

# TWINNING CONTRACT

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## Further Support to the Reform of the Statistics System in Bosnia and Herzegovina



## STUDY VISIT REPORT

on

**Component 2 - Agriculture Statistics**

**Activity 2S1: Study Visit to the Croatian Bureau of Statistics**

08-09 May 2023

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## List of Abbreviations

BHAS	Agency for Statistics of Bosnia and Herzegovina
BiH	Bosnia and Herzegovina
CBBH	Central Bank of Bosnia and Herzegovina
EC	European Commission
EU	European Union
FBiH	Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina
FIS	Institute for Statistics of Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina
MS	EU Member State
RSIS	Institute for Statistics of Republika Srpska
RTA	Resident Twinning Adviser
ToR	Terms of Reference

## 1. General comments

This study visit report was prepared within the EU Twinning Project "Further Support to the Reform of the Statistics System in Bosnia and Herzegovina" and organised under Component 2 – Agriculture statistics, Activity 2S1.

The purpose of the study visit was the preparation and implementation of the census of agriculture in B&H using good practice, experience and the results of the census in Croatia in 2020.

The staff of BHAS, FIS and RSIS would like to express their thanks to all officials and individuals met for the kind support and valuable information which they received during the stay in Croatia.

This views and observations stated in this report are those of the participants and do not necessarily correspond to the views of EU, BHAS, FIS, RSIS, CBBH, Statistics Denmark, Statistics Sweden, Statistics Finland, Istat or the Croatian Bureau of Statistics.

## 2. Lessons Learned

The study visit to the Croatian Bureau of Statistics lasted two days. As part of the study visit, the information and experience regarding the census of agriculture and creation of statistical farm registers was mainly exchanged. Experts on Agriculture Statistics, statistical sample and Information Technologies also participated in the meeting, from both sides.

On the first day of the visit, the following issues were discussed: census preparation and implementation (dynamics plan, staffing, training, organization of fieldwork, etc.), preparing the census frame and methodology, planning and budgeting, legal framework, structure and number of the questionnaires prepared for agricultural census; data processing and editing, data tabulation, dissemination of the results of Agricultural Census, etc. On the same day, plenty of time was spent on introducing the participants of the study visit to the number items from the existing statistical farm register, such as: purpose of creating the register, structure of the register, information on register variables, process of register actualization and its periodicity, sources (statistical/administrative) used for register actualization, software used to maintain the register, etc.

On the second day, the main topics were data collection methods and the use of technology as one of the key stages of the census, given that the success of the census depends on these working quickly, efficiently and with proven methods. The topic that was particularly emphasized during the second day was technical organization of the CAPI method of data collection which was used by colleagues from the Croatian Bureau of Statistics for family farms. Participants were informed in detail about the field experience using the CAPI method of data collection, survey management and reporting features (i.e. status of the number of interviews at each stage such as created, assigned, completed, approved, etc.), data transfer to the database, the role of supervisors and controllers during the data collection process, procedures used during data collection in the field, etc.

### 3. Conclusions and recommendations

If the law on statistics does not provide for the Census, it is necessary, due to the complexity of this statistical activity, to establish a special legal framework that will exclusively regulate this activity.

Promotion of the agricultural census is of particular importance for its successful implementation. It is especially important that the significance of the agricultural census is presented to farmers visually and daily (radio and TV broadcasts, videos, posters). The promotion of the agricultural census has been going on since the pilot census.

The preparation of the census framework is the most important activity for the successful implementation of the census. In the case of Croatia, the census frame was formed based on the statistical register of farms. It is interesting for us that the results of the population census are used to establish the census frame, in combination with administrative registers and street registers. Establishing physical thresholds for national needs based on existing data on farms is of great importance.

It is recommended that the census be done separately for legal entities by means of the CAWI application and for family farms using the CATI method of data collection. We should be prepared to use different collection methods, which in practice usually means that the PAPI method is also used for legal entities and family farms, in combination with other methods.

In Croatia, the post-enumeration survey was carried out on a small sample and using a shortened questionnaire in order to test the coverage of households, i.e. the census framework.

Of particular importance for the successful implementation of the agricultural census is the establishment of an application for management as part of the CAPI application, i.e. controllers and supervisors who monitor the entire flow of fieldwork.

The statistical institution must prepare a precise methodology for the organization of fieldwork and a financial methodology. For the purposes of the census in Croatia, data for rural development and organic production were taken from administrative sources.

It is necessary to precisely define gardens and extensive orchards, as these create most problems during fieldwork.

For the purposes of preparing and conducting the Agricultural Census in Bosnia and Herzegovina, it is necessary to establish an appropriate legal framework for this activity only. The frame for the agricultural census must be carefully established to ensure that all agricultural holdings are covered with no omissions or duplications during the census implementation and in the follow-up surveys. A minimum size limit for holdings included in the census must be established. During the actual fieldwork, i.e. data entry, it is necessary to perform logical checks and calculation controls. After entering the data, data controls and validation need to be performed, in accordance with the established procedures.

