

## **Standard Summary Project Fiche – IPA centralised programmes**

### **IPA 2008 multi-beneficiary statistical cooperation programme**

#### **1. Basic information**

- 1.1 CRIS Number: 2008/020-320
- 1.2 Title: IPA 2008 Multi-beneficiary Statistical Cooperation Programme
- 1.3 ELARG Statistical code: 03.18
- 1.4 Location: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia Kosovo<sup>1</sup> and Turkey

#### **Implementing arrangements:**

- 1.5 Contracting Authority (EC): The European Community represented by the Commission of the European Communities - project manager DG ESTAT unit E4 (in sub-delegation)
- 1.6 Implementing Agency: not applicable
- 1.7 Beneficiaries: Western Balkans: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia Kosovo Turkey

In each location: statistical institute and partners in the statistical system of each beneficiary.

#### **Financing:**

- 1.8 Overall cost (VAT excluded): EUR 4 000 000
- 1.9 EU contribution: EUR 4 000 000
- 1.10 Final date for contracting: 30/11/2009
- 1.11 Final date for execution of contracts: 30/11/2011
- 1.12 Final date for disbursements: 30/11/2012

#### **2. Overall Objective and Project Purpose**

##### **2.1 Overall Objective**

The overall objective is to prepare the statistical authorities in the Beneficiaries for future EU membership by aligning their present methodologies and practices with the statistical *acquis* and integrating them into the European Statistical System.

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<sup>1</sup> under UNSCR 1244/99

## 2.2 Project purpose

The purpose of the project is to continue upgrading and strengthening the statistical systems in the Beneficiaries, thereby improving the availability, quality, comparability and timeliness of statistical data in particular in the following main areas:

- macro-economic statistics
- price statistics
- external trade statistics
- agricultural statistics
- demographic and social statistics
- business statistics

These main statistical areas were identified based on the results from previous and current statistical assistance programmes and based on assessments undertaken by Eurostat of the current stage of development of the statistical systems in the Beneficiaries. The IPA 2008 Multi-beneficiary statistical cooperation programme builds on the results of and continues the work carried out under the IPA 2007 Multi-beneficiary statistical cooperation programme and also covers new statistical domains.

## 2.3 Link with AP/NPAA/EP/SAA

The Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) has been set up to help Beneficiaries face the challenges of European integration, implement reforms to satisfy EU requirements in the Stabilisation and Association Process (SAP) and lay the foundations for fulfilling the Copenhagen criteria for EU membership. The principal policy documents spelling out the priorities for programming of assistance under the IPA are the Accession and European Partnership instruments, which present the Commission's overall enlargement policy for the candidate and potential candidates, as well as the annual Progress Reports.

The European and Accession Partnership documents, the NPAAAs where they exist as well as the SAAs underline the need to further develop the statistical systems in the Beneficiaries.

## 2.4 Link with MIPD

The Multi-beneficiary MIPD is designed to complement and be consistent with National MIPDs. Areas of intervention are addressed through the Multi-Beneficiary MIPD where there is a clear comparative advantage to be gained, for instance through tackling cross-border problems or – as is the case for this programme - in obtaining efficiencies through establishing harmonised approaches, leveraging established instruments or facilitating networks of experts.

Section 2.3.3.7 of the Multi-beneficiary MIPD 2008-2010 emphasises the need to harmonise the national statistical systems of the Beneficiaries with the EU *acquis*.

## 2.5 Link with National Development Plan

The implementation of the activities under the IPA 2008 multi-beneficiary statistical cooperation programme is fully compatible with the national development plans concerning the statistical system in the Beneficiaries where these plans exist. This multi-beneficiary statistical cooperation programme is designed in parallel with the complementary beneficiary-specific support for statistics provided by the national IPA programmes. Both components are necessary to help achieve the objectives set out in the national development plans.

## 3. Description of project

### 3.1 Background and justification

Reliable statistics are essential for assessing the situation in the Beneficiaries and their performance, both for domestic policy-making purposes and for the accession process. The methodologies and practices applied for compiling the statistics must be harmonised with EU practices, i.e. with the *acquis*, in order to achieve full comparability of key data.

