on statistics, which was amended in February 2007, integrates to a large extent the provisions laid down in the European Statistics Code of Practice and in the United Nations Fundamental Principles for Official Statistics. Among other provisions, the amended law ensures full professional independence of SSO. The kind and scope of statistical surveys which are conducted in the Republic of Macedonia by State Statistical Office and other actors in the statistical system are defined in Five Year Statistical Programme. The last one refers to the period 2008-2013. The Program has a status of legal document. A National Council of Statistics has existed for more than 10 years. It has an advisory role and its President and members are appointed by the Parliament.

The SSO currently employs a total of 271 persons, as of February, 2009. In the frame of the National Programme for Adoption of the EU Acquis (NPAA) it is planned to increase the number of employees at SSO by 67 persons in total until 2010.

According to the Budget of the Republic of Macedonia for 2009, the total amount designated to the State Statistical Office is 3069 324 €.

The European Commission' 2008 Progress Report for the Republic of Macedonia, chapter 18: Overall, progress has been made towards improving both the statistical infrastructure and sector statistics. Alignment of the classifications with the *acquis* has advanced well. Further efforts are needed in order to achieve and maintain sufficient quality in the statistics.

Organisational structure: Please find below the organigramme of the State Statistical Office.



ANNEX 4: Reference to laws, regulations and strategic documents:

Reference list of relevant national laws and regulations

Key laws and regulations on official statistics:

- Law on state statistics, 2007
- Law on protection of personal data, 2005
- Five Annual Programme of Statistical Surveys, 2008-2012
- Law on 2007 Agricultural Census
- Law on 2002 Population Census
- The Law for 2011 Population Census which should be adopted in the forthcoming period
- Governmental decision for National Classification of Activities- NACE Rev. 2
- Governmental decision for Classification in Construction
- Governmental decision for Nomenclature for Industrial products- PRODCOM
- Governmental decision for Nomenclature of Territorial Units-NUTS
- Governmental decision for Classification of Institutional Sectors
- Governmental decision for Classification of the products by activity
- Governmental decision for Classification of Governmental functions
- Governmental decision for National Classification of occupations based on ISCO Classification

Reference list of relevant EU regulation in the field of National accounts, Price statistics and Agricultural statistics

- ESA 95 Council Regulation 2223/96
- FISIM Council Regulation 448/98
- Price and volume measures Commission decision 98/715
- Functional classification commission Regulation 113/2002
- Dwelling services Commission regulation 1722/2005
- Transmission of data EP/Council regulation 11267/2003(partly);1392/2007
- Quarterly non-financial accounts EP/Council regulation 1161/2005 partially
- Short term statistics according to EU Regulation 1165/98
- "Community Statistical Programme 2008 to 2012",

Reference to AP / NPAA /EP / SAA

Reference to AP

The Accession partnership highlighted the further harmonization of statistics with ESS standards as both short-term and medium term priorities (Chapter 18). Among those, the Council declares "*Further develop all areas of statistics, achieve full harmonisation in key areas in terms of frequency, scope, classifications, timeliness and quality and put in place a uniform management and production system*".

Reference to NPAA

The National Programme for Adoption of EU Acquis, 2008-2010, is general framework for the planned activities on compliance with European standards, where the Chapter 18 refers to Statistics, related to the improving of the availability, quality, comparability and timeliness of statistical data towards their aligning with the statistical acquis.

Reference to SAA

Also, Article 82 from the SAA is referring to the development of an efficient statistical system harmonized with European standards.

Reference to Progress report

The latest progress report (2008) makes the following evaluation: “Overall, progress has been made towards improving both the statistical infrastructure and sector statistics. Alignment of the classifications with the *acquis* has advanced well. Further efforts are needed in order to achieve and maintain sufficient quality in the statistics.”

Reference to MIPD

The MIPD2008-2010 supports the production of *statistics* of good quality and their dissemination. Continuous assistance in the area of statistics may be foreseen, especially to further development of the statistical infrastructure.

Reference to National Development Plan

The National Development Plan highlights the ‘insufficient integrated systems of data collection and management of registers, insufficient analysis capacities to support creation and implementation of policies’ as one of the weaknesses in the country. The NDP recognises that appropriate statistics is an essential element of development planning that needs further strengthening.

Reference to national / sectoral investment plans

The objectives of the project follow the priorities of the Strategic Plan of the State Statistical Office, 2011. The Pre-Accession Economic Programme (PEP) aims at preparing the country for participation in the multilateral surveillance and economic policy coordination by the EU. Regarding statistics, the activities foreseen in the PEP confirm that national statistics are crucial for developing appropriate policies. The PEP has identified necessity for:

- The enhancement of the quality of health, education, and research and development statistics;
- The progress and the further development of court statistics in line with the Law on Courts;
- Introducing the LAEKEN indicators.

ANNEX 5: Details per EU funded contract

Project Management and Administration

The project consists of several components and for its successful implementation it is crucial to ensure a strong coordination mechanism.

The SPO will be responsible for the overall management, representation (coordination with the EU and other international bodies), and reporting. The coordination of activity development in the different components of the project is important. The SPO is responsible for appropriate management of resources.

The government body that will benefit from expert services is the State Statistical Office. The Project management arrangements on Twinning will be defined in Twinning Project Fiche.

The project will entail three contracts:

The contracting arrangements are expected to be:

- One Twinning contract :
 - contract duration of 24 months,
 - deployment in the twinning project is to start one month after contract is signed, expected deployment date is 2011 - Q1;
 - in this contract components 1, 2, 3 and 4, will be included;
 - the contract value of the twinning (including the pilot projects) is approximately EUR 1 200 000, of which the IPA funds will be EUR 1 140 000 and co-financing from the beneficiary will be EUR 60 000.
- One supply contract will be concluded. The implementation of this contract is expected to start in Q1 2012 with duration of 18 months (duration of a supply contract consist of implementation period 6 months + 12 months warranty period). The contract value of the supply contract will be approximately EUR 300 000, of which the IPA funds will be EUR 225 000 and the co-financing from the beneficiary will be EUR 75 000.
- One framework contract should be concluded for supporting the software solutions.
 - The contract value of the service contract will be approximately EUR 100 000, of which the IPA contribution will be EUR 100 000. The framework contract is not a subject of national co-financing.
 - The framework contract will refer to component 4.