



# - SALSTAT -



## Content:

April 2023 – September 2023

The project “Strong Albanian Local Statistics”, SALSTAT II, is part of the project “Bashki të Forta” of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) for a period of October 2022 - September 2026. “Bashki të Forta” project has focused on different aspects of local development in Albania, supporting decentralization and local governance.

The key stakeholders of the project are INSTAT, municipalities and some line ministries and governmental agencies, particularly those engaged in the data collection of statistical data and/or in charge of administrative data/registers.

For the new phase, SALSTAT II will intensify the collaboration with municipalities and other governmental agencies to build up trust in official statistics and engage with stakeholders in a debate of the benefits of official statistics for the democratic governance and for the decision-making process, in particularly for municipalities to fulfil their tasks, duties and functions.

- The event: “SDGs with focus on Data Literacy”
- Visit of the Director General Federal Statistical Office at INSTAT
- Development of a concept for digital dashboard
- Albanian Statistical Building and Dwelling Register
- Training for Civil Status Offices staff for improvement of Vital Statistics quality
- Meeting with Association of Local Autonomy of Albania (ALAA)
- Synergy between SALSTAT and HELVETAS
- Synergy between SALSTAT and UN Women Albania
- Preparation for the training for municipalities staff on Excel Programme

## The event: “Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with focus on Data Literacy”

On 09<sup>th</sup> May 2023, the Institute of Statistics Albania and the Swiss Federal Statistical Office (FSO) in cooperation with the Embassy of Switzerland in Tirana organized the event “SDGs with focus on Data Literacy” at “Rogner Hotel Tirana”. The event was part of the “Unlocking the Power of Data Initiative” led by the Swiss Confederation and its partners aiming to raise awareness on the SDGs implementation in Albania with a focus on Data Literacy, and exchange experience on SDGs with Switzerland. INSTAT presented the publication “Sustainable Development Goals Albania 2022”, printed by SALSTAT project. The agenda was as following:

### Welcome speech:

Ms. Elsa Dhuli - Director General, Institute of Statistics Albania INSTAT;  
H.E. Ms. Ruth Huber - Swiss Ambassador Embassy of Switzerland in Tirana

### Keynote speech:

Ms. Fiona McCluney - UN Resident Coordinator

### Presentations:

“Switzerland experience with implementation of SDGs” from Dr. MBA Georges-Simon Ulrich - Director General Federal Statistical Office  
“The importance of official Statistics for the SDGs” from Mrs. Elsa Dhuli - Director General, Institute of Statistics Albania

### Panel discussion

Mr. Ilir Beqaj - Director of SASPAC  
Ms. Anila Denaj - Chairperson of Parliamentary Subcommittee on Sustainable Development  
Mr. Edvin Zhllima, Representative of the EUD  
Ms. Kozeta Sevrani, Statistical Council representative

### Final remarks and closing

H.E. Ms. Ruth Huber - Swiss Ambassador Embassy of Switzerland in Tirana  
Ms. Elsa Dhuli - Director General, Institute of Statistics Albania



## Visit of the General Director of Federal Statistical Office at INSTAT

On 09<sup>th</sup> May 2023, the Director General Federal Statistical Office (FSO), Mr. Georges-Simon Ulrich visited INSTAT. On this occasion a meeting with INSTAT directors and SALSTAT project team, with participation of the representative of Swiss Embassy in Albania, Ms. Elda Bagaviki took place. The main discussions were related SALSTAT project, on the progress of the project and the future implementation plans including the challenges, and related the INSTATs engagement and work on innovation and data science.

INSTAT prepared for FSO, an "Impact Paper" as a summary with the effects and consequences of SALSTAT on the development and modernization of the Albanian Statistical System.



## Development of a concept for digital dashboard

From 19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> June 2023, a team from INSTAT had a study visit to FSO relating to statistical dissemination and dissemination and communication tools as well as project planning / monitoring.

During this visit, INSTAT team gained various insights into specific fields and facets of FSO dissemination and communication cycles, including aspects of monitoring and planning.

The focus was on the publication and dissemination of statistical results (publishing and diffusion) as well as on the quality process, the monitoring and budgeting of projects, including the relevant FSO instruments.



## Albanian Statistical Building and Dwelling Register

In the framework of the SALSTAT project, INSTAT is implementing the Albanian Statistical Building and Dwelling Register (ASBDR).

On 23<sup>rd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> May, 2023, the “Kick-off seminar for the IT mandate for the Albanian Statistical Register of Buildings and Dwellings (ASRBD)” took place in Tirana.

The mandate relates to the planned output 2.2: “A functional statistical building and dwelling register is implemented” and is part of the activity 2.2.3: “Set up of the IT infrastructure and the respective data interface structure for the transmission of data between INSTAT and the respective government institutions”.

