Contents

Welcome....1
Snapshot....1
Statistical projects (SPs)....2
Upcoming project activities....5
Horizontal activities....6
Contacts....7

Dear Reader,
Welcome to the 13th edition of the IPA 2022 Multi-Beneficiary Statistical Cooperation Programme Newsletter, covering July and August 2026.
While the summer period brought a slower pace of implementation, technical support continued through eight expert missions and ongoing help-desk assistance across the statistical projects. A key highlight was the organisation of two training courses on the European Statistical System (ESS) in Tirana on 1–2 July and Podgorica on 23–24 July 2026, strengthening participants' understanding of the ESS and their active participation in European statistical cooperation.
With a much busier schedule over the next two months, including expert missions, workshops, training courses, working group meetings, and the fourth round of traineeships, which began on 2nd September 2026, the coming period will mark an important return to full implementation.
We hope you enjoy reading this edition.

Happy reading!
The ICON Team

1. Snapshot: Summer Focus on Strengthening ESS Participation

July and August 2026 were relatively quiet months for the implementation of the statistical projects, reflecting the usual summer period. Overall, eight expert missions were carried out in the following domains: National Accounts – Methodology, National Accounts – Transmission Programmes, Sector Accounts, Supply, Use and Input-Output Tables and Labour Cost Index.

At the same time, capacity-building activities continued through two dedicated training courses "The European Statistical System (ESS) – Active participation in the ESS and ESS meetings by IPA partner countries". The first took place in Tirana on 1–2 July 2026, followed by a second course in Podgorica on 23–24 July 2026. These courses, aimed at each NSI, focus on strengthening participants' understanding of the functioning and institutional organisation of the ESS, while also helping statistical experts to better understand their role in European statistical cooperation. Particular attention was given to active participation in ESS Task Forces and Working Groups, including preparation for meetings, coordination of national positions, effective participation and follow-up within national statistical offices.



Training course "The European Statistical System (ESS) – Active participation in the ESS and ESS meetings by IPA partner countries" from 1 to 2 July 2026, Tirana, Albania



Training course "The European Statistical System (ESS) – Active participation in the ESS and ESS meetings by IPA partner countries" from 23 to 24 July 2026, Podgorica, Montenegro

Training courses combined presentations with practical exercises, group work and discussions, encouraging participants to exchange experiences and translate ESS cooperation into their day-to-day work. Feedback from participants was highly positive, particularly regarding the practical examples, interactive approach and relevance of the course to their professional responsibilities.

2. Statistical Projects (SPs)

Work carried out in July – August 2026 | *Work planned for September – October 2026*

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

- Help desk support

- Help desk support

SP 1.3 NATIONAL ACCOUNTS - METHODOLOGY — AL, BA, XK, ME, MK, RS, TR

- 3rd expert mission to AL
- 1st additional expert mission to ME
- 3rd additional expert mission to XK
- Help desk support

- 2nd SP Workshop
- 2nd additional expert mission to AL
- Help desk support

SP 1.4 NATIONAL ACCOUNTS – TRANSMISSION PROGRAMMES — AL, BA, XK, ME, MK, RS, TR

- 2nd additional expert mission to XK
- 3rd expert mission to TR
- Help desk support

- 3rd expert missions to AL and MK
- Help desk support

SP 1.5 REGIONAL ACCOUNTS — AL, RS, TR

- Help desk support

- 3rd expert missions to TR, AL and RS
- Help desk support

SP 1.6 SECTOR ACCOUNTS — AL, XK, ME, MK, RS, TR

- 3rd expert mission to ME
- Help desk support

- 1st additional expert mission to RS
- 3rd expert missions to RS, AL and TR
- 2nd SP Workshop
- 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 1.7 SUPPLY, USE AND INPUT-OUTPUT TABLES (SUIOTs) — AL, BA, XK, ME, RS, TR

- 2nd expert mission to ME
- Help desk support
- 2nd expert missions to TR, AL and XK
- Help desk support

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 (HCIP/HPI) — BA, XK

- Help desk support
- Help desk support

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

- Help desk support
- Help desk support

SP 3.1 BUSINESS REGISTERS — 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

- Help desk support
- 3rd expert mission to XK
- Help desk support

SP 3.6 ENERGY STATISTICS — XK

- Help desk support
- 3rd expert mission to XK
- Help desk support

SP 3.7 STRUCTURAL BUSINESS STATISTICS / BUSINESS DEMOGRAPHY — XK

- Preparation of the Work plan
- Preparation of the Work plan

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

- Help desk support
- Help desk support

SP 4.3 SOCIAL PROTECTION (ESSPROS) — XK

- Help desk support
- Help desk support

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

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

SP 5.5 ENVIRONMENTAL ACCOUNTS		**BA, XK**
• Help desk support	• Help desk support	
SP 5.6 WASTE STATISTICS		**BA, 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 September – October 2026

