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Dear Reader,
The 12th edition of the IPA 2022 Multi-beneficiary Statistical Cooperation Programme newsletter presents the key activities and achievements in May and June 2026, highlighting continued efforts to strengthen statistical systems across the Western Balkans and Türkiye. This edition provides an overview of important milestones, including Peer Reviews in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro, progress in Foreign Direct Investment statistics, and capacity-building activities supporting the modernisation of quarterly GDP compilation. The newsletter also presents ongoing work across statistical projects, upcoming activities for July and August 2026, and participation in horizontal activities such as Working Groups, SP workshops and training courses. We hope you enjoy reading this edition and find it informative and useful.

Happy reading!
The ICON Team

1. Snapshot: Strengthening Statistical Systems through Peer Learning, Quality Reviews and Technical Capacity Building

During May and June 2026, the IPA 2022 service contract continued to support the modernisation of statistical systems across the Western Balkans and Türkiye through peer reviews, specialised workshops and technical training. These activities strengthened institutional quality, promoted the exchange of good practices and enhanced the production of high-quality official statistics.



The peer review experts and representatives from Bosnia and Herzegovina at the peer review visit, 19-27 May 2026.

A major milestone during the reporting period was the successful implementation of Peer Reviews in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro. To assess compliance with the European Statistics Code of Practice (ES CoP) and help statistical authorities to further improve and develop their statistical systems, the peer review expert teams analysed the institutional environment, statistical processes and statistical outputs of the national statistical authorities.



The peer review experts and representatives from Montenegro at the peer review visit of 22–26 June 2026.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, the review brought together representatives of the Agency for Statistics of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Federal Institute of Statistics and the Institute of Statistics of Republika Srpska, reflecting the important roles each of them plays in the country's statistical system. The review identified compliance-relevant and improvement-related (going beyond compliance with the ES CoP) recommendations.
In Montenegro, the Statistical Office hosted the Peer Review, reaffirming the country's commitment to strengthening professional independence and further aligning with the ESS common quality framework.

The second workshop under SP 1.9 Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) gathered experts from five partner countries, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Montenegro and Türkiye, to review progress since the first workshop, discuss the latest FDI data transmission to Eurostat and exchange experiences on data quality and production processes. The workshop also introduced methodologies for compiling inward investment in real estate and helped countries define the remaining steps towards completing project objectives.

A practical training course held in Durrës, Albania, on the New File-Based System for Quarterly GDP Estimates provided participants with hands-on experience in the complete quarterly GDP compilation process. Through practical exercises and simulations, participants strengthened their knowledge of integrated production workflows, while the countries gained valuable insights into modern approaches for compiling quarterly national accounts.

2. Statistical Projects (SPs)

Work carried out in May - June 2026	*Work planned for July - August 2026*	
SP 1.1 GOVERNMENT FINANCE STATISTICS AND EXCESSIVE DEFICIT PROCEDURE (GFS/EDP)		**XK**
• 2nd expert mission to XK • Help desk support	• Help desk support	
SP 1.3 NATIONAL ACCOUNTS - METHODOLOGY		**AL, BA, XK, ME, MK, RS, TR**
• 3rd expert mission to TR • Help desk support	• 3rd expert mission to AL • 1st additional expert mission to ME • 3rd additional expert mission to XK • Help desk support	
SP 1.4 NATIONAL ACCOUNTS – TRANSMISSION PROGRAMMES		**AL, BA, XK, ME, MK, RS, TR**
• 3rd expert mission to RS • 2nd additional expert mission to ME • Help desk support	• 2nd additional expert mission to XK • 3rd expert mission to TR • Help desk support	
SP 1.5 REGIONAL ACCOUNTS		**AL, RS, TR**
• Help desk support	• Help desk support	
SP 1.6 SECTOR ACCOUNTS		**AL, XK, ME, MK, RS, TR**
• 3rd expert mission to MK • Help desk support	• 3rd expert mission to ME • Help desk support	
SP 1.7 SUPPLY, USE AND INPUT-OUTPUT TABLES (SUIOTs)		**AL, BA, XK, ME, RS, TR**
• 2nd additional expert mission to RS • Help desk support	• 2nd expert mission to ME • Help desk support	

* *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 1.9 FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT (FDI) — BA, XK

