

TWINNING CONTRACT

BA 17 IPA ST 01 20



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



MISSION REPORT

**Activity 3.A: Assessment of the current status of availability and use of administrative
data and the way forward**
Component 3 - Administrative Data Sources

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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 mission report was prepared within the EU Twinning Project "Further Support to the Reform of the Statistics System in Bosnia and Herzegovina". It was the first mission to be devoted to assessment of the current status of availability and use of administrative data and the way forward within Component 3 of the project.

The purposes of the mission were:

- Assessment of the current status of availability and use of administrative data
- Development of work plan
- Preparation of ToR for next activity

The consultants would like to express their thanks to all officials and individuals met for the kind support and valuable information which they received during the online meetings, and which highly facilitated the work of the consultant.

This views and observations stated in this report are those of the consultant and do not necessarily correspond to the views of EU, BHAS, FIS, RSIS, CBBH, Statistics Denmark, Statistics Finland, Statistics Sweden or The Italian National Institute of Statistics.

2. Assessment and results

The first mission was attended by representatives from the Agency for Statistics of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BHAS), Institute for Statistics of Republika Srpska (RSIS) and Institute for Statistics of Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (FIS). They all represented more or less business and economic statistics. In the first meeting we gathered background information, discussed on the current situation and the experiences and challenges encountered in using administrative sources for statistical purposes. We also discussed on the needs and objectives for the content of the current project.

In our discussions, all participants of different statistical institutes (BHAS, FIS, and RSIS) expressed a strong willingness to increase the use of the administrative sources for statistical compilation. During the meetings, we were presented the expectations and wishes for the future work within this action and the workplan was made based on this conversation.

In the previous project "Support to the reform of the statistics system in Bosnia and Herzegovina", the first inventory of administrative sources in different statistical domains was made. In order to obtain the current situation regarding the use of administrative data for statistics, it was agreed that each statistical institution would take care of updating the data collected earlier (excel lists). Due to the relatively broad scope of the statistical domains and the need for participants to organize the work in their own agencies, it was agreed that the work would be given time until the end of September. The procedure for verifying (and where relevant updating) the large amount of information was also discussed and subsequently agreed upon.

We discussed the candidates for pilot testing, i.e. which specific statistics we will examine in more detail. It was suggested that one pilot could be selected STS indicators using VAT data as a main data source as most participants are related to this statistical domain and good prospects for the relevant administrative source exist. Following the update of the existing inventory and subsequent discussion we will decide on the second pilot. The experts recommended that the other pilot should be from the domain of social statistics. However, the final decision of the selected pilot statistics and corresponding data sources will be selected later in this autumn.

During the mission, a tentative project plan (Annex 3) was planned and agreed as well as the content of the next mission that we hope can happen in the first week of November. If travel restrictions allow the next activity will be conducted as an on-site mission.

3. Conclusions and recommendations

BHAS, FIS, and RSIS all indicated a strong will in moving towards increased use of register data for statistical purposes. Currently traditional production systems with many paper questionnaire etc consumes many resources and impose a high response burden for both enterprises and population. It is hoped that this burden will be reduced by increasing the use of administrative registers. However, this is not easy, and before the goal is achieved, many challenges will have to be faced and resolved.

The following issues came up in the discussions:

- Better know-how of using administrative sources: Possibilities and challenges
- Co-operation, e.g. data sharing between statistical institutes and between statistical institutes and ministries/data owners
- Methodology and quality framework for register-based statistics

These issues could be promoted through, for example, training and workshops.

It was agreed that the current inventory on administrative data sources in BiH will be updated by the end of September. Project members of BHAS will contact the Central Bank of Bosnia and Herzegovina and ask them to go through and update their part of the inventory. The next mission was primarily scheduled to the beginning of November 2021, but are postponed until week 8 or 9 in 2022 due to availability of experts respectively beneficiaries. The purpose of the mission is to identify new relevant sources of administrative data at different levels of government. During this mission, the experiences on the use of administrative data of MS countries as well as BC country will be presented.

Actions needed for moving forward as well as for preparing the next mission –add rows as needed.

