

Date 08-05-2007

Project Fiche 3.3 State Statistical Office

1. Basic information

1.1 CRIS Number: 2007/19297

1.2 Title: Support to the State Statistical Office

1.3 ELARG Statistical code: Axe 03 - 18

1.4 Location: Skopje, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, with nationwide project activities

Implementing arrangements:

1.5 Contracting Authority (EC)

European Commission, EC Delegation, on behalf of the beneficiary

1.6 Implementing agency

European Commission, EC Delegation, on behalf of the beneficiary

1.7 Beneficiary (including details of project manager)

State Statistical Office (SSO) and its partners in the national statistical system such as Ministry of Finance and the National Bank

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1.8 Overall costs (VAT excluded)¹: The overall costs of the project are EUR 2.07 millions

1.9 EU contribution

The EU contribution is EUR 2 millions

1.10 Final date for contracting

¹ The total costs 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.

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

1.11 Final date for execution of contracts:

Two years from the final date for contracting.

1.12 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 of the project is provision of advisory and material support to the State Statistical Office in the EU accession process in order to improve the range and quality of official statistics harmonised with the *acquis* and international standards through pilot projects and technical assistance.

2.2 Project purpose

The project purposes are to contribute to a professional management of the State Statistical Office and to further development of the National Statistical System towards a sustainable and EU harmonised statistical system.

2.3 Link with AP / NPAA / EP / SAA

The objectives of the project follow the priorities of the European Partnership (EP) of 2005. Official statistics have a vital role in providing relevant and accurate information and monitoring the reforms in many sectors. The EP identifies as priorities in the field of statistics to further develop macro-economic statistics and social statistics and to develop reliable business statistics based on the statistical business register and the business census. The project will also address one of the broader priorities of the EP i.e. to further develop the capacity of the administration to implement the Stabilisation and Association Agreement.

Numerous short-term and medium-term activities in the area of statistics are envisaged in the NPAA, including the strengthening of the capacity of the SSO, production of statistics harmonised with EU and international standards, improvement of national accounts statistics, introduction of regional statistics, improvement of the statistical system of the NBRM and alignment with the system of national accounts, harmonisation of government finance statistics with EU standards (ESA 95), increasing awareness and promoting larger usage of statistics by final users, improved production of demographic, educational, and social statistics» and introduction of SILC survey.

2.4 Link with MIPD

For the area of statistics, it is underlined in the MIPD 2007-2009 that substantial improvements are needed to enable the production of statistics of good quality and their dissemination. Areas of specific interest include national accounts statistics and the

underlying basic statistics on national and regional level. The introduction of European System of Accounts 1995 (ESA 95) standards is important in order to ensure that statistics are in accordance with EU requirements. In addition, attention may be given to further development of the statistical infrastructure.

The MIPD also addresses priority areas for which there is *acquis* on statistics, such as social inclusion, labour market, transport, consumer and health protection and environmental protection.

2.5 Link with National Development Plan (where applicable)

The National Development Plan (NDP) 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 (where applicable)

The objectives of the project follow the priorities of the Strategic Plan of the State Statistical Office 2006-2008. 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 society at large when making decisions and measuring their effect and is consequently an essential basis for the development of democratic and market oriented societies.

At EU level the statistical legislation defines the basic conditions, procedures and general provisions governing official statistics, as well as the division of responsibilities between national and Community statistical authorities. Confidence in official statistics depends to a large extent on respect for the widely accepted guidelines laid down in the European Statistics Code of Practice and in the United Nations Fundamental Principles for Official Statistics.

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 by providing the data from which policies can be developed, changes monitored and impacts assessed.

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: establishing uniform systems for storing data including a metadata policy, as well as standards and guidelines for production and dissemination of statistics including a micro data access policy. Particular attention is envisaged to further develop key priority statistics for the Stabilisation and Association Process such as macro-economic and business statistics. In addition assistance will be initiated in various social statistics as alignment with the *acquis* in these areas will also become a high priority in the EU accession process. Of particular importance is further improvement in the capacity to disaggregate data by gender, or for the purpose of vulnerable group analysis.

