TWINNING CONTRACT

BA 15 IPA SR 01 17

Support to the reform of the statistics system in Bosnia and Herzegovina

STUDY VISIT REPORT

on

**Statistical Business Register
Activity no. 2.1.6**

Study visit to to Denmark

Date: 02-04 April 2019

Version: Final

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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 " Support to the reform of the statistics system in Bosnia and Herzegovina". and organised under component no.2, activity no. 2.1.6

The purpose of the Study visit was to introduce the organization and statistical coordination of the Danish Statistical Business Register.

Hosts of Statistics Denmark were Mrs. Charlotte Juul Hansen and Mr. Steen Eiberg Jørgensen.

The study visit program was designed and implemented in line with the current issues in SBR in BiH.

The program included presentations and discussions based on practical issues from the Danish SBR: sources, organization, cooperation, updates, etc. and relating it to the SBR in BiH - especially concerning the SBR 5-year plan.

All themes planned in the program were realized.

The staff of BHAS, RSIS and CBBH 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 Denmark and which highly facilitated the work.

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, INSEE, Statistics Finland and Croatian Bureau of Statistics.

2. Lessons Learned

The study visit program included presentations on the organisation of the Danish Statistical Business Register and Statistics Denmark in general. The presentations and discussions were linked to the five year development plan of the SBR in BiH.

Specifically the following topics are presented:

- Introduction to Statistics Denmark

- 5-year plan of the SBR in BiH - status and realistic or too ambitious

- Topic from 5-year plan – how we do in SD : Business Demography, Marking burden on respondents, Improvement of cooperation with internal users, EGR and Enterprise Group …

- Project management - Adapting projects; Degradation and milestones

- Danish Business Register: sources, users, sharing information …

- Large Cases Unit - Profiling of large enterprises

3. Conclusions and recommendations

All topics were presented in details, along with a joint discussion between the experts and stakeholders. It was explained that the SBR is a satellite in a wider system of data users/providers and main collaborators are: The Customs and Tax Authorities and the Danish Business Authority (BA).

Historically, the use of administrative data in Denmark is built around three core registers: the Central Personal Register, the Business Register and the Building and Housing register. Administrative data can be linked to other types of data e.g. survey data.

Statistics Denmark (SD) is responsible for the Danish Activity Classification (national version of NACE) and can therefore change the codes. The registered businesses are responsible for maintaining and updating their data.

SBR is used in more than 100 different statistics (structural, short-term, register based, sample based) in 8 divisions. The live register is primarily used for contacting the entities – questionnaires, data collection etc.

Frozen versions are used for delimiting the target population at a given point in time and for a given period.

Statistic Denmark has a user group for SBR that discusses the classification of the activities (interpretation and classification of activities), statistical units, development of the Register, etc. Every statistical section is represented, including Research Services and Communication and Sales. It is recommended to create similar user group in the three statistical institutions in BiH, with regular meetings.

A very interesting presentation on Portfolio and Project Management in Statistics Denmark was presented by Mrs. Karin Holst Duer. The Portfolio Management decides whether a project is worthwhile considering, by using the following key words:
    WHY (strategic importance? Huge benefits?) – BC
    WHAT (deliveries? When? costs/benefits?) -
    HOW (new or old technology? Costly?)
    WHO (key resources needed?)

Mrs. Karin has suggested that we plan and implement the five-year plans as a separate project. All the participants agreed that the presented model should be implemented in the realization of activities in our country.

Danish experience with Euro Group Register and practical examples were also presented. Also, it was explained why the Enterprise Groups and the Euro Group Register is needed and why it is important for BiH to have access to the Euro Group Register.

A presentation on business demography production in Denmark was given. BC gave input on the ongoing work on business demography in BiH.

Marking the burden on respondents, which is one of the activities in the SBR plan, was discussed as part of a very interesting presentation by Mr. Steen Eiberg Jørgensen and we defined the next steps to be done, as follows:

First step:
Define the procedures for marking the units involved in certain statistical surveys
Second step:
Defining the periodicity of updating the data on the participation of units in the individual surveys
Step 3:
Defining the input table for the procedures on marking units
Step 4:
Presentation of the changes

It was agreed that all the activities from the five year plan should be updated according to the changes and achivements. An overall update of the five year plan will be done ones again at the end of the project (based on the benchmarks from the projects work plan).

Annex 1. Programme

Study visit from Bosnia-Herzegovina on Statistical Business Register Programme

	Tuesday 2 April 2019	*Venue: Styrelseslokalet*
09.30 - 10.30	Welcome and introduction to Statistics Denmark	Charlotte Juul Hansen
10.30 - 12.00	5-year plan- status and realistic or too ambitious	Beneficiary institutions & Steen Eiberg Jørgensen
12.00 - 13.00	Lunch	
13.00 - 15.00	Project management	Karin Holst Duer
	• Adapting projects	Steen Eiberg Jørgensen
	• Degradation and milestones	
15.00 - 15.30	Reflection on lessons learned and application in BiH	Beneficiary institutions & Charlotte Juul Hansen
	Wednesday 3 April 2019	*Venue: Mødelokale 2071*
09.30 - 11.00	Sharing of information with SBS I SD	Charlotte Hansen or Birgit Nielsen
	• Including reflection on SBS visit in January	
11.00 - 12.30	Topic from 5-year plan – how we do in SD	Jens Christian Ring or Steen
	5.2 Business Demography	
12.30 - 13.30	Lunch	
13.30 - 14.00	Visit to Museum of Statistics Denmark	
14.00 - 15.00	Topic from 5-year plan –how we do in SD	Frank Brodersen
	4.7 Marking burden on respondents	
	Thursday 4 April 2019	*Venue: Styrelseslokalet*
09.30 - 12.00	LCU incl. 5.4 Profiling of large enterprises	Søren Kristensen
12.00 - 13.00	Lunch	
13:00 - 15:00	Topic from 5-year plan –how we do in SD	Steen Eiberg Jørgensen and/or Birgit
	4.3 Improvement of cooperation with internal users	Nielsen
15.00 - 15.15	Evaluation of the study visit	Steen Eiberg Jørgensen

Annex 2. Persons met

Agency for Statistics of Bosnia-Herzegovina

- Branislava Cvijetic, Senior Adviser in Department for Applications and Management of Databases
- Dzenita Mustafic, Specialist in Department for Statistical Business Register and Economic Classifications
- Ivana Tavra Colo, Senior Official in Department for Statistical Business Register and Economic Classifications
- Mevlija Odobasic, Senior Adviser in Department for Statistical Business Register and Economic Classifications
- Senija Facic, Head of the Branch Office Brcko

Institute for Statistics of Republika Srpska

- Jelena Đokić, Assistant Director, National Accounts, Registers and Price
- Mladen Marić, Head of Department, Data Entry, Application Development and Database Administration
- Nada Malinović, Head of Department, Registers, samples and Classifications
- Radosav Savanović, Deputy director

RTA Office

- Djemka Sahinpasic, Interpreter

Statistics Denmark

- Birgit Nielsen, Senior Adviser, Business Data Collection and Register
- Charlotte Juul Hansen, Senior Adviser, International Consulting
- Frank Brodersen, Senior Head Clerk, Business Data Collection and Register
- Jens Christian Ring, Senior Adviser, Business Data Collection and Register
- Karin Holst Duer, Chief Adviser, Management Office
- Søren Kristensen, Chief Adviser, Business Dynamics
- Steen Eiberg Jørgensen, Head of Division, Business Data Collection and Register