Action	Deadline	Responsible person
Updating the current inventory on administrative sources made in the previous project	By the end of January 2022	All three (four) BC institutions
List of statistical domains of interest: topics for the presentation and experiences of MS countries.	By the end of January 2022	All three BC institutions

Annex 1. Terms of Reference for this mission

Terms of Reference

EU Twinning Project BA 17 IPA ST 01 20

Component 3 - Administrative Data Sources September 1st, 2nd and 3rd 2021

Virtual meetings via Zoom

Activity 3.A: Assessment of the current status of availability and use of administrative data and the way forward

1. Mandatory result

The component 3 – Administrative Data Sources has one result - Inventory of administrative sources for all statistical domains prepared.

The way towards the result is assumed to be:

- Current status of availability and use of administrative data
- Identify relevant sources of administrative data at different levels of government
- Develop an inventory of administrative sources
- Establish criteria for when administrative data can be used for statistical purposes ~fit for use
- Developing methods for use of administrative data
- Train staff on how to evaluate suitability and quality of administrative data
- From the inventory of administrative sources build a list of sources that in short to medium term can be used by the statistical system
- Defines protocols for regular data transfers
- Discuss security, confidentiality and privacy issues arising from the exchange of administrative data from the data owners to the actors of the national statistical system
- Identify one or two statistics that can be used as pilot
- Pilot transfer and test production

It is expected that one or two statistical areas can be identified for pilots / case study to provide a business case for the use of administrative data.

Indicator / Relevant Milestones / Internal deadlines:

- Inventory of administrative sources available

2. Purpose of the activity

- Assessment of the current status of availability and use of administrative data
- Development of work plan
- Preparation of ToR for the next activity

3. Expected output of the activity

- Assessment of the current status of availability and use of administrative data made
- Detailed work plan made
- Mission report

The content of this report is approved by: (sign and date)

MS Expert

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RTA

Niels Madsen

Annex 2. Persons met

BHAS:

Fahir Kanlić
Alen Bajramović

FIS:

Ademira Veličanin
Merima Beganovic

RSIS:

Sanela Borojević

RTA Team:

Niels Madsen
Larisa Muslimović

Annex 3. Working plan for for Component 3: Administrative data sources

No.	MAIN ACTIVITY	COMPONENTS OF MAIN ACTIVITY*	DATE OF REALIZATION**	RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTIONS
1	INVENTORY OF ADMINISTRATIVE DATA SOURCES	Current status of availability and use of administrative data. Draft inventory list prepared.	End of January 2022	BHAS, RSIS, FIS
		Identify new relevant sources of administrative data at different levels of government	End of January 2022	BHAS, RSIS, FIS
		Road map of administrative data sources that will be used by the statistical system (2-5 years)	End of May 2022	BHAS, RSIS, FIS
		Final inventory of administrative data sources prepared.	End of the Project	BHAS, RSIS, FIS
2	METHODOLOGY FOR USE OF ADMINISTRATIVE DATA FOR STATISTICAL PURPOSES	Establish criteria for using administrative data for statistical purposes	End of February 2022	BHAS, RSIS, FIS
		Development of methods for use of administrative data	End of May 2022	BHAS, RSIS, FIS
		Training of staff on how to evaluate suitability and quality of administrative data	End of September 2022	BHAS, RSIS, FIS
		Identification of admin data source to be used for test production of official statistics	End of February 2022	BHAS, RSIS, FIS
		Documentation on security, confidentiality and privacy issues prepared. Development of protocols for regular data transfers.	End of the Project	BHAS, RSIS, FIS
		Preparation of IT request for use of administrative data sources into regular statistical production process	End of the Project	BHAS, RSIS, FIS
3	PILOT ON NEW ADMINISTRATIVE	Establishment of permanent Working group for administrative data sources	End of November 2021	BHAS, RSIS, FIS

DATA SOURCE FOR STATISTICAL PURPOSES	Identify one or two statistics that can be used as pilot	End of December 2021	BHAS, RSIS, FIS
	Preparation of activity plan with timetable for pilot	End of February 2022	BHAS, RSIS, FIS
	Agreement on data exchange	End of June 2022	BHAS, RSIS, FIS
	Pilot transfer and test production	End of the Project	BHAS, RSIS, FIS

*Activities proposed in this Plan could be changed during the IPA Project implementation

**Proposed dates are provisional