

Counting on reforms: helping improve the use of statistics

To run a country efficiently, a government needs high-quality statistics. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, the EU is helping the statistics agency improve its performance. The result is that the country is better able to plan services for its population, on everything from housing to law enforcement.

HEAD-COUNTS AND HOUSING

The focus of this assistance project was a census in 2013 to align housing policy with up-to-date population figures. Part of the assistance was computer equipment. The EU delivered and tested specific hardware and software for data entry, processing and analysis, and trained staff in the country's statistical institutions in its use. EU money also financed a public campaign that raised awareness about participation in the census. And it ensured all the 20,000 people engaged as census field staff were paid for their services.

GETTING THE FIGURES RIGHT

A high-quality census is vital for the formation of effective policies on subjects as diverse as demography, education, economics, ethnicity, migration and housing. The census delivered a preliminary figure of 3,791,622 persons. A check carried out by international monitors concluded that the census had operated smoothly. But the EU assistance did more than help to deliver quality population data. The EU money, equipment and expertise also strengthened the country's statistical institutions, in terms of human resources, training, technology and premises. Now they are better able to conduct large-scale statistical activities that meet international standards.

Reliable figures are essential to the formation of broader economic and social policies. Countries in the EU enlargement process are all undergoing reforms, and adequate statistical services are vital to measure progress. Regular and sound indicators have to be produced, and not only on the population or household figures which were at the centre of this census. Macroeconomic indicators have to be provided to satisfy international lenders. Data is needed on imports and exports, or for business registers, or for the number of arrests, prosecutions and convictions.

SUCCESS

This was the first population and housing census to be conducted in more than 20 years - the last one was conducted in 1991. Against the complex background of Bosnia and Herzegovina's history and legal framework, it has been a longstanding objective to develop a modern, coordinated and harmonised approach to statistics.



Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA)

Bosnia and Herzegovina

IPA – AN INVESTMENT IN EUROPE. AN INVESTMENT IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION REFORM.

This project is aiming to embed European standards, which means that statistical data is based on objective and scientific methodologies. It also means that principles on data confidentiality are respected,

statistics can be collected without disproportionate strain on respondents, and data is disseminated impartially, with equal access for all users.

PROJECT DETAILS –

Direct Grant to the Agency for Statistics of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Partners:

Agency for Statistics of Bosnia and Herzegovina
Institute for Statistics of Federation
of Bosnia and Herzegovina
Institute for Statistics of Republika Srpska

Total cost in €:

7.5 million

EU Contribution in €:

100%

Start date:

June 2013

End date:

May 2015

Results:

Successful 2013 census field work; closer compliance with European statistical standards; better quality data

Techniques:

Direct grant, provision of equipment, capacity building, training, awareness campaign, staff funding

Project website:

www.bhas.ba