The integration of National Statistical Institutes (NSIs) and their partners in the National Statistical Systems into the European Statistical System was started under the CARDS, Phare and USST (Upgrading the Statistical System of Turkey) programmes, and continues under the IPA 2007 Multi-beneficiary statistical cooperation programme.

The regional multi-beneficiary approach which proved to be cost-efficient under Phare and CARDS and adopted also for the IPA 2007 Multi-beneficiary statistical cooperation programme should be continued to reinforce regional integration and cooperation so as to develop the statistical systems of the Beneficiaries.

At the same time, this approach has to reflect the different stages of development and differing priorities of the Beneficiaries. This is best achieved by a sufficient level of flexibility in the implementation of this programme that can take account of groups of Beneficiaries with different needs and levels of attainment.

Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Kosovo were Beneficiaries of the CARDS 2003 multi-beneficiary statistical cooperation programme which ended in March 2008.

Croatia and Turkey are Beneficiaries of the (Phare) 2005 multi-beneficiary statistical cooperation programme until December 2008 as well as of the respective 2006 programme until December 2010. Therefore, these two Beneficiaries will be invited to participate in the activities foreseen under this programme to the extent that the activities are complementary to the existing multi-beneficiary statistical cooperation programmes mentioned above.

All participants are Beneficiaries of the IPA 2007 Multi-beneficiary statistical cooperation programme, which started in summer 2008 (but in Croatia and Turkey only to the extent that the activities are complementary to other programmes for Croatia and Turkey).

The IPA 2008 multi-beneficiary statistical cooperation programme will cover activities in relation to:

#### *Macro-economic statistics*

Annual and quarterly national accounts are the most important element of macro-economic statistics. They must be of high quality, timely and harmonised with EU requirements to offer a solid basis for domestic decision-making and comparison with other Beneficiaries. In addition, they must be exhaustive to give the full picture of the economic activities in the Beneficiary. Balance of payments and financial accounts are also important elements of macro-economic statistics.

#### *Price statistics*

Reliable statistics on price developments are necessary not only for assessing the inflation in the Beneficiaries but also for deflating the economic accounts expressed in current prices to get the real growth figures for example. Compilation of Purchasing Power Parities is required for international comparisons of GDP and other economic indicators originally expressed in national currencies. The work carried out under the IPA 2007 Multi-beneficiary statistical cooperation programme should to be continued and expanded.

#### *External trade statistics*

External trade statistics and their compilation methods need be harmonised with the EU requirements and their quality and coverage improved. Reliable external trade statistics are a key input for trade agreements and the discussion of other economic issues. The work carried out under the IPA 2007 Multi-beneficiary statistical cooperation programme should be continued in order to achieve a sufficient quality of external trade statistics.

#### *Demographic and social statistics*

Reliable demographic and social statistics are necessary for guiding the policy making. Population estimates based on vital statistics and on statistics on migration, and education statistics need to be improved and classifications harmonised. Indicators and analysis based on reliable labour market statistics are of vital importance for the employment strategy.

### *Agricultural statistics*

Agricultural statistics are of particular importance since agriculture is still a major economic activity in the region. They also provide major input for national accounts. The development of farm registers and agricultural economic accounts is important alongside statistics on agricultural production and prices.

### *Business statistics*

Changing economic structures and the emerging sector of small- and medium-sized enterprises underline the importance of business statistics based on reliable statistical business registers. In particular, good structural and short-term statistics are needed for guiding economic policy making.

## 3.2 Assessment of project impact, catalytic effect and sustainability

The Beneficiaries have made progress in aligning their statistical legislation and practice with the EU *acquis* and international requirements and there is evidence that past assistance has made a contribution to this. However, recent Commission Progress Reports still indicate significant weaknesses. Full alignment will require further support as well as additional human and operational resources for statistical offices and their partners.

The programme is expected to contribute to increased data quality in key areas through harmonised legislation, knowledge transfer and the regional exchange of experience.

The programme will produce improvement actions not only in the statistical offices but also with main partners involved in producing official statistics (e.g. ministries of finance and agriculture, customs authorities, central banks) and will promote cooperation between them.

