

16 November 2006

# Screening report

# Croatia

## Chapter 18 – Statistics

**Date of screening meetings:**

Explanatory meeting: 19-20 June 2006

Bilateral meeting: 13–14 July 2006

## **I. CHAPTER CONTENT**

The acquis in statistics consists almost exclusively of legislation which is directly applicable in the Member States such as European Parliament and Council Regulations and Commission Decisions or Regulations. The statistical acquis contains also a wide range of methodological handbooks and manuals in the various statistical domains such as agriculture, economic and monetary policy, demographic and social statistics and research. International agreements provide a further base for the statistical production.

## **II. COUNTRY ALIGNMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION CAPACITY**

This part of the report summarises the information provided by Croatia and the discussions at the screening meeting. Croatia indicated that it accepts the acquis regarding statistics. Overall, it does not expect difficulties to implement the statistical acquis upon accession.

### **II.a. Statistical infrastructure**

The Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS), the Croatian National Bank and the Ministry of Finance are the main producers of official statistics. Among them the CBS is the overall coordinator. The framework for statistical production is set through the official statistics act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Croatia Nr. 1003/2003). Moreover there is a development strategy for official statistics and a programme of statistical activities (both official Gazette of the Republic of Croatia Nr.28/2005) and yearly implementation plans. The main tasks, as defined by the legal framework are the collection, processing and dissemination of statistical data, maintaining the professional independence of the Croatian Statistical System, strengthening public trust in official statistics and improving international co-operation.

According to the statistical act Croatian statistics are based on the principles of relevance, impartiality, reliability, transparency, timeliness, professional independence, cost-effectiveness, consistency, publicity, statistical confidentiality, concerning the use of individual data for statistical purposes and public accountability.

### **II.b. Classifications and registers**

The Business Register is in general established according the Council Regulation on statistical units (696/93) and the Council Regulation on the Business Register (2186/93). Natural persons, crafts and partly local units are not yet covered, updating procedures are not yet defined. Croatia stated that in the future the coverage of the business register needs to be adapted according to the forthcoming new Regulation on the Business Register. They further still need to cover other sectors of the economy, to establish a link to the farm register and to load data on free professionals and to introduce enterprise groups.

Economic statistical data are based on NACE Rev 1.1 (Statistical classification of economic activities in the European Community (Council Regulation 3037/90, Commission Regulations 761/93 and 29/2002). Croatia stated its compliance and is committed to ensuring compliance with the forthcoming NACE revision (Rev.2). Croatia has equally adopted the Classification of products by activity (CPA 2002 –Council Regulation 3696/93, Commission Regulations 1232/98 and 204/2002).

## **II.c. Sector statistics**

In the area of **external trade statistics** Croatia has adopted the Extrastat Council Regulation 1172/95 and the Commission Regulation 1917/2000. Croatia stated a high degree of alignment although they recognise some differences concerning the specific movement of goods and the statistical preferences.

As regards the **statistics on internal trade (measurement of trade between member states)**, the Intrastat Regulation (Parliament and Council Regulation 638/2004 and Commission Regulation 1982/2004 will only be of relevance upon accession. The CBS is participating in preparatory actions (pre-accession assistance CARDS) and has established a working group and a national action plan towards this post-accession objective.

Concerning **land use and remote sensing** Croatia does not use satellite imaging in connection with agricultural statistics. Each year in spring and autumn it makes two reports about areas and plantations. The basic EU requirements concerning the breakdown on main categories are fulfilled. Further harmonisation is planned.

As regards **agricultural structure statistics** the legal basis is the Council Regulation 571/88 and related amendments. Croatia has conducted a general agricultural census in 2003. Based on the result of the general census Croatia conducted in 2005 a Farm Structure Survey (FSS). The Standard Gross Margins (SGMs) still need to be introduced. Currently a project on Farm Accountancy Data Network is launched together with the Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management that shall provide the necessary basis for it. In addition Croatia wants to enhance the scope of the survey by adding figures on livestock.

