

Contents

Welcome.....	1
Snapshot	1
Statistical projects (SPs).....	2
Upcoming project activities.....	5
Horizontal activities	6
Contacts	7

Dear Reader,

As the year draws to a close, the IPA 2022 service contract has continued to deliver dynamic progress and impactful results. November and December 2024 have been particularly energizing months, marked by collaboration, innovation, and strategic planning for the year ahead. During this period, the contract has not only gained momentum but also demonstrated its role in improving statistical systems and capacity building in the partner countries. From key workshops and training sessions to milestones achieved in ongoing technical assistance projects, these last two months of 2024 have laid a strong foundation for 2025.

We invite you to explore the updates from the past two months, showcasing progress. Let these accomplishments inspire and engage you as we prepare for an even more impactful 2025. Thank you for your continued support and interest in the implementation of the IPA 2022 service contract.

Best regards,
The ICON Team

Snapshot – IPA 2022 Service Contract at a Glance

In November 2024, Sarajevo hosted a 1.5-day workshop under SP 2.1 HICP HPI, bringing together experts and representatives from 7 partner countries. The workshop focused on enhancing HICP quality and advancing experimental House Price Indices (HPIs). Key topics included implementing the HICP basic index methodology in line with EU regulations, tackling challenges in quality adjustment methods, and reclassifying HICP to ECOICOP ver. 2. Participants engaged in lively discussions about handling missing prices, best practices for data sampling, and the practical application of experimental methodologies. The event also emphasized regional collaboration, encouraging participants to exchange insights and foster bilateral partnerships for addressing shared challenges in price statistics.

In December 2024, the opening workshop for SP 1.1 GFS EDP was held online, marking a pivotal step in aligning country-specific objectives with Eurostat's expectations. Representatives from partner countries shared updates on their progress in EDP and GFS, sparking valuable exchanges with Eurostat coordinators and country officers. The workshop highlighted the importance of bilateral consultations, allowing countries to refine their goals and address unique challenges collaboratively. Expert feedback and Eurostat's input provided a roadmap for advancing statistical quality and consistency across the region. This interactive format set the tone for ongoing collaboration and knowledge-sharing in 2025.

In the same month, a training session under SP 5.5 Environmental Accounts was conducted in Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina, focusing on Environmental Goods and Services Sector (EGSS) accounts. Key sessions included an overview of EGSS account structures and methodologies, presentations by the three statistical institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina on data sources and environmental expenditure statistics, and interactive discussions on data quality, reliability, and potential improvements. The training fostered knowledge-sharing and collaboration among participants, offering practical insights to enhance the development of EGSS accounts in the region.



1. Statistical Projects (SPs)

Work carried out in November - December 2024

Work planned for January – February 2025

SP 1.1 GOVERNMENT FINANCE STATISTICS AND EXCESSIVE DEFICIT PROCEDURE (GFS/EDP) XK*

- Opening workshop
- Finalization of Work plan
- Preparation of ToR for SP service contract
- Scheduling 1st expert mission

SP 1.3 NATIONAL ACCOUNTS - METHODOLOGY AL, BA, XK, ME, MK, RS, TR

- 1st expert missions to BA and ME
- Finalization of Work plans
- Preparation of ToRs for SP service contracts

SP 1.4 NATIONAL ACCOUNTS – TRANSMISSION PROGRAMMES AL, BA, XK, ME, MK, RS, TR

- 1st expert missions to AL, MK, XK, BA, ME and RS
- 1st and 2nd Additional expert missions to TR
- 1st Additional expert mission to AL
- Finalization of Work plans
- Preparation of ToRs for SP service contracts

SP 1.5 REGIONAL ACCOUNTS AL, RS, TR

- 1st expert mission to AL
- Finalization of Work plans
- Preparation of ToRs for SP service contracts