The programme will result in strengthened capacity in statistical production, ensuring the availability of timely and good quality statistics that are comparable with the statistics of EU Member States. The increased capacity and coordinating function of the national statistical offices is the best guarantee for the sustainability of the project. However, institutions in the region are still fragile and exposed to high staff turnover, a lack of certain skills and a lack of financial and IT resources.

## 3.3 Results and measurable indicators

The programme will be implemented through a single service contract. The overall results to be aimed at by the consultant are:

- to develop the administrative capacity of the Beneficiaries;
- to achieve improved sustainability, transfer of knowledge, and ownership by the beneficiary;
- to achieve improved availability, quality and comparability of the statistical data in the selected priority areas;
- to prepare the Beneficiaries for full application of the *acquis*.

Results to be achieved and measurable indicators *in the selected statistical areas* are:

- Statistical procedures are further aligned with the *acquis*, indicated by the results of the regular compliance monitoring;
- The administrative capacity to produce statistics is increased, indicated by the quantity, quality and timeliness of data made available and provided to Eurostat;
- The effectiveness of the NSIs to coordinate the national statistical systems is improved, indicated by appropriate cooperation modalities agreed with the other providers of statistical information;
- The provision of statistical data to Eurostat will have improved, indicated by increased flow of statistical data provided according to the transmission requirements in the *acquis*.

The increased level of alignment with the EU *acquis* and the number of new statistical variables covered can be verified precisely. Also the establishment of new technologies for the transmission of statistical data to Eurostat and the volume of data transferred is measurable.

### 3.4 Activities

The technical assistance will include:

- Expert missions to the Beneficiaries to assess the domains where improvements are most urgently required;
- Expert missions to the Beneficiaries to give on-the-spot guidance for improvements to identified weaknesses;
- Organising workshops and seminars for the Beneficiaries to disseminate best practices and exchange views among the beneficiary experts;
- Help desk function to give continuous assistance (e.g. on the use of classifications and statistical methods);
- Finance data collection surveys such as the price collections needed for compiling the Purchasing Power Parities.

General statistical assistance will allow

- Experts from the Beneficiaries to participate in technical meetings including working group meetings, task force meetings, seminars and workshops organised by Eurostat and other Commission services;
- Study visits to statistical offices and other official statistics providers in Europe;
- Training activities both locally and in the EU to be organised;
- Consultation visits to the Beneficiaries on demand to be organised;

- Assessments/reviews of the whole statistical system to be conducted;
- Translation and dissemination of relevant documentation to be arranged;
- Development of web sites also in English language to be supported;
- Traineeships of experts from the Beneficiaries at Eurostat and at the NSIs of the European Statistical System to be arranged.

These activities help integrate staff of statistical offices into the international statistical network and thus contribute to the transfer of knowledge and to the motivation of the staff. In this way a major risk to the sustainability of the project (high staff turnover) is alleviated.

### 3.5 Conditionality and sequencing

- Good cooperation of the NSIs and their partners in the national statistical systems in the implementation of the project is essential. The different providers of official statistics must be willing to cooperate with the NSIs in implementing the activities;
- The coordinating role of NSIs in compiling and disseminating official statistics must be strongly established and recognised;
- The NSIs must have sufficient resources to be able to effectively cooperate in and give necessary information for the different activities.

The statistical projects foreseen under the IPA 2008 national programmes are essential for ensuring the correct development of the national statistical systems and must be implemented in parallel with this multi-beneficiary programme.

An effective and focused statistical cooperation over a number of years is a prerequisite for the alignment with the *acquis* and the deeper integration into the European Statistical System. Therefore it is important that both national and multi-beneficiary programmes be continued in future IPA years to ensure the sustainable development of statistical systems.

### 3.6 Linked activities

Several Beneficiaries either have received assistance or plan to have assistance under national programmes. Also other donors (mainly international organisations and some EU Member States) support the development of some components of the statistical systems of individual Beneficiaries in the region.

Particular care needs to be taken to coordinate the activities under the multi-beneficiary statistical cooperation programme with the activities under the national IPA programmes to avoid any possible duplication of actions and to maximise complementarity and synergies among all programmes. This will be ensured through regular contacts and statistical cooperation meetings with the Beneficiaries during the implementation of the programme.