With a view to **agromonetary statistics** the alignment to the European Parliament and Council Regulation Nr. 138/2004 and the subsequent amendments and to the member state agreements of 1990 is partial. Croatia stated that further methodological work is going on with pre-accession assistance through Phare and Cards which should enable Croatia to be compliant by accession.

As far as **crop production statistics** are concerned the alignment of the crop production statistics to the *acquis* was again described as being not complete. Whereas Croatia produces statistics data on harvest area, yield by hectare and production of the most important cereals there is no survey on orchards and vineyards. Concerning Fruits and vegetable statistics data they stated that some data on species of fruit as well as the areas of orchards by species are missing (Directive 2001/109/EC of the European Parliament and the Council). Regular preparation of Supply Balance Sheets is under preparation and shall be ready for accession.

Regarding **Livestock, Meat and Dairy** statistics Croatia provides statistics according to Council Directives 93/24 EEC, 93/25 EEC and subsequent amendments. Croatia stated that there are some differences in the frequency of different surveys.

Croatia collects data on milk production once a year, together with livestock data. In the future it intends to use administrative sources for monthly data collection on purchased quantities of milk. According to Croatia the alignment to Council Directive 96/16/EEC is partial. Currently CBS (Central Bureau of Statistics) is not collecting data on consumption and selling of milk at private family farms as well as data from milk processing and products from these farms.

There are no statistical activities concerning **food safety statistics** in Croatia with the exception of some data collection on organic farming. The TAPAS activities (**Technical**

**action plan for the improvement of agricultural statistics**) are limited to the Member states of the European Union. Croatia follows the activities.

As **fisheries** are concerned Croatia conducts quarterly surveys on catch of sea fish and other sea organisms. Moreover there is an annual survey on the production catch and production of freshwater fish. Croatia stated that monthly data are still missing. The market data for caught fish is in development. Not all landing places are yet defined. The data on fishing vessels and equipment is available but according to Croatia not in the full scope of the acquis (Commission Regulation Nr. 109/94 EC and subsequent amendments). The further alignment in accordance with the FAO and Eurostat recommendations is planned by them until accession. Fishery statistics are the joint responsibility of the statistical office (CBS) and the Ministry of Agriculture.

The Croatian **Labour Force Survey** (LFS) sample is spread out monthly, providing semi-annual data. The results are only available on Nuts I level. Most of the variables are aligned with Council Regulation Nr. 2257/2003 and Commission Regulation 430/2005. Ad-Hoc modules have not been carried out with the exception of the Lifelong Learning Module, which is carried out presently until the end of 2006. A continuous Labour Force Survey is planned for 2007. There are some job vacancy statistics produced by the Croat Employment service but they are not compliant to the acquis.

The first **Labour Cost Survey** (LFS) data are available at Eurostat and Croatia will provide them as defined by Council Regulation 530/1999 and Commission Regulation 1726/1999. The **Labour Cost Index** (LCI) is not calculated yet. Currently further work is going on in the context of a CARDS programme. The **Structure of Earnings Survey** (SES) is not introduced yet. The Labour Cost Updates are not compliant. Further work is going on in the framework of a CARDS programme.

According to the information provided, the **Earnings & Labour Cost** will be calculated by the end of 2006, the Labour Cost Updates are however not compliant. Further methodological work is going on in the framework of a CARDS programme.

The Croatian statistical office CSB has not yet started the Community statistics survey on **Income and Living Conditions** (SILC-European Parliament and Council Regulation Nr.1177/2003 EC and subsequent specifications). This is due to the lack of experience with panel surveys and gross income, the not harmonised administrative sources and the limited resources. The introduction of SILC is included in the Phare 2005 national programme, under which the national methodology should be defined and tested. The **Household Budget survey** (HBS) is carried out since 1998 and closely compliant. There state some limitations concerning the availability of longitudinal and regional data.

As regards the **social protection statistics** the data collection has commenced according to the EU-ESSPROSS manual at qualitative data is available for most of the schemes. Further work is going on towards expanding the scope of data and towards updating the existing data.

Concerning the area of **right of establishment and freedom to provide services** there is currently no data collection on **statistics on information society**. Know-how transfer through Phare programme is envisaged.