SP 1.6 SECTOR ACCOUNTS AL, XK, ME, MK, RS, TR

- None
- 1st Additional expert mission to AL
- Study Visit
- Finalization of Work plans
- Preparation of ToRs for SP service contracts

SP 1.7 SUPPLY, USE AND INPUT-OUTPUT TABLES (SUIOTs) AL, BA, XK, ME, RS, TR

- None
- Finalization of Work plans
- Preparation of ToRs for SP service contracts

SP 1.9 FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT (FDI) BA, XK

- None
- Opening Workshop

SP 2.1 HARMONISED INDICES OF CONSUMER PRICES, HOUSE PRICE INDEX (HCIP/HPI) BA, XK

- Opening Workshop
- Finalization of Work plans
- 1st expert missions to BA and XK
- Preparation of ToRs for SP service contracts

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence

SP 2.2 PRICE STATISTICS - PURCHASING POWER PARITIES (PPP)**BA, XK**

- 2nd Expert meeting with Eurostat
- On-line meetings with BA and XK
- Finalization of Work plans
- Preparation of ToRs for SP service contracts

SP 3.1 BUSINESS REGISTERS**BA**

- None
- Finalization of Work plan
- Preparation of ToRs for SP service contracts

SP 3.2 SHORT-TERM BUSINESS STATISTICS: IMPROVEMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE EUROPEAN BUSINESS STATISTICS REGULATION**BA, XK**

- 1st expert missions to BA and XK
- Finalization of Work plans
- Preparation of ToRs for SP service contracts

SP 3.3 TRANSPORT STATISTICS**BA, XK**

- None
- Opening Workshop
- Finalization of Work plans
- Preparation of ToRs for SP service contracts

SP 3.6 ENERGY STATISTICS**XK**

- 1st expert mission to XK
- 2nd expert mission to XK
- Finalization of Work plan
- Preparation of ToRs for SP service contract

SP 3.7 STRUCTURAL BUSINESS STATISTICS / BUSINESS DEMOGRAPHY**XK**

- None
- On-line meeting with XK
- Scheduling 1st expert mission
- Finalization of Work plan
- Preparation of ToRs for SP service contract

SP 4.1 LABOUR FORCE SURVEY (LFS)**XK**

- None
- Finalization of Work plan
- Preparation of ToRs for SP service contract

SP 4.2 SURVEY ON INCOME AND LIVING CONDITIONS (EU-SILC)**BA, XK**

- None
- On-line meetings with BA and XK
- Finalization of Work plans
- Preparation of ToRs for SP service contracts

SP 4.3 SOCIAL PROTECTION (ESSPROS)**XK**

- None
- Finalization of ToR for SP service contract
- Scheduling 3rd expert mission to XK

SP 4.9 LABOUR COST INDEX (LCI)**BA, XK**

- None
- Finalization of Work plans
- Preparation of ToRs for SP service contracts

SP 5.5 ENVIRONMENTAL ACCOUNTS**BA, XK**

- Training to BA
- Finalization of Work plans
- Preparation of ToRs for SP service contracts
- Scheduling training to XK

SP 5.6 WASTE STATISTICS**BA, XK**

- None
- Finalization of Work plans
- Preparation of ToRs for SP service contracts

SP 5.7 WATER STATISTICS**BA, XK**

- 1st expert mission to BA
- Finalization of Work plans
- Preparation of ToRs for SP service contracts

SP 6.1 QUALITY MANAGEMENT**BA, XK**

- 1st expert mission to XK
- 1st expert mission to BA
- Opening Workshop
- Finalization of Work plans
- Preparation of ToRs for SP service contracts

SP 6.3 COMMUNICATION**AL, BA, XK, MK, ME, TR**

- None
- Delivery of Communication strategies
- Finalization of Work plans
- Preparation of ToRs for SP service contracts

SP 7.2 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**BA, XK**

- None
- Submission of EU SDG Indicators
- Finalization of Work plans
- Preparation of ToRs for SP service contracts



