

CHAPTER 18: STATISTICS

1. Statistics might be collected by other institutional actors than the National Statistical Institute. In order to provide an overall picture of the system of official statistics, please give a description of the institutional arrangements concerning data collection, production and dissemination of official statistics in your country. This should include a listing of specific responsibilities of various actors.

The official statistics, as a system, is aimed at providing a minimum of quantitative indicators expressed based on the common methodology, definitions, classifications and organization of statistical surveys agreed upon by the stakeholders, which have been carried out using the common statistical survey program and plan. In terms of its contents, this system has been shaped using specific statistical surveys (defined in statistical survey programs and plans) conducted by authorized official statistics. When developing statistical surveys, the proposing parties are principally guided by general requirements of the majority of users; general, economic, social or other interests; international recommendations; requirements and methodologies adopted by international statistics authorities and available resources required for the implementation of the statistical surveys.

At present, the official statistics has a dual role. The first is to implement European standards and rules in the pre-accession period and the second, to provide support to other policy areas, by producing the follow-up data about introduced changes and measure their impact on the selected policies. The dual role has particularly been prominent in the field of economy, finance, agriculture and regional policy, where the reliable and comparable data are of key importance.

The Law on Official Statistics (Official Gazette of RS no 104/09 entered into force on 16th December 2009), built on the 1994 Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, and the **2005 European Statistics Code of Practice**, has laid down the legal, institutional and program framework for production and dissemination of data and information and organization of official statistics system.

The Law on Official Statistics sets forth the following responsible producers of official statistics included in the official statistics system of the Republic of Serbia: Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia (SORS), National Bank of Serbia, City Administration of Belgrade for the territory of the City of Belgrade and other authorized producers of official statistics listed in the five-year statistical program.

- The draft official statistical program for the period 2011-2015 adopted by the Government of the Republic of Serbia, specifically stipulates that the Statistical Office, as the main producer and coordinator of the system, is responsible for the major part of the survey relating to the real sector and a part of external sector (principally in the part referring to the export and import of goods), while the National Bank of Serbia is responsible for the financial, monetary and the major part of external sector.

According to the Law, the Program appoints other authorized producers of official statistics.

-Ministry of Finance – responsible for public revenues and expenditures;

- Ministry of Interior – responsible for a segment of traffic and crime control
- Ministry of Justice; High Judicial Council and State Prosecutorial Council - responsible for a segment of judiciary matters
- Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management – responsible for a segment of food safety, food supply-demand balance and environmental protection
- Ministry of Health and Public Health Institute of Serbia - responsible for public health care system and public health
- Ministry of Mining and Energy – responsible for a segment of energy statistics;
- Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, Environmental Protection Agency, Chemicals Agency and Institute for Nature Conservation of Serbia – responsible for the management of environmental information system and the Registry of Protected Natural Resources;
- Ministry of Science and Technological Development and Mihajlo Pupin Institute - responsible for a segment of science, technologies and innovations statistics;
- Ministry of Education – responsible for a segment of education and lifelong learning statistics;
- Ministry of Labour and Social Policy – responsible for a segment of social protection statistics;
- Ministry of Youth and Sports and Republic Sports Institute – responsible for a segment of sports statistics;
- Ministry of Economy and Regional Development – responsible for defining and measuring the regional development indicators;
- Republic Hydrometeorology Service – responsible for a segment of environmental protection statistics;
- Republic Geodetic Authority – responsible for National Geospatial Data Infrastructure;
- National Employment Agency – responsible for a segment of labour market;
- Republic Pension and Disability Insurance Fund – responsible for pension and disability insurance statistics;
- Republic Institute for Health Insurance – responsible for the statistics of mandatory health insurance and health and safety at work.

Furthermore, the City Administration of Belgrade is responsible for the collection and processing of statistical survey data for the territory of the City of Belgrade covering the majority of statistical fields.

According to The Law on Official Statistics , the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia is the main producer and disseminator of data, the authorized professional agent, organizer and coordinator of the official statistics system, and represents the Serbian official statistics in the international statistical system. The Statistical Council of the Republic of Serbia plays a special role in the official statistics system.

Before the enactment of the Official Statistical Law, the activities of the Statistical Office had been laid down by the national regulations on statistical survey plan development for each subsequent year, meaning that all the statistical surveys had been legally based. Also, in January

2009, the Government adopted the Development Strategy of the Official Statistics for the period 2009-2012.

The enactment of The Law on Official Statistics has facilitated a considerably accelerated development of statistics system and provided a possibility for its more efficient coordination. Setting up the Statistical Council enabled a more direct involvement of an increased number of different end users and their participation in creating the contents of the official statistics system. The Council, as the integral part of the official statistics system represents a professional advisory body primarily dealing with strategic issues, or in particular, reviewing and providing opinion with regard to: official statistics development strategy; drafting of a five-year program and annual statistical survey plans; requirement for carrying out of censuses; standards; methodologies and other.

It should be particularly noted that the Law stipulates that the five-year program (incorporating the development strategy) is to be passed by the National Assembly. Generally, the draft five-year program for the period 2011-2015 has been prepared in line with the EU official statistics concept, i.e. the Eurostat. The starting point for defining the contents of this program included as follows: The Development Strategy of the official statistics in the Republic of Serbia, in the period 2009-2012, the National Integration Program and the Eurostat Program (Compendium 2009). The Program includes: Development Strategy of the official statistics in the Republic of Serbia for a five-year period; review of expected results of official statistics development; review of key infrastructure and development activities that can not be classified into specific areas; authorized producers of official statistics and expected results and conditions for the program implementation.

Following the adoption of this program, the SORS will prepare the annual plan of official statistics, in cooperation with other authorized producers of official statistics, to include: a detailed elaboration of the Program; list of statistical surveys to be carried out, including the information about whether they are obligatory or not; list of administrative sources and the list of data obtained applying the method of continuing monitoring and observation, used in the official statistics, and development activities specified in the Program.

In keeping with the recommendations coming from Eurostat and after having adopted them, during the past 2-3 years, the SORS prepared several cooperation agreements in line with the European practice, with most prominent institutions the administrative data of which have been used as the source of official statistics. This resulted in the development of a stronger legal framework which ensured an enhanced cooperation and better coordination of the statistical system. Accordingly, the cooperation agreements were signed with:

By the end of 2010, the Cooperation Agreement in the field of macroeconomic and financial statistics was signed with the Ministry of Finance (MF) and the National Bank of Serbia (NBS). This cooperation may be described as successful. Also, a Protocol on type, modality and time limits for data exchange has been set up and signed in the first quarter of 2010, and it has currently been applied.

The cooperation between these three institutions, having regard to the **Council Regulation (EC) No 2223/96**, has been carried out with the following allocation of functions:

- **Real Sector Accounts**

As part of the preparation of real sector accounts, which has been the responsibility of the SORS, the MF and the NBS are timely providing to the SORS all the available data relevant for accounting for the categories in accordance with the SORS requirements.

MF provides to the SORS the data related to the budget of the Republic, Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, local government and mandatory social insurance undertakings on a monthly, quarterly and annual base using the national budgeted data and the monthly report received by MF from other government agencies and funds.

According to the Government Finance Statistics Manual published by the International Monetary Fund, MF is to submit to the SORS the data on revenues and receipts of the budgeted beneficiaries and the data on expenditures and expenses of the budget beneficiaries prior to the consolidation.

The SORS publishes the accounts of the real sector and presents them to the MF and the NBS.

- Financial Accounts

Annual and quarterly financial accounts have been compiled and published by the NBS, in accordance with the adopted methodology, except for the general government financial accounts, which have been the responsibility of the SORS.

- Reports on Budget Deficit and Budget expenditures and receipts

The MF has been collecting data and preparing reports on budget deficit, expenditures and receipts for all the levels of the government and mandatory social insurance undertakings. The MF is obliged to present to the NBS and the SORS the prepared data and the statements.

- Public Debt Reporting

The MF is responsible for the assessment and reporting of the public debt, in line with the adopted EU regulations and methodologies.

- Balance of Payments

The NBS is responsible for compiling the balance of payments in line with the International Monetary Fund Balance of Payments Manual, fifth edition (BPM5).

The main source of data used for compiling the balance of payments, are the data of commercial banks and the National Bank of Serbia on the international payment operations, presented electronically on a ten-day basis (ITRS) and the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia data. Additional source of data are the reports directly submitted to the NBS by legal entities.

The Statistical Office provides to the NBS the data on foreign trade in goods.

The Statistical Office offers its support to the NBS by its surveys and provides to it any available information required in the process of acquiring additional sources to enable the comprehensive monitoring of household sector.

The MF supplies the NBS with direct monthly reports on transactions with the EU budget and all international transfers (such as aid or donations) between the government sector and other international institutions and countries.

- **Monetary and Banking Statistics**

The NBS is responsible for monetary and banking statistics. The monetary and banking statistics comprises balance sheet items of monetary financial institutions (other than money market funds), insurance corporations, voluntary pension funds and providers of financial lease arrangements. It also includes the interest rates statistics of the monetary financial institutions and inter-bank money market. In addition to the monetary and banking statistics, the NBS within the external statistics compiles data on foreign exchange reserves of the NBS and the banks, foreign exchange rates against RSD and foreign exchange market turnover.

In 2007, the Memorandum on Cooperation between the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management and the SORS was signed, aimed at enhancing the statistical monitoring of agriculture, forestry and water management; clear defining of responsibilities and ensuring information that would provide an objective understanding of the status of these fields. Following the conclusion of agreements, the cooperation between the two institutions considerably improved and became intensive in the preparations for the implementation of the impending Census of Agriculture.

In 2007, a Memorandum was signed with the Tax Administration (organized under the Ministry of Finance) which ensured the use of administrative data as the vital source for additional data processing.

Prior to that date, a cooperation agreement was signed with the Customs Administration (also organized under the Ministry of Finance) with which the SORS has had a continuing and good cooperation.

Signing of similar agreements with the Ministry of Mining and Energy, Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, Environmental Protection Agency and the Public Health Institute, has also been planned.

Also, it should be noted that in the mid 2009, the Statistical Office, as a coordinator, in cooperation with the National Bank and the Ministry of Finance, passed a decision to participate in the General Data Dissemination System (GDDS). In October 2010, the SDDS - **Special Data Dissemination Standard** mission of the International Monetary Fund, reviewed the current status of the national statistics and concluded that Serbia's subscription to SDDS may be expected to take place as of the 3rd quarter of 2011.

In addition to the fundamental Official Statistics Law, there are three more laws adopted in December 2009, which should be mentioned, or in particular:

- **Law on the Census of Population, Households and Dwellings, 2011** (Official Gazette of RS, No.104/09, entered into force on 16th December 2009);
- **Law on the Census of Agriculture, 2011** ('Official Gazette of RS, No. 104/09, entered into force on 16th December 2009);
- **Law on Classification of Activities;** (Official Gazette of RS, No. 104/09, entered into force on 16th December 2009)

The bodies of the above three laws are fully compliant with the European standards. Furthermore, it should be mentioned that the preparation of the National Regulation on

Classification of Activities, fully compliant with all the standards provided for in NACE Rev.2 classification, is in its final phase.

Finally, it has to be pointed out that the consultations were made with several European and international institutions, in the course of developing all the above legal acts, to ensure their comparability with the European standards.

Special attention was paid to enhancement of data dissemination, by using the IPA national project and IPA multi-user programs to facilitate intensive engagement in the implementation of standards and solutions developed by the European statistics systems.

With regard to the reduction of burden for reporting units, the SORS is in the process of intensive introduction of sampling method, wherever possible, in cooperation with the statistics of developed European countries.

2. Please describe the organisational structure, staffing levels and the level of independence of the National Statistical Institute. How have these issues developed in recent years, and what plans are there for the future? Can the Government influence the (choice of) data published by the National Statistical Institute? Please refer especially to measures aiming to increase the professional independence of the Institute.

Organizational structure

The Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia (the Office) is a special organization carrying out professional and related executive activities satisfying the needs of all users. There are 6 basic units – Departments performing core activities of the Office, and three divisions independent from the Department structures, constituting the core of headquarter units, and one section operating independently from the Department. Departments are divided into divisions which may be divided into sections and groups.

The Office is managed by the Statistical Office Director, who is answerable to the Government. The Office has the Deputy Director. The Departments are managed by Assistant Directors, reporting to the Statistical Office Director.

The core headquarter units are managed by heads of divisions, section chiefs and group managers.

The Office headcount structure includes 7 civil servants holding positions out of 8 positions defined by the job classification (1 position for a civil servant seated in Novi Sad, is currently vacant) appointed by the government, 443 civil servants performing duties falling under the competence of state authority and 22 job holders performing support and auxiliary services.

Qualification structure of employees:

- 317 employees having high education of at least 4 years
- 78 employees having high education lasting up to 3 years

- 67 employees having secondary school education
- 3 employees having primary school education

305 women and 167 men are employed in the Office, meaning that there are 64.6% women and 35.4% men.

Statistical Office Organization:

1. National Accounts, Prices and Agriculture Department
2. Business Statistics Department
3. Population Statistics and Fieldwork Department
4. Information – Communication Technologies and Publishing Department
5. European Integrations, International Cooperation and Projects Management Department
6. Statistics Department for the Autonomous Province Vojvodina, with its seat in Novi Sad

The Office has three divisions and one section operating independently from the Departments:

7. Dissemination and Public Relations Division
8. Legal and Personnel Affairs Division
9. Financial Tasks, Preparation and Budget Execution Plans Division
10. Logistics Section

Such organization of the Office was adopted by the Government in April 2010.

In the past period, the Office organization comprised 11 Departments with 535 employees. Due to the recent financial crisis (not only the one that affected Serbia) the measures taken by the government resulted in cutting the number of civil servants. The government also passed the conclusion according to which the rationalization and new organization must not undermine the European integration process. Accordingly, the Office carried out the required rationalization.

Considering that the European integration is generally accepted priority in the future period, the Office expects changes in organizational structures that would exclusively be in line with its function.

Professional independence

The Office is independent from political and other external interferences in the production, dissemination of official statistics, laid down by the law.

Article 3 of The Law on Official Statistics defines the basic principles of impartiality, reliability, and professional independence which have to be observed by authorized producers responsible for collection, processing and dissemination of the official statistics. Paragraph 1, Item 5 of this Article stipulates that the decisions on definitions, methods of collection, processing and dissemination of the official statistics are exclusively in charge of producers of the official statistics. This ensures that neither the Serbian Government nor any other institution may influence the data published by the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia.

Article 10 of the same law clearly stipulates that the Office Director is obliged to protect professional credibility of the official statistics from all kinds of unprofessional influence.

- Position of the Office defined by the Law on Ministries:

The Office is independent in performing its function and does not operate as part of any ministry.

- The Office Director is a high-ranking position.

- Pursuant to the Law on Civil Servants and EU recommendations, the Director of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia has a five-year term of office, while the Government has a four-year term of office.

- The Office Director is exclusively responsible for taking decisions on statistical methods, standards and procedures and on the contents and time schedule of statistical releases.

- Statistical releases are clearly distinctive, carried out independently from political trends and according to a prearranged calendar.

- Where necessary, the Office makes public comments on issues related to statistics, including the criticism and pointing to any abuse of the official statistics.

- The introduction of the Statistical Council as the new institution (by virtue of the Official Statistical Law), the purpose of which is to deal with strategic issues of the official statistics, enhanced the process of using the standards' guidelines for the implementation of basic principles of the official statistics. The Council was set up by the Decision of the Republic of Serbia Government of 16th April 2010. The Decision was published (Official Gazette of RS, No. 24/09) 24/10)

In the forthcoming period, the Office will focus on its engagement in ensuring the maximum compliance with the principles set forth by the European Statistics Code of Practice.