Last but not least, the SSO lacks some basic IT equipment to perform its tasks successfully, and in particular some of the tasks envisaged in this project (i.e. the pilot surveys). IT equipment would need to be purchased, servers, personal computers, printers and photocopiers, in order to prepare successfully for the pilot surveys. An assessment would be conducted to identify the most critical areas to be covered by the supply contract. The aim of the supply contract is to facilitate a successful implementation and follow-up of the service contract.

3.2 Assessment of project impact, catalytic effect, sustainability and cross-border impact (where applicable)

The national statistical system of the country has made progress towards compliance with the EU *acquis* and international standards, and the SSO has managed to maintain a good base of competent people. 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 more informed policy decisions. The areas covered by this project will have an impact on decision making with regard to fiscal, monetary and social policies. The work on the introduction of ESA 95 standards will enable the national authorities to assume more fully the responsibilities of the accession process, such as fiscal notification and drawing up of pre-accession economic programmes.

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.

The activities envisaged in this project target several beneficiaries of the national statistical system, and the implementation of the activities will require strong coordination among the different partners; thus a coordinating Steering Committee will be established with membership of all key stakeholders. Successful collaboration among the three main beneficiaries would provide a basis for enlargement of the coordinative body to include all

other partners of the statistical system, such as Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Justice, other state institutions etc.

Last but not least, the project will contribute towards further extending the use of statistical data, by improving dissemination policies and raising awareness among statistics users. This will allow for further analytical work in a number of areas, with the ultimate goal of improving the decision making process.

As regards catalytic effects, sound and reliable statistics are a 'sine-qua-non' for appropriate policy development and investment decision-making. The improvement in business and social statistics is likely to lead to significantly improved risk assessments in both private sector investment decisions and social policy development.

As regards additionality, availability of improved and more reliable statistics will assist other projects working in the field of investment promotion and private sector development, as it will assist the projects (e.g. in Component 4) on social policy development.

3.3 Results and measurable indicators

The project will address four priority areas for technical assistance and one for supplies that need further development, and the following results are expected in each of these five components are:

- 1) Development of a quality system for all processes in the production of statistics
- 2) Further harmonised national accounts and other economic statistics
- 3) Improved business statistics
- 4) Improved social statistics
- 5) Improved IT environment

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

1. Development of a quality system for all processes in the production of statistics:
 - 1.1. Metadata policy developed.
 - 1.2. Standards and systems for development and maintenance of registers and computer applications developed.
 - 1.3. Systems for data storage, treatment and controls of micro and macro data developed.
 - 1.4. Improved knowledge of statistical theory and production of official statistics, including knowledge of estimation, extrapolation, sampling methodology etc.
 - 1.5. Developed policy for access to micro data and dissemination of statistics, with particular focus on data confidentiality, and changes in the legal framework made if necessary.
 - 1.6. Developed guidelines on presentation of statistics with a view to serving the needs of the various users while retaining a uniform basis. This includes the capacity to disaggregate statistical data by e.g. gender or vulnerable groups.

And the measurable indicators include:

- policy documents on metadata policy and micro data access policy are in place by 2009;
- written manuals, guidelines and work plan for implementation are in place developed by 2009;
- the number of people trained through consultations, Eurostat meetings, seminars and study visits.

2. Further harmonised national accounts and other economic statistics:

- 2.1. National Accounts further aligned with ESA 95 and their quality and exhaustiveness improved;
- 2.2. For monetary, financial and payment balance statistics improved knowledge on the EU *acquis* and the practice of other EU member states and the European Central Bank. Assessments carried out and recommendations provided on how to proceed.
- 2.3. Government Finance Statistics aligned with ESA 95;
- 2.4. Cooperation of all stakeholders in the compilation of national accounts statistics for the government sector ensured.

And the measurable indicators include:

- additional national accounts indicators, both new and lower aggregated, published;
- the number of people trained through consultations, Eurostat meetings, seminars and study visits;
- inter-institutional working groups have been established;
- agreements with data providers have been established;
- Government Finance Statistics are produced in line with ESA 95.