As for **communication statistics** they are described as partially compliant. Croatia applies the COINS questionnaire. However, there are a number of variables still not included as number of cable and satellite service providers, turnover from internet service provision,

receipts and payments of telecommunication services, total of international and incoming calls.

With a view to **tourism statistics** the methodology according to the Council Directive 95/57/EC is generally applied. As far as tourism supply (accommodation statistics) are concerned the degree of compliance is high, some data prior to 2004 and regional data are missing. As far as tourism demand statistics are concerned the degree of compliance is low since there is no regular survey and no data series. Furthermore the survey variables deviate from the requirements. The complete harmonisation in tourism supply statistics is planned for 2007 and for demand statistics by 2009.

As far as **transport policy** is concerned the statistics concerning **transport of goods by road** are in principle conducted according to Council Regulation 1172/98 and it's implementing Commission Regulations. Croatia claims that some variables, as place of loading/unloading for international transport at Nuts 3 level, transit countries, volumetric situation and data on containers by sizes are not available. Croatia had not submitted data to the EU before the screening exercise. Further alignment is planned before accession.

Croatia states that the statistical work in **rail transport** is partially aligned to Council Regulation 91/2003 and Commission Regulation 1192/2003. Croatia had not submitted data to the EU before the screening exercise, but plans to submit (and has submitted) data during the summer 2006 (Annexes A, C, E and H) in order to reach practically full compliance for the delivered datasets. The list of undertakings (Annex I) still must still be transmitted.

In the area of **sea transport** maritime statistics are collected according to the requirements of Council Directive 95/64 EC. Before the screening exercise Croatia had submitted examples of data available for 2004 and 2005 and an extract of the database containing data for February 2006. Croatia plans further work encompassing programming of datasets in order to allow for data transmission to Eurostat in agreement with the relevant Commission Decision on data format until accession.

The statistical work in **inland waterway transport** is generally conducted according to the Council Directive 80/1119/EC. Some variables, as transit without transshipment, region of loading and unloading of goods, are not available from Croatia. They aware of the future acquis in the area (new European Parliament and Council Regulation in force as of 1 January 2007) and will harmonise the statistical production by accession with it.

The Croatian survey in the area of **air transport** is not aligned to the requirements of Council Regulation 437/2003/EC and Council Regulation 1358/2003 EC. Required data on flight stage database, on flight origin, destination, airport database and airline information is not available. A harmonised pilot survey is under preparation and is scheduled to be conducted in 2007.

Croatia has a database on **road safety** which is in line with EU requirements. Data are not yet transmitted to the EU. As far as **voluntary processes** are concerned Croatia has already commenced reporting the regional transport statistics questionnaire to Eurostat. Croatia regularly reports the Common Questionnaire (in fact common to ECMT, UNECE and Eurostat) to ECMT. Moreover Croatia is aware of the transport projects in intermodal transport, passenger's mobility and cost of infrastructures but has at present no related activities.

In the area of **economic and monetary policy**, specifically in the **annual economic accounts**, the Croatian statistical office follows the methodology of the European System of

Accounts (ESA 95 Council Regulation No: 2223/96/EC and subsequent legal acts) and the handbook on quarterly national accounts, prices and volume measurements. Annual GDP is produced by production, expenditure and income approach. The first two are calculated at constant prices and all three at current prices. FISIM (Financial Intermediation Services Indirectly Measured) are not yet allocated to user sectors. The Croatian Statistical office (CBS) participates currently in a CARDS project on public finance statistics. The in-depth analysis of the sector shall allow having a clear view of the remaining obstacles to compliance. Aspects of exhaustiveness and timeliness and the implementation of FISIM, which is planned for 2008, will be of importance in this context.

In the area of **quarterly national accounts** the Croatian statistical office follows the methodology of the European System of Accounts (ESA 95 Council Regulation No: 2223/96/EC and subsequent legal acts), the handbook on quarterly national accounts, prices and volume measurements. Quarterly GDP is produced by production and expenditure approach, at current and constant prices with a 1997 base year. Croatia does currently not produce quarterly financial accounts by institutional sectors. The in depth analysis through the CARDS project will provide equally here a clearer picture on the remaining on the remaining obstacles to compliance.

