

TWINNING NEWSLETTER

Support to the State Statistical Committee and the State Tax Service under the Ministry of Economy to strengthen collection, harmonization, analysis, publishing and dissemination of business statistics

Issue No.5, September 2021

Project News

Topics in this Issue

- ✓ Renewal and expansion of the State Register of Statistical Units software to include 5 new data sources
- ✓ Planning the renewed SME report
- ✓ RTA arrival/Technical event
- ✓ Project Steering Committee Meeting No.5
- ✓ Mid-term visibility event

Looking Forward

- ✓ Inclusion of 5 new Administrative Data sources to SRSU software
- ✓ Supporting the production of the renewed SME report
- ✓ Target state production process for SBS
- ✓ Training Workshop: Production Process for Business Surveys
- ✓ Training Workshop: Analysis and forecasting techniques for SME data and statistics
- ✓ Study Visit
- ✓ Project Steering Committee Meeting No. 6

On the 14th of September 2021, a **technical event** was conducted at the premises of the State Tax Service under the Ministry of Economy with participation of the Project Leader Mr. Gasim Aliyev (SSC), RTA counterpart Ms. Aytan Narimanli (SSC), Component 1 Subleader Mr. Vugar Mammadalizada (SSC), project coordinators Mr. Eldar Babazada (STS), Ms. Aytan Shahmarova (STS) and other tax officials from the project's target group, the representative from the Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Development Agency Mr. Elmar Isayev, the RTA Mr. Ville-Matti Pilviö and the RTA assistants. Mr. Pilviö held a presentation on the timeline of the project, completed, activities and planned activities, visibility events and study visits. Mr. Pilviö informed about results achieved to date and BC participants had a chance to express their expectations for remainder of the project. The official event was followed by lively informal discussions.



Project Overview

The EU funded Twinning Project (AZ/16/ENI/ST/01/19 (AZ/53)) is implemented by a consortium led by Statistics Finland with Statistics Lithuania (SL) and Statistics Netherlands (SN) acting as Junior Partners. Additional expertise will be given by Statistics Denmark and The Finnish Institute of Public Management Ltd (HAUS).

The main beneficiaries are the State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the State Tax Service under the Ministry of Economy, and the Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises Development Agency. The overall objective of the Twinning project is to increase capacity among local operators to collect, process, harmonize, analyze, publish and disseminate business statistics measuring the performance of the private sector/SMEs in Azerbaijan.

Activity 3.2.A "Renewal and expansion of the State Register of Statistical Units software to include 5 new data sources" was implemented on 20-23 September 2021. The on-site mission was carried out by experts from Statistics Lithuania Ms. Nadežda Fursova and Mr. Maksim Lata at the premises of the State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The aim of the mission was the inclusion of five new administrative data sources into the production of official statistics and analysis of the new Administrative Data (AD) sources and possibilities to integrate them into the Statistical Business Process. During the four-day mission, officials from the State Statistical Committee, State Tax Service under the Ministry of Economy and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Development Agency and the STE's discussed and reviewed the emerging data structures and legal acts regulating the establishment, creation and functioning of state registers and departmental registers. As a result of the mission, the experts developed a mission report where they have provided both short and long term recommendations on how to describe the process for new AD integration using GSBPM.

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The on-site mission for **Activity 5.4.A Planning the renewed SME report** was implemented during the last week of September 2021. The mission was delivered by Ms. Merja Myllymäki (Statistics Finland) and Mr. Michael Elgaard Nielsen (Statistics Denmark). The purpose of the mission was to assist in the renewal of the Annual SME statistics report, in line with EU/OECD definitions and current best practices.

During the 4-day mission experts presented planning the enlargements, charts, year-on-year changes, analytical texts, and methodological/quality descriptions for the SME report. The STEs and BC counterparts discussed planning tables for the new SME report as well as new indicators and how they will look in the new SME report.

Mr. Tuomas Lehto (Statistics Finland) supported virtually the mission by presenting and demonstrating some data visualization tools and data visualization possibilities available using the SSC's own data as well as some in use at Statistics Finland.

As a result of the mission, the experts developed a mission report where they have provided recommendations in the development process of the renewed report and presented suggestions for its content.

- Budget and Reallocation of Funds
- Human Resources, Side Letter(s) and Addendums
- Project Schedule
- Activities Feedback Summary

At the end, the members of the committee shared their views about the planned on-site activities and study visits. The participants appreciated attained results and discussed the challenges experienced.



The mid-term visibility event of the Twinning Project "Support to the State Statistical Committee and the State Tax Service under the Ministry of Economy to strengthen collection, harmonization, analysis, publishing and dissemination of business statistics" was held on October 5th, 2021 at Hyatt Baku Hotel. The event was attended by the deputy chairman of the State Statistical Committee Mr. Rauf Salimov, Head of Cooperation of the European Union Delegation to Azerbaijan Mr. Victor Bojkov, Lithuanian Ambassador Mr. Egidijus Navikas, Ambassador of the Netherlands Ms. Paulina Eizema, Director of International Affairs in Statistics Finland Mr. Timo Koskimäki, MS Project Leader Ms. Hannele Orjala chaired the event. Junior Project Leaders Ms. Raimonda Šimienė (Statistics Lithuania) and Ms. Carina Fransen (Statistics Netherlands – remotely), Component Leaders, representatives from the Program Administration Office under the Ministry of Economy and officials from all the beneficiary authorities. Some forty participants in total attended the event.

After the 5th quarter of the remotely implementation of the project, the objective of the mid-term event was to present the achievements and contributions for information exchange, production of business statistics/SME statistics and capacity of government authorities involved in the project. In September, the project has shifted to on-site activities and two missions have already been successfully completed at the State Statistical committee.



The fifth project steering committee meeting of the twinning project was held on 4th of October 2021 at the premises of the State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan with participation of senior and junior project leaders, the European Union Delegation and Project Administration Office representatives, component leaders, Resident Twinning Adviser and BC stakeholders. Due to travel restrictions the Junior PL from Statistics Netherlands and Component 3 Leader joined the meeting remotely. The following topics were discussed and approved during the meeting:

- Update on Visibility and Communication Plan (by RTA)
- Project Status Report
- BC-PL Status Update
- Presentation and discussion on activities planned for next period of the project
- Recommendations and confirmation of Rolling Work Plan



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