

TWINNING CONTRACT

AZ/16/ENI/ST/01/19 (AZ/53)

**Support to the State Statistical Committee and the State Tax Service under
the Ministry of Economy to
strengthen collection, harmonization, analysis, publishing and
dissemination of business statistics**



MISSION REPORT

Activity 1.1.SV

Management Level Study Visit – Business Statistics

Component 1: The production of business statistics/ SME statistics in terms of content and organization is upgraded

Study Visit carried out by

PARTICIPANTS, State Statistical Committee

PARTICIPANTS, State Tax Service

PARTICIPANTS, SME-Development Agency

29 November – 3 December 2021

On-site Study Visit at the premises of Statistics Finland, Helsinki, Finland

Version: **DRAFT**

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List of Abbreviations

AD	Administrative Data
AZ	Azerbaijan
BC	Beneficiary Country
EBS	European Business Statistics
EC	European Commission
ESS	European Statistical System
EU	European Union
MS	EU Member State
NACE	Nomenclature générale des Activités économiques dans le Communautés européennes NACE is the industrial classification of units dealing in economic activities
NSI	National Statistical Institute
RS	Remote Sessions
RTA	Resident Twinning Adviser
SRSU	State Register of Statistical Units
SSC	State Statistical Committee
STS	State Tax Service under the Ministry of Economy
ToR	Terms of Reference



1. General comments

This study visit report was prepared within the EU Twinning Project” Support to the State Statistical Committee and the State Tax Service under the Ministry of Economy to strengthen collection, harmonization, analysis, publishing and dissemination of business statistics” and organized under Component 1, Result 1 of the project.

The purposes of the Study Visit were:

- to strengthen collection, harmonization, analysis, publishing and dissemination of business statistics
- to get a first-hand experience of the StatFin on the above-mentioned topics

The staff of SSC, STS and SME-A would like to express their thanks to all officials and individuals met for the kind support and valuable information which they received during the stay in Finland which highly facilitated the work of the participants.

This views and observations stated in this report are those of the consultant and do not necessarily correspond to the views of EU, SSC, STS, SME-Agency, Statistics Finland, Statistics Lithuania, Statistics Netherlands, Statistics Denmark and HAUS.

2. Lessons Learned

Introduction to Finnish statistical system and European Statistical system; Quality management; Finland’s Statistical Programme; The Finnish Statistics Production System, GSBPM; Path to New Organization and statistics production built on GSBPM; Dissemination and Communication Channels; Digital and Population Data Services Agency; Suomi.fi-services platform; Collaboration in Geographic Information Systems

3. Conclusions and Recommendations

- 1 Cooperation issues between the State Statistical Committee and the StatFin were discussed, mutual exchange of experience was carried out, management level meetings were held to discuss the implemented measures, upcoming tasks were identified during the study visit.
- 2 The representatives of the State Statistical Committee made a presentation about the organization of production process of official statistical information, the reforms carried out, future challenges and country experience in using the administrative data in official statistics. Issues of mutual interest were discussed between the study trip participants and the Finnish experts.
- 3 Information was provided on the strategy, role and future plans, management of statistical production in the StatFin and it was pointed out that the organization formulates its key activity directions in line with the requirements of state authorities, entrepreneurs, researchers and civil society. The key mission of the StatFin is to present official statistics which is user-oriented, relevant and open to social discussions. The key data sources for data production are registers, statistical surveys and big data. The task of the StatFin is to timely meet the need for statistical data, to identify new areas in line with the requirements of different target groups and to prepare flexible and adequate data in this field with due account for the requirements of modern era. Playing an important role in the sustainable data ecosystem, the StatFin is one of the key public authorities in implementing a new information policy of the Finnish government, as well as in enforcing the Act on “Management of state governance data”.
- 4 The key challenges facing the StatFin are to reduce the response burden of statistical units, to increase the role of statistical data in state governance, to improve competitiveness with other information suppliers, to increase the use of new communication means with the users. The key strategic target is to establish a sustainable statistical ecosystem and to ensure mutual agreements in the system.