3. Improved business statistics:

- 3.1. Structural business statistics made more exhaustive by including small enterprises in existing surveys, and establishing surveys for, inter alia, business services, insurance services, credit institutions and pension funds.
- 3.2. Short term statistics made more exhaustive, e.g. by establishing surveys for input prices index in construction and distributive trade.
- 3.3. Assessment conducted of state of play on transport statistics and recommendations provided on the implementation of the *acquis*. Surveys introduced for e.g. transport of goods.

And the measurable indicators include:

- the number of people trained through consultations, Eurostat meetings, seminars and study visits;
- pilot surveys carried out and documented;
- the number of pilot surveys enabling regular production to start;
- the statistics published.

4. Improved social statistics:

- 4.1. Survey on Income and Living Conditions established (minimum vertical part with changing sample).

- 4.2. Assessment and development of work plans for changes needed in i.a. the following areas: education, culture, health, consumer protection and crime statistics. Implemented changes identified to be made in accordance with the work plan. Cooperation among the statistics producers and if relevant data providers in the compilation of the above mentioned statistical areas ensured.

And the measurable indicators include:

- the number of people trained through consultation, Eurostat meetings and seminars;
- inter-institutional working groups have been established;
- the statistics published;
- a pilot survey on SILC carried out and documented.

5. Improved IT systems:

5.1. Assessment of IT systems.

5.2. Purchase of necessary equipment such as personal computers, servers, printers and photocopiers.

And the measurable indicators include:

- Assessment of IT needs report has been done
- the number of servers, printers etc purchased.

3.4 Activities

As indicated above, the main areas to be covered are further development of a quality orientated production and dissemination system, national accounts and other economic statistics, business statistics and social statistics. Project activities concern the implementation of statistical *acquis* in these areas. Although different subjects will be tackled through the project, the overall approach in each of these areas is similar. Starting with an assessment of the state of play, an action plan for each of the areas will be developed with the different stakeholders. Based on the action plan, the various capacity building exercises, pilot surveys, and system design efforts will be implemented, while throughout the process the operational guidelines – to be used by the staff of the various institutions involved – will be developed. Special working groups will be established to ensure inclusion of the relevant stakeholders.

The principal activities will therefore include:

- Assessments of the state of play in the different areas and developing recommendations for future work and an action plan for implementation;
- Establishing working groups for areas where others than the State Statistical Office is the producer of the official statistics in the area.
- Knowledge transfer of EU and international standards by long-term and short-term experts, seminars, workshops and trainings, study trips, participation in regular Eurostat working groups meetings and similar (e.g. OECD and UN meetings) on the areas covered in this project and ad hoc assistance.
- Deployment of Pilot surveys in selected areas.
- Develop guidelines on the various aspects of the production system.

Project Management and Administration

A team leader 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 team leader is responsible for appropriate management of resources. Next to a team leader, expertise will be engaged in key areas of the project, including quality development, business statistics, economic statistics and social statistics. Some of these experts will address the cross-cutting issues (see below).

The government bodies that will benefit from expert services are the State Statistical Office and the partners in the statistical system, such as the National Bank, and the Ministry of Finance.

The contracting arrangements are expected to be:

- One service contract to be concluded through an international restricted tender procedure;
- contract duration of 18 - 30 months;
- implementation in the main technical assistance project is to start one month after contract is signed; expected date for implementation is October 2008;
- contract value of the technical assistance is approx. EUR 1.8 mn.
- One supply contract could be concluded. The contractor of the service contract will provide input for the needs that most urgently need to be met for the implementation of the activities in the service contract;
- The contract value of the supply contract will be approx. EUR 0.27 mn, of which the co-financing from the beneficiary will be EUR 0.07 mn.

3.5 Conditionality and sequencing:

The project includes the following conditionalities:

- 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;

If conditionalities are not met, suspension or cancellation of projects will be considered.