During the seminar INSTAT with an international expert presented the current state of play of the work towards the implementation of an ASRBD in Albanian. The aim was to provide the IT experts with a common understanding of the current state of affairs. The following topics were presented and discussed:

- Information on the state of the implementation of the ASRBD (short presentation and summary of the current work)
- Census 2023 – stocktaking (short presentation; including findings of the Pilot Census 2021)
- Maintenance of ASRBD after Census 2023 (input presentation on data sources and data collections, followed by general discussion)
- Common understanding of the IT mandate: - Description and questions
- Core elements (application tiers) for the IT infrastructure of the ASRBD (input presentation on development of database, functionalities of data management, design of user interface), followed by general discussion)

The following topics were presented and discussed:

- Concept and structure of quality checks (input presentation on ASRBD - Quality management system; followed by general discussion) → Basic approval of required concept and structure of quality checks
- Main occurrences and functionalities for updating ASRBD data (input presentation on ASRBD Use-Cases; followed by general discussion) → Basic approval of priorities and how to specify required ASRBD update functionalities
- General planning of the different IT work-streams with a focus on 2023 activities (integration into a work-plan).
- Organizing teamwork and exchange of documents (shared drive and meetings on MS Teams). Formulating the next steps (Who does what until when).
- Summary and closure of the IT kick-off meeting



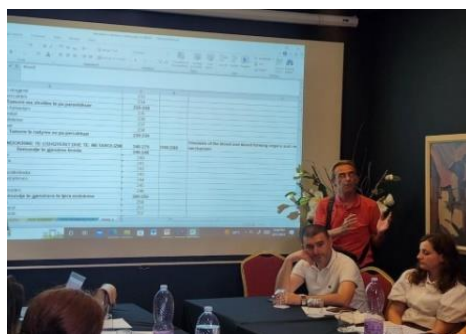


Based on the established work-plan the international experts, INSTAT (GIS and IT team) are implementing the activities until Q1/2024.

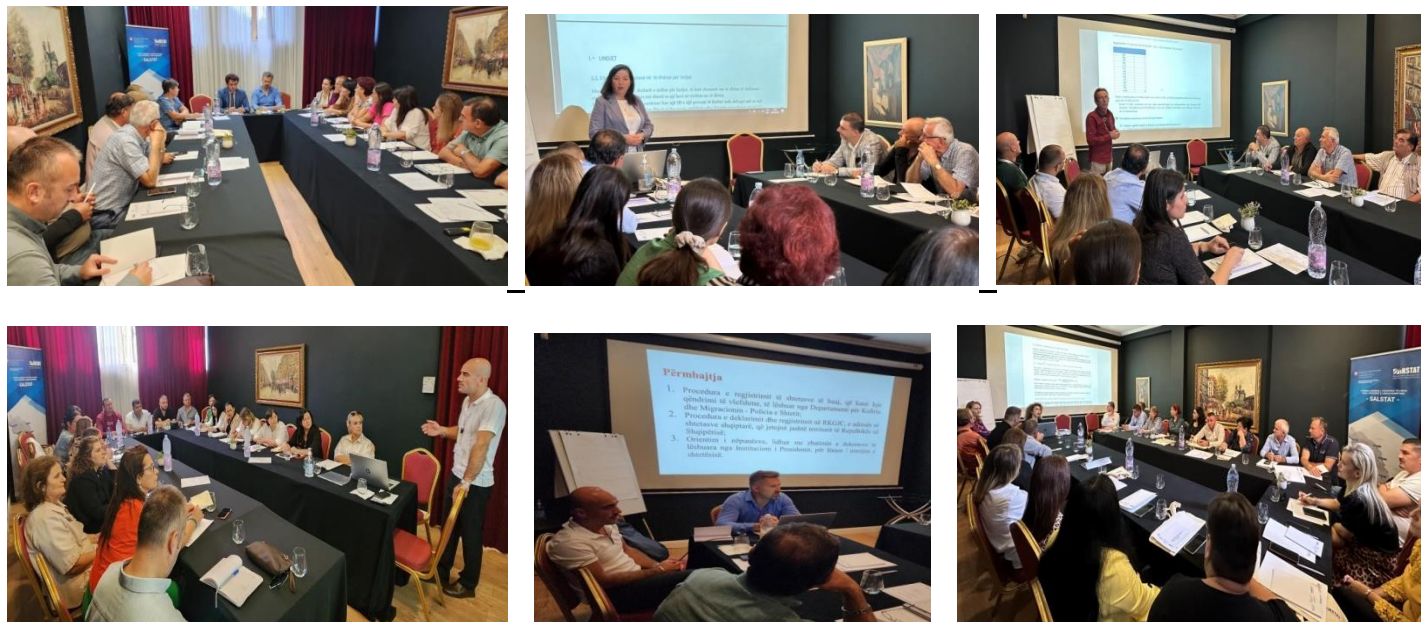
## Training for Civil Status Offices staff for improvement of Vital Statistics

In the frame of Memorandum of Understanding signed between INSTAT and General Directorate of Civil Status (GDSCS), in close cooperation with SALSTAT two trainings rounds for the employees of Civil Status Offices (CSO) took place in the prefectures of Durrës and Fier.

The two days training for CSO of Durrës prefecture was organized during June 19<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023. There were two groups as per the division done by GDSCS.



The training for CSO of Fier prefecture was organized from 25<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> September, and 02<sup>nd</sup> - 03<sup>rd</sup> October 2023, and there were three groups as per the division done by GDCS.



