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Dear Reader,

Welcome to the seventh edition of the IPA 2022 Multi-Beneficiary Statistical Cooperation Programme newsletter. This issue covers the period of July and August 2025, during which several important activities were carried out. Alongside ongoing preparations for the busy months ahead, several expert missions under the topic of National Accounts took place, as well as a study visit to Statistics Latvia on social protection statistics.

During this period, Statistical Projects (SP) not only advanced methodological work through these expert engagements but also continued planning and consolidating upcoming actions, ensuring that future technical assistance and study visits are well-coordinated and targeted. These combined efforts are key to enabling effective knowledge exchange and strengthening statistical practices in partner countries.

We look forward to a busy and productive period, with continued collaboration, peer learning, and the implementation of statistical projects, through expert missions, workshops and help-desk support across partner countries.

Happy reading!  
The ICON Team

## Snapshot: ESSPROS Study Visit to Latvia and expert missions on National Accounts SPs

A study visit to Statistics Latvia took place from 21 to 22 August 2025 in the frame of SP 4.3 ESSPROS and brought together statistical experts from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo\*, Montenegro, and Türkiye to explore best practices in social protection statistics. The study visit focused on understanding Latvia's ESSPROS system, including the collection and processing of core data, pension beneficiaries, and net social benefits. The expert from the Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia shared practical insights, giving participants a firsthand look at how social protection data is gathered, processed, and analysed.

During the visit, participants learned about the links between ESSPROS and National Accounts data, which help identify potential data sources and validate figures. Partner countries gained detailed knowledge on the methodology and operations of the ESSPROS system, including estimations, data sources, and reporting processes.



From left to right: Kārlis Smudzis (LV), Fjolla Shala (XK), Gorana Knezevic (BA) Aida Eskic-Pihljak (BA), Ance Cerina (Latvia), Ieva Zabarovska (LV), Dragana Kalezić (ME), Taşkın Özkütük (TR), Güzde Kilic (TR), Natasa Djurovic (ME)

\* 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

By observing Latvia's approach, the participants were able to discuss common challenges and solutions in implementing ESSPROS, particularly in handling quantitative and module-specific data.

The experience highlighted the importance of cooperation between statistical institutions and relevant ministries, as seen in Latvia's collaboration between the Central Statistical Bureau and the Ministry of Welfare. Participants observed how ESSPROS statistics are communicated to stakeholders through publications and press releases, and how the system continuously improves through careful monitoring and validation.

Overall, the study visit provided practical knowledge and inspiration for all participating countries. By adopting similar approaches, including comprehensive municipal surveys on social service expenditures, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, and Türkiye can improve data coverage and quality, ensuring that their social protection statistics meet international standards and support evidence-based policymaking.

In parallel to the study visit to Latvia, several expert missions were carried out across the region under the IPA 2022 contract, advancing work in the areas of national accounts and sector accounts. In Podgorica, expert supported the Statistical Office of Montenegro in strengthening methodologies for balances of inventories and sector accounts, while in Kosovo, missions focused on developing quarterly GDP estimates and successfully applying the Labour Input Method to capture informal employment, providing KAS with a complete and operational model to feed into the 2026 benchmark revision. In Albania, significant progress was made towards establishing a functional system for Quarterly Sector Accounts, including the preparation of backcasts for earlier years, while in Türkiye, the first additional mission enabled the compilation and balancing of who-to-whom matrices for distributive transactions, ensuring stronger foundations for future quarterly sector accounts. Meanwhile, in Serbia, the first mission for under Supply, Use and Input-Output Tables (SUIOT) set out a comprehensive work plan to improve timeliness, metadata, and SDMX-based transmissions. Collectively, these missions demonstrated how targeted technical support helps beneficiary countries further develop statistical production aligned with ESA 2010 requirements.



## 1. Statistical Projects (SPs)

Work carried out in July - August 2025

Work planned for September – October 2025

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

- |  |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| • Help desk support                                | • Help desk support                  |
| • ToR for the SP Service Contract was under review | • Signing of the SP Service contract |

### SP 1.3 NATIONAL ACCOUNTS - METHODOLOGY

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

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| • 2 <sup>nd</sup> expert mission to ME                    | • 2 <sup>nd</sup> expert missions to AL, RS, TR, ME and XK |
| • 2 <sup>nd</sup> additional expert mission to XK         | • Help desk support  |
| • Signed SP Service contracts ME, TR                      | • Signing of the SP Service contracts with AL              |
| • ToR for the SP Service Contract was under review for AL |  |

### SP 1.4 NATIONAL ACCOUNTS – TRANSMISSION PROGRAMMES

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

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| • 1 <sup>st</sup> additional expert missions to XK | • 2 <sup>nd</sup> expert missions to TR, MK and RS |
| • Help desk support                                | • 2 <sup>nd</sup> additional expert mission to RS  |
|  | • Help desk support                                |

### SP 1.5 REGIONAL ACCOUNTS

AL, RS, TR

- |                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| • Help desk support | • 2 <sup>nd</sup> expert mission to AL |
|                     | • Help desk support                    |



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

- 2<sup>nd</sup> expert mission to ME and AL
- 1<sup>st</sup> additional expert mission to TR
- Signed SP Service contract XK
- ToRs for the SP Service Contract were under review for AL and TR
- Help desk support
- Signing of the SP Service contracts AL, TR
- Help desk support

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

- 1<sup>st</sup> expert mission to RS
- Signed SP Service contract XK
- Finalization of Work plan and SP Service contracts for AL, BA, ME, RS, TR
- Help desk support

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

- Help desk support
- Signed SP Service contracts BA, XK
- 2<sup>nd</sup> expert missions to BA and XK
- Help desk support