3.6 Linked activities

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has received EU, PHARE and CARDS, support for the development of a sustainable and EU harmonised statistical system for several years. These include:

A 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.

A 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.

A 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.

A CARDS 2005 National Programme started in June 2006 and will run until June 2008. It assists 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.

A 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.

A CARDS Regional Programme 2003 on statistics started in July 2006 and will run until March 2008. It covers: 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.

Furthermore, a horizontal project is planned under the IPA 2007 multi-beneficiary programmes that will be designed to build on the previous CARDS regional programmes as well as expand on the areas covered. The multi-beneficiary programme will cover statistical areas and activities where the situation is similar within the region and areas where the beneficiary countries can in particular profit from an exchange of experience to make further progress. The national programme will cover country specific issues and activities where economies of scale cannot be made by including it in a regional programme. The statistical areas can be the same in both types of programmes, but the activities will cover different aspects of the production process.

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 project for a metadata database are taking place. Within the Regional SIDA

programme, gender statistics project was finished, and two regional projects are ongoing on developing environment statistics and a methodology training programme.

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

There is a cooperation agreement with the World Bank on poverty measurement in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

The IMF was giving support to improving the calculations of quarterly GDP according to current and constant prices and the transfer from GFSM 1986 to GFSM 2001 for fiscal statistics.

There was a USAID-project on supporting the population census activities in 2002 which has finished by now.

Despite the strong involvement of numerous donors in this area in the past, assistance is expected to decline in the period ahead. The various donor agencies that will continue to provide support to this area in the future will be included in the working groups, so as to ensure appropriate coordination. In addition, a 'donor support group' will be established where ongoing and planned assistance will be discussed. This donor support group will be convened by the SSO, which will also ensure that information will be shared among the different agencies, that meetings will be held regularly and that conclusions from the meetings will be followed up.

3.7 Lessons learned

Although the overall impact of the previous assistance is satisfactory, a number of challenges as documented in progress reviews, monitoring and evaluations reports, remain:

- *Enforcement:* In previous years, efforts focused largely on establishing a national statistical system. The capacity to operate this, however, has received insufficient attention.
- *Staffing and funding:* Often project implementation is hampered by either insufficient staff and resources allocated to the institutions or insufficient operational funds available in the central budget to allow for appropriate implementation of the mandate of the relevant producer of official statistics. The frequent changes of the top management of the State Statistical Office have led to reorganisation and changes in priorities, complicating the project implementation. These aspects have also at times hampered the sustainability of the project results.
- *Synergy effects of assistance projects:* The assistance projects have been well implemented given the abovementioned constraints. However the experiences are often not applied to other similar and linked areas and the synergy effects are consequently missing.
- *Coordination within the government:* In line with the spirit of EU accession stronger government leadership could be exerted in the coordination efforts among the ministries and departments and in operational coordination and harmonisation of policies. This goes especially for adoption and implementation of legal acts applicable to data providers and official statistics producers. The routines for the adoption of legal acts; laws, standards

and classifications, are often cumbersome and the initial timelines are often not honoured. This is causing difficulties in project implementation. The stronger involvement of the Government must however not compromise the independence of the statistical system.

- An important lesson learned during the CARDS period is that appropriate mainstreaming of cross-cutting issues would be greatly facilitated by the allocation of a designated budget. A maximum of 10% of the total budget will be reserved for targeted support to the mainstreaming of cross-cutting issues (see also further below).

4. Indicative Budget (amounts in M€)

Activities	TOTAL COST (Million Euro)	SOURCES OF FUNDING										
		EU CONTRIBUTION				NATIONAL PUBLIC CONTRIBUTION					PRIVATE	
		Total	% *	IB	INV	Total	% *	Central	Regional	IFIs	Total	% *
Activity 1 Support for SSO	2											
Contract 1.1: TA for SSO	1.8	1.8	100	1.8								
Contract 1.2: Supply for SSO	0.27	0.2		0.2	0.07		0.07					
TOTAL	2.07	2		2			0.07					

* expressed in % of the Total Cost

Amounts net of VAT

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

Contracts	Start of Tendering	Signature of contract	Project Completion
Contract 1.1: TA for SSO	1-3-2008	1-10-2008	1-11-2010
Contract 1.2: Supply for SSO	1-4-2009	1-10-2009	1-11-2010

6. Cross-cutting issues (where applicable)

The cross-cutting issues will be addressed throughout the project. Up to 10% of the budget of the individual service contracts for capacity-building may be allocated to assist the various beneficiaries to comply with European standards and best practices, implement relevant Government strategies and develop internal measures to ensure that each cross-cutting issue is appropriately mainstreamed.

