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Dear Reader,

We are pleased to present the 9th edition of the IPA 2022 Multi-Beneficiary Programme newsletter, covering the period November–December 2025. These two months were characterised by continued support, with a strong combination of horizontal quality-focused activities and targeted support in specific statistical domains.

A key highlight of this period was the peer review in Kosovo\*, setting an important benchmark for forthcoming reviews across the region. At the same time, sectoral capacity building continued through a study visit in SP 3.6 Energy Statistics in Croatia, supporting partner countries in aligning industrial energy data with European standards. Alongside these activities, implementation progressed steadily across all statistical projects, supported by expert missions, help desk support, and preparatory work for upcoming activities in early 2026.

We hope this edition provides a clear snapshot of recent achievements and a useful overview of what lies ahead.

Happy reading!

The ICON Team



## Snapshot: Parallel progress across quality and sectoral statistics

November and December 2025 were marked by two key activities implemented in parallel under the IPA 2022 Multi-Beneficiary Programme, reflecting the programme's dual focus on strengthening institutional quality frameworks and advancing sector-specific statistical capacities.

The first peer review of the current round took place in Kosovo. It assessed how the principles of the Code of Practice (CoP) are applied in practice, across the three headings of the CoP – institutional environment, statistical processes and statistical output.



Peer review expert team (from left to right): Pierre Bischoff, Jean-Michel Durr and Tina Steenvoorden

Key areas examined by the peer review expert team included professional independence and impartiality and objectivity, coordination and cooperation, mandate for data collection and access to data, adequacy of resources, commitment to quality, statistical confidentiality and data protection, and sound methodology, appropriate statistical procedures, non-excessive burden on respondents and cost effectiveness, as well as the extent to which the statistics are relevant, accurate and reliable, timely, coherent, comparable across regions and countries, and readily accessible by users.

The resulting peer review report will provide targeted recommendations for further alignment with the CoP and serve as a reference model for the future peer reviews in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Montenegro in 2026, followed by North Macedonia, Serbia, and Türkiye in 2027.

\* 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



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Study visit under SP 3.6 Energy Statistics at premises of EIHP, Zagreb, Croatia

In parallel, a study visit under SP 3.6 Energy Statistics was organised in Zagreb, hosted by the Energy Institute Hrvoje Požar (EIHP), with contributions from the Croatian Bureau of Statistics. The visit supported ongoing work in partner countries to improve energy statistics, with a particular focus on the industrial sector. The agenda combined methodological presentations, practical sessions, and in-depth discussions on data collection, validation, and analysis related to industrial energy use. Participants also exchanged experiences on common challenges in compiling industrial energy statistics and discussed ways to translate European standards into their national context.

Key outcomes included an enhanced understanding of the methodology, strengthened technical skills of national experts, and the establishment of professional links that will support continued cooperation and knowledge exchange. Overall, the study visit made a tangible contribution to reinforcing institutional capacity for high-quality energy data management and reporting.



## 1. Statistical Projects (SPs)

Work carried out in November - December 2025

Work planned for January – February 2026

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

- Prepared 1<sup>st</sup> Interim report
- Help desk support
- 2<sup>nd</sup> expert meeting with Eurostat
- Help desk support

### SP 1.3 NATIONAL ACCOUNTS - METHODOLOGY

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

- 2<sup>nd</sup> expert mission to BA and MK
- 1<sup>st</sup> additional expert mission to AL
- Submitted 1<sup>st</sup> Interim report for BA and TR
- Help desk support
- Help desk support

### SP 1.4 NATIONAL ACCOUNTS – TRANSMISSION PROGRAMMES

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

- 2<sup>nd</sup> expert mission to AL, BA and XK
- 2<sup>nd</sup> additional expert mission to RS
- Submitted 1<sup>st</sup> Interim report for ME
- Help desk support
- 1<sup>st</sup> additional expert mission to ME
- Help desk support

### SP 1.5 REGIONAL ACCOUNTS

AL, RS, TR

- 2<sup>nd</sup> expert meeting with Eurostat
- Help desk support
- 3<sup>rd</sup> expert meeting with Eurostat
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Study visit to INE Spain (AL and RS only)
- Help desk support

### SP 1.6 SECTOR ACCOUNTS

AL, XK, ME, MK, RS, TR

- 2<sup>nd</sup> expert missions to XK, MK and RS
- Submitted 1st Interim reports for AL, ME, MK, RS and TR
- Help desk support
- Finalization of 1<sup>st</sup> Interim report for XK
- Help desk support



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

- Signed SP Service contracts with AL, BA, ME and TR
- 1<sup>st</sup> additional expert missions to RS and AL
- Signed SP Service contract RS
- 1<sup>st</sup> additional expert missions to XK and MK
- Help desk support
- Work on update of the structural metadata in AL
- Compilation of SUT 2019 in ME
- Closing Data Gaps in Existing Tables T15,T16,T17,T18,T19 for MK

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

- Help desk support
- Help desk support

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

- 2<sup>nd</sup> expert mission to BA
- Help desk support
- Help desk support
- Regular transmission of the AP list to Eurostat from BA
- Regular transmission of HICP and HICP-CT to Eurostat using SDMX files from XK