3. Please describe the compliance of the statistical system of your country with the requirements as stated in the latest version of the Compendium, especially as concerns:

a) the current situation;

b) steps being taken to comply with the requirements (legislative and other measures to be taken, such as the implementation of the European Statistics Code of Practice, deadlines to achieve compliance);

c) major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant.

This description should be provided for the following main areas:

I Statistical infrastructure

Conducting statistical surveys - legal aspect

a) Description of the current situation

The activities of the official statistics are based on a five-year statistical program and annual plans. The Program is passed by the National Assembly, (which is currently in progress: the Government adopted the Program and presented it to the National Assembly; passing of the program is expected by the beginning of 2011), while the Plan is to be passed by the Government (sixty days following the date of adopting the Program).

The Office prepares the Program and the Plan in cooperation with other responsible producers of the official statistics, owners of other data and users.

The Office takes decisions on the selection of data sources in cooperation with other authorized producers of official statistics, taking into account the quality of data, timeliness, burden imposed to data providers and cost effectiveness. When administrative data sources are available, the statistical survey is not conducted. When conducting statistical survey, the burden on providers is considered (this is in compliance with the Principle 9 of the European Statistics Code of Practice).

The regulations are laid down by special laws and they are financed from the Budget of the Republic of Serbia.

b) Steps being taken to comply with requirements

The continuing monitoring of European legislation in this field has been conducted together with its implementation. Further enhancement of cooperation with other producers of the official statistics and data providers.

Confidentiality and data safety

a) Description of the current situation

The privacy of data providers (individuals, households, companies, administrative bodies and other data providers) and confidentiality of data provided by them and their use solely for the purpose of statistics, has been guaranteed by the Law on Official Statistics (which has also been provided for in the former laws).

Chapter IX – Confidentiality of this law (Articles 44 through 49) provide a more detailed description of:

- when the collected, processed and stored data are considered to be confidential;
- Confidential data protection;
- restricted access to confidential data;
- providing of individual data excluding identification codes and
- data dissemination on small aggregates.

Definitions of confidentiality have been predominantly taken over from the European legislation.

The principle of confidentiality refers to protection of data relative to individual statistical units, regardless the fact whether they are collected directly through statistical surveys or obtained indirectly, from administrative or other sources. Authorized producers of the official statistics may use individual data solely for statistical purposes. The principle of statistical confidentiality does not apply to data of government authority constituting a statistical unit. The Office is entitled to access individual data obtained from surveys made by other producers of statistics, if such data are required for performing the official statistics activities or quality assessment of the results. The right to access individual data resulting from the surveys of the National Bank of Serbia, shall be granted to the Office upon prior written consent by the Governor of the National Bank of Serbia.

The data collected, processed and stored for the purpose of the official statistics, are considered as confidential when it is possible to, either directly or indirectly, by name, address or identification number, identify a natural person or a legal entity. Confidential data may be used for statistical purposes only, and not for defining rights and creating liabilities of reporting units.

The Office and other authorized producers of official statistics, may, upon a written request, provide individual data without identification codes to scientific and research institutions and in that case, they are obliged to maintain records of such users and the purpose of delivering such data to them.

The collection, processing and use of statistical data on individuals, i.e. data obtained from statistical surveys collected from individuals, referring to their personal, family and property status, are considered as confidential and they are subject to confidentiality. The authorized producers of official statistics are obliged to take any legal administrative, technical and organizational measures required to protect confidential data against illegal access, disclosure or use.

The Office possesses physical and technical equipment intended to ensure the safety and integrity of statistical data base.

Measures for data and information protection in the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia have been laid down by the **Rulebook on Protection of Statistics in the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia**, passed pursuant to Article 46 of The Law on Official Statistics (Official Gazette of RS, No 104/09) and Articles 9,15,16 and 18 of the Law on Free Access to Information of Public Importance (Official Gazette of RS Nos 120/04, 54/07 and 104/09 and 36/10) - which entered into force on 18th December 2010. 2010.

The protection of data and information, use and access to information system elements, implementation of protection measures in regular and extraordinary circumstances, and protection measures in case of loss of data in the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, have been defined by the **Guidelines for data and information protection measures in the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia** passed based on Articles 9, 15, 16 and 18 of the Law on Free Access to Information of Public Importance (Official Gazette of RS, Nos 120/04, 54/07 and 104/09 and 36/10) and the Regulation on Protection of Statistics in the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, entered into force on 8th December 2010.

The protection of data and information, use and access to information system elements, implementation of protection measures in regular and extraordinary circumstances, and protection measures in case of loss of data in the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, have been defined by the **Rulebook of storage and organization of statistical data in the**

Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia passed in accordance with Articles 35, 1, 16 and 18 of the Law on Free Access to Information of Public Importance (Official Gazette of RS, Nos 120/04, 54/07 and 104/09 and 36/10) which entered into force on 18th December 2010.

The usage and dissemination of statistical data that the SORS produce was stipulated by the **Rulebook on usage and dissemination of data produced by the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia**, which was passed pursuant to Article 35, the Official Statistics Law (Official gazette RS, number 120/04, 54/07 and 104/09 and 36/10) and Article 7 and 35, the Act on public administration (Official gazette RS, number 79/05) and came enforceable on 30 December 2010.

b) Steps being taken to comply with requirements

In the future period, the Office will continue to be focused on developing this area in keeping with the development of European standards.

c) Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

No major obstacles have been identified.

Information and communication technology (ICT)

a) Description of the current situation

A brief description of the ICT status is presented below.

The use of ICT has predominantly been centralized, with both the Host IBM computer and PC platforms having been used for the current production for years already (Mainframe - Host)

The statistical production on the Host environment has been organized well, considering the vast experience in maintaining the hardware and software solutions. The maintenance of this system is carried out by highly educated and experienced staff. DB 2 database that is in use, has a good reputation with regard to its performance and connection to mainframe. However, the use of Host server may cause problems due to: risk of damaging the processor, lack of a system programmer and their expensive education, and the fact that the lease of IBM software is rather costly.

PC platform is technically well incorporated in the system, even though it has been installed only recently. This PC platform is Microsoft-oriented. Most often, Visual Basic is used as a development tool, and MS SQL Server database for data storage. MS Office components are in use, with PHP being the main Web development tool.

350 PC work stations have been integrated in the local area network supported by 26 servers located in Belgrade. Out of 14 dislocated regional departments, the Sector of Novi Sad is the best equipped one. Regional departments are connected with the seat of the Office located in Belgrade.

PC work stations are Pentium 4 and they are simultaneously used as Host terminals.

The majority of applications for collection, input and control of data have been developed on the PC platform. WWW solutions and Internet have been developed, and they run on the PC platform.

The Office is making efforts to develop the Integrated metadata driven statistical data management system. Currently, the best version of this system is being tested, and it is expected to be further developed.

The databases use SQL SERVER 2000/2005/2008, the applications for data input, computer and logic control use Visual Studio. Net 2008, and there are programs made with Visual Studio 6.0 which may be changed whenever necessary.

Tabulation is made using Crystal Report. SAS software package is used for sampling. The statisticians predominantly use Microsoft Excel or occasionally, SPSS for further processing and data analysis. ARC View program package is used for updating the spatial unit registry.

The data are forwarded to Eurostat, using e-mail or eDAMIS Web portal.

The Office computer stores a huge quantity of archived data, including the data from the former statistical system of the Federal Statistics Office (of Yugoslavia). Data archiving requires further development.

The Office developed the Feasibility Study (enclosed) within the IPA 2007 National Project, which pointed to extremely high maintenance costs for both platforms and offered guidance for

further development. In September 2010, the ICT strategy was adopted which is in line with recommendations from the Feasibility Study made in July 2010.

Switching to PC platform has been planned, to optimize material costs in the future period.

b) Steps being taken to comply with requirements

Elaboration of short-term and mid-term ICT restructuring plans.

Permanent training and acquiring new IT knowledge. Training in the use of NET tools. Higher degree of eDAMIS Web application use.

c) Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

The obstacles are predominantly related to finance.

Dissemination

a) Description of the current situation

The Development of the Official Statistics in the Republic of Serbia 2009-2012, and the Official Statistics Program for the period from 2011 to 2015 specify that the major task of the official statistics is to offer an objective picture of social and economic trends in the country.

The Information and dissemination development strategy in the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia was adopted in May 2010.

The Office operates in line with the Basic Principles of the Official Statistics (defined by the UN) and in compliance with the following principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice.

- 5 – Statistical data confidentiality,
- 6 – Impartiality and Objectivity,
- 13 – Timeliness and Punctuality and
- 15 – Accessibility and Clarity

The confidentiality issues have been set forth in The Law on Official Statistics and in individual national laws regulating the protection of individual data, in terms of technical and organization measures for the control of individual statistics dissemination.

The organizational structure and organizational and operating rules enable the organizational unit for dissemination of statistics and public relations to manage the data distribution.

The Office has the Annual Plan for editing printed and electronic publications, and the Calendar and the Catalogue of publications and press releases, available on the Office Website that is being regularly updated.

The online dissemination over Internet is in its full progress, with regard to its contents, structure and presentation of statistics and metadata. The number of visits to the Website is continuously

and significantly growing, from 700 thousand in 2005 to 3 million in 2009. The Website address of the Office is www.stat.gov.rs.

The basic dissemination products of the Office are:

Publications and publishing concept: the Office renders an Annual Plan for publishing, according to the annual plan of statistical surveys. The Publishing Plan includes yearbooks, periodicals and ad-hoc publications. In 2009, around 60 types of publications of which 48 yearly, 1 quarterly, 1 monthly and 10 ad-hoc publications were released.

General publications include yearbooks, panorama of municipalities, monthly reviews, trends, calendars, in general, any publications comprising data from several statistical areas.

Releases have been prepared since 1951 representing the review of only one statistical area at a time. They have been published periodically.

Bulletins have been published since 1955 and contain comprehensive statistical data on one or more surveys from the same field.

Studies and analyses have been published since 1953 and contain methodologies and statistical analyses, including the reviews of specific phenomena and trends relating to national accounts.

Working documents have been published since 1966 and contain current and summary methodologies for gross domestic product, energy balance and enterprises.

Methodologies and standards present a more recent edition, published since 2004. It publishes applied methodologies, classifications and nomenclatures used in statistical surveys, including additional information on methods and elements of statistical surveys.

Special publications are used for occasional publishing of statistics on different areas such as living standards, usage of ICT, gender statistics and other.

The basic source of official statistics dissemination is the Office Website, allowing free access to any statistical data.

Electronic publications are available on the Office Website in the Electronic library (having around 4000 publications) in PDF and Excel format.

A number of requests for data have been solved by statisticians where such data are not available on the Website or cannot be found in the publications. The databases containing annual, monthly, quarterly or semi-annual data are used as the data sources, maintained by statisticians, are used to meet such requirements.

At a user's request, the Office may conduct additional data processing which has not been envisaged by the Plan and Program of the official statistics, and such requests are not charged.

Further enhancement of dissemination and communication has been carried out in the Office within the IPA 2007 National project, through the development of e-business, Website development and collection of data from Internet.

b) Steps being taken to comply with requirements

The continuing monitoring and application of current methods in this field.

Development of e-business for the needs of G2C, G2B, G2G and G2E, being the institutional policy.

Collection of data via Internet.

c) Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

No major obstacles have been identified, so far.

International Cooperation

a) Description of the current situation

The international cooperation, in particular the cooperation with European Union, has become crucial for the accelerated development of the Serbian statistics in the last several years. The support of the European Union and the Eurostat have been vital for the Office, (which achieved significant results in the past two centuries), in spite of its being rather delayed compared to other countries from the region.

The cooperation started in 2002, with the Global Assessment of the official statistics carried out by Eurostat and United Nations / Economic Commission for Europe (UN/ECE). Concurrently, the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) noted that the support of the Office was essential for the development of statistics in the region. After a while, the World Bank joined the support (particularly in the field of poverty reduction). The same was also done by the UNICEF, the UNDP and other organizations. A sound bilateral cooperation was established with the French Institute of Statistics (INSEE).

The European Union gave its full support to Serbia and the Office through CARDS and IPA projects (the national and regional ones). The coordinated activities of the Eurostat and aforementioned institutions were primarily focused on:

- providing support to the development of a sustainable statistical system,
- facilitating the decision making process based on relevant and reliable statistics intended to meet the national requirements
- (and concurrently) to ensure harmonization with the European statistical system.

It should be pointed out that the support provided through the international cooperation, resulted in the outstanding enhancement of cooperation with other ministries and producers of official statistics, thus providing guidance for further development on a national level.

The exceptionally successful cooperation and achieved results are evidenced by numerous documents and reports of the aforementioned institutions.

The cooperation of the Office with donors has been, and still is, based on available human resources and expertise maintained by the Office, which enabled its reaching outstanding achievements. As a result, the Office became a leader in the region in some fields of activities.

The regional cooperation has been exceptionally good.

b) Steps being taken to comply with requirements

The Office will continue to make efforts aimed at adopting the Eurostat recommendations and standards.

The Office will continuously be working on the development of regional cooperation.

c) Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

At this point, the Office is not aware of any obstacles.

II Classifications and Registers

Classifications

a) Description of the current situation

Harmonization of national classification with the standard international classification represents the primary commitment of the official statistics. This is concurrently one of the prerequisites for ensuring the comparability of the official statistics results with other countries.

The Law on Official Statistics lays down that the Director of the Office, upon the obtained statement from the Statistical Council, is to issue an act to decide on the classification, nomenclatures and other major standards used by authorized producers of the official statistics listed in the five-year statistics program.

Classification of Activities, as the main classification used in both the official statistics, and in the records (administrative register), economic and social policy and science and research, has been regulated by the law. The classification of activities, CA (2010), developed and based on the NACE Rev. 2, was introduced in the Serbian statistical system in 2010 (Regulation on Classification of Activities (Official Gazette of RS, No 54/10)). CA 2010 will become obligatory standard as of 1st January 2011, with regard to statistical processes, concluding with dissemination.

All the units of the Statistical business register, the legal units, economic operators, local units and all other activities (core activities, secondary and auxiliary activities) have had their codes translated to CA 2010.

Adoption of new Classification of Activities enabled harmonization of other related economic classifications, primarily the classification of products: **Classification of Products by Activities** (based on CPA 2008) and **Classification of Industrial Products** (Prodcom). The commodity trade statistics applies the following:

- **Combined Nomenclature of the Customs Tariff (CT)** has been harmonized with the EU Combined Nomenclature of 2010.

- **Standard International Trade Classification - Rev.4.** SITC Rev has been applied since 1st January 2010, based on the UN Statistical Division's recommendations. The Standard International Trade Classification –Rev.4, is connected to SITC Rev.3 and data processing has been re-processed for former years, to comply with the new classification. New Statistics of Foreign Trade was made based on changes to SITC Rev.4, to meet national and international requirements.

- **Harmonized system of codes and markings (HS)** has been adjusted to the Harmonized system of names and codes-version HS 2007.

- **Classification of Types of Construction** has been fully harmonized and designed using the appropriate Classification of Types of Construction - CC, final version 1997), i.e. the structure and contents of all the levels of this classification have been adopted, however, with some of the lowest levels (classes) being further classified due to such requirements of the national statistical

surveys and to facilitate their harmonization with the formerly used Nomenclature of constructions and works.

In addition to the Classification of activities, the national accounts use:

- **Classification of institutional sectors** (at the highest level of sectors) has been harmonized with SNA93-ESA95,
- **Classification of Individual Consumption by Purpose** (COICOP) has been harmonized with SNA93-ESA95, used for assessment of personal consumption and for Consumer Price Index by COICOP,
- Classification of the functions of government (COFOG) is used partially and
- Classification of funds (assets) is applied only partially.