The mainstreaming of the cross-cutting issues is treated on two different levels:

- 1) Ensuring that the internal policies, structure or operating procedures of the beneficiary agency will conform to and promote the relevant principles outlined in the sections below.

- 2) Ensuring that the outputs produced by the beneficiaries (e.g. publications, policies, and strategies) will conform to and promote the relevant principles outlined in the sections below.

Throughout the project cycle, in particular when developing project ToR, state actors specifically involved in (one of) the cross-cutting issues shall be consulted.

- **Equal opportunities 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.

In terms of statistics, results shall be disaggregated by gender and age where applicable. Other aspects of equal opportunity like ethnic group, religion and disability are very sensitive issues and statistics on these groups must be treated with special care – or even not be made. There exist some international guidelines on this issue. The project will treat these aspects of equal opportunity when covering the relevant statistical areas.

- **Support to minority and vulnerable groups**

See point for Equal opportunities and non-discrimination.

- **Environmental protection**

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 support will include a specific component to assist the beneficiary to implement an ‘internal environment assessment’ to identify areas where it could improve its internal performance vis-à-vis environmental aspects.

- **Good governance, with particular attention to fight against corruption**

One main purpose of the project is to contribute to a professional management of the national statistical office. This serves directly the issue of good governance.

The other main purpose is to further develop the national statistical system by increasing the capacity and harmonising it with EU *acquis* and international standards. Integrity, independence and reliability are all important aspects of the harmonisation of the statistical system and consequently also hindering corruption is addressed by this project.

ANNEXES

- 1- Log frame in Standard Format
- 2- Amounts contracted and Disbursed per Quarter over the full duration of Programme
- 3 - Reference to laws, regulations and strategic documents:
 - a) Reference list of relevant laws and regulations
 - b) Reference to AP /NPAA / EP / SAA
 - c) Reference to MIPD
 - d) Reference to National Development Plan
 - e) Reference to national / sectoral investment plans
- 4- Details per EU funded contract (*) where applicable

ANNEXES

ANNEX I: Logical framework matrix in standard format

LOGFRAME PLANNING MATRIX FOR Project Fiche on Support to the State Statistical Office	Programme name and number: Support to the State Statistical Office		
	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 2.07 million	IPA budget: EUR 2 million
Overall objective	Objectively verifiable indicators	Sources of Verification	
Provision of advisory and material support to the State Statistical Office in the EU accession process in order to improve the range and quality of official statistics harmonised with the <i>acquis</i> and international standards.	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
Contribute to professional management of the State Statistical Office and to further development of the National Statistical System towards a sustainable and EU-harmonised statistical system.	Statistical indicators provided by the beneficiaries 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
1. Development of a quality system for all processes in the production of statistics: 1.1. Metadata policy developed. 1.2. Standards and systems for development and maintenance of registers and computer applications developed. 1.3. Systems for data storage, treatment and controls of micro and macro data developed. 1.4. Improved knowledge of statistical theory and production of official statistics, including knowledge of estimation, extrapolation, sampling methodology etc. 1.5. Developed policy for access to micro data and dissemination of statistics, with particular focus on data confidentiality, and changes in the legal framework made if necessary. 1.6. Developed guidelines on presentation of statistics with a view to serving the needs of the various users while retaining a uniform basis.	Policy documents on metadata policy and micro data access policy; Written manuals, guidelines and work plan for implementation; Number of people trained through consultations, Eurostat meetings, seminars and study visits.	Eurostat assessments Contractor's reports; by experts and contractual reports Eurostat's public database. Statistical publications Commission's assessments of fiscal notification	Business census will be implemented in 2008 Statistical Business Register operational by end 2008 Cooperation of official statistics producers and other key stakeholders in the country