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

- Help desk support
- Finalization of 1<sup>st</sup> Interim reports for BA and XK
- Help desk support
- Drafting of the 2025 PPP inventory document by XK

**SP 3.1 BUSINESS REGISTERS****BA**

- Signed SP Service contract with BA
- Help desk support

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

- 2<sup>nd</sup> expert mission to XK
- Help desk support
- Help desk support
- Creating a price database (incl. composite price indices/deflators) for retail trade (G47) and wholesale trade (G45, G46) for XK

**SP 3.3 TRANSPORT STATISTICS****BA, XK**

- Help desk support
- Help desk support
- Work on the error reports on rail and air transport data already transmitted and preparation of SDMX files for road freight transport in BA
- Produce a report on availability of transport statistics and improving availability of road data transmitted for the Common Questionnaire for XK

**SP 3.6 ENERGY STATISTICS****XK**

- Study visit to Energy Institute Hrvoje Pozar and Croatian Bureau of Statistics
- Finalization of Work plan and SP Service contract
- Work on development of a Quality Report and Survey on Energy Consumption in the Service Sector

#### 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

- Help desk support
- Help desk support

#### SP 4.2 SURVEY ON INCOME AND LIVING CONDITIONS (EU-SILC)

BA, XK

- 2<sup>nd</sup> expert mission to BA
- Signed SP Service contract with XK
- Preparation of SP Service contract with BA
- Finalization of SP Service contract with BA

#### SP 4.3 SOCIAL PROTECTION (ESSPROS)

XK

- Help desk support
- Help desk support
- Compilation of the Net benefits' quality report

#### SP 4.9 LABOUR COST INDEX (LCI)

BA, XK

- Help desk support
- Help desk support
- Preparation of national quality report on LCI for XK

#### SP 5.5 ENVIRONMENTAL ACCOUNTS

BA, XK

- Help desk support
- Help desk support

#### SP 5.6 WASTE STATISTICS

BA, XK

- Signed SP Service contract with XK
- Help desk support
- Finalization of the SP Service contract with BA
- Help desk support

#### SP 5.7 WATER STATISTICS

BA, XK

- On-line consultation with BA and XK
- Signed SP Service contract BA
- Help desk support
- Incremental mapping and integration of SDG Target 6 indicators with JQ-IW water statistics for BA

#### SP 6.1 QUALITY MANAGEMENT

BA, XK

- Help desk support
- Help desk support

#### SP 6.3 COMMUNICATION

AL, BA, XK, MK, ME, TR

- On-line consultations with all PCs
- Prepared Work plans for AL, BA, XK, MK, ME and TR
- Finalization of Work plans

#### SP 7.2 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

BA, XK

- On-line consultations with PCs
- Help desk support
- Hep desk support





## 2. Upcoming activities for November and December 2025

Partner Country	Statistical project / Topic	Type	Date
n/a	SP 1.1 GFS EDS	2 <sup>nd</sup> expert meeting	15 January 2026, MS Teams
ME	SP 1.4 NA Transmission	1 <sup>st</sup> additional expert mission	10 – 12 February, Podgorica, Montenegro
AL and RS	SP 1.5 Regional Accounts	2 <sup>nd</sup> Study visit	24 – 26 February 2026, Madrid, Spain
XK	SP 1.7 SUIOTs	1 <sup>st</sup> additional expert mission	14 – 16 January 2026, Pristina, Kosovo
MK	SP 1.7 SUIOTs	1 <sup>st</sup> additional expert mission	20 – 23 January 2026, Skopje, North Macedonia
all	Training “ <i>From annual to quarterly to monthly data: introduction to temporal disaggregation and benchmarking in JDemetra+</i> ”	Training course (TC)	18 – 20 February 2026, Cologne, Germany





### 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 since the start of the 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 2025*

*Work planned for January – February 2026*

#### Working Group meetings

During November and December 2025, 59 participants from two partner countries attended WG meetings:

Partner Country	Nov - Dec 2025	Total participants
BA	25	233
XK	27	231
Total	52	464

For next period, 36 participants in WG meetings are expected:

Partner Country	Jan – Feb 2026	Total applicants
BA	4	4
XK	7	7
Total	11	11

#### SP Workshops

No workshops took place during November – December 2025.

Partner Country	Nov - Dec 2025	Total participants
AL	0	19
BA	0	21
XK	0	29
MK	0	11
ME	0	14
RS	0	12
TR	0	17
Total	0	123

No workshops are planned in January and February 2026.

#### Training courses

During November and December 2025, no participants attended ESTP course.

Partner Country	Nov - Dec 2025	Total participants
BA	0	24
XK	0	24
Total	0	48

From 18 to 20 February 2026, in Cologne, Germany, ICON will host training course "From annual to quarterly to monthly data: introduction to temporal disaggregation and benchmarking in JDemetra+" where is expected to have maximum 14 participants from all 7 partner countries.

Due to lower number of offered ESTP courses in January and February 2026, ICON does not expect to have any attendees from partner countries.

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## Consortium partners



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