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Dear Reader,

Welcome to the fourth edition of the IPA 2022 bi-monthly newsletter, covering key developments from January and February 2025. The past two months have been busy—with the first round of traineeships, work underway on drafting Terms of Reference for Service contracts for work to be carried out by partner countries and kicking off opening workshops in three statistical projects, SP 1.9, SP 3.3 and SP 6.1. These months marked an important step forward in strengthening collaboration with partner countries, also through the First Coordination Workshop, which set the groundwork for future implementation.

In addition, progress continued across various statistical projects, with experts and partner countries working closely to enhance methodologies, improve data quality, and build capacity. The momentum gained during this period will be key to the next phases of the contract. We look forward to sharing more updates in the months ahead.

Happy reading!  
The ICON Team

## Snapshot – Opening Workshops and Traineeships

The **First Coordination Workshop**, held in **Athens on 20–21 January 2025**, gathered representatives of Eurostat, ICON and representatives of international cooperation departments from the National Statistical Institutes (NSIs) of seven partner countries to support a smooth and successful implementation of the IPA 2022 service contract. The workshop served as a crucial platform for addressing key implementation challenges, fostering dialogue, and ensuring alignment on reporting requirements, objectives, and timelines among countries preparing for EU membership



Athens, Coordination Workshop, January 2025



Lisbon, Quality Management, February 2025

In February 2025, the **opening workshop for three statistical projects—**

**Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), Transport Statistics, and Quality Management**—took place under the IPA 2022 contract. The FDI and Transport Statistics workshops were held in Luxembourg, bringing together experts and partner countries to discuss project objectives, Eurostat expectations, and compliance with EU regulations. Discussions covered improving data sources, methodology, and study visits for FDI, as well as the urgent need for implementing full-scale Road Freight Transport Surveys in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo\*. Meanwhile, the Quality Management workshop, held in Lisbon, focused on

\* 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

strengthening national statistical institutes' quality frameworks, identifying priority areas for improvement, and supporting countries in implementing these improvements. These workshops contributed to enhancing statistical capacities and supported partner countries in aligning with EU standards.

On 3 February 2025, 20 enthusiastic trainees from six partner countries embarked on an exciting journey as part of **the first round of IPA 2022 traineeships!** Seven are gaining hands-on experience at Eurostat, while 13 are placed across eight EU Member States and Switzerland. This unique opportunity runs until the end of April 2025, allowing trainees to sharpen their skills, exchange insights, and build lasting professional networks.

Stay tuned—our next 6-monthly newsletter will feature inspiring stories from the trainees themselves!



## 1. Statistical Projects (SPs)

*Work carried out in January - February 2025*

*Work planned for March - April 2025*

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

- Finalized Work plan
- Prepared ToR for SP service contract
- 1<sup>st</sup> expert mission to XK

### SP 1.3 NATIONAL ACCOUNTS - METHODOLOGY AL, BA, XK, ME, MK, RS, TR

- Finalized Work plan
- Prepared ToR for SP service contracts
- 1<sup>st</sup> Additional expert missions to XK and BA

### SP 1.4 NATIONAL ACCOUNTS – TRANSMISSION PROGRAMMES AL, BA, XK, ME, MK, RS, TR

- Finalized Work plan
- Prepared ToR for SP service contract
- 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Additional expert missions to TR
- 1<sup>st</sup> Additional expert mission to AL
- 1<sup>st</sup> Additional expert mission to AL

### SP 1.5 REGIONAL ACCOUNTS AL, RS, TR

- Finalized Work plan
- Prepared ToR for SP service contracts
- Help desk support to AL, RS and TR

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

- Finalized Work plan
- Prepared ToR for SP service contracts
- 1<sup>st</sup> Additional expert mission to AL
- Help desk support to AL, XK, ME, MK, RS and TR
- Scheduling of 1<sup>st</sup> Study visit

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

- Finalized Work plan
- Prepared ToR for SP service contracts
- 1<sup>st</sup> expert missions to XK, TR, MK, AL and ME

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

- Opening Workshop
- Help desk support to BA and XK



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

- Finalized Work plan
- Prepared ToR for SP service contracts
- Help desk support to BA and XK
- Scheduling of 2<sup>nd</sup> expert mission to BA and XK

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

- On-line meetings with BA and XK
- Finalized Work plan
- Prepared ToR for SP service contracts
- Help desk support to BA and XK

**SP 3.1 BUSINESS REGISTERS BA**

- Finalized Work plan
- Prepared ToR for SP service contract
- None

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

- None
- Finalization of Work plans
- Preparation of ToRs for SP service contracts

**SP 3.3 TRANSPORT STATISTICS BA, XK**

- Opening Workshop
- Finalized Work plan
- Prepared ToR for SP service contracts
- Help desk support to BA and XK

