

TWINNING NEWSLETTER

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

Issue No.7, April 2022

Project News

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Project Overview

The EU funded Twinning Project (AZ/16/ENI/ST/01/19 (AZ/53)) is implemented by a consortium led by Statistics Finland with Statistics Lithuania (SL) and Statistics Netherlands (SN) acting as Junior Partners. Additional expertise will be given by Statistics Denmark and The Finnish Institute of Public Management Ltd (HAUS).

The main beneficiaries are the State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the State Tax Service under the Ministry of Economy, and the Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises Development Agency. The overall objective of the Twinning project is to increase capacity among local operators to collect, process, harmonize, analyze, publish and disseminate business statistics measuring the performance of the private sector/SMEs in Azerbaijan.

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A study visit was organized to Finland, Helsinki under the activity 4.SV on Structural Business Statistics during 24-28 of January 2022. A delegation of nine (9) people consisting of representatives of the State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan, State Tax Service under the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Azerbaijan and translator of the Twinning Office participated in this 5-day study visit which took place in hybrid format.

The purpose of this visit was redesigning Business Statistics in Azerbaijan. The experts of the StatFin highlighted best practices of Finland.

During the visit, BC officials were provided with insights on SBS process description and organization, the Finnish Business Statistics Production system (YTY), StatFin communication channels, editing and imputation, statistical publications in SBS, "PxWeb" Statistical Database and much more.

First Deputy Chairman of the State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan-Mr. Vahab Mammadov met with the Director of Statistics Finland-Mr. Markus Sovala on day four of the visit. On day five, he was interviewed by Mr. Timo Koskimäki, Director of international cooperation. The interview is available on YouTube: https://youtu.be/YKJEgZGV_BQ.



Representatives of the State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the State Tax Service under the Ministry of Economy participated in a five-day study visit organized and hosted by Statistics Lithuania, from 17th to 21st of January 2022.

The objective of this study visit was reviewing and assessing the sampling designs used for Business Surveys.

As the result of this study visit, the BC officials learned more about:

- Production of Business statistics data at Statistics Lithuania
- Overview of main sub-processes according to the process map
- Production process for Short-Term Business statistics and commodities statistics surveys following the GSBPM
- Common sampling practice at Statistics Lithuania
- SBS/SME data acquisition: sample design, processing, Administrative Data used, software used
- Non-response processing in SBS/SME data acquisition
- SBS/SME data compilation and validation
- Publication of SME indicators

The Beneficiary Country officials were trained on Business Survey sampling designs that meet Eurostat requirements, reviewed and assessed current Business Survey and Business Register sampling designs and exchanged views and experiences with their colleagues in Statistics Lithuania.

Activity 1.4.B: Training Workshop: "Capacity of the staff of the State Statistical Committee (SSC), the STS and the SME Agency enhanced in the use of the R-programing language for statistical production" took place between 28th of March and 1st of April 2022 at the premises of the SSC. The purpose of the training was to introduce the possibilities the R-program offers in statistical production.

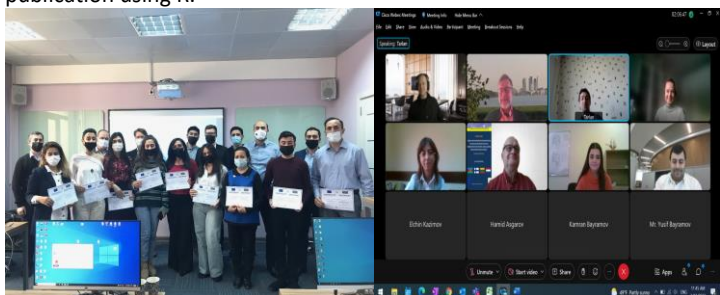
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During the 5-training day, Short-Term Experts from Statistics Finland and Statistics Lithuania- Mr. Henri Luomaranta and Mr. Tomas Rudys presented an introduction to R/R-studio, GSBPM and available R modules and libraries, getting data into R and outputting results, data wrangling, producing graphs, using R for processing, analyzing and disseminating official statistics, writing reports with RMarkdown and RSummary. By the end of the week, participants had completed their first statistical publication using R.



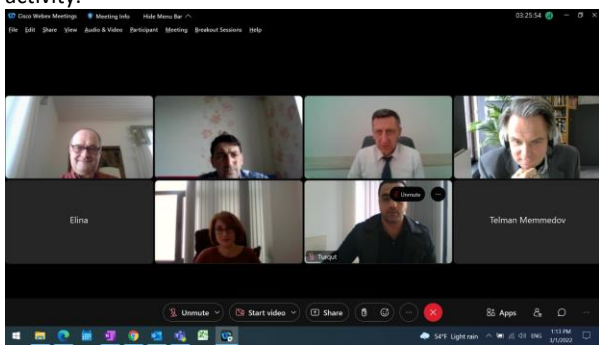
Activity 6.3.B: Training Workshop: Preparation of statistical reports including quality reports with a focus on desktop publishing including preparation of graphics and infographics took place remotely 14-18 February 2022. The activity was delivered by experts from Statistics Finland- Mr. Markku Huttunen, Ms. Jaana Huhta, and Mr. Kim Huuhko. The purpose of the training was to improve the capacity of BC institutions' staff on statistical design, analysis, reporting and dissemination.

The short-term experts made presentations on Statistics Finland's publication system, international requirements for accessibility and usability, desktop publication process in practice and publication with quality reports, statistical graphics and infographics in statistics, dissemination of Business Statistics and SME statistics: electronic publishing, press releases and social media.

During the 5-day training BC participants were trained regarding preparation of statistical reports including quality reports with a focus on desktop publishing and exchanged views and experiences with the STEs.

During the first week of March 2022, **Activity 4.4.B** was delivered remotely by Mr. Guus von de Burgt from Statistics Netherlands, Ms. Elina Ikola and Ms. Saara Roine from Statistics Finland.

The purpose of the activity was to Develop imputation for Structural Business Statistics (SBS). The participants examined imputation needs and possibilities and developed unit imputation methods for SBS using the R-Program. The STEs and BC counterparts prepared a plan for testing these imputation methods. A Mission Report was prepared as a result of the activity.



In March and April 2022, **activities 4.4.A and 4.4.C** delivered by Mr. Andrius Ciginas, Mr. Vilppu Salovaara and Mr. Guus van de Burgt (StatFin, SL, SN). purpose of the activities was developing SBS data collection and processing SBS data. During sessions next steps in developing imputation identified, data and indicators are reviewed and validated, unit imputation R-code reviewed, data collection needs for SBS identified, questionnaire content outlined and a usable questionnaire were developed.



The final conference of the EU funded 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" was held on the 11th of April 2022.

The overall objective of the project was to increase capacity among local operators to collect, harmonise, analyse, publish and disseminate Business Statistics measuring the performance of the private sector/SMEs in Azerbaijan. Relevant measures were implemented within the project to improve the statistical business registers and to align business statistics methodology with EU/OECD standards also taking into account the needs of users of these statistics.

Within the framework of the project, 4 visibility events, 34 activities (24 delivered remotely and 10 implemented on-site) and 3 study visits were implemented. Twenty-eight short-term experts representing National Statistic Institutes of Finland, Lithuania, the Netherlands, and Denmark have participated.

All project partners owe sincere gratitude to the European Union Delegation for their continuous support and assistance and to the twinning team that coordinated all activities and contributed to the success of the Twinning project.



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