As for the social statistics, the final phase of the elaboration of the **National classification of occupations** is under way, as part of the National occupations classification system, in line with the international ISCO-08 classification. Further to the classification, the National Occupations Classification System contains descriptions of classification segments, descriptions of 600 individual occupations and keys for translating into national standards relating to labour records, i.e. to the Standard Classification of Occupations.

The education statistics use the levels of education, from the level of ISCED 0 to ISCED 6. The comparability with ISCED 97 (levels and fields of studies) is high, with regard to primary and tertiary education, whilst the secondary education uses the national classification of the fields of work and educational profiles that is almost completely transferable to the field of education set forth by ISCED 97.

b) Steps being taken to comply with requirements

A whole range of national statistical classifications must be adopted or adjusted to fit the respective international standards relating to the so-called International Family of Economic and Social Classifications.

In the course of 2011, the **Classification of Activities** will be applied in identifying the activities of units from the registers, with its full implementation as of 2011, including collection, processing and publishing of statistical data by activities. In view of major institutional changes, the statistical system plays a vital role in ensuring that the public registration and the administrative records kept in Serbia, used as administrative data sources by the official statistics, incorporate the new Classification of Occupations in their databases.

Harmonization of other related economic classifications with the new Classification of Occupations, principally the **Classification of Products by Activities** (based on CPA 2008). In 2011, the Nomenclature of Industrial Products - Prodcom, will be implemented in the Annual Survey on Industry.

Regular annual harmonization of **Combined Nomenclature of the Customs Tariff (CT)** with the EU Combined Nomenclature has been planned. All the levels of NSST Rev.4 will be prepared and published, along with respective descriptions for the convenience of national and international users.

Considering that the revision of the System of National Accounts is under way (SNA-ESA) respective changes in the field of functional classifications are expected to take place, which also implies their implementation in the official statistics.

The new classification of occupations is expected to be used in the 2011 Census of population, households and dwellings.

c) Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

Provisions of certain laws must be altered, considering that they stipulate the production of data in accordance with former classifications. More efficient organization of classification work is required.

Registers

a) Description of the current situation

Further development of statistical registers, representing a framework for the selection of statistical units, should enable a more comprehensive implementation of sampling methods and rationalization of the existing structure and statistical survey procedure, as the most frequently used source of statistics, including the reduction of burden on data providers and overall expenses of individual statistical data production.

The Law on Official Statistics lays down that the Office must use data from administrative source, inventories, statistical surveys and data obtained by continuing monitoring and supervision methods, to form, develop and maintain statistical registers. The data from the Statistical register are used solely for the purpose of statistics. The Office must develop the Statistical business register and Statistical register of agricultural households. The Director of the Office is obliged to pass a regulation laying down in more detail the issues related to creation, development, maintaining and usage of statistical registers.

Statistical business register constitutes a foundation of statistical surveys referring to enterprises. The Statistical business register was formed in late 2005, and it was founded on recommendations set out in the EU legislation defining prerequisites and procedure for creating a statistical business register. A set of statistical and legal units is being monitored, in accordance with EU regulations, and used as the framework for the implementation of statistical surveys in the field of business statistics. Its comprehensive updating is ensured by regular collection of data from a range of administrative sources: Business Registers Agency, Ministry of Finance - Tax Administration, Customs Administration and Treasury Administration, and other. The system of updating register units has been developed, using the support of regional offices involved in the process of data collection from reporting units for different surveys. To this end, a special software solution was introduced, enabling updating of register units in the field, based on the verified data. Initial status of local units was created, based on the survey made among local units and data on branches and from administrative sources. The first steps were made towards introducing the unit Group of Enterprises, by forming the cluster of legal entities based on consolidated financial statements (of NBS) and data about the founders (Business Registers Agency).

b) Steps being taken to comply with requirements

The Statistical business register envisages regular conducting of special annual surveys aimed at maintaining the register, including of additional data from administrative sources (Republic Health Insurance Institute and Republic Pension and Disability Insurance Fund) and other administrative sources; application of institutional sectors' classification; introduction of a new statistical unit - associated enterprise group, introduction of the quality management system; ensuring conditions for coordinated sample application, etc.

Introduction of **Statistical register of agricultural** holdings is planned in the future period, immediately after the completion of IPA 2007 National Project and finalization of the Census of Agriculture.

c) Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

Organizational and professional development of the Statistical Register service is required, including the establishment of standard terminology among statistical units.

III Sector statistics

DOMAIN 1. DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIAL STATISTICS

Theme 1.01. Population

Module 1.01.01. Demography, census and projections

a) Description of the current situation

Census

The most recent Census of population households and dwellings in the Republic of Serbia, was conducted in 2002. The next Census of population, households and dwellings will be conducted in 2011, as traditional census (face to face interviews conducted by trained enumerators), pursuant to the Law on Census of Population, households and dwellings (Official Gazette of RS, No 1 104/09) that is conceptually harmonized with the Regulation (EC) No 763/2008.

The forthcoming census has been harmonized with Recommendations for census of population and dwellings in 2010, jointly drafted by UNECE/Eurostat, with respect to its methodology, contents and classification.

The minimum of international methodological comparability of census results has been provided for by including a set of mandatory indicators from Recommendations, and by applying international classification to disclose the census data (occupation, activity, education level, foreign country and such). In addition to the mandatory features, the census forms include questions essential for creators of state policy and end users in the Republic of Serbia.

The contents of census forms has been discussed at meetings held with users of census data (state institutions, institutes, non-governmental organizations, media, ombudsman, national councils of minorities, representatives of international organizations - UNDP, UNHCR, UNHABITAT, UNSD, and other) to meet the requirements of users, as much as possible.

In 2009, two pilot censuses were conducted in Serbia.

The first pilot census of population, households and dwellings was carried out in the period 1st – 15th April 2009, on a sample covering 50 enumeration areas (0.1% of the total number of enumeration areas). Even though the sample used for conducting the pilot census was not representative due to the lack of funds, the forms, links between forms, organization and methodology instructions were successfully tested. Also, for the first time following the pilot census, a post census enumeration survey was conducted (quality and coverage control).

The second pilot census of population, households and dwellings – education of Roma people, was carried out in the period from 1st to 15th November 2009, in order to establish and strengthen mutual cooperation and trust between the official statistics and Roma organizations (the National Council of Roma National Minority and Office for Roma Inclusion of Vojvodina) and to carry out training for a certain number of Roma people to enable their participation in organization preparations and field work in the forthcoming census. This project has been financed by the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA).

Demography

The data about births, deaths, marriages are being collected and presented by registrars, while the data on divorces are managed by courts.

According to regulations on maintaining of registers, any births, deaths and marriages must be recorded in the registers of the district where they took place, regardless whether the persons they refer to have their places of residence (permanent residence) within that district, or not. However, at their processing, the data are being aggregated according to the place of residence: mothers of born children (births), deceased persons (deaths), and grooms (marriages). The aggregation in case of divorced marriages is conducted according to the last joint residence of married persons.

The data about the deceased, according to the causes of deaths are processed based on the International Classification of diseases, injuries and causes of death, 10th Revision, applied as of 1997.

The vital statistics data are being collected monthly and processed annually based on the full census coverage.

The surveys of vital statistics are conducted using the methodology harmonized with the UN recommendations and the methodology applied in 2002 census.

The publication Demographic yearbook - United Nations, has been publishing the vital statistics data, on a regular, annual basis, since 2000.

Population estimates are conducted during the inter-census period, and based on results of the Population census and results of statistics of natural and mechanical movement of population processing. Estimates of higher levels have been derived from the estimates made at the level of settlements, by means of respectable aggregation, as follows: municipalities and districts, including estimates based on gender, age and type of settlement in the Republic of Serbia, Central Serbia and Autonomous Province of Vojvodina. Population estimates are expressed according to the applicable administrative and territorial classification on: 1. 1st January (beginning of the year), 30th June (annual average) and 31st December (end of the year) in the observed year.

Population estimates are based on the data from the population census and vital statistics collected according to the methodology recommended by the Eurostat and the United Nations.

Mortality tables are estimated annually (approximate summary mortality tables) and each ten years (detailed mortality tables).

Mortality tables are created using Becker-Zeuner method (detailed mortality tables) and Reed-Merrell method (approximate abridged mortality tables) recommended by United Nations.

The indicators, aside from expected life expectancy, are general and specific mortality and fertility rates, gross and net reproduction rates and other.

Projections

Projections of population have been made by five-year age groups and genders, using the data from the most recent Census of Population. The projections have been made for the Republic of Serbia, Central Serbia and AP Vojvodina, in five versions: low, middle, high, constant fertility version and version with no migrations. Also, the projections of active population and/or projections of labour force in Serbia have been made.

The methodology of population projection drafting is in line with the methodology defined in the UN Manual on Integrating Population Variables into Development Planning.

b) Steps being taken to comply with requirements

Census

The contents of basic census forms has been defined. Designing of forms to be used for optical character recognition software application is in progress. The methodological instructions are completed, while the development of organizational instructions, guidebook for enumerators and special methodological instructions (for conducting the pre-enumeration of homeless persons, persons serving criminal sentences and detention measures, and persons having military service) are in the final phase. A media campaign is also running.

The program of publishing the census data has been prepared, in accordance with the national requirements. It has also been planned to have the data prepared in line with the dissemination program adopted by the Eurostat (hypercube).

Demography

The methodology for carrying out the vital statistical surveys under recommendations of UN and methodology to be applied in the 2011 census will be harmonized in the period 2012-2013.

Projections

Development of projections on active population and/or labour force in Serbia in the period 2011-2041 is planned to take place by 2015.

c) Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

Census

The lack of human resources and deviations from the forecasted schedule of reimbursement of required funds (due to budget restrictions), may obstruct the preparation and conducting of census.

Demography

Shortage of demographic experts constitutes the main obstacle for planning the harmonization of vital statistics surveys methodology with the UN recommendations and the methodology to be applied in 2011 census and meeting the requirements of the Eurostat, the UN and other international organizations, within the set time limits.

Projections

Shortage of human resources and material assets are the main obstacles for further development and implementation of modern program packages for the development of active population projections.

Module 1.01.02. Migration and Asylum

a) Description of the current situation

The survey about internal migrations has been established as a regular annual survey. Internal migrations of population are defined as moving of Serbian population from the place of birth or former residence, to a future place of residence, including the information on time and geographic components of such movements. Data sources on internal migrations are the forms used for registration/de-registration of residence, filled in by the Ministry of Interior, based on the statements of persons filing applications for the change of residence. The data are collected monthly, and processed on an annual basis. Publishing of data on internal migrations is conducted according to demographic, ethnic and economic indicators.

Preparations for introduction of external migrations' survey are in progress. The current status in this area was analysed and two main strategies were adopted in 2009. The Migration Management Strategy and Development Strategy of the Official Statistics in the Republic of Serbia in the period 2009-2012, were adopted. Moreover, in 2010 the adoption of the Migration Management Mechanism Implementation Act is expected, according to which all the ministries and a special organization as the main actor in the activity, will be implementing specific measures falling under their competence, and will be responsible for their realization.

b) Steps being taken to comply with requirements

Defining of indicators laying down the migration profile will be based on definitions stipulated in the **EU Regulation (EC) No 862/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 July 2007 on Community statistics on migration and international protection.**

The Office plans to introduce surveys on external migrations in 2013, as regular annual survey to be based on the results of 2011 Census of Population, households and dwellings and data obtained from the Commissariat for Refugees.

c) Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

Deficiency in human resources, financial funds and cooperation with other relevant administrative sources in the data collection process, constitute major obstacles for the development of statistics on external migrations.

Theme 1.02. Labour market

Module 1.02.01 Employment and unemployment

a) Description of the current situation

In 1994, a labour force survey was carried out for the first time (as a pilot survey), and it has been conducted as regular annual survey since 1995. The framework for the selection of samples for previous surveys was the Census of Population, households and dwellings of 1991, while the survey was conducted on the sample of 3900 households.

The framework for the selection of samples for Labour Force Survey of 2004 was the 2002 Census, while the survey was conducted on the sample of more than 6500 households. Upon creating tools for conducting the 2004 survey, the contents of the form was changed, to enable a more precise defining of basic population quota obtained based on this survey.

In 2008, a revision of questionnaire and Methodological Instructions for the Labour Force Survey was made, to comply with the latest Eurostat recommendations, due to the requirement to have the Labour Force Survey conducted twice a year (in April and October). The sample size was also expanded to around 8500 households, at a semi-annual level.

In 2010, the Labour Force Survey was conducted twice - in April and October. The framework used for sample selection was the 2002 Census. The methodology is in line with adopted Eurostat standards and legislation. The following classifications were used for coding and processing of data obtained from this survey:

1. Classification of Activities, comparable with UN International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC - rev.3) and EU classification (NACE, rev.1);
2. Classification of occupations, comparable with International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO – 88);
3. List of schools, comparable with International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED – 1997);
4. Classification of professional status of employed persons, comparable with International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO – 88);

Collection and tabulation of data on labour market has been performed using a high level of data input control, and the control of extreme values. The data have been collected on the territory of Central Serbia and AP Vojvodina, excluding Kosovo and Metohija. 15 Regional Offices in Serbia were engaged in the collection, control and data entry. The control (mathematical and logical), was performed online, in course of data entry, followed by additional control performed together with interviewers. Where necessary, the surveyed households would be contacted once more.

The Office has the procedures for survey data processing in place. They encompass the verification of consistency, extreme values and errors during coding, and they have been formulated so as to minimize errors in the course of survey data processing. Where necessary, non-standard values are being revised and compared to data from previous exercises.

The Survey data are published twice a year in the form of a Release, containing information on data collection, processing, size of a sample and methodology and they are available for the period of 2 months as of the end of the month in which they have been collected.

In 2008 a revision of samples was made, to enable gradual harmonization with European statistical system. Introduced changes include as follows:

- Allowing periodical review – sample designed to enable several surveys in the course of one year (semi-annually, quarterly, or during the whole year).
- Sample size - sample expanded compared to previous surveys. In the case of a quarterly survey, specific size of sample is sufficient for reaching satisfactory precision of assessment in line with the recommendations of EU Council regulation (EC) No 577/98 of 9 March 1998).
- Introduction of rotating panel sample, achieving optimal sample efficiency in assessing changes and average through repeated measurements.

- Assessment system - a post-stratification estimate is introduced for individuals, according to current demographic assessments

In April 2010, an ad hoc survey: *Harmonization of family and professional lives* was conducted along with the major Labour Force Survey, with a target population aged between 15 and 64.

b) Steps being taken to comply with requirements

It has been planned to have the Labour Force Survey conducted quarterly, following the steps presented below:

- Questionnaire redesign, in accordance with Eurostat recommendations
- Introduction of the latest indicators for monitoring of labour market trends;
- Introduction of booster sub-sample for evaluation of proactive employment measures;
- Introduction of additional modules for measuring of specific features of economically active population (Eurostat ad hoc modules);
- Development of simulation models for predicting future trends on the labour market and measuring of impact on macroeconomic indicators;

c) Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

During 2011, the revision of Labour Force Survey questionnaire will be made, in particular with respect to issues related to wages (salaries) and working hours, aimed at their harmonisation with EU standards.

Module 1.02.02. Earnings and labour costs

a) Description of the current situation

- Data on wages (salaries) are obtained through the following surveys:

1. Monthly survey on employees and their wages (salaries) made with legal entities (in enterprises, institutions, cooperatives and other organizations). The purpose of this survey is to ensure reliable data on the amount, structure and trends of average monthly net and gross wages (salaries) per employee broken down by branch of activity in the Republic of Serbia, and its territorial units (districts and municipalities/Nomenclature of Territorial Statistical Units 3).

2. Semi-annual survey on employees and their wages (salaries) made with legal entities, is carried out in March and September of each year.