**SP 3.6 ENERGY STATISTICS XK**

- Finalized Work plan
- Preparation of ToRs for SP service contract

**SP 3.7 STRUCTURAL BUSINESS STATISTICS / BUSINESS DEMOGRAPHY XK**

- On-line meeting with XK
- Scheduling 1<sup>st</sup> expert mission
- Finalization of Work plan
- Preparation of ToRs for SP service contract

**SP 4.1 LABOUR FORCE SURVEY (LFS) XK**

- None
- Finalization of Work plan
- Preparation of ToRs for SP service contract

**SP 4.2 SURVEY ON INCOME AND LIVING CONDITIONS (EU-SILC) BA, XK**

- On-line meeting with BA and XK
- Finalization of Work plans
- Preparation of ToRs for SP service contracts

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

- Finalized Work plan
- Prepared ToR for SP service contract
- 3<sup>rd</sup> expert mission to XK

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

- Finalized Work plan
- Prepared ToR for SP service contracts
- Help desk support to BA and XK
- 2<sup>nd</sup> expert mission to BA

### SP 5.5 ENVIRONMENTAL ACCOUNTS

BA, XK

- None
- Finalization of Work plans
- Preparation of ToRs for SP service contracts
- Scheduling training to XK

### SP 5.6 WASTE STATISTICS

BA, XK

- None
- Finalization of Work plans
- Preparation of ToRs for SP service contracts

### SP 5.7 WATER STATISTICS

BA, XK

- None
- Finalization of Work plans
- Preparation of ToRs for SP service contracts

### SP 6.1 QUALITY MANAGEMENT

BA, XK

- 1<sup>st</sup> expert mission to BA
- Opening Workshop
- Finalization of Work plans
- Preparation of ToRs for SP service contracts

### SP 6.3 COMMUNICATION

AL, BA, XK, MK, ME, TR

- Delivery of Communication strategies
- Delivery of Communication strategies
- Finalization of Work plans
- Preparation of ToRs for SP service contracts

### SP 7.2 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

BA, XK

- Submission of EU SDG Indicators
- Finalization of Work plans
- Preparation of ToRs for SP service contracts



## 2. Upcoming activities for March and April 2025

Partner Country	Statistical project / Topic	Type	Date
XK	SP 1.1 GDS EDP	1 <sup>st</sup> expert mission	22 – 24 April 2025, Pristina, Kosovo (tbc)
XK	SP 1.3 National Accounts Methodology	1 <sup>st</sup> Additional expert mission	23 – 28 March 2025, Pristina, Kosovo
BA	SP 1.3 National Accounts Methodology	1 <sup>st</sup> Additional expert mission	08 – 10 April 2025, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
XK	SP 1.3 National Accounts Methodology	1 <sup>st</sup> Additional expert mission	24 – 28 March 2025, Pristina, Kosovo
AL	SP 1.4 National Accounts Transmission Programme (ANA, QNA, quality reporting)	2 <sup>nd</sup> Additional expert mission	03 – 06 March 2025, Tirana, Albania
XK	SP 1.7 SUIOTs	1 <sup>st</sup> expert mission	19 – 21 March 2025, Pristina, Kosovo
TR	SP 1.7 SUIOTs	1 <sup>st</sup> expert mission	05 – 07 March 2025, Ankara, Türkiye
MK	SP 1.7 SUIOTs	1 <sup>st</sup> expert mission	09 – 11 April 2025, Skopje, North Macedonia
AL	SP 1.7 SUIOTs	1 <sup>st</sup> expert mission	22 – 24 April 2025, Tirana, Albania (tbc)
ME	SP 1.7 SUIOTs	1 <sup>st</sup> expert mission	07 – 11 April 2025, on-line (tbc)
XK	SP 4.3 ESSPROS	3 <sup>rd</sup> expert mission	24 – 28 March 2025, Pristina, Kosovo
BA	SP 4.9 LCI	2 <sup>nd</sup> expert mission	22 – 25 April 2025, Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina (tbc)

### 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, grant countries manage these arrangements and appoint their participants, with expenses covered by their respective grants.

*Work carried out in January – February 2025*

*Work planned for March - April 2025*

#### Working Group meetings

From January – February 2025, 15 participants from BA-XK attended WG meetings:

Partner Country	Jan – Feb 2025	Total participants
BA	10	118
XK	5	122
Total	15	240

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Partner Country	Jan – Feb 2025	Total participants
BA	10	118
XK	5	122
Total	15	240

#### SP Workshops

From January – February 2025, 3 SP workshops took place.

Partner Country	Jan – Feb 2025	Total participants
AL	6	15
BA	9	18
XK	8	25
MK	2	8
ME	3	11
RS	4	10
TR	4	15
Total	36	102

As there are no planned workshops in March and April 2025, no attendees are foreseen for this activity during this period. However, preparations for future workshops are ongoing to ensure continued engagement and capacity-building.

#### Training courses

No participants attended sessions in January and February 2025.

Due to lower number of offered ESTP courses in March and April 2025, ICON does not expect to have any attendees from partner countries.

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#### Consortium partners



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