<p>2. Further harmonised national accounts and other economic statistics:</p> <p>2.1. National Accounts further aligned with ESA 95 and their quality and exhaustiveness improved;</p> <p>2.2. For monetary, financial and payment balance statistics improved knowledge on the EU acquis and the practice of other EU member states and the European Central Bank. Assessments carried out and recommendations provided on how to proceed.</p> <p>2.3. Government Finance Statistics aligned with ESA 95;</p> <p>2.4. Cooperation of all stakeholders in the compilation of national accounts statistics for the government sector ensured.</p>	<p>additional national accounts indicators, both new and lower aggregated, published;</p> <p>number of people trained through consultations, Eurostat meetings, seminars and study visits;</p> <p>inter-institutional working groups established;</p> <p>agreements with data providers established;</p> <p>Government Finance Statistics produced following ESA 95.</p>	<p>Eurostat assessments</p> <p>Contractor's reports; by experts and contractual reports</p> <p>Eurostat's public database.</p> <p>Statistical publications</p> <p>Commission's assessments of fiscal notification</p>	<p>Business census will be implemented in 2008</p> <p>Statistical Business Register operational by end 2008</p> <p>Cooperation of official statistics producers and other key stakeholders in the country</p>
<p>3. Improved business statistics:</p> <p>3.1. Structural business statistics made more exhaustive by including small enterprises in existing surveys, and establishing surveys for i.a. business services, insurance services, credit institutions and pension funds.</p> <p>3.2. Short term statistics made more exhaustive, i.a. by establishing surveys for input prices index in construction and distributive trade.</p> <p>3.3. Assessment conducted of state of play on transport statistics and recommendations provided on the implementation of the acquis. Surveys introduced for i.a. transport of goods.</p>	<p>number of people trained through consultations, Eurostat meetings, seminars and study visits;</p> <p>pilot surveys carried out and documented;</p> <p>number of pilot surveys enabling regular production to start;</p> <p>Statistics published.</p>	<p>Eurostat assessments</p> <p>Contractor's reports; by experts and contractual reports</p> <p>Eurostat's public database.</p> <p>Statistical publications</p> <p>Commission's assessments of fiscal notification</p>	<p>Business census will be implemented in 2008</p> <p>Statistical Business Register operational by end 2008</p> <p>Cooperation of official statistics producers and other key stakeholders in the country</p>
<p>4. Improved social statistics:</p> <p>4.1. Survey on Income and Living Conditions established (minimum vertical part with changing sample).</p> <p>4.2. Assessment and development of work plans for changes needed in i.a. the following areas: education, culture, health, consumer protection and crime statistics. Implemented changes identified to be made in accordance with the work plan. Cooperation among the statistics producers and if relevant data providers in the compilation of the above mentioned statistical areas ensured.</p> <p>5. Improved IT systems:</p> <p>5.1. Assessment of IT systems.</p> <p>5.2. Purchase of necessary equipment such as personal computers, servers, printers and photocopiers.</p>	<p>Number of people trained through consultation, Eurostat meetings and seminars;</p> <p>Inter-institutional working groups established;</p> <p>Statistics published;</p> <p>Pilot survey on SILC carried out and documented.</p> <p>Number of servers, printers etc purchased.</p>	<p>Eurostat assessments</p> <p>Contractor's reports; by experts and contractual reports</p> <p>Eurostat's public database.</p> <p>Statistical publications</p> <p>Commission's assessments of fiscal notification</p> <p>Contractor' reports</p>	<p>Cooperation of official statistics producers and other key stakeholders in the country</p>
<p>Activities</p> <p>Assess state of play in different areas and develop recommendations and an action plan for future work.</p> <p>Establish working groups for areas where other bodies than State</p>	<p>Means</p> <p>Contract</p> <p>Contractor's staff and experts</p> <p>Commission staff</p>	<p>Costs</p> <p>€2 millions</p>	<p>Assumptions</p> <p>Availability of experts</p> <p>Good cooperation among all stakeholders</p>