Croatia does currently not produce **financial accounts**. At present, the Croatian Statistical office and the Croatian National Bank try to solve the methodological questions in this respect. The problem on data sources for calculating internal and external interbank reference rate for the estimate of imported and exported financial services has proven to be especially complicated. The stakeholders hope to settle the pending problems through the CARDS project by February 2008.

As far as **statistics on own resources** are concerned Croatian statistics have not yet provided an inventory on methods to Eurostat according to Council Regulation Nr. 1287/2003. It is expected that Croatian GNI (Gross National Income) will be highly compliant after the implementation of the national action plan on the matter. Key outstanding issues in this context are the FISIM (Financial Intermediation Services Indirectly Measured) calculation by institutional sectors and exhaustiveness of GDP (Gross Domestic Product) / GNI calculation.

The **monetary financial institution sector statistics** are compiled by the Croatian National Bank (CNB) in compliance with the applicable acquis (European Central Bank Regulations) and the IMF standards. As a result of the referencing to the IMF standards, methodological differences to the ECB standards are limited. They pertain to certain breakdowns by maturity of the financial instruments, counterparties, currencies and multidimensional breakdown for the MFI Sector Consolidated Balance Sheets as well as to the reporting populations (not all MFIs are included), coverage (only businesses covered), the household sector (not-profit institutions serving households not included) and finally instrument and maturity classification for interest rate statistics. However, the CNB is committed to fulfil all reporting obligations of the acquis by accession. With a view to that new reporting forms are adapted and further developed.

Concerning the **trade in services and balance of payments** the CNB collects statistics in compliance with the pertinent Regulation (Regulation of the European Parliament and Council 184/2005), the IMF Manual and the BOP Vademecum.

In the **Balance of Payments** (BoP) they stated that there is some room for further methodological development. The data for other investments shall be compiled on accrual basis and the sbs compilation system for portfolio investments shall be introduced. This is

equally the case for the **International Trade in Services** (ITS) statistics, where some types of services are compiled jointly and the government services are not sufficiently broken down. The surveys will be adapted accordingly.

CNB collects the statistics on Foreign Direct Investments in compliance with the above mentioned acquis. Remaining work concentrates on production of other capital by residents' activities and the collection of data on non-resident activity.

Statistics on **Foreign Affiliates Statistics** (FATS) are currently not collected but the introduction of it is planned before accession.

The Croatian Bureau of Statistics (CBS) collects the **Purchasing Power Parities** (PPP) in compliance with the applicable basic Council Regulations (1164/94, 1267/99, 1260/99) and Eurostat/ OECD PPP methodological manual. . It fully participates in the Eurostat PPP programme since January 2006 and has already participated in the ECP programmes since 1993. CBS consider the data to be more or less fully compliant but has not yet provided the relevant inventories to Eurostat, hence no in-depth assessment has been undertaken yet by Eurostat.

The CBS does not yet produce a **Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices** (HICP) as laid down by Council Regulation Nr. 2494/95/EC and the subsequent amendments and implementation measures). There is since January 2004 a consumer price index, which is basically in line with Eurostat methodology. However, non-resident consumption and institutional household are not included. Further harmonisation is planned for January 2007. The CBS plans to provide a full set of HICP data from 1998 onwards by February 2007.

The Croatian Statistical Office CBS is well aware of the regulatory framework of **structural business statistics** (Council Regulation 58/97/EC and subsequent specifications). Three SBS-like surveys which have been organized are not compliant with the Council Regulation 58/97. Hence, the data produced are not yet transmitted to Eurostat. A new pilot study on construction is underway. The methodology adopted there will gradually be extended to other NACE sections, especially with a view to the completeness of the required annexes and the improvement of the Business registers. This should enable to produce fully compliant SBS statistics by the end of 2009.