In accordance with the lessons learned, NSIs in BH will undertake a series of activities as part of the preparation and subsequent implementation of the future agricultural census in 2024. Below, several of the most important activities that NSIs must undertake as soon as possible in accordance with the lessons learned are listed.

First, it is necessary to prepare and adopt the appropriate census legislation as one of the first aspects to be considered when starting to plan the census of agriculture.

Afterwards, the BH statistical institutes are to complete the building up of a census frame (complete list of all farms), which represents the basis for establishing the methodology of the census organization and budget, using all available administrative sources (e.g. subsidy registers, address register, etc.) and experiences from the Croatian Bureau of Statistics.

It is very important for NSIs to prepare a methodology of organization of field work and financing methodology, including the census budget, using the experience of colleagues from the Croatian Bureau of Statistics.

In addition, two census modalities (rural development and organic farming) can be provided through administrative sources. This is why the NSIs have to establish an official cooperation with the MoA, that are the owners of the administrative data, as well as to agree on data transfer at the farm level for the needs of the agricultural census.

It is especially important that the BH statistical institutions, based on the analysis of the Pilot agricultural census 2023 and the lessons learned from the Croatian Bureau of Statistics, correct the census questionnaire and methodological guidelines.

As part of the CATI application, it is necessary to develop census procedures to monitor the progress of census operations and control expenditures (management systems), as well as procedures for monitoring the quality of census results during collection and processing.

For the successful implementation of the census, it is necessary for NSIs to develop and implement a communication and publicity strategy. The strategy deals with decisions on who are the target audiences, what are the key messages, and how (the means of communication) and when (time of delivery) these are delivered.

#### **Actions needed for moving forward**

<b>Action</b>	<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Responsible institution / person</b>
Preparation and adoption of census legislation	Second half of 2024	BHAS, RSIS, FZS
Establishment of census frame	First half of 2024	BHAS, RSIS, FZS
Establishing official cooperation with the MoA	First half of 2024	BHAS, RSIS, FZS
Correction of the questionnaire and methodological guidelines	First half of 2024	BHAS, RSIS, FZS
Developing and implementing a communication and publicity strategy	First half of 2024	BHAS, RSIS, FZS

Developing census procedures to monitor the progress of census operations and control expenditures	First half of 2024	BHAS, RSIS, FZS
Developing census procedures to monitor the quality of census results	First half of 2024	BHAS, RSIS, FZS

## Annex 1. Programme

	<b>1<sup>st</sup> day</b>
<b>9:00 - 9:30</b>	<b>Registration and welcome</b>
<b>9:30 - 10:00</b>	<b>Opening and study visit objectives</b>
<b>10:00 - 10:45</b>	<b>Presentation about the organization of the Agricultural Census (information about the dynamic plan, organisation about the controllers, enumerators, etc.)</b>
<b>10:45 - 11:00</b>	<b>Coffee Break</b>
<b>11:00 - 13:00</b>	<b>Implementation the integration modules, preparing the frame and methodology</b>
<b>13:00 - 14:00</b>	<b>Lunch Break</b>
<b>14:00 - 16:00</b>	<b>Implementation the control and editing data. Dissemination the data and presented the results of Agricultural Census</b>
	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> day</b>
<b>9:00 - 9:30</b>	<b>Recap of the first day</b>
<b>9:30 - 10:30</b>	<b>Technical organization CAPI method of data collection</b>
<b>10:30 - 10:45</b>	<b>Coffee Break</b>
<b>10:45 - 12:30</b>	<b>Introduction in the whole flow of collection from the application itself</b>
<b>12:30 - 13:30</b>	<b>The concept of the database</b>
<b>13:30 - 14:30</b>	<b>Lunch Break</b>
<b>14:30 - 16:00</b>	<b>Field experience using the CAPI method of data collection, data transfer to the database, etc.</b>

## Annex 2. Persons met

### Croatian Bureau of Statistics

Ana Pavetić  
Predrag Cvjetićanin  
Mario Valentić  
Željko Kanižaj

### Participants:

#### **RSIS**

Biljana Đukić  
Lazo Segrt  
Dragana Crnadak  
Pero Kazanović  
Borjan Cvjetković  
Danijela Savanovic Veber  
Vedrana Dejanovic

#### **BHAS**

Lidija Lukić  
Neno Svjetlanović  
Andrea Mehmedović  
Ljubiša Eskić  
Biljana Nogo  
Ljubica Marić  
Jasna Isaković

#### **FIS**

Hasan Karačić  
Šemso Šurković  
Elmina Ramić-Lukač  
Fehrija Mehić  
Ismir Melez  
Asmira Selimović  
Amel Sikirić