2. Upcoming activities for January and February 2025

Partner Country	Statistical project / Topic	Type	Date
TR	SP 1.4 National Accounts Transmission Programme (ANA, QNA, quality reporting)	1 st Additional expert mission	03 – 05 February 2025, Ankara, Türkiye
TR	SP 1.4 National Accounts Transmission Programme (ANA, QNA, quality reporting)	2 nd Additional expert mission	03 – 05 February 2025, Ankara, Türkiye
AL	SP 1.4 National Accounts Transmission Programme (ANA, QNA, quality reporting)	1 st additional expert mission	10 – 12 February 2025, Tirana, Albania
AL	Ad-hoc mission on COICOP 2018	Ad-hoc Mission	10 – 12 February 2025, Tirana, Albania
MK	Ad-hoc Mission for Implementation of results from the Census 2021	Ad-hoc Mission	03 – 07 February 2025, Skopje, North Macedonia
TR	Ad-hoc mission on Financial Institutions sector	Ad-hoc Mission	13 – 17 January 2025, Ankara, Türkiye
AL	SP 1.6 Sector Accounts	1 st Additional expert mission	17 – 21 February 2025, Tirana, Albania
All	SP 1.6 Sector Accounts	Study Visit	February 2025 (tbc)
XK	Study Visit on Non-Observed Economy - Exhaustiveness	Ad-hoc Study Visit	24 – 26 February 2025, Prague, Czech Republic
AL, TR, BA, XK	SP 1.9 FDI	Workshop 1	18 February 2025, Luxembourg
AL, MK, RS, TR, BA, XK	SP 3.3 Transport Statistics	Workshop 1	18 – 19 February 2025, Luxembourg (tbc)
XK	SP 3.6 Energy Statistics	Mission 2	February 2025 (tbc)
BA	SP 6.1 Quality Management	Mission 1	15 – 17 January 2025, Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina
All	SP 6.1 Quality Management	Workshop 1	25 – 26 February 2025, Lisbon, Portugal (tbc)
All	1 st Coordination Workshop	Workshop 1	20 – 21 January 2025, Athens, Greece



3. Horizontal Activities

The tables below list the number of participants in various horizontal activities, divided by partner country, and include the total number of participants for the entire contract. Grant partner countries are not listed for working groups and ESTP training courses because their participation is organized and funded through their own grants. While they are invited to join activities such as workshops, study visits, and training courses organised by ICON, ICON is not responsible for arranging logistics or covering their costs. Instead, grant countries manage these arrangements and appoint their participants, with expenses covered by their respective grants.

Work carried out in November - December 2024

Work planned for January – February 2025

Working Group meetings

From November - December 2024, 66 participants from two partner countries attended WG meetings:

Partner Country	Nov - Dec 2024	Total participants
BA	32	133
XK	34	117
Total	66	250

From January – February 2025, 36 participants in WG meetings are expected:

Partner Country	Jan – Feb 2025	Total applicants
BA	18	18
XK	18	18
Total	36	36

SP Workshops

From November - December 2024, 2 SP workshop took place.

Partner Country	Nov - Dec 2024	Total participants
AL	4	9
BA	3	14
XK	4	17
MK	2	6
ME	4	8
RS	2	6
TR	4	11
Total	23	71

From January - February 2025, 24 participants in 2 workshops are expected:

Partner Country	Jan – Feb 2025	Total applicants
AL	4	4
BA	6	6
XK	6	6
MK	2	2
ME	0	0
RS	2	2
TR	4	4
Total	24	24

Training courses

From November - December 2024, 10 participants from partner countries attended 10 ESTP courses:

Partner Country	Sep - Oct 2024	Total participants
BA	0	22
XK	10	21
Total	10	43

Due to lower number of offered ESTP courses in January and February 2025, ICON does not expect to have any attendees from partner countries

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Consortium partners



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