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

- Help desk support
- ToRs for the SP Service Contract were under review for BA and XK
- 2<sup>nd</sup> expert mission to XK
- Signing of the SP Service contracts BA and XK

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

- Help desk support
- ToR for the SP Service Contract was under review for XK
- Signing of the SP Service contract XK

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

- ToR for the SP Service Contract was under review for BA
- Approval of the ToR and signing of the SP Service contract with BA

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

- Help desk support
- Signed SP Service contracts BA, XK
- 1<sup>st</sup> SP workshop

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

- Signed SP Service contracts BA, XK
- Help desk support
- Help desk support

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

- Preparation of the Work plan
- ToR for the SP Service Contract was under review
- Finalization of Work plan and SP Service contract
- Study visit

**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**

- Preparation of the Work plans
- Finalization of Work plans

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

- Help desk support
- 5<sup>th</sup> expert mission to XK
- Study visit
- Help desk support

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

- Help desk support
- Signed SP Service contract XK
- ToR for the SP Service Contract was under review for BA
- Signing of the SP Service contract BA
- Help desk support

**SP 5.5 ENVIRONMENTAL ACCOUNTS****BA, XK**

- Help desk support
- ToRs for the SP Service Contract were under review for BA and XK
- Signing of the SP Service contracts BA and XK
- Training to 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
- Signed SP Service contract BA
- ToR for the SP Service Contract was under review for XK
- Signing of the SP Service contracts 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**

- 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**

- On-line consultations with BA and XK
- 1<sup>st</sup> expert mission to XK
- Help desk support





## 2. Upcoming activities for September and October 2025

Partner Country	Statistical project / Topic	Type	Date
AL	SP 1.3 National Accounts Methodology	2 <sup>nd</sup> additional expert mission	9 – 12 September 2025, Tirana, Albania
XK	SP 1.3 National Accounts Methodology	2 <sup>nd</sup> expert mission	6 – 10 October 2025, Pristina, Kosovo
RS	SP 1.3 National Accounts Methodology	2 <sup>nd</sup> expert mission	7 – 9 October 2025, Belgrade, Serbia
TR	SP 1.3 National Accounts Methodology	2 <sup>nd</sup> expert mission	21 – 23 October 2025, Ankara, Türkiye
RS	SP 1.4 National Accounts Transmission Programme (ANA, QNA, quality reporting)	2 <sup>nd</sup> additional expert mission	2 – 4 September 2025, Belgrade, Serbia
TR	SP 1.4 National Accounts Transmission Programme (ANA, QNA, quality reporting)	2 <sup>nd</sup> expert mission	16 – 18 September 2025, Ankara, Türkiye
ME	SP 1.4 National Accounts Transmission Programme (ANA, QNA, quality reporting)	2 <sup>nd</sup> expert mission	13 – 16 October 2025, Podgorica, Montenegro (tbc)
RS	SP 1.4 National Accounts Transmission Programme (ANA, QNA, quality reporting)	2 <sup>nd</sup> expert mission	16 – 17 October 2025, Belgrade, Serbia
MK	SP 1.4 National Accounts Transmission Programme (ANA, QNA, quality reporting)	2 <sup>nd</sup> expert mission	27 – 31 October 2025, Skopje, North Macedonia
AL	SP 1.5 Regional accounts	2 <sup>nd</sup> expert mission	1 – 4 September 2025, Tirana, Albania
XK	SP 1.9 FDI	2 <sup>nd</sup> expert mission	7 – 9 October 2025, Pristina, Kosovo
BA	SP 1.9 FDI	2 <sup>nd</sup> expert mission	29 – 31 October 2025, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
XK	SP 2.1 HICP and HPI	2 <sup>nd</sup> expert mission	10 – 12 September 2025, Pristina, Kosovo
XK	SP 2.2 PPP	3 <sup>rd</sup> expert mission	14 – 15 October 2025, Pristina, Kosovo (tbc)
all PCs	SP 3.2 Short-term Business statistics	1 <sup>st</sup> SP Workshop	7 – 8 October 2025, Zagreb, Croatia (tbc)
XK	SP 4.3 ESSPROS	5 <sup>th</sup> expert mission	21 – 23 October 2025, Pristina, Kosovo (tbc)
XK	SP 5.5 Environmental Accounts	1 <sup>st</sup> training	8 – 9 September 2025, Pristina, Kosovo
XK	SP 7.2 Sustainable development	1 <sup>st</sup> expert mission	16 – 17 September 2025, Pristina, Kosovo



### 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 July - August 2025*

*Work planned for September - October 2025*

#### Working Group meetings

During July and August 2025, no Working Group meetings were held.

For next period, 38 participants in WG meetings are expected:

Partner Country	July - August 2025	Total participants	Partner Country	Sep - Oct 2025	Total applicants
BA	0	178	BA	12	12
XK	0	175	XK	26	26
Total	0	353	Total	38	38

#### SP Workshops

No workshops were held during July and August.

For next period, 14 applicants are expected in 1 workshop:

Partner Country	July - August 2025	Total participants	Partner Country	Sep - Oct 2025	Total applicants
AL	0	15	AL	2	2
BA	0	18	BA	2	2
XK	0	25	XK	2	2
MK	0	8	MK	2	2
ME	0	11	ME	2	2
RS	0	10	RS	2	2
TR	0	15	TR	2	2
Total	0	102	Total	14	14

#### Training courses

During July and August 2025, no trainings were organized.

For the next period, 4 applicants are expected for ESTP training courses under the contract:

Partner Country	July - August 2025	Total participants	Partner Country	Sep - Oct 2025	Total applicants
BA	0	22	BA	2	2
XK	0	22	XK	2	2
Total	0	44	Total	4	4

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#### Consortium partners



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