The purpose of this survey is to ensure reliable data on average monthly wages (salaries) (in March and September) by qualification level and gender; number of employees compared to the average wages (salaries) and data on the number of employees per activities, gender and districts and municipalities (balance as at 31st March and 30th September).

Statistical surveys cover employees of enterprises, institutions, cooperatives and other organizations (legal entities), who have signed official and legal employment contracts.

Statistical surveys do not include persons performing their activities/professions independently (such as musicians, painters, lawyers, free artists and similar professions) those employed in the Ministry of Defence or Ministry of Interior, independent farmers, persons employed in households, extraterritorial organizations and bodies, persons employed in Serbia's representation offices located abroad, or their income.

Starting from January 2009, the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia is expanding units coverage. Besides the wages (salaries) paid to legal entities' employees, from January 2009, wages (salaries) paid to employees working in unincorporated enterprises (entrepreneurs) have been also included in calculation of average wages (salaries).

By 2009, the data on average wages (salaries) have been obtained from monthly statistical surveys and they referred to earnings made by employees with legal entities (in enterprises, institutions, cooperatives and other organizations) in all forms of ownership. However, as early as in 2006, the Office started considering possibilities to use administrative sources to account for average earnings, primarily with the objective to cut the costs and reduce obligations of reporting units towards statistics. The analyses have shown that in 2009, the conditions were met to use the Tax Administration records to monitor the wages (salaries) of persons employed with unincorporated enterprises (entrepreneurs).

In particular, in order to provide a more objective overview of average wages (salaries) trends and ensure the best quality indicators to monitor regional development (especially at the municipality level), it became necessary to take into account the wages (salaries) of persons employed with unincorporated enterprises (entrepreneurs), to obtain the amount of average wages (salaries). Such subset of economy is rather hard to explore, given that entrepreneurs often change their activities and locations, which may obstruct updating the Statistical Business Register and thereby, their being identified in the field. Since 2009, conditions have been met to ensure obtaining of data on wages (salaries) of persons employed with unincorporated enterprises (entrepreneurs), with a support of administrative sources (records of the Tax Administration).

The data have been presented according to currently applicable Classification of Activities, harmonized with the European Classification of Activities NACE rev.1. 1. (as of 2011, such data will be presented according to NACE rev.2).

Since 1992, the method of collecting and accounting for average wages (salaries) has changed, due to a difficult economic situation in the country. Since that year, the wages (salaries) paid in a month (year), rather than for a month (year), which used to be the case until then - have been monitored. For the same reason, a change in the assessment of average wages (salaries) has been introduced since 1987, to take into account all the employees maintained in the records, and not only the employees who received wages (salaries).

- **Labour Cost Survey**, as a regular survey, was introduced for the first time in line with the EU standards, in 2009: Council Regulation (EC) No.530/1999 of 9th March 1999, Commission Regulation (EC) No 1726/1999 of 27th July 1999, Commission Regulation (EC) No 1737/2005 of 21st October 2005, subject to specific national requirements. This survey will be conducted in four-year periods.

However, the Labour Cost Survey of 2008, does not contain required regional data at the level of Nomenclature of Statistical Territorial Units - NUTS1, considering that the NUTS for Serbia was adopted in December 2009 (the NUTS1 does not correspond to the level – Republic of Serbia, total, as the sample stratification was made for this survey).

b) Steps being taken to comply with requirements

- By 2014, the revision of methodology of surveys on employees and their wages (salaries) should be made, to ensure full harmonization with the EU standards, which implies the expansion of surveys to working hours, obtaining information about wages (salaries) per hour,

and changed methods for collecting data about average wages (salaries) , including the assessment of average wages (salaries) paid for a month (year), rather than in a month (year).

- The assessment of the Labour Cost Index is planned, using the data from the current statistical survey on wages (salaries) , the Labour Force Survey and administrative sources.

Given that quarterly data on working hours are still not available, the Labour Cost Index is not being assessed yet.

- In the following years, we plan to introduce Structure of Earnings Survey . Initially, we would need to conduct a pilot survey (for which we require support of experts), to be prepared for the first regular Structure of Earnings Survey in 2014, every four years, as it has been done in other EU member states.

c) Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

- Enhancement of the existing monthly surveys on employees and their wages (salaries) is planned, including expansion to working hours, as soon as appropriate conditions, such as economic ones, are met. Taking into account that there is still a considerable number of unpaid wages (salaries) , we are not in a position to change the methodology of this survey. Considering that many regulations, providing standards for specific allowances, refer to average wages (salaries), the established time schedule of publishing the average wages (salaries) data cannot be changed.

- Lack of required human and material resources, or technical assistance in developing surveys in this area.

Module 1.02.03. Database on labor market policy interventions

a) Description of the current situation

For the time being, Serbia's data are not relevant and there is no database which provides information on labor market interventions. The administrative sources are not developed enough.

b) Steps being taken to comply with requirements

To improve the cooperation among relevant institutions, prepare the list of indicators (or tables) needed and improve administrative sources.

c) Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

Lack of cooperation among relevant institutions, undeveloped administrative sources.

Module 1.02.04 Time use and reconciliation of work and family life

Reconciliation of work and family life

a) Description of the current situation

In April 2010, the Office conducted an ad hoc survey titled: *Reconciliation between family and work life*, in addition to the major Labour Force Survey, which is fully compliant with the legislation and recommendations of the Eurostat.

b) Steps being taken to comply with requirements

Data processing and sending of reports and indicators to the Eurostat will be conducted in the forthcoming period.

c) Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

Due to a permanent lack of staff, the future feasibility of such modules is uncertain.

Time use

a) Description of the current situation

From February 2010 to February 2011, the Time Use Survey is being conducted with a sample size of 2340 households. The time use survey is fully compliant with the European standards.

b) Steps being taken to comply with requirements

After its completion, a survey is followed by database and development of time use indicators with respect to gender, age, employment, work status, education, type of settlement, life cycle, type of household and family, activity, occupation etc.

c) Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

Budget funds should be provided to facilitate conducting of regular time use surveys by the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, each five years.

Theme 1.03. Education and lifelong learning

Module 1.03.01. Education statistics

a) Description of the current situation

The data collected and published by the Office, offer indicators on all the levels of education, from ISCED 0 to ISCED 6. The data refer to enrolled and graduated students, according to gender, grade, year of birth, achievement, foreign languages learned, curriculum delivered in languages of national minorities, part-time students, full-time students, foreign students, graduation at certain educational levels, teaching staff according to gender and working hours, and full time equivalent (FTE). The data about pupils with developmental disabilities included in the educational system are also being collected.

Comparability with ISCED 97 (levels and fields of education) is high with respect to primary education and tertiary education while the secondary education data are presented using the national classification of activities and education profiles regulated by the Republic of Serbia Ministry of Education, which has the capacity of being translated to the fields of education regulated by ISCED 97.

b) Steps being taken to comply with requirements

In the future, the Office should develop the existing surveys and introduce new ones that will offer data on types of education that are incomplete or missing. They include: further harmonization with ISCED 97 classification (and preparation for having the data disclosed according to a new classification of educational level - ISCED 2011) at all the educational levels, providing information about inclusion of children with developmental disabilities in primary education system, producing data on post-secondary, non-tertiary education (ISCED 4), using of

ICT technologies in the education process, distance learning, producing data on specialist training and professional development of teaching staff, etc. The option of data presentation at a regional level should also be enabled.

With such data made available, the completion of UOE questionnaire will become more detailed.

The planned activities should be completed by 2015.

c) Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

Major obstacles that may be encountered in course of conducting the planned activities, are the lack of staff, and limited funds. It should be noted that any delays in adopting specific legislation may also create obstacles.

Module 1.03.02. Vocational training and lifelong learning statistics

a) Description of the current situation

Currently, the Office performs no CVTS (Continuing Vocational Training Survey), or AES (Adult Education Survey).

b) Steps being taken to comply with requirements

It has been planned to have AES (Adult Education Survey), from IPA 2009, conducted in the period 2011-2012.

Drafting of law on adult education that will regulate institutions and adult education system and life long learning system, is in progress. The law lays down the introduction of regular statistical surveys that will provide data on lifelong learning.

It is also planned to investigate the possibility of conducting a pilot CVTS.

The planned activities should be completed by 2015.

c) Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

Major obstacles to introduction of new surveys are possible delays with enactment of laws, lack of financial indicators in the education statistics, lack of funds and staff.

Theme 1.04. Culture

Module 1.04.01. Culture statistics

a) Description of the current situation

The Office collects the following data from the field of culture, by conducting surveys lasting one or more years: publishing sector (books, magazines, newspapers, and other serial publications), theatres, radio and TV stations, cinemas, professional and symphony orchestras, libraries museums and achieves.

Also, the data about the Register of immovable cultural monuments are being updated annually (1994 Census, 2004 figures).

b) Steps being taken to comply with requirements

Adjustment of methodologies of existing surveys with the Eurostat requirements is planned in the future period. The above mentioned activities should be completed by 2015.

c) Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

Major obstacles that may delay the implementation of new methodologies: lack of financial indicators in the field of cultural statistics, legislation, lack of funds and staff.

Theme 1.05. Health and safety

Module 1.05.01.Public Health

Institutions producing data relating to: Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia and Public Health Institute of Serbia.

Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia

a) Description of the current situation

With regard to vital statistics, the Office collects statistics on deaths and releases information about causes of death. The Death Cause Statistics is fully compliant with International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision. All other international standards and classifications have been applied in accordance with instructions and recommendations of the World Health Organization, in line with international standards and the internationally recognized classification (World Health Organization). We therefore consider the methodology of the Death Cause Statistics highly harmonized with the Eurostat.

b) Steps being taken to comply with requirements

Considering that there is no unified database on disabled persons in the Republic of Serbia, the Office will, within the 2011 Census of population, households and dwellings, also collect the data on persons deterred from performing their daily activities at home/school/work, due to some health problem. Such data will be used as the database for establishing the Disability Statistics.

c) Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

The Office collects and publishes the Death Cause Statistics for the deceased persons, as part of the Vital Statistics. Data collection is being done in the form of a hard copy (by filling in the forms Death Certificate issued by an authorized physician and copying the data about the cause of death into appropriate statistical form). The advantage of future work would be the introduction of an integrated electronic form. The obstacles that may be encountered are primarily related to legislation (confidentiality and designation of data) along with the existing lack of funds and staff.

Public Health Institute of Serbia

a) Description of the current situation

Public Health Data: CARE (Health Care Statistics - resources, Health Care Statistics–expenditures), NHIS (National Health Interview Survey data, carried out in 2000 and 2006), MORB (Morbidity Statistics), responsible organization being the Public Health Institute of Serbia. In general, these data do not fully comply with the Eurostat requirements, due to an outdated legislation (methodology) relating to the Health Care records.

The data on work, resources (staff) and diseases, are being collected annually from health care institutions in Serbia, covered by the Plan of health care institutions network (excluding the private sector).

The data on work and morbidity refer to the entire calendar year, while the data on staff are disclosed with the balance as at 31 December.

The data on health care use, and those referring to health determinants, are also collected by the National Health Interview Survey (in 2000 and 2006) with a large number of questions being standardized, to obtain indicators according to the methodology EHIS and WHO-HFAdB. The next National Health Interview Survey is planned for 2011.

The Public Health Institute of Serbia does not report to Eurostat any of these fields of statistics. The Public Health Institute of Serbia regularly presents the data to the World Health Institute, in particular, about HFAdB, together with the defined dataset on mortality, according to the established WHO methodology.

Data collection is predominantly made in a hard copy form, used to create electronic databases.

b) Steps being taken to comply with requirements

Action should be taken to draft new legislation covering the health care data, which implies the change of the existing methodology and introduction of a new one, that would be comparable and harmonized with Eurostat requirements (EU legislation relating to the Public Health and health and safety at work).

Furthermore, action should be taken to develop an integrated, computerized Health Care Information System (electronic health care documents).

c) Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant.

Legal obstacles – enactment of new legislation to cover the Health Care data and enable the use of the appropriate Eurostat methodology.

Organization obstacles – producers of individual data should be precisely identified (by specifying and defining responsibilities); cooperation agreements should be concluded between competent institutions and the Office.

Obstacles related to staff – lack of staff. At this point, there is an insufficient number of staff in all of the institutions, to be able to meet the requirements of Eurostat. The training of staff by Eurostat experts is required.

Financial obstacles – ensure state budget funds for new jobs.

Module 1.05.02. Health and Safety at Work

Institutions producing data relating to: Public Health Institute of Serbia; Republic Institute for Health Insurance

Public Health Institute of Serbia.

a) Description of the current situation

Public Health Institute of Serbia may offer only some of the requested data (according to the ESAW methodology – European Statistics on Accidents at Work, and the EODS –European Statistics on Occupational Diseases). However these data do not meet the Eurostat requirements either, given that the methodology of data collection is obsolete. The observed units are also not fully covered.

b) Steps being taken to comply with requirements

The state Strategy of Health and Safety at Work needs to be established, along with the implementation of methodology defined by ESAW and EODS. That would require defining of methodology of monitoring health and safety at work that would be internationally comparable and harmonized with Eurostat requirements, and creating of metadata-base.

Pilot surveys that would develop into regular statistical surveys aimed at monitoring the accidents at work and occupational diseases, are required.

It is also necessary to precisely define the competences and responsibilities of individual institutions, with respect to this module (Public Health Institute of Serbia, Republic Institute for Health Insurance, Institute of Occupational Medicine of Serbia, and Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia).

Furthermore, action should be taken to develop an integrated, computerized information system.

c) Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

Legal obstacles – enactment of new legislation to cover the Health Care data and enable the use of appropriate Eurostat methodology.

Organization obstacles – producers of individual data should be precisely identified (by specifying and defining competencies and responsibilities); cooperation agreements should be concluded between competent institutions and the Office.

Obstacles related to staff – lack of staff. At this point, there is an insufficient number of staff in all of the institutions, to be able to meet the requirements of Eurostat. The training of staff by Eurostat experts is required.

Financial obstacles – ensure state budget funds for new jobs.

Theme 1.06. Distribution of income and living conditions

Module 1.06.01. Household budget surveys (HBS)

a) Description of the current situation

Household budget surveys offer data on available and used household assets. By March 2003 such survey was carried out according to a different methodology. In 2003 a revision of this survey methodology was made, aimed at upgrading the tools for survey implementation, cutting down the reporting period and expanding the sample. The revision was made in line with the Eurostat methodology principles. Household Budget Surveys in the EU, Methodology and Recommendations for Harmonization 2003. COICOP/HBS classification was used to define the structure of individual consumption. Household Budget Surveys (HBS) collect and provide: data on income, expenses and personal consumption of households; data on demographic, social and economic and other attributes of household members; data on more relevant living standard indicators (household ownership of consumer durables, type of heating used in dwellings etc.); data used to define the poverty line, data used to assess a weighted average of consumer price index, data used to assess the final consumption in the National Accounts System.

Since 2006, HBS has been used as the source of data used for assessing the poverty line. Poverty data are being assessed based on the household consumption (personal consumption of households).

Moreover, since 2006 the HBS data have been used to assess indicators defined in the Open Method of Coordination (OMC) ("Laeken" indicators) based on the data on household income. Eurostat methodology and definitions applied for the development of these indicators for Serbia have been adjusted to fit the national data source (HBS).

b) Steps being taken to comply with requirements

- Considering the importance and the purpose of the Survey data, a continuing work on data quality enhancement is required (expansion of samples, continuing work and training of interviewers and supervisors);
- Monitoring international standards and recommendations of Eurostat, and their implementation.

c) Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

- Lack of financial and human resources for an expanded sample;

Module 1.06.02. Income, social inclusion and living conditions

a) Description of the current situation

Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia still does not conduct EU-SILC survey (Statistics on Income and Living Conditions).