During the 2-day training session, the participants gained a better understanding of the goals of INSTAT and GDCS, and the importance of accurate vital statistics and administrative registers. They actively participated in discussions, shared their experiences, and proposed solutions to improve the quality of vital records. The training session concluded with a commitment from all participants to implement the knowledge gained and work collaboratively to enhance the registration process and data quality in Albania.

During the identification of the problems of death registrations, INSTAT proposed the distribution of the list of illness codes and description of the disease according to International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD 10) and expressed solution, how to register the codes in the current registration system (NCSR).

## Meeting with Association of Local Autonomy of Albania (ALAA)

During July 2023, a meeting took place with SALSTAT project team and Ms. Adelina Farrici, Executive Director of Association of Local Autonomy of Albania as a part of the SALSTAT Steering Committee.

In this meeting the possible collaboration with municipalities' staff and their needs for trainings has been discussed. One of the main interests of the municipalities is to have data in municipality level to support them to realize their administrative tasks.

In addition, if the municipalities will have more detail data for their municipality, it will support the direction of the development of the municipalities.



## Synergy between SALSTAT and HELVETAS

In the frame of the synergy between two projects SALSTAT II and HELVETAS (Bashki të Forta), regular monthly meetings are held in order to avoid overlapping activities.

A joint meeting with participation of the SDC representative is held on 30<sup>th</sup> August 2023, with the focus further cooperation on the indicators related to waste statistics and pre-school education. Ideas related the improvement of the municipalities' performance units' work was shared.



## Synergy with UN Women Albania

In the frame synergy between SALSTAT and UN Women Albania established a regular exchange. The first meeting, in July with Ms. Erisa Çela, Programme Manager of Gender Responsive Policies, Planning and Budgeting, UN Women Albania, and Ms. Majlinda Nesturi, Gender expert of UN Women Albania, was to share information on the main activities of both projects, and discussed various important points where joint activities and further collaborations.



During the meeting in September 2023 the following points have been discussed:

- Conduct a jointly site visit to the municipalities of Fier, Delvinë, and Pogradec to assess their capacity-building needs related to statistics and in particular gender statistics.
- Plan a technical meeting involving UN Women, SALSTAT, Helvetas, INSTAT, SDC and UNDP-LNB project team. This meeting will focus on technical discussions among the partners and is proposed to take place within Q4/ 2023.

- Distribute a questionnaire to training participants to gather their input on their specific needs, including some questions related to gender prepared from UN Women. The questionnaire will be distributed to participants from all municipalities attending the training that will be held during October 2023.
- In the coming training organized from INSTAT/SALSTAT with municipalities' staff, will be allocated half day training for their module on gender statistics issues to UN Women expert.



During September 2023, the jointly site visit to the municipalities of Fier, Delvine, and Pogradec took place with the aim of having a better view of the needs, capacities of the municipalities and discuss concrete steps for municipalities, particularly concerning data collection on gender-related data.

Delvina municipality



Fier municipality



Pogradec municipality



## Preparation for the training for municipalities' staff on Excel Programme

SALSTAT team organized meetings in the municipalities of Korça region, and some municipalities of Shkodra region, with the presence of the local expert of statistics and Excel Programme.

The aim of the meeting was to strengthen cooperation between INSTAT / SALSTAT – Municipality, to promote and discuss the activities related to municipalities as well as to engage in an exchange for the needs of municipalities during the SALSTAT phase II, and also, to understand better which are the concrete needs of the staff of municipalities toward the Excel Programme.

During the meetings the following topics were discussed:

- SALSTAT project, phase II in the framework of the Swiss Government support for INSTAT and the improvement of local data;



- Sustainability of municipalities staff trained within SALSTAT and ongoing trainings;
- Needs and requests of the Municipality (representatives of the municipality);
- Questioner related to the excel programme details, what is needed most from staff;

#### Results taken from the meetings:

- The mayors the deputy mayors of the municipalities that were present during the meetings requested to make possible to be trained the entire staff that collects data, work on data and analyses data, because there are staff from all departments that work to give data to the responsible persons that are working on statistics.
- The mayor requested that the staff to be trained on gender statistics, on social statistics, since there is need and request for these kind of data.
- The municipalities expressed their readiness on the Memorandum of Understanding with INSTAT. They are waiting the draft from INSTAT to have their comments, and to have an agreement that will give them the opportunity not just to provide data to INSTAT, but to receive the statistics and data from INSTAT as per their needs.
- The municipalities were grateful for the support given to their staff in capacity building with the trainings, and expressed the problem with the staff that resign and leave (regular orientation). For that reason, they requested a continuous support with trainings for their staff, particularly of those that provide and use data and statistics.

Based on the results the planned Excel training will be modified to adjust the training to the daily administrative working needs of the municipality staff. The trainings for municipalities' staff on Excel Programme will take place during 9<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> October 2023, at INSTAT premises.

#### 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> September 2023: Korça Region:





14<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> September 2023: Shkodra Region



**THANK YOU FROM SALSTAT TEAM!**

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