



Bosnia and Herzegovina
AGENCY FOR STATISTICS OF
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA **STATISTICAL SYSTEM**

Part I

Relevant Country Background

Bosnia and Herzegovina was one of the six Social Federal Republics of Yugoslavia until April 1992 when war in Bosnia and Herzegovina started. The devastating ended in November 1995 when General Framework Agreement for Peace (GFAP) known as Dayton Agreement was signed. GFAP confirmed a State of Bosnia and Herzegovina consists of two Entities, Republika Srpska and Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Brcko District of BiH with substantial legislative and administrative autonomy. The Entities have asymmetric structures where Republika Srpska (RS) is centralized and Federation of BiH (FBiH) decentralized Entity which consists of ten Cantons.

The statistical system of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) clearly reflects complexity and global legal framework of the country.

Former Republic Institute of Statistics of SRBiH (Socialist Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina) was originally established in 1945. Up to 1992, the Institute acted as an integral but independent part of the ex Yugoslavian statistical system. Statistical methodologies and standards were developed at the state level along with active participation of statistical institutions from former republics and autonomous regions. Statistical researches at that time were mainly carried out on basis of full coverage.

CURRENT BiH STATISTICAL INSTITUTIONS

Currently, there are three statistical institutes within the Bosnia and Herzegovina. The state level institution is Agency for Statistics of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BHAS) and two statistical institutes on the entity level are Federal Institute of Statistic of the Federation of BiH and Republika Srpska Institute of Statistics. As of January 1, 2006 Statistical Bureau of Brcko District became a branch office of the BHAS.

BiH Agency of Statistics – Legal base

The Agency for Statistics of BiH was established in 1998 according to the Decision of the BH Council of Ministers. At the state level the Law on Statistics came into effect in 2004, after Parliamentary procedure was carried on and on the basis of the Decision

of the High Representative from 21 October 2002. Entities had obligation to harmonize their statistical laws with the state one.

In addition to the Law, an Agreement among BiH Ministry of Finance and Treasury, Entities' Ministries of Finance and three statistical Institutes in BiH, was signed in November 2005. This Agreement outlines the mechanisms for coordination and gives BHAS the authority to coordinate and disseminate statistical data on the state level.

According to the Law the Agency "is the competent body to process and/or disseminate and /or endorse Statistics of BiH" ... and shall among others "perform international representation and co-operation with organizations and other bodies and carry out Bosnia and Herzegovina 's international responsibilities in the field of statistics,...determine the standards to be applied in statistical activities undertaken by BiH bodies, ...disseminate the statistics of BiH to all Users including Governments, Institutions, foster co-operation between Entities' Institutes..."

The Agency is an independent, professional organization, directly accountable for its work to the BH Council of Ministers.

The Director of the Agency manages the work of the Agency.

In Law on Statistics, the relation (in case of conflict of interest) of these laws and Law on statistics is not defined.

Internal Organization

Agency Rulebook on internal organization, adopted in 2005, established 9 organizational units, covering different parts of statistics.

The Rulebook has stipulated total number of 74 workers, a minimum number required for regular operation of the Agency. Out of 75 employees, 66 are to be placed in the Agency in Sarajevo and 8 in our Branch office Brčko.

Currently, the Agency has 30 employees based in Sarajevo and 7 employees based in branch office Brčko.

Employment policy of the Agency is structured in a way to balance both experience and youth.

Entities' statistical Institutes

The FBiH Institute for Statistics inherited infrastructure of former republics statistical institute of BH. As of 1997, the Institute acts in capacity of entity statistical institute/ The Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina Institute of Statistics.

Federal Institute of Statistics also comprised 10 cantonal offices (around 180 employees in total).

The Republika Srpska Institute of Statistics was established in 1992. The Institute has 6 departments (around 100 employees).

Entity laws on statistics are mostly harmonized with BH Law on statistics. Laws clearly stipulated obligation of entity institutes to harmonize their methodologies standards and practice with referent regulations defined by the Agency.

Entity statistical institutes are in charge of collection, processing and distribution of data at the entity level. Provision of data to the BHAS is a legally binding task. Entity statistical institutes are being financed by their entities' budgets.