The Croatian Statistical Office CBS is well aware of the regulatory framework of **short term statistics** (Council Regulation 1165/98/EC and subsequent specifications). The implementation has already started and the degree of compliance is partial. Not all required datasets can be provided. Of 32 requested datasets 19 are currently available. It is envisaged to be fully compliant by 2009/10.

The CBS has implemented the acquis on industrial production statistics (**Prodcom**) according to Council Regulation 3924/21 and subsequent specifications. Croatia states its full compliance and the submission of the required data.

In the area of **statistics on government deficit and debt** the EU legal provisions concerning the excessive deficit procedure will be only applicable upon Croatian accession. Croatia is aware of the legal framework with Council Regulation 3605/93 on the application of the protocol on the excessive deficit procedure and the subsequent amendments. Croatia has started preparatory work and has compiled in April 2006 for the second time a report on government deficit and debt levels, which is based on the ESA 95 principles. Croatia has currently a twinning project on public finance statistics, which it hopes will permit settling pending issues as definition of government sector and establishment of the accrual principle

for the EDP notification. Croatia does not expect any problems in adopting fully the provisions upon accession.

Croatia has implemented the *acquis* under **energy statistics**. The European Parliament and Council Directives 2001/77/EC, 2003/30/EC, 2004/8/EC, 2006/32/EC are applied and data is submitted to Eurostat. Full compliance is foreseen after the completion of the ongoing national project "Croatian Energy Statistics according to EU concept" in the end of 2008.

As regards **regional policy and structural instruments** Croatia has submitted a proposal for the NUTS (Nomenclature of Territorial Statistical Units) that is currently under examination. The classification of the statistical regions is thus preliminary. Urban statistics are being currently developed in the frame of the Urban Audit project. The local statistics are depending on the agreement on the NUTS classification with Eurostat. The sending of Local Unit data will start upon the finding of an agreement. Croatia follows equally attentively the development of the Geographical Information System and the planned INSPIRE framework Directive in this area. Concerning regional GDP data the concepts and definitions are fully compliant with the European *acquis*. There is, however, further work until accession for the weighting of the regional GDP in the national GDP and the regional household accounts. As far as the Regional statistics on agriculture are concerned the Croatian Statistical Office has collected a certain number of indicators in the field of crop production statistics, animal production statistics, milk production and land use.

In the area **statistics in environment consumer and health production and public health statistics** the causes of death statistics are made with the relevant classifications of the World Health Organisation (WHO). The Croatian authorities developed a new death certificate according the recommendations and guidelines of Eurostat/Istat.

As far as **health care statistics** are concerned, Croatia produces statistics on health workers which follow the methodology of the WHO. Moreover, Croatia follows WHO initiatives in the area of the European Health Interview survey and the World Health Survey. Croatia produces equally statistics on the organisation and work of hospitals and on patients treated in stationary health institutions for which there is no *acquis*.

Croatia states **health and safety at work** statistics are partly made in accordance with the relevant Eurostat guidelines. There are some discrepancies concerning the definitions as for instance for the definition of a sick-leave duration included in the statistics.

The **Croatian occupational diseases** statistics follow the international classification of diseases (ICD) which is only partially compliant to the Eurostat list of occupational diseases.

The Croatian **forestry statistics** comprise an annual report on changes in forest areas, a quarterly report on commercial timber production and felled timber and an annual report on hunting, trapping and game care. They state that they are partially harmonised with the EU requirements. The categories of forest areas are not yet harmonised and the survey on forest areas is not yet introduced.

In the domain of **environment statistics** the Croatia is going to develop **sustainable indicators**, a system of indicators towards the reference list, which is of Eurostat and a member state task force.

Croatia has harmonised **waste and recycling statistics** almost completely to the requirements of the *acquis*. As far as water statistics are concerned, the data collection is

shared between several national stakeholders. The statistical data is harmonised with international requirements.