<p>Statistical Office produce official statistics. Transfer knowledge of EU and international standards by long-term and short-term experts, seminars, workshops and training, study trips, participation in regular Eurostat working group meetings and similar (e.g. OECD and UN meetings) on areas covered in this project, and ad hoc assistance. Pilot surveys in selected areas. Develop guidelines on various aspects of production system</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 II: Indicative planning of the amounts (in €Million) contracted and disbursed by quarter for the project

Contracted	Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q 4	Q 5	Q 6	Q 7	Q 8	Q 9	Q 10
Contract 1.1: TA for SSO			1.8							
Contract 1.2: Supply for SSO					0.2					
Cumulated			1.8		2.0					
Disbursed										
Contract 1.1: TA for SSO			0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3
Contract 1.2: Supply for SSO					0.1	0.08				0.02
Cumulated			0.3	0.5	0.8	1.08	1.28	1.48	1.68	2.0

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

3.a) Reference list of relevant laws and regulations

Key laws and regulations on official statistics:

- Law on state statistics, 2007
- Law on protection of personal data, 2005

3.b) Reference to AP / NPAA / EP / SAA

The objectives of the project follow the priorities of the European Partnership of 2005. Official statistics have a vital role in providing relevant and accurate information and monitoring the reforms in many sectors. The following priorities for statistics will be addressed: «Further develop macro-economic statistics and social statistics.» and «Develop reliable business statistics based on the statistical business register and the business census.»

The project will also address one of the broader priorities of the EP: «Further develop the capacity of the administration to implement the Stabilisation and Association Agreement.».

3.c) NPAA action plan

Numerous short-term and medium-term activities in the area of statistics are envisaged in the NPAA, including: «strengthening of the capacity of the SSO», «production of statistics harmonised with EU and international standards», «improvement of national accounts statistics», «introduction of regional statistics», «improvement of the statistical system of the NBRM and alignment with the system of national accounts», «harmonisation of government finance statistics with Eurostat's standards (ESA 95)», «increasing awareness and promoting larger usage of statistics by final users», «increased production of demographic, educational, and social statistics» and «introduction of SILC survey».

3.d) Reference to MIPD

For the area of statistics, it is underlined in the MIPD 2007-2009 that substantial improvements are needed to enable the production of statistics of good quality and their dissemination. Areas of specific interest include national accounts statistics and the underlying basic statistics on national and regional level. The introduction of European System of Accounts 1995 (ESA 95) standards is important in order to ensure that statistics are in accordance with EU requirements. In addition, attention may be given to further development of the statistical infrastructure.

The MIPD also addresses priority areas for which there is *acquis* on statistics, such as social inclusion, labour market, transport, consumer and health protection and environmental protection.

3.e) 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.

3.f) Reference to national / sectoral investment plans

The objectives of the project follow the priorities of the Strategic Plan of the State Statistical Office 2006-2008. 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 IV: Details per EU funded contract (*) where applicable

The project will entail two contracts:

- 1) TA contract. It is intended that an international restricted tender procedure will lead to one service contract of approx. 2 Million. No deviations from standard procedures are foreseen.

The TA contract is expected to deliver improvements in the overall quality of production of statistics, and in particular in several statistical areas, such as national accounts and other economic statistics; business statistics and social statistics, by assessing the state of play, developing an action plan for each of the areas with the different stakeholders, and carrying out the various capacity building exercises, and pilot surveys will be implemented. Throughout the process the operational guidelines – to be used by the staff of the various institutions involved – will be developed. Special working groups will be established to ensure inclusion of the relevant stakeholders.

- 2) Supply contract. One supply contract of approx. 0.2 Million. No deviations from standard procedures are foreseen.

The supply contract is expected to deliver the necessary IT equipment that the SSO lacks for successful implementation of the project. This would include personal computers, servers, printers and photocopiers.