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Dear Reader,

Welcome to the fifth edition of the IPA 2022 bi-monthly newsletter. This period marks a significant step forward with the ongoing preparation of the Statistical Projects service contracts, enabling partner countries to officially begin their work within the SPs. In parallel, preparations have progressed for several study visits scheduled for the upcoming period, aimed at enhancing knowledge exchange and practical cooperation. Additionally, the first round of traineeships successfully concluded at the end of April 2025, providing valuable hands-on experience for the participating trainees. We look forward to continued collaboration and good progress in the months ahead.

Happy reading!

The ICON Team

Snapshot – 1st traineeship round

The first round of traineeships under the IPA 2022 contract concluded at the end of April 2025, offering a valuable opportunity for trainees from partner countries to engage directly with Eurostat, and the statistical offices of some EU Member States' and Switzerland. Trainees were hosted in a variety of statistical areas, with each experience providing hands-on exposure to both methodological and operational aspects of European statistical practices. Trainees reported that the experience significantly supported their professional development by deepening their technical understanding, improving practical skills, and strengthening their ability to contribute to ongoing work at home.

In addition to technical knowledge, trainees gained important insights into institutional workflows, data validation procedures, and the coordination needed to align national practices with European standards. Through mentorship and hands-on assignments, they developed a clearer understanding of how statistical outputs are produced, reviewed, and communicated. Exposure to different working environments and legal frameworks further broadened their perspective and enhanced their ability to apply this learning in their home institutions.

Overall, the first round of traineeships successfully fostered knowledge exchange, built technical capacity, and encouraged professional growth. The positive feedback from participants underlines the importance of continuing this component of the IPA 2022 contract. More experiences and reflections from trainees will be featured in the upcoming 6-monthly newsletter.



Trainee Dijana Males from Bosnia and Herzegovina (third from the left) during her traineeship at Statistics Poland



1. Statistical Projects (SPs)

Work carried out in March - April 2025

Work planned for May – June 2025

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

XK

- 1st expert mission to XK
- Help desk support to XK
- Signing of the SP Service contract

SP 1.3 NATIONAL ACCOUNTS - METHODOLOGY

AL, BA, XK, ME, MK, RS, TR

- 1st Additional expert missions to XK and BA
- 1st Additional expert mission to MK
- Study Visit to Czech Statistical Office
- Signing of the SP Service contracts (all)

SP 1.4 NATIONAL ACCOUNTS – TRANSMISSION PROGRAMMES

AL, BA, XK, ME, MK, RS, TR

- 2nd Additional expert mission to AL
- Signed SP Service contracts XK, MK, ME
- 1st Additional expert missions to MK and RS
- Study Visit to Czech Statistical Office
- Signing of the SP Service contracts AL, BA, RS, TR

SP 1.5 REGIONAL ACCOUNTS

AL, RS, TR

- Help desk support to AL, RS, TR
- Signed SP Service contracts AL, RS
- 2nd expert missions to RS and TR
- Study Visit to INE Spain (TR only)
- Signing of the SP Service contract TR

SP 1.6 SECTOR ACCOUNTS

AL, XK, ME, MK, RS, TR

- Help desk support to AL, XK, MK, ME, RS, TR
- 1st Additional expert mission to MK
- Study Visit to Czech Statistical Office
- Signing of the SP Service contracts (all)

SP 1.7 SUPPLY, USE AND INPUT-OUTPUT TABLES (SUIOTs)

AL, BA, XK, ME, RS, TR

- 1st expert missions to XK, TR, MK, AL, ME
- 1st Additional expert mission to TR
- Finalization of Work plan and SP Service contracts

SP 1.9 FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT (FDI)

BA, XK

- Help desk support to BA and XK
- Signing of the SP Service contracts BA and XK

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

BA, XK

- Help desk support to BA and XK
- Signing of the SP Service contracts BA and XK

SP 2.2 PRICE STATISTICS - PURCHASING POWER PARITIES (PPP)

BA, XK

- Help desk support to XK
- 2nd expert mission to XK
- Signing of the SP Service contract XK

SP 3.1 BUSINESS REGISTERS

BA

- Finalized Work plan
- Signing of the SP Service contract BA

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

- Finalized Work plan
- Help desk support BA and XK
- Signing of the SP Service contracts BA and XK