Support from national IPA programmes is essential for the successful upgrading of the statistical systems. The multi-beneficiary statistical cooperation programme ensures coordination among Beneficiaries and is the instrument for ensuring the transfer of knowledge, the respect of common standards and the production of comparable statistics. In parallel, the national IPA programmes cover the beneficiary-specific implementation of major statistics such as population censuses or the creation of statistical registers.

Eurostat undertakes regular donor coordination surveys on statistical support to ensure coordination with other donors. The latest survey completed in April 2008 shows that several European countries and international organisations remain active in the region. This includes Sweden, Switzerland, Italy, the United Kingdom, Norway, France and the USA as well as EFTA, Council of Europe, the IMF, OECD, the World Bank, UNDP and other UN organisations. The European Commission is by far the largest donor in the region, providing significantly more support than all other donors taken together.

### 3.7 Lessons learned

Multi-beneficiary statistical cooperation programmes have proven to be a particularly useful tool in:

- Harmonising the methodologies and practices with the EU requirements;
- Sharing best practices;
- Integrating the Beneficiaries into the European Statistical System.

Past experience suggests that major risks to the sustainability of the results include high staff turnover in the statistical services of the region and gaps between periods of support.

The ex post evaluation of previous multi-beneficiary statistical cooperation programmes under Phare 1999-2003 confirmed the usefulness of the multi-beneficiary approach (Phare Ex Post Evaluation Phase 1 – Statistics Multi-Beneficiary Programmes, MWH Consortium for DG Enlargement, 28 December 2006).

Upgrading statistical systems is a long-term task. Support should be provided over several years in a stable manner taking careful account of the absorption capacity of the Beneficiaries. The absorption capacity is particularly crucial because some Beneficiaries are small agencies with only limited experience.



#### 4. Indicative Budget (amounts in €)

			SOURCES OF FUNDING									
			TOTAL EXP.RE	IPA COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTION		NATIONAL CONTRIBUTION					PRIVATE CONTRIBUTION	
ACTIVITIES	IB	INV	EUR	EUR	%(1)	Total EUR	%(1)	Central EUR	Regional/Local EUR	IFIs EUR	EUR (2)	%(1)
All activities	X		4,000,000	4,000,000	100							
TOTAL IB			4,000,000	4,000,000	100							
TOTAL INV												
<b>TOTAL PROJECT</b>			<b>4,000,000</b>	<b>4,000,000</b>	<b>100</b>							

Amounts net of VAT

(1) Expressed in % of the **Total** Expenditure

**5. Indicative Implementation Schedule (periods broken down per quarter)**

Contracts	Start of Tendering	Signature of contract	Project Completion
Contract 1	<sup>1st</sup> quarter 2009	3rd quarter 2009	<sup>3rd</sup> quarter 2011

**6. Cross cutting issues**

6.1 Equal Opportunity:

The principles and practice of equal opportunity will be guaranteed so as to ensure equitable gender participation in the project.

6.2 Environment:

Not applicable

6.3 Minorities:

Not applicable

**ANNEXES**

- 1- Log frame in Standard Format
- 2- Amounts contracted and Disbursed per Quarter over the full duration of Programme
- 3- Description of Institutional Framework per beneficiary
- 4 - Reference to relevant EU legislation, basis of the regional programme
- 5- Details per EU funded contract

**ANNEX 1: Logical framework matrix in standard format**

LOGFRAME PLANNING MATRIX FOR Project Fiche	Programme name and number: IPA MBP statistics 2008/020-320	
	Contracting period expires: 30.11.2009	Disbursement period expires: 30.11.2012
	Total budget: <b>€4,000,000</b>	IPA budget: €4,000,000

