

TWINNING CONTRACT

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EU for Further Development of Statistics System in BiH



STUDY VISIT REPORT

On

Component 4 - Statistics on Income and Living Conditions

Activity 4S: Study Visit to Italy

06 - 08 October 2025

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EU FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF STATISTICS SYSTEM IN BIH



Funded by
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STATISTICS
DENMARK



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
STATISTICAL OFFICE

Statistics Finland

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List of Abbreviations

BC	Beneficiary Country (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
BHAS	Agency for Statistics of Bosnia and Herzegovina
BiH	Bosnia and Herzegovina
CBBH	Central Bank of Bosnia and Herzegovina
EU	European Union
EUD	European Union Delegation to Bosnia and Herzegovina
FIS	Institute for Statistics of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina
LA	Language Assistant
MS	EU Member State
RSIS	Institute for Statistics of Republika Srpska
RTA	Resident Twinning Advisor
RTAA	Resident Twinning Advisor Assistant
SURS	Statistical office of the Republic of Slovenia
ToR	Terms of Reference



1. General comments

This study visit report was prepared within the EU Twinning Project "EU for Further Development of Statistics System in BiH" and organised under Component 4 - Statistics on Income and Living Conditions, Activity 4S: Study Visit to Italy.

The purpose of the study visit was to gain insight into the Italian National Institute of Statistics' (Istat) experience and working methods in:

- Production of longitudinal dataset
- Calculation of indicators
- Validations

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 Finland.

The 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 Finland, Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia or The Italian National Institute of Statistics.

2. Lessons Learned

The most notable lessons learnt pertain to improving data quality over time through the CAPI (Computer Assisted Phone Interview) questionnaire and putting methods in place to lessen response burden and enhance longitudinal coherence. Also, advantages of a multi-source data approach, such as improved accuracy, increased completeness, greater consistency and integrity, improved scalability, and lower costs and response burden were stressed, and elaborated as a part of the techniques related to the checking, editing, and imputing income data. Consistency between cross-sectional and longitudinal datasets, allowing richer analyses of poverty dynamics and social mobility was another lesson learned, as well as how to achieve reduced risk of structural errors through the integrated workflows which prevent data loss and mismatching households/individuals. Cross-sectional weights were the primary topic of discussion on the weighting technique, with an emphasis on minimizing sampling bias. By using well-structured indicators, the calculation of indicators was, in ISTAT, developed with the goal of achieving clear communication of social statistics to policymakers, researchers, and the public and enabling better evidence-based decision making. To provide sufficient precision for important indicators such as income quantiles, At Risk of Poverty (AROP), At Risk of Poverty or social Exclusion (AROPE), etc., an informed sample design is necessary, was another important lesson learned. Since BiH national statistics system does not have SAS, validations were explored with focus on alternate methodologies for pre-validation.

3. Conclusions and recommendations

Main conclusions:

High-quality SILC data depend on a coherent, integrated production process, in which questionnaire design, weighting, editing, and quality reporting reinforce one another.

Reducing respondent burden and improving longitudinal coherence significantly boosts data reliability, particularly for income and labour market variables.

Robust editing, imputation, and weighting procedures reduce bias, increase comparability across time, and ensure credible poverty and inequality indicators.

Continuous monitoring of sampling errors and transparent dissemination practices enhance confidence among policymakers and the public.

Recommendations:

Statistical institutions should invest in coherent CAPI instruments that reduce burden and allow stable longitudinal identification.

They should strengthen income data editing, imputation, and calibration weighting, ensuring both cross-sectional accuracy and longitudinal representativeness.

Institutions should systematically monitor precision requirements, document processes through a quality report, and align dissemination with Eurostat’s standards.

Finally, adopting a fully integrated production workflow similar to that in ISTAT—from questionnaire to final indicators—will greatly improve consistency and efficiency.

How to apply these lessons in a statistical institution and what is needed to move forward:

To apply these lessons, the statistical institutions need to standardise its SILC workflow, including harmonised questionnaires, automated editing rules, and unified weighting systems. Building a centralised processing framework (with shared metadata, validation tools, and version control) ensures that cross-sectional and longitudinal data remain aligned. Increasing capacities, investing in staff training, process documentation, and quality reporting helps maintain high methodological standards.