DEVELOPMENT OF BIH STATISTICAL SYSTEM

The very first step in the process was adoption of Statistical program for time period of 2005-2008, a strategic document that clearly identifies mission, vision, tasks, strategic area of interest as well as goals to be achieved by the side of the official statistics. While preparing the Program, it was taken into account a need of local and International users of statistical data for prompt and appropriate respond, including implementation of priorities set in the Mid-term Development Strategy/MTDS and tasks required to be completed as a prerequisite for partnership with EU.

The mission

An essential task of the BH statistics is a production of updated, reliable and good quality statistical indicators related to economic flows and changes within all parts of the BH society, including dissemination of data to all decision makers and other users, in order to enable them of taking appropriate measures and develop policies based upon reliable statistical information.

Basic principles

BH Statistical Agency is making a significant effort in order to develop and apply following principles based on UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and European Statistics Code of Practice:

- Production of statistical data based on objective and scientific methodologies;
- Strong enforcement of principles on data confidentiality;
- Activities taken in order to decrease a burden on respondents
- Selection of methodologies for collection of data and processing purposes in order to utilize resources available
- Impartial data dissemination to all users (equal access)
- Strengthening of cooperation within BH institutions and stakeholders and International institutions

The state and entities' laws on statistics are in line UN and European Principles

European context

BiH participates in The Stabilization and Association Process (SAP) designed to integrate BiH gradually into EU structures and is still in the process of negotiating a Stabilization and Association Agreement (SAA).

In 2005, Strategy Paper for Integration of Bosnia and Herzegovina into EU was produced.

During this process Bosnia and Herzegovina has made a significant improvement in regard to harmonization of own legislation with legislation of the EU. Such harmonization efforts contributed to development of friendly environment for operations of statistical institutions and development of statistical system within the Bosnia and Herzegovina. Still, European Partnership requires BiH to further develop capacities in statistics – implement the multi-annual plan for statistics and produce regular and sound macroeconomic indicators also needed for the State since it is official borrower of IMF and WB loans.

Part II

Strategic document in Bosnia and Herzegovina

European integration process requires changes in local policies, institutional frameworks and legal system in order to meet European standards. BH Mid-term Development Strategy 2004-2007 defines strategic direction for development of BH statistical system, reflected in BH Statistical program 2005-2008.

Strategic document of BH statistics

The BH Statistical program 2005-2008 clearly defines TOR's, vision, main goals and priorities and the main elements harmonization of BH official Statistics with EU standards. Annual Work Plan is being produced on annual basis accordingly to BH statistical Program.

Strategic documents of entities' statistics

Strategic documents for entities (including documents for statistical institutes) are to be harmonized with documents at the state level.

Development strategy of BH statistical system

Strategic documents define direction of development in BH statistical system.

Strengthening of statistical capacities in all aspects (human resources, educational, material, technical and technological, premises) is a prerequisite for fulfilling obligation that Statistics of BH has committed to achieve.

Further harmonization of BH statistics with European and International standards and meeting requirements for partnership and association to EU is an ultimate strategic goal.

In order to meet requirements set as strategic activities to be implemented are prioritized:

- Law enforcement
- Strengthening of National Accounts Statistics
- Strengthening of sectoral statistics
- Wider use sampling instead of censuses
- Establishing of statistical registers, primarily business register
- Harmonization of statistical classifications with European and International classifications
- Defining forms for publishing of statistical data
- Preparations for population and dwelling census
- Strengthening of the IT component
- Training of the staff

Dissemination

Data produced by the BHAS are available and posted at the web site www.bhas.ba, including various forms of hard copies like: regular monthly releases, quarterly bulletins and annual thematic bulletins related to demography, gender statistics, national accounts, industrial production-PRODCOM results, foreign trade, etc. Efforts have been made to meet increasing needs of data users.

On regular basis, entity institutes also post data on web sites and publish data in a form of monthly, quarterly or annual publications.

Assistance programs

The assistance have significantly contributed to strengthening and development of BH statistics and donors activity in the field of statistics can be regarded as permanent but not always coordinated and adjusted to the beneficiary

Most significant so far was EU Assistance (PHARE Programme and several CARDS) and support provided by the IMF, SIDA, Statistics of Sweden, WB, DFID, UNDP, UNFPA, OECD, EFTA, and Italian Government/ISTAT.