Since 2006, the Household Budget Survey (HBS) has been used as data source for poverty line assessment. Poverty data are being assessed based on the household consumption (personal consumption by households). Moreover, since 2006 the House Budget Survey data have been used to assess indicators defined in the Open Method of Coordination (OMC) ("Laeken" indicators) based on the data on household income. Eurostat methodology and definitions applied for the development of these indicators for Serbia have been adjusted to fit the national data source (House Budget Surveys).

Poverty indicators (Laeken indicators) have been assessed based on data on total net income of households and household members, collected by the household budget survey.

The survey is conducted using a random sample of private households, by defining a special sample for each year, meaning that the panel sample is not applied (the households are not being interviewed more than once).

b) Steps being taken to comply with requirements

In 2011, the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia plans to carry out the EU-SILC survey, where required conditions are met, meaning that the commencement of the survey has not been defined yet.

The preparation of methodology in line with the Eurostat recommendations and the organization preparation activities are in progress.

A multidimensional survey, such as SILC, should remain a major source of data to assess wealth, poverty and social inclusiveness in the Republic of Serbia.

c) Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant.

- Lack of funds for implementing and conducting the Survey;

Theme 1.07.Social Protection

Module 1.07.01. Social protection (ESSPPROS)

a) Description of the current situation

The data collected by the Office include: institutions for children: Home for children without parental care, residential care units for children within CSW, correctional institutions, centre for infants, children and young persons; Residential care institutions for persons with developmental disability, disabled and mentally challenged; Institutions for professional rehabilitation; Homes for elderly and pensioners; residential care centres for the elderly and centres for social work.

The data collection also includes student/pupil hostels, beneficiaries of child allowances and beneficiaries and forms of social welfare according to categories, measures and welfare services.

b) Steps being taken to comply with requirements

A new Social Welfare Law is expected to be passed. Pursuant to the new Law and the basic methodology system ESSPROS, the indicators presented in the European statistics should be introduced. Such indicators should be presented using the data available to state authorities and institutions (administrative sources).

The planned activities should be completed by 2015.

c) Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

Major obstacles may include a delay in passing of legislation, lack of funds and staff.

Theme 1.09. Food safety

Module 1.09.03. Food consumption statistics

a) Description of the current situation

At the end of 2007, a Task Force on Food Safety Statistics defined a set of food consumption indicators, relevant for the health and food policy control. Considering that the methodology has not been defined yet, the Household Budget Survey, collecting the data on food quantity, could be one of potential sources for calculating these indicators.

Since 2003 the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia has been collecting data on food quantity at the level of households, as a part of the House Budget Survey (the food that has been bought, produced by the household, provided as gifts and/or received as gifts). In the first three years of the survey, the quality of data on quantities was low, with their significant improvement seen as of 2006.

b) Steps being taken to comply with requirements

Following the European recommendations in this field.

c) Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

No methodology or financial source has been defined for this survey.

Theme 1.10 Crime and criminal justice

Module 1.10.01. Administrative data on crime and criminal justice

a) Description of the current situation

The regular statistical surveys conducted by the Office, include surveys on judicial statistics: 9 regular annual surveys. The surveys covered minors and adults who committed criminal acts and responsible and legal persons - who committed economic offences. The observation unit in all the surveys is an individual - perpetrator of a criminal act, and/or economic offence, while the reporting units, depending on the phase of the procedure, are the public prosecutor's office and courts.

Two surveys have been dedicated to juvenile perpetrators of criminal acts (aged 14 to 18) : reported, accused and convicted juveniles.

The following two surveys have been dedicated to adult perpetrators of criminal acts (over 18 years of age): reported, accused and convicted adults. Other surveys refer to economic offences. One survey was conducted on economic offences.

All the criminal acts defined by the Criminal Code and other legislation laying down the criminal acts, are being monitored. The purpose of such surveys is to enable monitoring of perpetrators of criminal acts. The following data on perpetrators of criminal acts are available: gender, occupation, nationality, age, citizenship, marital status, educational attainment , detentions, committed criminal acts, court decisions, imposed sanctions and duration of legal procedures, including, with regard to juveniles, the data on family status.

In 2006, the revision of all the surveys on adult and juvenile perpetrators of criminal acts was conducted (due to the implementation of a new Criminal Code, Law on Juvenile Criminal Offenders and Criminal Protection of Juveniles). The forms also include questions about injured parties (gender and age), and they have been applied since 1st January 2007.

Activities and requirements of the Eurostat are being followed, with regard to this module. The Office uses the Ministry of Interior data to define the crime indicators.

b) Steps being taken to comply with requirements

Expanding cooperation with the Ministry of Interior, courts and prosecutor's offices, aimed at achieving a faster and more efficient data exchange in this field. Further development of comparable EU statistics about crime, in line with the 2006-2010 Action Plan of the Committee of Crime and Criminal Justice. The compliance with the requirements has to be achieved by 2015.

c) Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

Financial and expert resources and establishment of a broader cooperation with international institutions.

Module 1.10.02. EU victimisation survey module

a) Description of the current situation

So far, our statistics have conducted no victimization surveys.

b) Steps being taken to comply with requirements

The draft five-year statistical survey program of 2011-2015, specifies the requirement of having such survey conducted in 2013 according to the EU victimization survey model that will be done in EU member states, in accordance with the law (legislation) and adopted methodology.

c) Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

Financial resources

Theme 1.12 Other work in the field of demographic and social statistics

Module 1.12.02 Gender statistics

a) Description of the current situation

The gender statistics collects, publishes and discloses data presented according to gender, in the following fields: Statistics of Population, Health, Social and Economic and Educational statistics, Crime Rate Statistics, etc.

The publications containing data which may be classified according to genders, are issued each three years. Data sources are the official statistics and other institutions.

b) Steps being taken to comply with requirements

Harmonized.

DOMAIN 2. MACROECONOMIC STATISTICS

Theme 2.01. Annual economic accounts

Module 2.01.01. European System of Accounts

a) Description of the current situation

Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia performs the estimation of gross domestic product (GDP) and production of national accounts of the Republic of Serbia, in accordance with the System of National Accounts 1993 (SNA93) and European System of Accounts 1995 (ESA95) as of 1997. At this point, the series of 1997-2008 is available, with the data released in regular publications: Release, Statistical Yearbook and Studies and Analyses - System of National Accounts of the Republic of Serbia (including basic methodological explanations). The data are also available on the Website of the Office.

A more consistent implementation of methodological solutions, transfer to International Financial Reporting Standards and improvement of statistical database used for the development of national accounts, created the requirement for revision of data series that have already been estimated and published. So far, two revisions have been conducted.

The first revision was conducted in 2006 (covering the period 1997-2004), when the change in the results were principally caused by two most significant adjustments. The first was introduced in the sector of general government and the sector of non-profit institutional units providing services to households, where the cost based method was applied. The second change was introduced in the household sector. Expenditures of households have been estimated directly, in accordance with the Classification of Individual Consumption by Purpose (COICOP), while earlier, such item would be obtained as a residual value. Imputed rental value has been estimated applying the User Cost method, and it is used to calculate the total housing costs for dwellings occupied by their owners.

The second revision of data was conducted in 2007 (covering the period 1997-2006), when FISIM was presented as intermediate consumption of nominal sector of the total economy. Formerly, FISIM was included in the financial sector output for the first time.

The Office conducts estimation of gross domestic product using all three methods, although the income approach estimation is not done independently.

GDP by production approach is estimated independently, based on available data sources: annual financial statements, regular statistical surveys and administrative sources. The production approach is used to calculate output, intermediate consumption and added value per activities, at the level of sections and divisions (NACE, Rev.1).

GDP by expenditure approach is also estimated independently. Since 2002, the expenditures for household final consumption are being estimated with a detailed and direct approach, in line with the Classification of Individual Consumption by Purpose (COICOP). Estimation of government final consumption is done using the annual financial statements of budget beneficiaries combined with administrative data sources of the Ministry of Finance and the Statement of Revenues and Expenditures of the Treasury Administration. Data on gross fixed capital formation for legal entities are obtained from regular statistical surveys, while the data for entrepreneurs are estimated using the data from Agriculture, Construction, Manufacturing Industry and External

Trade. Data on changes in inventories are based on data from annual financial statements of institutional units. By 2004, this item also included the statistical difference. The estimation of net exports of goods and services is based on the data on the External Trade in goods provided by the Office, and on the National Bank of Serbia balance of payments.

GDP estimated by income approach is not obtained independently, since there is no independent estimation of operating surplus other than the surplus obtained by production approach. Furthermore, the data source for estimation of primary income categories are mainly the same as those used for the calculation of GDP using the production method.

GDP at constant prices is calculated by production approach. The calculation is done applying the extrapolation method to a fixed base year (2002), predominantly using single indicators. Direct estimation of gross value added is based on the assumption that the relation between the output, intermediate consumption and the value added is constant. The indicators used are the indices of physical volume, turnover, price, working hours and number of employees. With respect to the activities having the output indicators (such as Agriculture, Forestry, Manufacturing Industry, Transport) the current values from the base year are extrapolated using appropriate volume indices.

b) Steps being taken to comply with requirements

- Implementation of the Classification of Activities 2008 (harmonized with the international NACE Rev.2);
- Change of gross domestic product estimation at constant prices, by production approach, using previous year prices;
- Introduction of gross domestic product estimation at constant prices, by expenditure approach, using previous year prices;

c) Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

- Lack of financial and human resources;
- Inadequate coordination between National Accounts and Basic Statistics;
- Inadequate cooperation between the Office and other institutions ensuring administrative data sources.

Module 2.01.02. National accounts: aggregates

a) Description of the current situation

The basic aggregates of national accounts calculated by the Office on an annual basis, are:

- Gross Domestic Product
- Gross Domestic Product at basic prices (at the levels of A17 and A60)
- Intermediate consumption at purchase prices (at the levels of A17 and A60)
- GFCF
- Gross operating surplus
- Gross national income
- Gross disposable income
- Gross savings
- Net borrowings
- GDP and GDP per capita in USD Dollars and Euros (at an average annual rate)

- Final consumption expenditures
- Exports and imports of goods and services

b) Steps being taken to comply with requirements

- Implementation of the Classification of Activities 2008 (harmonized with NACE Rev.2);
- Evaluation of output, intermediate consumption, value added, as of 2000, in accordance with the Classification of Activities 2008;
- Improvement of data sources and calculation of aggregates;

c) Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant.

- Lack of financial and human resources;
- Inadequate coordination between National Accounts and Basic Statistics;
- Inadequate cooperation between the Office and other institutions ensuring administrative data sources.

Module 2.01.03. Annual sector accounts

a) Description of the current situation

The Office produces all the non-financial accounts for the level of the total economy and institutional sectors. This means that the System of National Accounts includes the Account of Goods and Services (Account 0) for the total economy, while other accounts are created for both the total economy and all institutional sectors (non-financial, financial, government, household sectors and non-profit institutions serving the households). The accounts include: Production account (Account 1), Generation of income account (Account 2), Allocation of primary income account (Account 3), Distribution of income account (Account 4), Use of income account (Account 5), Capital account (Account 6), Exports and imports of goods and services account (Account 7), External account for primary income and current transfers (Account 8), External capital account (Account 9). The integration of economic accounts is also underway. The series is available in the period 1997-2008.

b) Steps being taken to comply with requirements

Revision of the System of National Accounts in line with SNA2008 and accordingly, the revised version of ESA.

c) Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

Lack of financial and human resources;
 Inadequate coordination between National Accounts and Basic Statistics;
 Inadequate cooperation between the Office and other institutions ensuring administrative data sources.

Module 2.01.04. Supply/use and Input/output tables

a) Description of the current situation

The Office participates in the Project of Improving Structural Capacity of the Serbian Statistical Office IPA 2007, in view of approximating European Statistical System requirements. The analysis of data sources was made with the support of international experts in the field of National Accounts, and the methodological framework was developed to facilitate the generation of a supply and use table (SUT). An experimental generation of SUT 2007 is carried out, using the existing data (a two-character level of the Classification of Activities) and the balancing process has commenced. The same procedure will apply for 2008. These estimates will offer a significant number of useful information concerning the difference between the supply and use of GDP, that may be used to improve the existing System of National Accounts.

b) Steps being taken to comply with requirements

- Generating a database and developing supply and use tables showing mutual relations between economic activities;
- Introduction of surveys that will ensure indicators and coefficients to be used for SUT for a mid-term period (3-5 years).

c) Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

- Lack of financial and human resources;
- Lack of a detailed Classification of Products by Activities (CPA) for gross output and intermediate consumption.
- Lack of a more detailed VAT data.

Module 2.01.06. Regional Accounts

a) Description of the current situation

In 2009, the Republic of Serbia Parliament adopted the Regional Development Law, and in 2010, the amendments to this Law, accompanied by the Government Regulation on Nomenclature of Territorial Units, facilitating the rationalization of Statistics, in line with the NUTS principles. This created the institutional basis for systematic development of regional and urban statistics, in accordance with the EU standards and legislation relating to statistics. However, at this point, the Office does not handle the regional accounts. In course of 2010, the Office created a special organizational unit of Regional Accounts within the sector of National Accounts that will be responsible for generating Regional Accounts and regional macroeconomic indicators. The development of the methodology has already started, in cooperation with European experts. The first results of the newly introduced SBS module relating to the data per local units of economic operators and non-financial sector have been collected, also using other available sources; in October 2010, a preliminary estimation of regional GDP was made. During 2011, the enhancement of methodology and statistical surveys required for the Regional Accounts, will continue.

b) Steps being taken to comply with requirements

- Introduction of gross domestic product estimation at a regional level and further development of methodology and statistical sources required for generating the Regional Accounts.

c) Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

- Lack of financial and human resources;
- Insufficient level of cooperation and harmonization with the administrative data sources - Ministry of Finance , Treasury Administration, Tax Administration etc;

Theme 2.02 Quarterly accounts

Module 2.02.01. Quarterly national accounts

a) Description of the current situation

The results of the Republic of Serbia quarterly GDP estimation at constant prices were published for the first time in June 2005. The data referred to the period of the first quarter of 1999, until the first quarter of 2005, in a non-seasonally adjusted form. GDP estimation was made applying the production approach for the section and division level of Classification of Activities. Since September 2008, the data relating to the first quarter of 1997 have become available.

The quarterly and annual data have been reconciled, with the assistance of the software recommended by EUROSTAT – ECOTRIM.

The results of the quarterly GDP estimation are being published 90 days as of the date of reference quarter, at the latest. Estimations for the first three quarters of the reference year are subject to adjustments until the moment of publishing the fourth quarter. Moreover, whenever the annual accounts are being revised, the quarterly data will also be revised, to maintain their consistency.

The estimation of quarterly GDP has been done by production approach, at constant prices (base year was 2002), at the sections and divisions level of Classification of Activities and it fully relies on the extrapolation method, applying the indirect, single indicator method, using the combination of output and input indicators.

The results of the Republic of Serbia seasonally adjusted quarterly GDP estimation at constant prices, were published for the first time in September 2009. Calculations were made for the level of Classification of Activities, for the period from the first quarter of 1997.

Seasonal adjustment was done using the software DEMETRA, procedure TRAMO/SEATS applying an indirect method.

A flesh estimate of the quarterly GDP at constant prices was calculated and published for the first time in April 2010. Calculation results are published 30 days as of the completion of the reference quarter, using the set of indicators available at that moment.

b) Steps being taken to comply with requirements

- Calculation and publishing of quarterly GDP at current prices, by production approach.
- Defining and development of methodological bases for quarterly estimations of basic aggregates by expenditure approach at current and constant prices;
- Calculation of quarterly GDP by production approach at constant prices (of the previous year);
- Revision of quarterly estimations in line with SNA2008 and accordingly, the revised version of ESA.
- Implementation of the Classification of Activities 2008
- Pilot estimations of the general government quarterly financial accounts.

c) Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

- Shortage of financial and human resources;
- Lack of annual data by expenditure approach at constant prices, constitute an obstacle for quarterly estimations; Calculation of quarterly GDP by production approach at constant prices (of the previous year);
- Cooperation between the Office and institutions ensuring administrative data sources, should be raised to a higher level.