- 2nd SP workshop
- Help desk support
- Help desk support

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

- On-line meeting with BA and XK
- Help desk support
- Help desk support

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

- 4th expert mission to XK
- Help desk support
- Help desk support

SP 3.1 BUSINESS REGISTERS — BA

- 2nd expert mission to BA
- Help desk support
- Help desk support

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

- Help desk support
- Help desk support

SP 3.3 TRANSPORT STATISTICS — BA, XK

- 2nd SP workshop
- Help desk support
- Help desk support
- Help desk support

SP 3.6 ENERGY STATISTICS — XK

- 2nd expert mission to XK
- Help desk support
- Help desk support

SP 3.7 STRUCTURAL BUSINESS STATISTICS / BUSINESS DEMOGRAPHY — XK

- Preparation of the Work plan
- Finalization of Work plan and SP Service contract

SP 4.1 LABOUR FORCE SURVEY (LFS) — XK

- 1st additional expert mission to XK
- Help desk support
- Help desk support

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

- Help desk support
- Help desk support

SP 4.3 SOCIAL PROTECTION (ESSPROS) — XK

- 7th expert mission to XK
- Help desk support
- Help desk support

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

- Help desk support
- 2nd expert mission to XK
- Help desk support

SP 5.5 ENVIRONMENTAL ACCOUNTS		**BA, XK**
• Help desk support	• Help desk support	
SP 5.6 WASTE STATISTICS		**BA, XK**
• 2nd expert missions to BA and XK • Help desk support	• Help desk support	
SP 5.7 WATER STATISTICS		**BA, XK**
• On-line consultation with BA and XK	• Help desk support	
SP 6.1 QUALITY MANAGEMENT		**BA, XK**
• Help desk support	• Help desk support	
SP 6.3 COMMUNICATION		**AL, BA, XK, MK, ME, TR**
• Help desk support	• Help desk support	
SP 7.2 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT		**BA, XK**
• Help desk support	• Hep desk support	

3. Upcoming activities for July and August 2026

Partner Country	Statistical project / Topic	Type	Date
AL	SP 1.3 NAM	3rd expert mission	6 – 8 July 2026, Tirana, Albania
ME	SP 1.3 NAM	1st additional expert mission	20 – 24 July 2026, Podgorica, Montenegro
XK	SP 1.3 NAM	3rd additional expert mission	20 – 24 July 2026, Pristina, Kosovo
XK	SP 1.4 NA Transmission	2nd additional expert mission	27 – 31 July 2026, Pristina, Kosovo
TR	SP 1.4 NA Transmission	3rd expert mission	3 – 7 August 2026, Ankara, Türkiye
ME	SP 1.6 Sector Accounts	3rd expert mission	6 – 10 July 2026, Podgorica, Montenegro
ME	SP 1.7 SUIOT	2nd expert mission	27 – 31 July 2026, Podgorica, Montenegro
XK	SP 4.9 LCI	2nd expert mission	21 – 23 July 2026, Pristina, Kosovo
AL	Training "The European Statistical System (ESS) – Active participation in the ESS and ESS meetings by IPA partner countries"	Training course	1 – 2 July 2026, Tirana, Albania
ME	Training "The European Statistical System (ESS) – Active participation in the ESS and ESS meetings by IPA partner countries"	Training course	23 – 24 July 2026, Podgorica, Montenegro

4. 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 since the start of the contract. Grant partner countries are not listed for working group meetings and ESTP training courses because their participation is organized and funded through their own grants. While they are invited to join activities such as SP 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 May - June 2026 *Work planned for July - August 2026*

Working Group meetings

During May and June 2026, 67 participants attended WG meetings:

Partner Country	May - Jun 2026	Total participants
BA	32	284
XK	35	297
Total	67	581

Due to the holiday period, no working group meetings are scheduled over the next two months. Consequently, no applications for participation in working group meetings are expected during this period.

SP Workshops

Only one workshop took place in May and June 2026.

Partner Country	May - Jun 2026	Total participants
AL	2	23
BA	2	26
XK	2	33
MK	0	11
ME	1	16
RS	0	14
TR	1	19
Total	8	142

Due to the holiday period, no workshops are scheduled over the next two months. Consequently, no applications for participation in workshops are expected during this period.

ESTP Training courses

During May and June 2026, 28 participants attended ESTP training course.

Partner Country	May - Jun 2026	Total participants
BA	13	40
XK	15	41
Total	28	81

For the next period, only 1 applicant is expected for ESTP training courses:

Partner Country	Jul - Aug 2026	Total applicants
BA	-	-
XK	1	1
Total	1	1

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Consortium partners

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