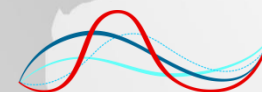


# WORKSHOP ON CHALLENGES AHEAD FOR ALBANIA AS A CANDIDATE COUNTRY

## CROATIAN EXPERIENCES

Robert Knežević

**Tirana, 11 – 12 September 2014**



DRŽAVNI ZAVOD ZA STATISTIKU  
REPUBLIKE HRVATSKE  
CROATIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

# I INTRODUCTION

## I.1 Starting position in the negotiation process:

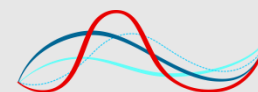
Dual role of CBS

Preparing and coordinating work on Chapter 18 Statistics

- Who: Negotiating team and back up team
- What: Methodologies and results

Participating in work on other chapters in preparing supporting data

- Who: Dissemination department, Subject-matter directorates
- What: Supporting data compliant with official statistics



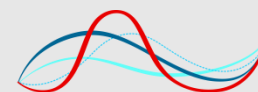
## I.2 Prerequisites

Continued participation in Working Group meetings in Eurostat

- ensures deeper involvement in specific domains
- enables quicker and improved implementation of EU statistics
- provides for better communication with Eurostat counterparts

Spreading participation in trainings

- provides necessary knowledge and skills to wider range of staff
- enables better sharing of knowledge and skills within institution



## II      **Organisation of the negotiation team and back up team at CBS Croatia**

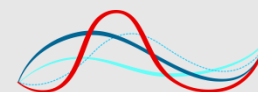
Negotiation team officially appointed by the Government:

Director General as the team leader,  
Management Board members,  
Statistical specialists

- CBS statisticians
- Statisticians from other producers of official statistics
- Expert researchers and analysts

Back up team provided support to the Negotiation team

- not formally appointed
- engaged by negotiation team members when needed for specific tasks



## II.1 Negotiation team - Responsibilities

### Decision making

- Director General and Management Board

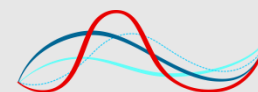
### Coordination

- Head of Director-General's Office

### Preparing documents and presenting statistical domains

- Persons responsible for specific domains
- Participation of other producers of official statistics
  - Central bank: Balance of Payments, FDI, Outward FATS
  - CIPH: Health statistics

### Roles combined in some cases

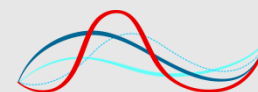


## **I.2 Negotiation team – Presenting Croatian statistics**

Selection of negotiation team members according to:

- Priority 1: Knowledge of statistics to be presented
- Priority 2: Communication skills
- Priority 3: Good command of English

This logic proved to be successful



## II.3 Back-up team

Staff from CBS

- statisticians, IT, administrative staff, etc.

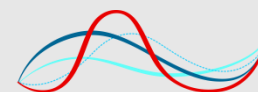
Other producers of official statistics

- experts in respective domains

External researchers and analysts

- experience in cooperation with CBS

Ad-hoc inclusion of persons upon necessity



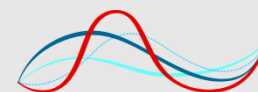
### **III Main discussion points on the way of Croatia to the ESS**

There were no opening benchmarks

There were set closing benchmarks:

- National Accounts
- Agriculture statistics

Chapter 18 Statistics was closed upon EC accepting the results



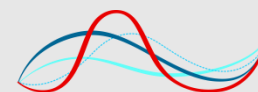


## III.1 Closing benchmark on National Accounts

### Preparing Gross National Income Inventory

- Large document and a lot of work spent on its preparation
- Closely monitored by Eurostat
- Highly useful for CBS

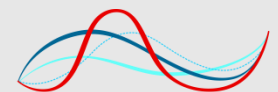
(Later on inventories prepared in a number of other National Accounts domains)



## III.2 Closing benchmark on Agriculture Statistics

### Preparing Description of Methodology and Organisational Structure in Agricultural Statistics

- Large document and a lot of work spent on its preparation
- Closely monitored by Eurostat
- Highly useful for CBS



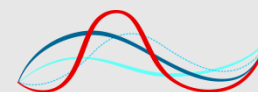
## **IV Lessons learnt**

### **– what better not to do in such high level negotiations**

#### **IV.1 CBS and other chapters**

Insisting in advance on usage of official statistics as supporting data in other chapters

- EC able and intent on comparing all available sources
- Detected inconsistencies in data may result in opening benchmarks in other chapters
- Such benchmarks engaged resources of the NSI as well



## IV.2 Negotiation team for Chapter 18 Statistics

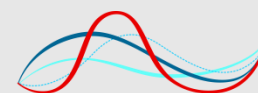
Spreading workload more widely

- Specifically – stronger engagement of Management Board members in preparing and/or presenting national statistics

Maintaining consistency in documents and presentations

- Additional checking and proof-reading
- Instructing presenters and rehearsing

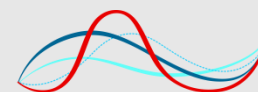
Paying attention to National Accounts and Agriculture Statistics in advance



## CHALLENGES AHEAD FOR ALBANIA AS A CANDIDATE COUNTRY

Major issues:

- Negotiating with line ministries on increased usage of official statistics and on expected coordination on other chapters
- Preparing negotiation team structure and functionalities:
  - management, coordination, specific statistical domains
- Preparing action plans for achieving compliance with acquis
  - Follow SMIS for structured and organized approach
  - Setting priorities



THANK YOU!