Module 2.02.02. Quarterly sector accounts

a) Description of the current situation

The Office does not generate quarterly sector accounts.

b) Steps being taken to comply with requirements

- Analysis of data from administrative sources required for the estimations;
- Introduction of special statistical survey;
- Pilot estimations;

c) Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

- Shortage of financial and human resources;
- Cooperation between the Office and institutions ensuring administrative data sources, should be raised to a higher level.

Theme 2.03. Monetary and financial statistics

Module 2.03.01. Financial accounts – methodology

a) Description of the current situation

In October 2008, the Statistical Office published the detailed set of national accounts for the period 1997-2006. The methodology is based on ESA 95, but the latest item of sector accounts was B9 (net lending-net borrowing), meaning that the financial accounts are not being collected.

b) Steps being taken to comply with requirements

By the end of 2014, the NBS will, together with the Statistical Office, develop a system of financial accounts for Serbian economy.

c) Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

Statistics for certain parts of institutional sectors (such as S 124) are not available to the NBS and certain groups of data are not reconciled so as to fit the requirements of the EU (such as the statistics of other financial intermediaries, statistics of capital markets). There is no detailed classification of institutional units reconciled with the ESA 95.

Module 2.03.02. Financial accounts - data production

a) Description of the current situation

Financial accounts are not being collected.

b) Steps being taken to comply with requirements

The system of the financial accounts of Serbian economy are yet to be developed, which implies further development and harmonization with EU requirements with regard to individual fields of statistics necessary for compilation of the financial accounts.

Module 2.03.03. Monetary and financial indicators

a) Description of the current situation

The NBS collects the data on interest rates of banks to loans and deposits, foreign currency exchange rate, monetary aggregates and balance sheet items.

With regard to the balance sheet statistics, the reporting population is comprised solely of the banks. Currently, there are no other credit institutions. The banks do not report transactions or transaction changes such as the debt write off, revaluation of securities, reconciliation of a foreign exchange rate or a reclassification. Sector classification is similar to the one laid down by the sector classification of the ESA 95. The division into non-resident sectors is rather less detailed than the division of the resident sector. Bank statements are not classified per countries. Data on all foreign countries are presented jointly. The currently used classification into currencies has to be expanded.

The statistics of monetary financial institutions is not in line with EU requirements, but their reconciliation is in progress.

b) Steps being taken to comply with requirements

The balance sheet and interest rate statistics will be fully compliant with EU standards. The first series of data on bank interest rates on loans and deposits will be released in the first quarter of 2011. The balance sheet statistics of the monetary financial institutions will be available by mid-2011.

c) Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

The NBS is not responsible for money market funds.

Theme 2.04. Government finance statistics

Module 2.04.01. Government finance statistics – Methodology

a) Description of the current situation

The Ministry of Finance applies *GFS 1986* methodology for public finance reporting. *ESA 95* is not used for assessment or presentation of fiscal operations at the general government level. However, with regard to national accounts, some of the revenue and expenditure categories, including the fiscal balance, are being assessed using *ESA 95*. COFOG classification has become a part of the standard classification framework of Serbian public finance system.

b) Steps being taken to comply with requirements

Introduction of *GFS 2001* methodology and full implementation of *ESA 95*.

c) Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

Insufficient knowledge of *GFS* and *ESA*, problems with capacity building.

Module 02.04.02. Government finance statistics – Data production

a) Description of the current situation

Data relating to general government finance are being collected from reports on budget expenditures and financial plans of different levels of state authorities. The data are being collected, consolidated and published monthly, on the Ministry of Finance Website and in monthly bulletins, one month following the end of the period they refer to, at the latest. Also, the data are disclosed and analysed semi-annually, in the form of official reports to the Government and the National Parliament.

b) Steps being taken to comply with requirements

Development of IT Treasury system, as the key system for data production, enhancement of coordination among sectors and reporting procedure, capacity building.

c) Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

Regulations, procedures and competencies, problems with financial and human resources required for the Treasury development .
Problems with capacity building.

Module 2.04.03. Statistics on public deficit and debt

a) Description of the current situation

Data on public debt are collected from Public debt administration, on a monthly basis. The data are published on the Ministry of Finance Website and in monthly bulletins, one month after the end of the period they refer to, at the latest. EU Regulations on public debt and procedures in case of excessive deficit, do not apply.

b) Steps being taken to comply with requirements

Capacity building of the Public Debt Administration.

c) Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

Problems and constraints with public debt management.

Theme 2.05 Monitoring own resources

Module 2.05.01. Monitoring own resources GNI

a) Description of the current situation

The Office uses data on GDP at market prices and on net primary income provided from other countries by the National Bank of Serbia, to calculate the gross national income. Transition from GDP to GNI is exclusively based on data from the Balance of Payments provided by the National Bank of Serbia. The Balance of Payments methodology is in line with the recommendations from the Balance of Payments Manual, fifth edition. Collection and processing of statistics on transactions between a resident and non-resident, relies on reports of commercial banks and the National Bank of Serbia on generated balance of payments with other countries (ITRS) that the commercial banks are obliged to present each 10 days. ITRS includes all the transactions relevant for the transition from GDP to GNI, in the original currency that is being transferred to a national currency by applying the foreign exchange rate as at the transaction date.

b) Steps being taken to comply with requirements

The Office plans to make a trial calculation of gross domestic product in line with ESA95 recommendations.

c) Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

Transition from GDP to GNI relies on transparent, reliable and detailed information from the Balance of Payments, which requires the enhancement of cooperation between the Office and the NBS.

Module 2.05.02. Monitoring own resources value added tax (VAT)

a) Description of the current situation

The Office preparation of Supply and Use Tables is in progress. The Supply and Use Table could be used to estimate the base for average VAT rate, taking into account the VAT rates for all products and units existing in the VAT system.

b) Steps being taken to comply with requirements

Continued activities focused on developing the Supply and Use Table, as the prerequisite for calculating the average VAT rate, and the preparation and introduction of surveys that will offer indicators and coefficients to be used in generating of Supply and Use Table.

c) Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

- Development of statistical register for the level of local units, classification type units and local units of homogenous production;
- Lack of more detailed VAT data.

Theme 2.06. Prices

Module 2.06.01. Harmonised consumer price indices

a) Description of the current situation

Definition

Consumer price index is defined as the measure of average changes in price of fixed basket of goods and services bought by households to satisfy their needs.

Scope

Population – national concept: all the households residing on the economic territory have been covered. Collective homes and non-resident expenses have not been included.

Geographical coverage – entire territory of Serbia has been included, excluding AP Kosovo and Metohia (Resolution 1244). The prices are collected in 15 cities – major administrative and trade centres.

Product coverage – between 3rd and 23rd in a month, the prices of 641 products and services are being collected. All the vital products and services used to satisfy the needs of households have been covered. The list of products is being regularly revised to ensure that the structure of consumption and habits of consumers are properly represented.

Points of sale coverage – the selection of the points of sale is made by regional statistical offices. All types of points of sale have been included (market stands, orders by mail and by Internet have not been included, due to their negligent share on the overall market). The key criterion for the selection of a point of sale is the experience of price collectors and their knowledge of the market. The number of points of sale depends on the size of a city/town (3-10). The minimum number of observations per product is 3. Prices of about 10% of products and services are being collected from one point (by telephone, Internet or by reports presented by enterprises). Once in a year, usually in December, the revision and updating of shop sample is carried out.

The number of products from the list per basic groups of COICOP classification:

01	Food and beverages	148
02	Alcoholic beverages	12
03	Clothes and footwear	81
04	Homeware, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	37
05	Furnishing, household equipment	
	routine household maintenance	78
06	Health	25
07	Transport	34
08	Communications	27
09	Recreation and Culture	41
10	Education	5
11	Restaurants and hotels	88
12	Other goods and services	31

Weights

Weight is the share of selected products and services in the total household consumption. Major weighted average data sources are: Household Budget Surveys and the structure of final household consumption (national accounts). 2008 HBS data were used for the work performed in 2010, adjusted by the price growth which took place in 2009. Reference year for the weights is the year t-2.

Index calculation

Average prices are calculated as geometric mean: Simple mean at the level of a city/town and weighted geometric mean for the territories and Serbia, as a whole. Indices are calculated using Laspeyres formula.

Reference period for prices and indices is the average of the year t-1.

b) Steps being taken to comply with requirements

The main steps required to calculate the Harmonised consumer price indices, that should be adopted in the future period, to reach full compliance with the minimum of standards laid down by the EU legislation, are:

- introduction of a common reference period for indices (average 2005=100)
- introduction of the last year's month of December as reference period for prices
- expansion of the list of goods and services
- sample expansion
- monitoring of rules for quality adjustments and selection of samples
- applying new legislation for the calculation of indices for seasonal products

Completion of a trial Harmonised consumer price indices is planned for 2012. Publishing of indices is planned to take place as of January 2013.

c) Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

Major risks of failing to carry out all the planned activities within the set time limits, are connected to the lack of financial and human resources.

Module 2.06.02. Spatial price comparisons

a) Description of the current situation

Legislation referring to the assessment of purchase power parity was adopted by the EU Council on 13 November 2007. Serbia is involved in the PPP program over the regional IPA projects. All the data required for the calculation of PPP are being collected and forwarded to the Eurostat, on a regular basis. We are involved in the process of data collection and verification of results.

In the new work organization on PPP in the Eurostat, Serbia is a member of the new E Country Group, with Austria acting as a group leader.

Since 2006, all the data required for PPP calculation have been sent to the Eurostat. The results are being released in publications and the Eurostat databases.

b) Steps being taken to comply with requirements

The PPP project work is fully compliant with the EU legislation and methodology. All the Eurostat recommendations in this field will continue to be followed.

Drafting of the summary inventory of applied methods and sources for PPP assessment is to be completed in the next period.

We will take part in the new round of International Comparison Program, the preparation of which is already under way.

c) Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

Major risks of failing to carry out all the planned activities within the set time limits, are connected to the lack of financial and human resources.

Module 2.06.03. Remuneration and pensions of EU Staff

a) Description of the current situation

Harmonization with EU legislation with regard to this module, does not apply.

b) Steps being taken to comply with requirements

There are no plans relating to this module.

Theme 2.07 Trade in goods

Module 02.07.04. Trade in goods:Data production

a) Description of the current situation

Foreign Trade Statistics – EXTRASTAT has been harmonized with standards and procedures applied in EU, including fundamental principles and standards for creating indicators for the Foreign Trade Statistics based on the United Nations recommendations from - Concepts and Definitions of Foreign Trade Statistics.

The data source of the Foreign Trade Statistics is the copy of customs declaration stored on magnetic media. The original document is the Single Administrative Document (SAD) that has been fully harmonized with the original document used by EU member states.

Since January 2010, the basic principle of the Foreign Trade Statistics has been the general trade system, which fully reflects the UN recommendations. We will continue to forward data according to the special trade system – relaxed definition required by EUROSTAT. The general trade system does not cover only the goods crossing the border under the procedures which, according to the revised Kyoto Convention recommendation should be excluded, and all the transactions which, according to the Customs Law, do not require the customs declaration.

The Foreign Trade Statistics does not include, but for the needs of the national accounts and balances of payments, separately covers the following transactions: goods intended for repair and maintenance, goods that was lost or destroyed after leaving the territory of the exporting country, but prior to its entry into the statistical territory of the importing country and following the acquisition of ownership of such goods by the importer.

Within the foreign trade statistics system, we adopted the WTO recommendations to form the statistical value of exported goods applying FOB (Free on board), and to form the statistical value of imported goods applying CIF (cost, insurance, freight). Statistical value is obtained by accounting for the invoice value of goods expressed in one currency, applying weekly exchange rates used for the assessment of customs value when making the calculation of imports duties. In particular, such rates are used for accounting and statistics purposes, and the assessment of customs and other import duties, pursuant to Article 33 of the Law on Foreign Exchange Operations.

The Office classifies the exported goods applying the principle of the last known destination and the imported goods, following the principle of country of origin. In addition to these two principles, we also record the countries according to the principle of country of consignment and country of buyer/seller. Each year, the valid Customs Tariff of the current year is applied, having been fully complied with the appropriate version of CN in EU. Each month we forward the data to EUROSTAT, in accordance with the set criteria, in the form of a data file for their COMEXT data base, within 40 days as of the date of their processing, which is in line with the set time limits. The data are sent via the network, using eDAMIS software, obtained from the EU Statistics Agency.

As of January 2008, we introduced the Foreign Trade System general indicator relating to the trading characteristics of an enterprise. Five separate indicators are being provided within this indicator:

- trading by activity sectors and CA areas, size of enterprises expressed by number of employees, concentration of trading activities, by number of partner countries and activity sectors, and the concentration per most significant countries – partners.

Since 2004, Serbia has been delivering to EUROSTAT the data on foreign trade transactions between Serbia and foreign countries, in the form of a data file containing all the required fields,

designated for its forwarding to COMEXT database (mandatory and optional fields being in accordance with the rules contained doc. Coop 400 rev.1).

The Foreign Trade Statistics uses the following classifications:

1. Customs Tariff based on CN-2010
2. Standard International Trade Classification – SITC Rev. 4
3. Classification by Broad Economic Categories – BEC
4. Nomenclature of Countries and Territories – ISO 3166 alpha 2
5. Main Industrial Groupings – MIG NACE rev.26. Nomenclature for Foreign Trade Statistics, based on SITC -rev.4 (for national requirements),

b) Steps being taken to comply with requirements

- Introduction of NACE rev.2 is planned since January 2011, CPA2008 by the end of October 2011 and CPC 2.0 in the mid 2012.
- This will be followed by changes in EU legislation.
- The use of non-customs data sources is planned in the case of specific movements of goods, and building of infrastructure for monitoring of e-trade.
- The preparations for Intrastat will also commence (foreign trade between EU member states).

c) Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

Lack of human resources in the group of the Foreign Trade Statistics and lack of suitable software for data processing on PC platform which will be able to exchange software on host platform completely.

Theme 2.08. Trade in services and balance of payments

Module 2.08.01. Balance of Payments: methodology

a) Description of the current situation

Balance of Payments statistics and International Investment Position are being compiled and the transactions are classified according to the IMF and the ECB, i.e. internationally accepted standards: BPM5, EU BoP Vademecum (2006), OECD Benchmark Definition of Foreign Direct Investment, 4th edition.

Balance of Payments and International Investment Position are being regularly published on the National Bank of Serbia Website. Tables of Balance of Payments and International Investment Position of Serbia are also published in the statistical bulletins of the International Monetary Fund (IFS, BOPSY, CDIS) and the United Nations (trade in services and foreign direct investments).

Since 2009, the Republic of Serbia has had its page within the GDDS, meaning that an access to the Balance of Payments data is enabled over the GDDS.

Methodology explanations may be found on the NBS website (www.nbs.rs) and the GDDS web page.

b) Steps being taken to comply with requirements

In 2011, Republic of Serbia is planned to join the SDDS, meaning that in the future period, the Data Template on International Reserves and Foreign Currency Liquidity will be published.

At the beginning of 2011 the NBS plans to publish detailed methodology explanations for the Balance of Payments and Data Template on International Reserves and Foreign Currency Liquidity, including metadata, and the Activity Plan for the transfer to BPM6. It has been planned to compile the major part of the Balance of Payments according to BPM6 standards, including the 2012 data.

c) Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

In order to fully respond to EU requirements, the NBS should establish an integrated direct reporting system. Initially, the reports for individual items relating to trade in services should be introduced (insurance, FISIM, FATS etc.) along with the improvement of existing questionnaires (for foreign direct investments, portfolio investments, construction work etc.). Also, appropriate mechanisms should be established to ensure punctual and timely reporting of all reporting entities.