Moving forward requires:

- modernising data collection (e.g., improved CAPI questionnaire with built-in checks),
- expanding use of administrative data for validation and imputation,
- enhancing capacity for precision analysis, and
- establishing a continuous improvement cycle that evaluates each SILC wave and implements refinements.

Actions needed for moving forward

Action	Deadline	Responsible institution / person
Creation of longitudinal weights		
Calculation of indicators in non-SAS environment		

Annex 1. Programme

Monday 6 October 2025

09.15-09:30	Welcome and presentation of the agenda	<i>Ms. Marina Gandolfo</i>
09:30 - 10:30	The Cati-Capi questionnaire: strategies to reduce response burden and improve longitudinal coherence	<i>Ms. Mariagloria Narilli</i>
10:30-11:00	<i>Coffee-break</i>	
11.00-12:00	Cross-sectional and longitudinal data production process in IT-SILC	<i>Ms. Daniela Lo Castro</i>
12.00-13.00	<i>Lunch break</i>	
13.00-14.00	The IT-SILC techniques for checking, editing and imputing income data	<i>Mr. Paolo Consolini</i>

Tuesday 7 October 2025

09:30 - 10:30	The IT-SILC weighting procedure: Cross-sectional weights	<i>Mr. Stefano Gerosa</i>
10:30-11:00	<i>Coffee-break</i>	
11.00-12:00	The IT-SILC weighting procedure: Longitudinal weights	<i>Ms. Daniela Lo Castro</i>
12.00-13.00	<i>Lunch</i>	
13.00-14.00	Sampling errors estimation and precision requirements	<i>Mr. Stefano Gerosa</i>

Wednesday 8 October 2025

09:30 - 10:30	Grossing up income: Microsimulation and Admin Data	<i>Ms. Gabriella Donatiello</i>
10:30-11:00	<i>Coffee-break</i>	
11.00-12:00	The IT-SILC quality report	<i>Ms. Francesca Gallo</i>
12.00-13.00	<i>Lunch</i>	
13.00-14.00	Main indicators and dissemination	<i>Ms. Francesca Lariccia, Ms. Clodia Delle Fratte</i>
14:00-14:15	Follow up and conclusion	

Annex 2. Persons met

Istat – The Italian National Institute of Statistics:

- Ms. Francesca Gallo, Directorate for social statistics and welfare - Division for integrated system for household economic conditions and consumer prices
- Ms. Mariagloria Narilli, Directorate for social statistics and welfare - Division for integrated system for household economic conditions and consumer prices
- Ms. Daniela Lo Castro, Directorate for social statistics and welfare - Division for integrated system for household economic conditions and consumer prices
- Mr. Paolo Consolini, Directorate for social statistics and welfare - Division for integrated system for household economic conditions and consumer prices
- Mr. Stefano Gerosa, Directorate for social statistics and welfare - Division for integrated system for household economic conditions and consumer prices
- Ms. Gabriella Donatiello, Directorate for social statistics and welfare - Division for integrated system for household economic conditions and consumer prices
- Ms. Francesca Lariccia, Directorate for social statistics and welfare - Division for integrated system for household economic conditions and consumer prices
- Ms. Clodia delle Fratte, Directorate for social statistics and welfare - Division for integrated system for household economic conditions and consumer prices
- Ms. Marina Gandolfo, Directorate for external relations – Head Division for International Affairs
- Ms. Graziella Sanna, Directorate for external relations - Division for International Affairs
- Mr. Andrea Paparelli, Directorate for external relations - Division for International Affairs

Agency for Statistics of BiH (BHAS)

- Mr. Zlatan Hadžić, Advisor for Statistics on Income and Living Conditions - SILC
- Mr. Radoslav Ćorović, Assistant Director in The Sector for Demography and Social Statistics
- Mr. Vladimir Mijović, Head of Labour Market Department
- Ms. Jasna Isaković, Head of Department for sample design and methodology

Institute for Statistics of the Federation of BiH (FIS)

- Ms. Amela Vesković, Head of the Unit of the living conditions
- Mr. Mirza Omanić, Unit of the living conditions
- Mr. Džemal Borovina, Advisor for application development

Institute for Statistics of Republika Srpska (RSIS)

- Mr. Zeljko Asentic, Assistant Director
- Ms. Biljana Tešić, Head of the Department of Labor and Social Statistics
- Ms. Vanja Vilipić, Head of the Department of Social Statistics

- Mr. Pero Kazanović, IT expert

Project representatives

- Larisa Muslimović, RTA Assistant