- 5 Information was provided on the Statistical works programme and it was noted that production and development of official statistics are coordinated with this document. The Statistical works programme covers such sections as economy and globalization, innovation and digitalization, society and equality, sustainable development and environment, activity of economic areas, as well as new data sources and methods, promotion of the use of communication and information, data ecosystem and cooperation. When compiling a programme a target is set to determine additional direction for the next year and to produce new data which will spark the interest of the society. It was mentioned that the purposes are to better meet the user needs compared to previous periods, to improve the statistical production, as well as the productivity and planning of the activities of the organization with the help of new data and methods, to focus on promotion of the use of statistical data, to closely cooperate with other data producers and to better adjust national planning system to European Statistics Commission’s planning and programming.
- 6 Topic of growing cooperation between the AD suppliers and users was touched upon and information was provided on the stakeholders of the statistical system and AD owners, legal basis for using the AD and future plans. It was noted that data suppliers are mainly public authorities and over a year 250 different data from around 100 data suppliers are provided to the StatFin. Part of main data suppliers are at the same time are official statistics producers and thus are included in the national statistical system. Their representatives are represented in the Advisory Board on Official Statistics. It was noted that the Board cooperates, in accordance with the development strategy of official statistics, closely with data producers, experts and authorities which maintain register and identifies opportunities for using new data sources. Meetings within cooperation with data providers are held at least once a year at leadership level and mainly every month at specialist level.
- 7 It was pointed out during the presentation of the FIONA – distant access system of the StatFin that this system is secure and closed for the purposes of processing the microdata. Following the similar systems in the Netherlands, Denmark and Sweden, the purpose of this modelled system is to ensure the efficient use of microdata in a manageable environment. Researcher is able to access the StatFin database via the system. Software and other technical support are provided by non-commercial state institution IT Centre for Accounts.
- 8 Organizational structure of the StatFin is mainly adjusted according to the General Statistical Business Process Model. When speaking of this model, it was pointed out that the model is a key tool to standardize the activities in the statistical production process and to form the production mechanism in one single direction. The StatFin applies GSBPM as of 2013 and the first three stages of the model (1. Specify needs, 2. Design, 3. Build) mainly cover the specification of the need for statistical information, designing the statistical survey forms, development of software based on terms of reference, building a production system for the collection of data. Data production process is implemented in the stages 4 to 7 (4. Collect, 5. Process, 6. Analyse, 7. Disseminate). The monitoring of all production system is done in the stage 8 Evaluate.
- 9 It was pointed out in the presentation on the Code of Statistics, which is the key foundation of European Statistical System, that the code of statistics, covering topics such as institutional environment, statistical processes and output statistical data, is based on 16 principles. The explanation of the principles overall covers 84 indicators. When speaking about the fourth principle of this Code “Commitment to quality assurance”, it was pointed out that a separate division is responsible for quality assurance in the StatFin and this division carries out the audit of statistical production. At the same time, it was mentioned that the evaluation of compliance with the principles and indicators of the Code of Practice of the European Statistics is carried out by the external auditors determined by the Eurostat and the provided recommendations supports the development of the statistical system in Finland.
- 10 The StatFin pays special attention to the distribution of statistical data and over the past years the focus was on improving the media activity of the organization. Information on the publication and communication channels, development directions, communication objectives of 2022, objectives with respect to update and improvement of web services, communication planning and channels, communication trainings for specialists, social media channels, video production and studio at the StatFin was presented in the presentations.



4. Actions needed for moving forward

Action	Deadline	Responsible institution / person
1		
2		
3		



Annex 1. Terms of Reference

Agenda

Day/Time	Place	Event	Purpose / Details
29 November 2021 10.00-xx	StatFin	Session 1	tbc
30 November 2021 10.00-xx	StatFin	Session 2	tbc
1 December 2021 10.00-xx	StatFin	Session 3	tbc
2 December 2021 10.00-xx	StatFin	Session 4	tbc
3 December 2021 10.00-xx	StatFin	Session 5	tbc

Annex 2. Persons met - List of participants

State Statistical Committee

- Mr. NAMES OF PARTICIPANTS

State Tax Service

- Mr. NAMES OF PARTICIPANTS

SME-Development Agency

- Mr. NAMES OF PARTICIPANTS

Statistics Finland

- Mr. NAMES OF PARTICIPANTS

RTA-Office

- Mr. Tarlan Arzumanov, RTA-Language Assistant



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Any Others

- Mr. NAMES OF PARTICIPANTS, FromAgency



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