For the **Kyoto–protocol statistics** on air-pollution and climate change the Croatian Ministry for Environment will provide the necessary data in compliance with the protocol. Environmental accounts are not yet compiled. A pilot survey on environmental expenditure was already conducted in 2005

Croatia is aware of the relevant acquis in the area of **science, information, education and culture statistics**. Concerning **education statistics** work has already started in the area of the UOE questionnaire for data on education systems. The respective questionnaire was already submitted. This is not yet the case for the AES (Adult Education Survey) which shall be introduced through a Phare programme and for the CVTS (Continuing Vocational Training Survey) which shall be introduced in 2008 according to the available resources.

The Croatian statistical office collects **cultural statistics** by 17 specialized surveys, which are designed according to national needs. The CSB is aware of the co-ordinating role of Eurostat in the domain.

In the area of **science and technology** Research and Development statistics based on the acquis (Frascati Manual) are conducted in Croatia since 1997 and data is submitted to Eurostat since 2001. General budget appropriations or outlays for research & development (**GBOARD**) Statistics, Hightec statistics, Human resources in ST statistics, carriers of doctorate holder statistics, patent statistics and innovation statistics are not yet collected in Croatia. Their introduction is planned with Phare assistance (Phare 2005 and 2007). Croatia is aware of the requirements and plans to close the gaps until 2009.

In the area of **People's Europe population statistics** are based in Croatia on the data taken from population censuses conducted every ten years and from the data on natural and mechanical change of population derived from vital statistics and migration statistics. The last population census was conducted in 2001 in line with the UNECE/Eurostat recommendations for the 2000 censuses of population and housing in the ECE region.

**Vital statistics** on births, deaths, marriages and divorces are harmonised with international recommendations. **Migration statistics** in Croatia are available on annual basis but not yet harmonised with the "recommendations on statistics of international migration" by the UN. The data do not include the time criterion to define long-term and short-term migrants or purpose of migration. The development of migration statistics will be supported through a Phare programme.

As far as statistics on **asylum, illegal migration and acquisition of citizenship** are concerned Croatia has not yet participated in the European data collection on asylum and measures against illegal migration (CIREFI).

### III. ASSESSMENT OF THE DEGREE OF ALIGNMENT AND IMPLEMENTING CAPACITY

Overall, Croatia's statistical production has already a satisfactory level of alignment. Since its independence, it has gradually implemented the statistical acquis. There are still discrepancies notably in the fields of registers and sector statistics such as agricultural statistics, economic and monetary statistics.

Substantial progress was achieved through the EU pre-accession aid schemes Cards and Phare and the co-operation with Eurostat. Since the statistical acquis is quite large and ever evolving continuing and sustainable efforts need to be made in order to implement it fully.

The national authorities need to ensure the allocation of adequate funding in order to support the implementation and enforcement of the acquis. They also need to ensure efficient management structures in order to guarantee the administrative capacity. This is the pre-condition for reaching full compliance

### **III.a. Statistical infrastructure**

In the area of statistical infrastructure the level of alignment is very high. The statistical law is compliant to the international recommendations. Croatian statisticians are independent in their work and bound to the principles of confidentiality. The allocation of sufficient resources for the statistical work remains a concern.

### **III.b. Classifications and registers**

The main economic classifications are mostly in place and follow the European acquis. This is not entirely the case for the Business Register, which is established in principle according the Council Regulation on statistical units (696/93) and the Council Regulation on the Business Register (2186/93). However, natural persons, crafts and partly local units are not covered and the updating procedures are not yet defined appropriately. That is why the quality of the business register needs considerable improvement. The Croatian statistical office has to adapt the quality of the business register in compliance with the forthcoming Regulation and to accommodate to the changes caused by the revision of NACE (Rev.2). Overall, no major problems are expected in this area.

### **III.c. Sector statistics**

In the area of **Customs Union and Free Movement of goods** the **external trade statistics** (Extrastat) are highly aligned with the acquis. The preparatory work for **internal trade (Intrastat) statistics** with other member states is in an initial phase. Croatia still needs to set up the institutional agreements. Anyway, Intrastat will only be of relevance upon Croatia's accession.

In the area of **agricultural statistics**, Croatia needs to step up efforts in order to introduce the Standard Gross Margins in the **agricultural structure statistics**, which will allow the country to produce EU compliant farm data (it should be noted that an opening benchmark for agricultural statistics has been agreed in chapter agriculture and rural development).