Partner Country	Statistical project / Topic	Type	Date
AL	SP 1.3 NAM	2nd additional expert mission	28 Sep – 2 Oct 2026, Tirana, Albania
all PCs	SP 1.3 NAM	2nd SP Workshop	3 – 4 September 2026, Luxembourg
MK	SP 1.4 NA Transmission	3rd expert mission	9 – 11 September 2026, Skopje, North Macedonia
AL	SP 1.4 NA Transmission	3rd expert mission	5 – 9 October 2026, Tirana, Albania
TR	SP 1.5 Regional Accounts	3rd expert mission	15 – 17 September 2026, Ankara, Türkiye
AL	SP 1.5 Regional Accounts	3rd expert mission	21 – 25 September 2026, Tirana, Albania
RS	SP 1.5 Regional Accounts	3rd expert mission	6 – 8 October 2026, Belgrade, Serbia
RS	SP 1.6 Sector Accounts	1st additional expert mission	14 – 15 September 2026, Belgrade, Serbia
RS	SP 1.6 Sector Accounts	3rd expert mission	16 – 18 September 2026, Belgrade, Serbia
AL	SP 1.6 Sector Accounts	3rd expert mission	16 – 18 September 2026, Tirana, Albania
TR	SP 1.6 Sector Accounts	3rd expert mission	12 – 16 October 2026, Ankara, Türkiye
all PCs	SP 1.6 Sector Accounts	2nd SP Workshop	19 – 20 October 2026, Luxembourg
AL	SP 1.7 SUIOT	2nd expert mission	28 Sep – 2 Oct 2026, Tirana, Albania
TR	SP 1.7 SUIOT	2nd expert mission	12 – 14 October 2026, Ankara, Türkiye
XK	SP 1.7 SUIOT	2nd expert mission	26 – 28 October 2026, Pristina, Kosovo
XK	SP 3.3 Transport Statistics	3rd expert mission	15 – 17 September 2026, Pristina, Kosovo
XK	SP 3.6 Energy Statistics	3rd expert mission	13 – 15 October 2026, Pristina, Kosovo
BA	Training "The European Statistical System (ESS) – Active participation in the ESS and ESS meetings by IPA partner countries"	Training course	16 – 17 September 2026, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
MK	Training "The European Statistical System (ESS) – Active participation in the ESS and ESS meetings by IPA partner countries"	Training course	29 – 30 September 2026, Skopje, North Macedonia
RS	Training "The European Statistical System (ESS) – Active participation in the ESS and ESS meetings by IPA partner countries"	Training course	6 – 7 October 2026, Belgrade, Serbia
XK	Training "The European Statistical System (ESS) – Active participation in the ESS and ESS meetings by IPA partner countries"	Training course	28 – 29 October 2026, Pristina, Kosovo

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 (WG) meetings, task forces (TF), seminars, conferences 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 July – August 2026 *Work planned for September – October 2026*

WG, TF, Seminars, Conference

During July and August 2026, no participation to report

Partner Country	Jul – Aug 2026	Total participants since April 2024
BA	0	300
XK	0	268
Total	0	568

For next period, 63 applications for participation in various activities have been received

Partner Country	Sep – Oct 2026
BA	28
XK	35
Total	63

SP Workshops

No SP Workshops took place during July and August 2026

Partner Country	Jul – Aug 2026	Total participants since April 2024
AL	0	23
BA	0	26
XK	0	25
MK	0	11
ME	0	16
RS	0	14
TR	0	19
Total	0	134

For next period, 24 applications for participation in 2 workshops have been received

Partner Country	Sep – Oct 2026
AL	4
BA	4
XK	4
MK	2
ME	2
RS	4
TR	4
Total	24

ESTP Training courses

No ESTP training courses took place during July and August 2026

Partner Country	Jul – Aug 2026	Total participants since April 2024
BA	0	39
XK	0	44
Total	0	83

For the next period, 13 applications for participation in ESTP training courses have been received

Partner Country	Sep – Oct 2026
BA	11
XK	18
Total	29

CONTACTS

CONTRACT MANAGER
Mirza Demirovic
mirza.demirovic@icon-institute.de

DEPUTY CONTRACT MANAGER
Gulshod Sharipova
gulshod.sharipova@icon-institute.de

PROJECT MANAGERS
Adrienne Meunier
adrienne.meunier@icon-institute.de
Ruta Schimpf
ruta.schimpf@icon-institute.de
Dovile Minkeviciute
dminkeviciute@devstat.com

MANAGEMENT ASSISTANT
Daria Lambrecht
daria.lambrecht@icon-institute.de

SUPPORT IN THE PARTNER COUNTIRES
Sasa Cupac (overall support in all countries)
sasa.cupac@easternbridge.be
Selma Bavcic (BA)
selma.bavcic@easternbridge.be
Agron Hoti (XK)
agron.hoti@icon-institute.de

Consortium partners

devstat

EASTERN BRIDGE D.O.O.

This newsletter was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of ICON consortium and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union.