Module 2.08.02. Quarterly balance of payments

a) Description of the current situation

The NBS compiles the Balance of Payments and International Investment Position within specific time limits and periodically, fully in compliance with the IMF and the EU requirements. The Balance of Payments is published monthly, within two months following the reporting period, while the International Investment Position is published quarterly.

b) Steps being taken to comply with requirements

Improvement of geographic and sectoral data breakdown of the Balance of Payments and International Investment Position is in progress. The NBS should be able to complete that task by the end of 2012.

c) Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

In order to fully respond to EU requirements, the NBS should establish an integrated direct reporting system. The biggest obstacle refers to obtaining data directly from legal entities. Given that the NBS has no jurisdiction over legal entities except banks, insurance companies and pension funds, it is unable to impose sanctions for delayed or erroneous reporting, and/or their failing to provide reports.

Module 2.08.03. Foreign direct investment

a) Description of the current situation

ITRS is used as data source for Foreign Direct Investments, in particular, cash investments abroad made by residents and non-residents in the Republic of Serbia. The Statistical Office provides data on investments in kind. The reports obtained directly from legal entities are used as the source data for estimating the stock of foreign direct investments and reinvested earnings.

These reports include data on associated corporations. Data on reinvested earnings is estimated using internationally accepted recommendations.

b) Steps being taken to comply with requirements

Improvement of geographic and sectoral data breakdown of International Investment Position and Foreign Direct Investments is in progress. In the course of 2011, the NBS should start receiving reports from the Central Securities Depository and Clearing House, which will significantly improve the quality of data on foreign direct investments and portfolio investments.

c) Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

In order to fully respond to EU requirements, the NBS should establish an integrated direct reporting system. The biggest obstacle refers to obtaining data directly from legal entities, and from the Central Securities Depository and Clearing House. Negotiations with the Central Securities Depository and Clearing House commenced in 2010, but the data exchange procedures have still not been defined. Given that the NBS has no jurisdiction over legal entities except banks, insurance companies and pension funds, it is unable to impose sanctions for delayed or erroneous reporting, and/or their failing to provide reports.

Module 2.08.04. International trade in services

a) Description of the current situation

The NBS publishes data on trade in services on its website. The major data source is ITRS; a part of services referring to transport (adjustment to CIF/FOB terms) and tourism (non-accommodation expenses and expenses of resident/non-resident students, medical patients, diplomats and other, abroad/in Serbia) are being estimated. Given that ITRS is used as the major data source, the services are being recorded using the data on payments and collections made between corporations.

b) Steps being taken to comply with requirements

Following the introduction of new data sources, the data on services will be available at gross values, meaning that the quality of data will be considerably improved. The release of gross value of services will start in the course of 2013.

c) Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

In order to fully respond to EU requirements, the NBS should establish an integrated direct reporting system. The biggest obstacle refers to obtaining data directly from legal entities. Given that NBS has no jurisdiction over legal entities except banks, insurance companies and pension funds, it is unable to impose sanctions for delayed or erroneous reporting, and/or their failing to provide reports.

Module 2.08.05. Balance of payments of the Community Institutions

a) Description of the current situation

For the time being, Serbia's data are not relevant.

Module 2.08.06. Foreign affiliates statistics (outward)

a) Description of the current situation

Outward FATS (Foreign Affiliates Statistics) which describes the economic activity of foreign affiliates of enterprises resident to the compiling economy has not been implemented up to now.

b) Steps being taken to comply with requirements

Foreign Affiliates Statistics (FATS) will be implemented through IPA 2009 Regional Project (starting in the 2011).

c) Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

There is no obstacles.

DOMAIN 3. BUSINESS STATISTICS

Theme 3.01 Annual business statistics

Module 3.01.01 Production of structural business statistics

a) Description of the current situation

As of 2006, the Office has been conducting a research for economic operators in line with EU Council Regulation No. 58/97 (as of 2009, the Council Regulation No. 295/2008), representing the legal basis for Structural Business Statistics (SBS) and the Commission Regulation No. 2700/98 (as of 2009, the Commission Regulation No. 250/2008), referring to SBS indicator definitions. The purpose of the survey is the assessment of indicators required for the analysis of enterprise's activity structure, structure of production process input and output, business achievements and competitiveness of economic operators at a certain level of activities, and the development of business at the regional, national and international level.

The survey covers non-financial business economy, i.e. active companies dealing with production and sale of products and services, and a part of other legal entities having income from the sale of products and services exceeding 50% of their overall operating income. Large and medium companies are subject to survey, while the data about small companies are obtained from administrative data source (annual financial statements) and for entrepreneurs (tax data and annual financial statements). The survey encompasses all the sections of the Classification of Activities (CA), other than the section Financial Intermediation and State Administration and Defence, mandatory social insurance i.e. business entities related to non-financial business economy have been included.

The output is assessed for annual SBS indicators referred to in Regulation 295/2008, Annexes 1-4, at a 4-digit level of CA, of sectors B-J, and according to the size of business entities defined by the number of persons employed or operating income. The data are published at a 2-digit

level of CA. The 2009 survey included elements required for the calculation of regional indicators (as a pilot procedure).

The most significant indicators defined in the Common Module are being calculated for the field of business services.

Calculation of indicators in the field of business demography is in its initial stage, principally due to the quality of data sources. So far, the registration of demographic events has primarily relied on data obtained from the Business Registers Agency. Data on newly established legal entities have been updated and their quality is high, while the data on other demographic events are of a lower quality. Monitoring of enterprises' deaths and other significant demographic changes relies, aside from administrative data, on estimates.

b) Steps being taken to comply with requirements

- Collecting data according to NACE rev.2 and in line with the new regulation, defining SBS (Council Regulation No 295/2008) and new regulations implementing this regulation (Commission Regulations No 250/2009, 251/2009 and 97/2009) – 2011,
- Calculation of indicators for affiliates of foreign companies in Serbia (FATS inward statistics) pursuant to Regulation 834/2009 (pilot) – 2011,
- Full coverage of indicators for businesses defined by the Regulation 295/2008, Annexes 1-4 – 2012,
- Calculation of indicators in the field of business demography defined by Regulation 295/2008, Annex 9 – 2012,
- Calculation of indicators of Financial Annexes defined by Regulation 295/2008, Annexes 5 - 7, 2013,
- Full coverage of indicators in the field of business services defined by Regulation 295/2008, Annex 8 (according to CPA categories and the residence of clients) – 2013,
- Calculation of indicators for kind of activity units – 2013,
- Reports on the quality of structural business statistics, pursuant to EU – 2013.

c) Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

- A prerequisite for the calculation of indicators for financial annexes is the adoption of EU accounting regulations concerning financial institutions, and adoption of statistical classifications and definitions in this sector,
- Quality of data relating to business demography depends on the reliability and objectiveness of data obtained from administrative sources,
- Lack of required human and material resources.

Module 3.01.02 Development of structural business statistics

a) Description of the current situation

The Office does not participate in Eurostat development projects in the field of structural business statistics, which is not mandatory for EU member states, either.

b) Steps being taken to comply with requirements

Further development of structural business statistics in the Office, will be based on monitoring and harmonization with EU regulations, particularly in the fields of business services and

business demography, including the operating of affiliates of foreign companies in Serbia (FATS inward statistics).

c) Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

The priority of the Office is to obtain full harmonization of structural business statistics with EU regulations, with subsequent participation in Eurostat development projects, depending on available resources.

Module 3.01.03. Prodcom

a) Description of the current situation

The production in sectors C, D and E, of the Classification of Activities NACE-rev1 on a monthly, quarterly and annual basis.

The National Nomenclature of Industrial Products includes 4420 positions, representing industrial products or services. Subcontracting has also been monitored. The National Nomenclature of Industrial Products is comparable with Prodcom in the first 6 positions, considering that they both contain first 4 positions from the Classification of Activities NACE-rev1, while the following two positions exist in the Classification of Products by Activities (CPA). Prodcom list (based on NACE-rev2) has been prepared.

b) Steps being taken to comply with requirements

Prodcom list (based on NACE-rev2) will be implemented as of 2011.

c) Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

Lack of:

- knowledge relating to: Data confidentiality, non-response, quality control (both at the national level and with regard to Eurostat) and forwarding of data to the Eurostat.
- human resources
- required level data from the Business Register and annual Structural Business Statistics.

Theme 3.02 Short-term business statistics

Module 3.02.01 Short-term business statistics

Employment and salaries (wages)

a) Description of the current situation

Short-term statistics, relating to employment and salaries (wages), have been partially harmonized with EU requirements. Average salaries (wages) data refer to the salaries (wages) paid in a month, and they are obtained from the regular Monthly Survey covering employees and their salaries (wages). Since January 2009, monthly sample of this survey has been expanded, to include data on salaries (wages) paid to employees by private entrepreneurs. The data on salaries (wages) of persons employed with unincorporated enterprises (entrepreneurs) have been acquired from the Tax Administration records.

b) Steps being taken to comply with requirements

- expanding of possibilities to use administrative sources for monitoring of registered employments.

- revision of the methodology applied in the Monthly Survey of employees and their salaries (wages), aimed at ensuring full harmonization with EU standards, implying expansion of such survey to working hours and providing data on salaries (wages) per working hour.

c) Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

- insufficient cooperation between the Office, Republic Institute for Health Insurance, Pension and Disability Fund, Tax Administration, on the standardization and reconciliation of methodological definitions, constituting the base for the development of integrated statistical outputs.

- Enhancement of the existing Monthly survey on employees and their salaries (wages) is planned, including expansion to working hours, as soon as appropriate conditions, such as economic situation and legislation, are met. Considering that many regulations, providing standards for specific allowances, refer to average salaries (wages), the established time schedule of publishing the average salaries (wages) data cannot be changed.

Service Producer Price Index

a) Description of the current situation

The development of Service Producer Price Index commenced in 2005. At this point, the indices of financial services and insurance services have been calculated quarterly.

In 2010, the calculation of trial telecommunications index was initiated.

Also, the first stage of calculating index for road freight transportation is in progress (market survey and defining of survey tools).

b) Steps being taken to comply with requirements

In the period 2011-2015, it is planned to continue with expanding the number of fields for which the service price index will be calculated. Activity planning and implementation methods will be created based on recommendations given in the Eurostat Methodology of service price index calculation.

c) Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant.

Lack of human and financial resources.

Producer Price Index

a) Description of the current situation

Since 2010, the industrial products producer price index has included producer price index for the domestic market and producer price index for exports. The selling producer price of industrial products represents the actual amount of money received by a producer from a buyer, for a measurement unit of a precisely defined quality (type) of product, sold on a domestic or foreign market. The price is exclusive of the value added tax or discounts which a seller may grant to a buyer.

Given that the Price Statistics methodology relies on the principle of representation, the enterprises operating within the territory of the Republic of Serbia have been covered, other than AP Kosovo and Metohia (UN Resolution 1244), having the highest production output and sales of the selected products, the prices of which represent general trends of prices in the manufacturing industry, per fields and product purposes.

The prices of industrial product producers have been monitored, covering around 1800 products from approximately 450 industrial manufacturers, categorized under sectors C, D and G for 28 fields from the Classification of Activities CA (1996).

The list of monitored products has been updated annually. A more comprehensive revision of the list of products has been conducted each five years, concurrently with the change of weights.

The reporting period for prices, covers the period from 16th day of the previous month, until 15th day in the following month.

Weights for products within specific areas have been calculated based on the Annual Report of industry on the production output achieved on the domestic market (Ind 21) and the Foreign Trade Statistics on annual value of exports, in accordance with CA (1996), for exported products, while the share of individual fields in the overall output is based on the data of Complex Annual Report (KGI-01 pure activities). Weights are changed (calculated) each five years. Current weights have been applied since 2007 and they have been calculated using the data relating to 2005.

Index calculation is based on Laspeyres formula, with base period for prices and indices being the last-year average.

b) Steps being taken to comply with requirements

- transfer to a new Classification of Activities CA (2010) of 2011.
- application of new weights based on data of 2010, and expansion of sample in 2012.
- Efforts to introduce Index of import prices in the period 2011-2015

c) Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

Lack of human and financial resources.

Industry

a) Description of the current situation

Calculation of industrial production index has been harmonized with the Methodology of Short-Term Business Statistics, Chapter 10: Industrial Indicators, Section 10.1: Production that originates from Council Regulation 1165/98". of 2004. It is calculated on a monthly, quarterly and annual basis. Deadline for data release is the last business day in a month for the previous month. Seasonal adjustment is done for the total Industry and for the Manufacturing, using the method X-11.

Industrial production indices (total Industry, sectors, MIG's and divisions) in the period 2000-2010, have been calculated on the basis of 2005 data, and CA (2010) compliant with NACE-rev2.

Statistical survey is conducted for turnover and new orders in the Industry. Monthly data have been collected quarterly in this survey. Turnover and new orders indicators in the Industry have been harmonized with the Eurostat methodology.

b) Steps being taken to comply with requirements

Implementation of CA (2010) in calculated the industrial production index, turnover index and index of new orders in the Industry.

c) Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

Lack of knowledge to apply the Eurostat method of seasonal adjustment index, industrial production index, turnover index and index of new orders in the Industry.

- Shortage of human resources

Construction

a) Description of the current situation

Short-term indicators in the Construction have been partially harmonized with the EU requirements (Methodology of Short-Term Business Statistics, Chapter 11: Construction indicators, in line with Regulation 1165/98). Certain indicators are still missing (B320, B321 and B322). The Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia conducts monthly and quarterly surveys for the calculation of short-term indicators and semi-annual survey on prices of dwellings of new construction. Classification into buildings and civil engineering has been done based on the national Classification of Types of Construction applied to an annual survey conducted in 2003, and quarterly surveys conducted in 2004. The classification has been harmonized with the EU Classification of Types of Construction – CC, final version, Eurostat).

Quarterly short-term indicators include: overall construction production index, for buildings and civil engineering, and index of new contracts values. Indices have not been seasonally adjusted. Construction production indices have been presented at permanent and current prices.

Issued building permits for buildings and dwellings (useful area and volume of buildings according to purpose, number and useful area of dwellings), monthly. Indicators of monthly surveys on permits have been calculated for all constructions according to the Classification of Types of Constructions, and not only for buildings and dwellings.

Transfer of time series to a new Classification of Activities (NACE Rev.2). was completed in time.

The preparation of instruments for conducting the census of population within the 2011 Census of Population, Households and Dwellings (preparation of forms, final version of the methodology and instructions for enumerators).

b) Steps being taken to comply with requirements

In the future period, in April 2011, the census of dwellings will be conducted within the 2011 Census of Population, Households and Dwellings). This will be followed by the development of census output. Following all the activities relating to the census of dwellings, we will continue with the work on harmonization of short-term indicators of the Construction with EU Regulation requirements (Methodology of Short-Term Business Statistics, Chapter 11: Construction indicators, in line with Regulation 1165/98).

c) Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

Enhancement of Statistical Business Register, as the framework for the selection of reporting units for the purpose of sample introduction.

Technical Assistance in the use of DEMETRE (seasonal adjustment of Tramo/Seats or X-12-Arima) model for the seasonal adjustment of time series according to the EU standards.

Preparation of weights is required for the calculation of aggregate construction index and providing appropriate deflators for value deflation purposes.

The Construction statistics requires an increase of headcount.

Catering Trade

a) Description of the current situation

The Office carries out a quarterly survey on short-term indicators of catering trade's enterprises and entrepreneurs. The survey is being conducted based on samples. The sample is based on turnover presented in financial statements.