<b>Overall objective</b>	<b>Objectively verifiable indicators</b>	<b>Sources of Verification</b>	
Prepare the statistical authorities in the Beneficiaries for future EU membership by aligning their present methodologies and practices with the statistical <i>acquis</i> and integrating them into the European Statistical System.	SAA process requirements, issues raised in Progress Reports, progress with accession negotiations for the Statistics chapter	Monitoring reports from the Stability Pact, Regional Cooperation Council, Commission Progress Reports, Commission and Council documents related to accession negotiations	
<b>Project purpose</b>	<b>Objectively verifiable indicators</b>	<b>Sources of Verification</b>	<b>Assumptions</b>
Upgrade the statistical systems in the Beneficiaries, thereby improving the availability,	Statistical variables provided by Beneficiaries, Degree of completeness of	Commission monitoring and evaluation tools Commission documents	Commitment of national authorities to the process

quality, comparability and timeliness of statistical data in particular for macro-economic statistics and statistics on prices, external trade, agriculture, business, population and labour market.	the Statistical Annexes to the Commission Progress Reports	Government documents Statistical Publications Eurostat public database Contractor's reports
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<b>Results</b>	<b>Objectively verifiable indicators</b>	<b>Sources of Verification</b>	<b>Assumptions</b>
<p>Improved harmonisation of statistical legislation. Improved administrative capacity of official statistics providers, including for the coordination of the national statistical systems.</p> <p>Improved functioning of the national statistical systems.</p> <p>Improved availability, quality and comparability of statistical data in priority areas.</p>	<p>Increased level of alignment with the EU <i>acquis</i>.</p> <p>Number of new variables covered. Volume of data transmitted to Eurostat.</p> <p>Number of statisticians trained.</p> <p>Number of Eurostat meetings attended.</p>	<p>Experts' and Commission staff mission reports</p> <p>Contractor's reports</p> <p>Project monitoring reports</p> <p>Eurostat public database</p>	<p>Cooperation of official statistics providers in the Beneficiaries.</p> <p>Parallel implementation of necessary national IPA programmes on statistics.</p>
<b>Activities</b>	<b>Means</b>	<b>Costs</b>	<b>Assumptions</b>

<p>Technical assistance: expert assessment missions, workshops, meetings participation, training, specific data collection support, data transmission software, on-demand consultations, study visits, traineeships, translation of key documents.</p>	<p>Contract  Reports related to the execution of the contract  Contractor's staff  Commission staff  Experts</p>	<p>Technical Assistance: €4,000,000</p>	<p>Availability of experts and good cooperation between all stakeholders.  The necessary human resources are provided by the national authorities.</p>
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**ANNEX 2: Amounts (in €million) contracted and Disbursed per Quarter over the full duration of Programme**

<b>Contracted</b>	Q2 2009	Q3 2009	Q4 2009	Q1 2010	Q2 2010	Q3 2010	Q4 2010	Q1 2011	Q2 2011
Contract 1	4.00								
<b>Cumulative</b>	<b>4.00</b>								

<b>Disbursed</b>									
Contract 1	1.80				1.80				0.40
<b>Cumulative</b>	<b>1.80</b>	<b>1.80</b>	<b>1.80</b>	<b>1.80</b>	<b>3.60</b>	<b>3.60</b>	<b>3.60</b>	<b>3.60</b>	<b>4.00</b>

**ANNEX 3: Description of Institutional Framework**

All Beneficiaries have a similar set-up of the national statistical system. The lead institution is the national statistical office. Partners in the production of official statistics are ministries and other official bodies, for example the ministries of finance and agriculture, the customs authorities and the central banks.

**ANNEX 4: Reference to laws, regulations and strategic documents**

The statistical *acquis* consists of more than 60 basic legal acts most of which are Council and Parliament Regulations. There is a much larger number of implementing acts, most of which are Commission Regulations. Key legal acts include:

- Council Regulation (EC) 322/97 ("Statistical Law")
- Commission Decision 97/281/EC on the Role of Eurostat
- Decision No 1578/2007/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2007 on the Community Statistical Programme 2008 to 2012.
- Council Regulation 1588/90 on the transmission of data subject to statistical confidentiality to the Statistical Office of the European Communities
- Commission Regulation 831/2002 on access to confidential data for scientific purposes.

Eurostat, in cooperation with the statistical offices of the Beneficiaries, has developed the "*Strategy for Statistical Cooperation with candidate and potential candidate countries 2007 - 2009*". The strategy was approved by the Policy Group on Statistical Cooperation (PGSC) in October 2006.

**ANNEX 5: Details per EU funded contract**

A single service contract is foreseen. The activities covered are described in the main body of the project fiche.