SP 3.3 TRANSPORT STATISTICS BA, XK

- Help desk support to BA and XK
- Signing of the SP Service contracts BA and XK

SP 3.6 ENERGY STATISTICS XK

- Finalized ToR for SP service contract
- Signing of the SP Service contract XK

SP 3.7 STRUCTURAL BUSINESS STATISTICS / BUSINESS DEMOGRAPHY XK

- On-line meeting with XK
- 1st expert mission to XK

SP 4.1 LABOUR FORCE SURVEY (LFS) XK

- Finalized Work plan
- Prepared ToR for SP Service contract
- Signing of the SP Service contract XK

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

- On-line consultations with BA and XK
- Finalization of Work plans
- Preparation of ToRs for SP service contracts

SP 4.3 SOCIAL PROTECTION (ESSPROS) XK

- 3rd mission to XK
- Signed SP Service contract
- 4th expert mission to XK

SP 4.9 LABOUR COST INDEX (LCI) BA, XK

- Help desk support to BA and XK
- 2nd expert mission to BA
- Signing of the SP Service contracts BA and XK

SP 5.5 ENVIRONMENTAL ACCOUNTS BA, XK

- Finalized Work plan
- Prepared ToR for SP Service contract
- Signing of the SP Service contracts BA and XK

SP 5.6 WASTE STATISTICS BA, XK

- On-line consultation with BA and XK
- Finalization of Work plans
- Preparation of ToRs for SP service contracts

SP 5.7 WATER STATISTICS BA, XK

- On-line consultation with BA and XK
- Finalization of Work plans
- Preparation of ToRs for SP service contracts

SP 6.1 QUALITY MANAGEMENT BA, XK

- Finalized Work plans
- Signed SP Service contract XK
- Signing of the SP Service contract BA

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**

- Finalized Work plans
- Prepared ToR for SP Service contracts
- Signing of the SP Service contracts BA and XK



2. Upcoming activities for May and June 2025

Partner Country	Statistical project / Topic	Type	Date
MK	SP 1.3 National Accounts Methodology	1 st Additional expert mission	23 – 28 March 2025, Pristina, Kosovo
all	SP 1.3 National Accounts Methodology	1 st Study visit	17 – 19 June 2025, Prague, Czech Republic
MK	SP 1.4 National Accounts Transmission Programme (ANA, QNA, quality reporting)	1 st Additional expert mission	05 – 09 May 2025, Skopje, North Macedonia
RS	SP 1.4 National Accounts Transmission Programme (ANA, QNA, quality reporting)	1 st Additional expert mission	02 – 05 June 2025, Belgrade, Serbia
all	SP 1.4 National Accounts Transmission Programme (ANA, QNA, quality reporting)	1 st Study visit	14 – 16 May 2025, Prague, Czech Republic
TR	SP 1.5 Regional accounts	2 nd expert mission	13 – 15 May 2025, Ankara, Türkiye
RS	SP 1.5 Regional accounts	2 nd expert mission	10 – 12 June 2025, Belgrade, Serbia
TR	SP 1.5 Regional accounts	1 st Study visit	06 – 08 May 2025, Madrid, Spain
MK	SP 1.6 Sector accounts	1 st Additional expert mission	05 – 09 May 2025, Skopje, North Macedonia
AL, BA, XK, MK, RS, TR	SP 1.6 Sector accounts	1 st Study visit	03 – 05 June 2025, Prague, Czech Republic
TR	SP 1.7 SUIOTs	1 st Additional expert mission	13 – 15 May 2025, Ankara, Türkiye
XK	SP 2.2 PPP	2 nd expert mission	02 – 04 June 2025, Pristina, Kosovo
XK	SP 3.7 SBS/Business Demography	1 st expert mission	06 – 07 May 2025, Pristina, Kosovo
XK	SP 4.3 ESSPROS	4 th expert mission	19 – 23 May 2025, Pristina, Kosovo
BA	SP 4.9 LCI	2 nd expert mission	10 – 13 June 2025, Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina



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 March - April 2025

Work planned for May - June 2025

Working Group meetings

From March - April 2025, 45 participants from two partner countries attended WG meetings:

Partner Country	Mar - Apr 2025	Total participants
BA	20	138
XK	25	147
Total	45	285

From May - June 2025, 49 participants in WG meetings are expected:

Partner Country	May - Jun 2025	Total applicants
BA	24	24
XK	25	25
Total	49	49

SP Workshops

No workshops were held during March and April 2025.

Partner Country	Mar - Apr 2025	Total participants
AL	0	15
BA	0	18
XK	0	25
MK	0	8
ME	0	11
RS	0	10
TR	0	15
Total	0	102

No workshops are planned in May and June 2025.

Training courses

Due to limited funding for ESTP training courses, no participants from the IPA 2022 contract attended sessions in March and April 2025.

In this period, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo will be able to submit applications for ESTP training courses.

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