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Dear Reader,

Welcome to the sixth edition of the IPA 2022 Multi-Beneficiary Statistical Cooperation Programme newsletter. This issue highlights key developments and activities that took place during May and June 2025, as the service contract continues to advance towards full implementation.

During this period, several expert missions and study visits were successfully conducted, offering valuable opportunities for knowledge exchange and peer learning among partner countries and EU Member States. These visits contributed to strengthening technical capacities and fostering cooperation on methodological practices.

In parallel, significant progress has been made in the preparation of statistical projects (SPs) service contracts, enabling partner countries to officially begin their work within the SPs.

We look forward to continued collaboration, knowledge sharing, and steady progress in the months ahead.

Happy reading!

The ICON Team

Snapshot – Exchange of best practices: Study Visits to Czechia and Spain

In May and June 2025, three study visits offered participants from the Western Balkans and Türkiye a unique opportunity to deepen their understanding of advanced practices in national and regional accounts. Hosted by the Czech Statistical Office (CZSO) and the Spanish Statistical Office (INE), the visits highlighted practical applications of the ESA 2010 framework and fostered mutual learning among participating countries.



SP 1.4 National Accounts-Study Visit, 14-16 May 2025, Prague, Czech Republic

At the CZSO, two study visits focused on national accounts compilation and seasonal adjustment. Participants explored the Czech approach to building consistent and transparent national accounts using a bottom-up methodology, including GDP balancing within supply and use tables, capitalisation of R&D and small tools, and estimation of dwelling and insurance services. Special emphasis was placed on quarterly sector accounts and integration with government and financial statistics. A second visit provided hands-on training in seasonal and calendar adjustment using JDemetra+, covering model estimation, outlier treatment, benchmarking techniques, and transmission of seasonally adjusted data to Eurostat. These sessions reinforced the importance of methodological rigour and transparent revision policies, offering replicable models for strengthening data quality and harmonisation across the IPA region.

Meanwhile, a study visit hosted by INE in Spain focused on regional accounts, welcoming experts from TurkStat. The exchange examined Spain's comprehensive approach to compiling GDP by region and economic activity, including recent innovations in using micro-level administrative data. The Turkish delegation shared their own experience with major system revisions and the gradual expansion of regional GDP coverage. The visit served as a

valuable platform for dialogue on improving the production of regional accounts and preparing for future benchmark revisions in line with ESA requirements.

Together, these study visits showcased the power of peer exchange in advancing statistical expertise, strengthening institutional practices, and promoting alignment with European standards.



SP 1.5 Regional Accounts- Study visit, 06-08 May 2025, Madrid, Spain.



1. Statistical Projects (SPs)

Work carried out in May - June 2025

Work planned for July – August 2025

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

XK

- Help desk support 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 mission to MK
- Study Visit to the Czech Statistical Office
- Signed SP Service contracts AL, BA, XK, RS, TR

- Help desk support to all PCs
- Signing of the SP Service contracts with MK and ME

SP 1.4 NATIONAL ACCOUNTS – TRANSMISSION PROGRAMMES

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

- 1st Additional expert missions to MK and RS
- Signed SP Service contracts RS and TR

- 1st Additional expert mission to XK
- Help desk support to all PCs

SP 1.5 REGIONAL ACCOUNTS

AL, RS, TR

- 2nd expert mission to TR and RS
- Study Visit to INE Spain (TR only)
- Signed SP Service contract TR

- Help desk support to all PCs

SP 1.6 SECTOR ACCOUNTS

AL, XK, ME, MK, RS, TR

- 1st Additional expert mission to MK
- Study Visit to the Czech Statistical Office
- Signed SP Service contracts MK, ME, RS

- 1st Additional expert mission to TR
- 2nd expert missions ME, AL
- Signing of the SP Service contracts AL, XK, TR

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

AL, BA, XK, ME, RS, TR

- 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**

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

SP 3.1 BUSINESS REGISTERS**BA**

- Preparation of the Work plan for BA
- 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**

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

SP 3.3 TRANSPORT STATISTICS**BA, XK**

- 2nd expert mission to 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
- Preparation of the Work plan
- 1st expert mission to XK

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

- Signed SP Service contract XK
- Help desk support

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 the Work plans

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

- 4th expert mission to XK
- Help desk support

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

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

SP 5.5 ENVIRONMENTAL ACCOUNTS**BA, XK**

- None
- Signing of the SP Service contracts BA and XK

SP 5.6 WASTE STATISTICS**BA, XK**

- On-line consultation with BA and XK
- Signing of the SP Service contracts BA and XK

SP 5.7 WATER STATISTICS**BA, XK**

- On-line consultation with BA and XK
- Signing of the SP Service contracts BA and XK

SP 6.1 QUALITY MANAGEMENT**BA, XK**

- None
- Help desk support to all PCs

SP 6.3 COMMUNICATION

AL, BA, XK, MK, ME, TR

- On-line consultations with all PCs
- Delivery of Communication strategies
- Finalization of Work plans
- Preparation of ToRs for SP service contracts

SP 7.2 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

BA, XK

- Signed SP Service contract XK
- Hep desk support to all PCs



2. Upcoming activities for July and August 2025

Partner Country	Statistical project / Topic	Type	Date
ME	SP 1.3 National Accounts Methodology	2 nd expert mission	11 – 18 July 2025, Podgorica, Montenegro
XK	SP 1.3 National Accounts Methodology	2 nd Additional expert mission	14 – 18 July 2025, Pristina, Kosovo *
XK	SP 1.4 National Accounts Transmission Programme (ANA, QNA, quality reporting)	1 st Additional expert mission	14 – 18 July 2025, Pristina, Kosovo
ME	SP 1.6 Sector accounts	2 nd expert mission	07 – 10 July 2025, Podgorica, Montenegro
AL	SP 1.6 Sector accounts	2 nd expert mission	18 – 22 August 2025, Tirana, Albania
TR	SP 1.6 Sector accounts	1 st Additional expert mission	12 – 15 August 2025, Ankara, Türkiye
RS	SP 1.7 SUIOTs	1 st expert mission	08 – 10 July 2025, Belgrade, Serbia

* 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.



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, the grant countries manage these arrangements and appoint their participants, with expenses covered by their respective grants.

Work carried out in May - June 2025

Work planned for July - August 2025

Working Group meetings

From May - June 2025, 68 participants from two partner countries attended WG meetings:

Partner Country	May - June 2025	Total participants
BA	40	178
XK	28	175
Total	68	353

No working group meetings were scheduled for July and August 2025. As a result, no applications for participation were submitted during this period.

SP Workshops

No workshops were held during May and June 2025.

Partner Country	May - June 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 July and August 2025.

Training courses

From May - June 2025, 1 participant from Kosovo attended 1 ESTP course.

Partner Country	May - June 2025	Total participants
BA	0	22
XK	1	22
Total	1	44

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

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