

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 5.4.A

Planning the renewed SME report

Component 2: The production of business statistics/ SME statistics in terms of content and organization is upgraded

Mission carried out by

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27-30 September 2021

On-site mission at the premises of the State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Version: Final

Twinning Project: 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”

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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 mission 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”. It was the fourth mission to be devoted to the preparation, presentation and dissemination of Annual SME statistics report supported in line with EU/OECD definitions within Component 2, Result 5 within Activity 5.4.A of the project.

The purposes of the mission were:

- Outline and Tabulation Plan of the Annual SME Statistics report determined, discussed and agreed with the SSC, the State Tax Service under the Ministry of Economy and the SME Agency
- Full SME statistics report with statistics, graphics, infographics and interpretations prepared and presented in close collaboration with the SSC, the State Tax Service under the Ministry of Economy and the SME Agency staff.

The consultant would like to express his/her thanks to all officials and individuals met for the kind support and valuable information which he/she received during the stay in Azerbaijan which highly facilitated the work of the consultant.

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. Status at the beginning of the mission

The list of new indicators to be included into the Annual SME statistics report was set and checked during the preceding activities. SSC and SME Agency have met regularly and discussed about information needs and priorities. Based on these conversations, there were no new updates to the indicator list, but it was assessed that in the future, one table would not need to be included in the publication. The mission started with by filling in the rough roadmap, presented during the previous activity, on the information to be included in the new report.

3. Status of mission results

- Key indicators for SME report were identified by participants.
- STEs and SSC evaluated current tables (structure, content, breakdowns)
- STEs presented visualisation options for different tables.
- Different options to provide data to the users was discussed (publication, excel-files, ASIS)
- User-friendly ways to provide information about the new indicators was discussed and evaluated with participants (which break-downs to include, absolute values and/or shares)
- It was agreed that short term targets for the new publication include some descriptive and analytical text as well as some parts on metadata and quality, with these parts being elaborated further in the middle-term.

4. Sustainability of the achievements

SSC and STS have continued discussions on foreign trade data at leadership level. Availability of foreign trade information on SMEs seems promising in very near future. This has also been one of the main objectives of the SME Agency for the new SME report.



5. Recommendations for the future (short and long term)

Short term

- Based on dialogue among participants, STEs have provided their proposals for adding visualisations and simplifying or adjusting table structures. These proposals should be evaluated by the SSC in order to determine the best realistic way forward, also taking into account the user needs of main stakeholders.
- SSC should begin outlining and preparing descriptive texts and metadata for the report.
- The recommendation is to enable access to the rich pool of SME data via existing ASIS solution, supplementing a publication developed more in the direction of more textual and graphical presentation of key results.

Middle/long term (1-2 years)

- STEs recommend the SSC to evaluate, in dialogue with key stakeholders, the balance between publication and other means of delivering/gaining access to statistical results, in particular as far as detailed data is concerned.

6. Identification of needs for additional support

At this point, no need for additional support. Visualisation will also be covered during study visit.

7. Outstanding issues

BC will investigate possibilities for geographical visualisations. No other specific outstanding issues.



Annex 1. Terms of Reference

Terms of Reference

EU Twinning Project: 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

Component 2: The production of business statistics/ SME statistics in terms of content and organization is upgraded

27-30 September 2021 Hosting institution: State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Activity 5.4.A Planning the renewed SME report

Result 5: The preparation, presentation and dissemination of Annual SME statistics report supported in line with EU/OECD definitions

Indicator of Achievement:

5.1.3 Outline and Tabulation Plan of the Annual SME Statistics report determined, discussed, and agreed with the SSC, the State Tax Service under the Ministry of Economy, and the SME Agency

5.1.4 Full SME statistics report with statistics, graphics, infographics, and interpretations prepared and presented in close collaboration with the SSC, the State Tax Service under the Ministry of Economy and the SME Agency staff.

Prerequisite: 5.3.A

This activity will be carried out in 4 Working Day’s mission.

Purpose of the activity

Result 5: The preparation, presentation and dissemination of Annual SME statistics report supported in line with EU/OECD definitions

Expected Outputs of the Activity

- Detailed plan for the contents of the report including tables, charts, year-on-year changes, analytical texts, and quality description
- Mission report

Resources

State Statistical Committee (SSC)

- Mr. Nuru Suleymanov, Department of National Accounts and Macroeconomic Indicators Statistics, Head of Department
- Ms. Sevinj Fattahova, Enterprise statistics sector, sector manager
- Ms. Ilaha Babayeva, Chief Advisor, Department of National Accounts and Macroeconomic Indicators Statistics
- Mr. Turgut Shahmarli, Leading Advisor, Department of National Accounts and Macroeconomic Indicators Statistics

State Tax Service under the Ministry of Economy (STS)

- Mr. Telman Mammadov, Chief State Tax Inspector of Economic Analysis Main Department
- Mr. Elvin Alizada, State Tax Inspector of Economic Analysis Main Department
- Ms. Aytan Shahmarova, State Tax Inspector, International Relations Main Department

Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises Development Agency



Twinning Project: 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”

- Mr. Elmar Isayev, Head of Secretary of SME-A
- Ms. Samaya Allahverdizada, Chief Advisor of Strategy and Development Department

MS Experts

- Ms. Merja Myllymäki, Senior Statistician, Statistics Finland
- Dr. (Mr.) Michael Elgaard Nielsen, Chief Adviser, Statistics Denmark

Twinning Project Administration

- Mr. Ville-Matti Pilviö, RTA
- Ms. Gultakin Babayeva, RTAA
- Mr. Tarlan Arzumanov, Language Assistant

Agenda

Day/Time	Place	Event	Purpose / Details
27 September 2021 10.00-17.00	SSC	Session 1	Planning the enlargements for the SME report
28 September 2021 10.00-17.00	SSC	Session 2	Planning charts, year-on-year changes, analytical texts and methodological/quality description
29 September 2021 10.00-17.00	SSC	Session 3	Planning tables in the report as well as tables supplementing the report
30 September 2021 10.00-17.00	SSC	Session 4	Planning form of the renewed report Recommendations for presenting the chosen content Identifying next steps Tasks to be completed before next activity Next activity content Main findings to an activity report



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