The **agromonetary statistics** need equally further development. The alignment with the acquis is partial and methodological work is ongoing. The situation of the **crop statistics** can be characterised as partially compliant. Whilst there are harvest data available there are not yet surveys on orchards and vineyards conducted. The alignment in **live stock, meat and dairy statistics** is reasonable. Whereas the basic data is available some variables cannot be provided. Further methodological development as the revision of existing questionnaires and reporting procedures should allow for full compliance in the medium term. It is expected that the gaps in agricultural statistics can be closed until 2009/10.

This is equally the case for **fishery statistics**. The alignment is reasonable and the statistical production is developing and adapting to the acquis.

In the area of **labour market statistics** the **Labour Force Survey (LFS)** is concerned the acquis is by large implemented but in terms of frequency and exhaustiveness the development is ongoing. **Job vacancy statistics** do not comply with the acquis. The **Labour Cost Index** is fully compliant, whereas the **Structure of Earnings Survey, the Earnings & Labour Cost and the Distribution of Income and Living Conditions (SILC)** statistics are not yet implemented. Household Budget and Social protection statistics are collected and in further development.

In the area of **right of establishment and freedom to provide services** the acquis concerning **tourism statistics** is to a high extent implemented. Croatia intends to enhance the scope of the statistics by adding the tourism demand statistics. Communication statistics need further development and the acquis on Information Society statistics is not yet implemented.

In the sector of **transport policy** Croatia has not yet started to deliver transport data to the EC. Nevertheless, the acquis concerning **transport of goods by road, rail transport, sea transport and inland waterway transport** is principally implemented. Methodological fine-tuning is going on. **Air transport statistics** acquis need considerable alignment. Preparatory works are conducted on in this context.

Concerning the **economic and monetary policy** The Croatian Statistical System has widely implemented the ESA 95 according to Council Regulation 2223/96 EC. Methodological work is going on. The parameters of the ESA 95 transmission table are not yet all delivered but it is encouraging that Croatia has already started to produce **annual economic accounts** and the **quarterly national accounts**. It is expected that the current shortcomings such as the missing **FISIM statistics** (Financial intermediation service statistics indirectly measured) and the important **Financial Accounts** statistics can be resolved by 2008. The delivery of financial accounts will be a big step to compliance.

Concerning **statistics on own resources** the required inventory is not yet delivered. An action plan foresees to close the gap. The **monetary and financial institution statistics** are collected according to the applicable acquis by the Croatian National Bank. The **trade in services** and **balance of payments** statistics are done according to the pertinent acquis although work on it is methodological is ongoing. The **Foreign Affiliates Statistics (FATS)** are currently missing and this should be tackled with priority.

The acquis alignment of the **Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices (HICP)** is planned for 2007. The **structural business statistics and the short term statistics** shall be fully aligned by 2009/10. The EU legal provisions concerning the **excessive deficit and debt procedure** will only be relevant upon Croatia's accession. Nevertheless, preparatory work already started. We can assume that Croatia will be able to deliver upon its reporting obligations by accession.

Croatia has already implements the acquis under **energy statistics** to a high degree. Full compliance is expected by the end of 2008 provided the current momentum is maintained.

As regards the acquis concerning **regional policy and structural instruments** the Nomenclature of the statistical units (regional breakdown) is currently under negotiation. Croatia is committed to apply the agreed nomenclature upon accession.

In the sector of **environment, consumer & health protection** Croatia is in line with the acquis on **public health Statistics** and **health and safety at work statistics**. There are some differences concerning the methodology concerning the latter statistics.

Concerning the **forest statistics**, the alignment is partial and further work necessary. This is equally the case for environment statistics where compliance may be reached in the middle term.

As regards **education, culture and science & technology** statistics the alignment is not finished but Croatia is on a good way to remove the remaining obstacles.

In the area of **people's Europe** the **population and vital statistics** are already compliant. This is not yet the case for **migration and asylum and acquisition of citizenship** statistics. However, Croatia is following the activities in the area and has the potential to close the gap until accession.