The survey includes the collection of data on: Total turnover with and without value added tax (VAT), turnover per types of catering services (with and without VAT), turnover related to catering activities per months in a quarter (with and without VAT). The definition of turnover is largely reconciled with the Methodology of Short-Term Business Statistics, 'Council Regulation 1165/98, covering short-term statistical indicators.

b) Steps being taken to comply with requirements

- Implementation of Classification of Activities (NACE rev 2);
- Harmonization with the Eurostat recommendations;
- Enhancement of small enterprises and entrepreneurs coverage.

c) Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

- Improvement of the Statistical Business Register;
- reduction of non-response rate;
- data quality improvement.

Retail and Wholesale Trade

a) Description of the current situation

The Office conducts the survey on the group of enterprises registered for the Retail and Wholesale Trade, on a monthly and quarterly base:

- monthly survey on Retail Trade;
- quarterly survey on Retail Trade
- quarterly survey on wholesale trade

The survey on entrepreneurs has been conducted annually.

The surveys have been conducted based on samples. The sample is based on turnover presented in financial statements. The stratification is done based on a spatial allocation, size of enterprise and principal activity (based on the national classification harmonized with NACE Rev. 1).

The definition of turnover is largely reconciled with the Methodology of Short-Term Business Statistics, 'Council Regulation 1165/98, covering short-term statistical indicators.

Retail Trade

Reporting units are enterprises the principal activity of which is the retail trade. Several enterprises achieving significant turnover with retail shops as their secondary activities, which do not have the retail trade as their principal activity, have been included in this survey. Therefore, the results include the retail trade of such enterprises.

- Monthly surveys on Retail Trade are used to collect the data on total supply of an enterprise in the current and the previous month (including VAT); turnover related to retail trade in the current and the previous month (including VAT), as overall value and per regions.

- Quarterly survey on Retail Trade is used to collect the data on:

- Total turnover of an enterprise (with and without VAT);
- retail trade turnover (with and without VAT) per months in a quarter and per regions;
- retail trade turnover per payment instruments (including VAT) and per regions;
- turnover per commodity groups (including VAT) and per regions;
- Inventories per selling prices (including VAT) per regions;

The Office publishes the seasonally adjusted indices of the Retail Trade.

Wholesale Trade

Reporting units are enterprises the principal activity of which is the Wholesale Trade. A lesser number of enterprises achieving significant sales with wholesale outlets as their secondary activities, which do not deal with the wholesale trade as their core activity, have been included in this survey. Therefore, the results include the wholesale trade of such enterprises.

- Quarterly survey on the Wholesale Trade is used to collect the data on:

- Total turnover of an enterprise (with and without VAT);
- wholesale trade turnover (including VAT) per types of customers and months in a quarter (with and without VAT);
- wholesale turnover per commodity groups (including VAT);
- Inventories per selling prices (excluding VAT).

b) Steps being taken to comply with requirements

- harmonization with Eurostat recommendations;
- improved coverage of entrepreneurs;
- adjustment to number of work days, seasonal adjustment;

c) Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

- Improvement of the Statistical Business Register;
- reducing the burden on the reporting units.
- reduction of non-response rate;

- quality improvement of collected data;
- providing for appropriate deflator for the retail trade.

Theme 3.03. Energy

Module 3.03.01. Structural statistics of energy

a) Description of the current situation

The following annual energy balances are drafted for the Republic of Serbia: electricity, heat, solid fossil fuels and produced gases, natural gas, oil and oil derivatives, geothermal energy and heating firewood balances. The Eurostat recommendations contained in Regulation EC No 1099/2008 were complied with in drafting all of the balances. In parallel with the annual energy balances, annual questionnaires of the International Energy Agency are filled in. A good cooperation was established with the International Energy Agency and the Energy Community.

b) Steps being taken to comply with requirements

Annexes A and B attached to the Regulation 1099/2008 should be implemented.

c) Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

- Lack of knowledge: Annual energy balance for liquid bio-fuels, solid biomass (other than firewood), industrial waste, municipal waste, solar energy, wind and biogas.
- Assistance is required with respect to the production of: structural data for the production of electrical and heating energy, technical characteristics of devices, gas storage capacities.
- Insufficient human resources.

Module 3.03.02. Short-term statistics of energy

a) Description of the current situation

Short-term statistics of energy has not been produced.

b) Steps being taken to comply with requirements

The Eurostat will initiate the cooperation with respect to the short-term statistics of energy with the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia when the Republic of Serbia obtains the status of a candidate country.

c) Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

- Lack of knowledge and human resources.

Module 3.03.03. Energy prices

a) Description of the current situation

Republic Statistical Office does not provide data electricity and gas prices in line with rules proposed by the Directive 2008/92/EC.

b) Steps being taken to comply with requirements

Cooperation with The Ministry of Mining and Energy and Energy Agency of Republic Serbia will be established in order to develop Methodology for collection and compilation data according the requirements set up in Directive 2008/92/EC.

c) Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

Lack of knowledge and human resources.

Module 3.03.04. Special actions to support the new Community energy policies

a) Description of the current situation

All explanations have been provided in Subgroup 15. The Ministry of Mining and Energy is responsible for energy policy, and the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia is responsible for producing energy statistics which represents a support to the creation of energy policy.

b) Steps being taken to comply with requirements

All explanations have been provided in Subgroup 15. The Ministry of Mining and Energy is responsible for energy policy, and the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia is responsible for producing energy statistics which represents a support to the creation of energy policy.

c) Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

All explanations have been provided in Subgroup 15.

Theme 3.04 Transport

Module 3.04.01. Information system on transport statistics, indicators and voluntary data collections

a) Description of the current situation

Most of Transport Statistics indicators have been available. The Office collects most of Transport Statistics data. Maritime transport data are not collected. Thirty-two surveys are conducted on a monthly, quarterly, annual and five-year basis. The data on road transport (only public transport), railway transport, inland waterway transport, pipeline and air transport are in compliance with the international standards.

b) Steps being taken to comply with requirements

The missing indicators will be harmonized with the EU regulations for Transport Statistics by 2015.

c) Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

The current problems are related to insufficient human resources, and, to a lesser extent to the lack of professional assistance.

Module 3.04.02. Passenger mobility and road traffic data

a) Description of the current situation

There is no regular survey of passenger mobility. This pilot survey is planned to be conducted until the expiry of this five-year period. The problem of human resources has been particularly highlighted here. It is necessary that prior to the conduct of this survey on a regular basis the methodology should be defined so that it should be approached to the EU member states, as well as all others. To achieve this, we need to train new human resources, as well as the financial support for conducting field tests by conducting several pilot surveys.

b) Steps being taken to comply with requirements

The survey of passenger mobility is planned to take place by the end of 2015.

c) Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

Potential problems may include lack of human resources and assistance in terms of other statistical experience in conducting this survey.

Module 3.04.03. Road freight transport statistics

a) Description of the current situation

The Road Freight Transport Statistics still includes only public transport, but the objective is to expand the scope which gets enlarged every year. A pilot survey of road freight transport for internal purposes was conducted in 2009, based on the methodology of the French statistics. The standard product classification in Transport Statistics NST has been adopted and there are no obstacles for its implementation, as well as NACE Rev 2. The process of organizing the territory of the Republic of Serbia into administrative regions has been completed and it may be applied, and it is applied in the official statistical processing. The indicators of type of packaging and type of transported dangerous goods (ADR) were introduced in 2009.

b) Steps being taken to comply with requirements

Another pilot survey is planned to take place by 2012 based on the methodology of the French statistics and Regulation (EC) 98/1172 EEC, provided the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Serbia has provided the valid databases on registered vehicles, as well as on the increase of number of employees in Transport Sector. In case financial and human resources have been provided, a new pilot survey will be conducted by 2012.

c) Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

The problems are related to a small scope of the reporting units. A survey must be conducted in accordance with the European methodology, but with the financial and human resources assistance in the implementation of the survey.

Module 3.04.04. Rail transport statistics

a) Description of the current situation

NCT 2007 Nomenclature is in use in the Railway Statistics. The railway sector is still not in a position to provide us with the data on a combined transport (transport of containers, vehicles, etc.). The indicators on types of packaging and types of transport of dangerous goods (RID) will be in use by 2012, however this depends on the process of implementation by the Railway Sector counterparts. In 2010, the activities of E-railway lines census were initiated in 2009.

b) Steps being taken to comply with requirements

NSTJ-regions (NUTS) will also be used in the Railway Transport Statistics, but complete harmonization is expected to take place during 2012. The missing data are expected to be prepared in such a way to be harmonized with the European methodology.

c) Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

No major problems are expected.

Module 3.04.05. Maritime and inland waterways transport statistics

a) Description of the current situation

There are no available data on maritime transport. The Inland Waterways Transport Statistics is mostly harmonized with the international standards. The statistics nomenclature NST 2007 has been in use since 2009 in water transport. In 2009, the indicators of packaging and type of transport of dangerous goods (ADR) were introduced and harmonized with the international statistics.

b) Steps being taken to comply with requirements

The plans have been adopted for the collection of statistical data harmonized with the international standards by 2013.

c) Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

No problems are expected, other than the problems in relation to human resources and necessary technical assistance.

Module 3.04.06. Air transport statistics

a) Description of the current situation

The air transport data include the number of flights per section and per destination, from one airport to another and they can be compared at the international level.

b) Steps being taken to comply with requirements

Further harmonization in accordance with future amendments to regulations.

c) Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

No problems are expected, other than the problems in relation to human resources.

Module 3.04.08. Transport safety statistics

a) Description of the current situation

This survey, for which the data are obtained from the Ministry of Internal Affairs, includes the number of car accident fatalities. The indicator of number of alcohol related car accidents is the only indicator missing. The data on railway transport accidents are available.

b) Steps being taken to comply with requirements

The measures have been taken to obtain necessary and missing data as soon as possible and in cooperation with the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and to achieve the full compliance with the international requirements and obligations by 2014. We expect to obtain the missing data from the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

c) Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

Lack of human resources and professional assistance is here particularly highlighted.

Theme 3.05 Tourism

Module 3.05.01 Tourism statistics

a) Description of the current situation

Tourism statistics conducts:

1. Monthly survey on arrivals and overnight stays of tourists.
2. Semi-annual survey on tourist agencies.

1. Monthly survey on arrivals and overnight stays of tourists includes all economic operators that offer accommodation services for a short-time period. Variable definitions have been harmonized with the WTO and the Eurostat recommendations to a great extent ("Council Directive 95/57/EC of 23 November 1995 on the collection of statistical information in the field of Tourism"). Monthly survey on arrivals and overnight stays of tourists include the collection of data on:

- the number of arrivals and overnight stays of tourists per type and category of an accommodation facility, per region, country of origin of foreign tourists and per type of a tourist resort;
- accommodation facilities: number of rooms and beds per type and category of an accommodation facility and indirectly on gross utilization of the capacities.

The Office published seasonally adjusted indices of tourist overnight stays (in total, both domestic and foreign tourists).

2. The semi-annual surveys regarding tourist agencies include domestic tourist agencies holding licenses for performing a business activity. This survey includes the collection of data on:

- network of local and foreign tourist agencies;
- domestic tourists flow structure per destination countries (number of tourists and overnight stays);
- foreign tourists flow structure per country of origin (number of tourists and overnight stays);

The information on domestic population travel characteristics are additionally monitored within the survey "Household Budget Survey".

b) Steps being taken to comply with requirements

- harmonization with the recommendations of the WTO, Eurostat and the national legislation;
- calculation of net utilization of capacities;
- conducting statistical surveys on foreign tourists and foreign visitors.

c) Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

- increase the capacities of, in particular, small and individual accommodation facilities (non-registered tourist turnover)
- reduce the burden on the reporting units.

Theme 3.06. Business registers

Module 3.06.01 Business registers and statistical units

a) Description of the current situation

The Business Registers (BR) within the Office have been operational since 2005. The BR relies on the methodological recommendations of the Eurostat, the regulations and the so-called good practice applied in the developed business registers in the EU member states (in Sweden, in the first place).

The basic documents on which the establishment of the BR, their maintenance, as well as further development rely are as follows:

1. Council Regulation (EEC) No. 696/93 - on the statistical units for the observation and analysis of the production system in the Community.
2. Regulations on the Business Registers:
 - Council Regulation (EEC) No. 2186/93 on Community coordination in drawing up the Business Registers for statistical purposes.
 - Regulation (EC) of the European Parliament and of the Council No. 177/2008 of 20 February 2008 establishing a common framework for Business Registers for statistical purposes and repealing Council Regulation (EEC) No. 2186/93
3. Regulation of the Council of the European Union No. 322/87, the so-called EU Law on Statistics.
4. Business Register Recommendations Rulebook, 2003, 2006, 2010

5. Apart from the listed international documents for the establishment and maintenance of the BR, a series of national regulations and standards is used. The Law on Official Statistics, the Law on Classification of Business Activities and the Regulation on the Classification of Business Activities, as well as a series of regulations governing the action of different administrative authorities (containing data required by the BR).

The BR database includes the so-called legal units (all enterprises registered in administrative sources: Business Registers Agency, Classification Units Register (within the Office), i.e., social organizations, citizen associations, etc. The National Bank of Serbia data are used for updating a certain number of features – the NBS Solvency Centre, Tax Administration, Customs Administration, etc. Apart from legal units, the data are taken over for the so-called local legal units from the administrative sources, and serve as a basis for creating the statistical local units.

The reliance on the administrative sources rationalizes the maintenance of the BR to a great extent, and among other things has a direct impact on the reduction of the burden to small and micro enterprises.

To achieve as much updated status of the BR as possible, the results of a series of statistical surveys conducted in accordance with five-year programs and annual work plans are used apart from administrative sources. A special web application has also been developed and applied in the Office's system for conducting statistical surveys and used for updating the local units in the first place.

The framework for identifying target population is used for the purposes of statistical surveys (annual, quarterly and monthly) in the sphere of the Business Registers, and for the selection of a sample based on that framework. Over 20 statistical surveys have based their “address books” on the BR to date.

As of 2005/06, the reports for different international organizations are regularly prepared based on the BR data: for Eurostat, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, the World Bank, the IMF.

During the exploitation of the BR, as of its establishment, different deficiencies have been identified which initiated the overall project of re-engineering and improvement of the BR in the methodological sense and in terms of software components. The implementation of the project "Software Components and the BR Data Quality Improvement", completed in April 2010, ensures a step forward towards the modernization and further compliance with the standards and recommendations of the European Statistical System. The project management was based on the Dynamic System Development Method (DSDM). The implementation of the DSDM resulted in a new software solution for the purposes of the BR with a system of process and sub-process documentation, outputs and reports developed in detail, as well as in a development of a metadata base of the BR.

This resulted in the improvement of the process quality and a step forward in compliance with the standards ISO 9000:2000 in the sphere of development and maintenance of software, as well as of procedures used in the real BR system operation. Since after the completion of the re-engineering project a small number of activities remained uncompleted, a complete implementation of all the solutions envisaged by the project will ensure the minimum of CMMI/2 quality level, and higher levels in certain segments.

The BR data quality monitoring is conducted based on the Eurostat criteria, adjusted against the specifics and complexities of the units and features, manner of maintenance and heterogeneity of

sources for updating. The quality has been monitored for statistical units and their features, for the register in total, as well as for data from different administrative sources. The annual survey of the BR users' satisfaction is currently introduced.

The survey of big and medium enterprises focused on local units has been conducted for the first time. In future, this survey will become a regular annual survey.

The first steps have been made within the project for the introduction of the unit “Group of Business Entities”, within the project. Based on the administrative resources (NBS – consolidated financial reports, BRA – data on foreign founders), as well as on the Surveys on big and medium enterprises, the cluster of legal units and the so-called foreign legal units is made. These are the bases for differentiating three types of groups of enterprises of the resident group, incomplete resident (controlled from abroad) group and incomplete resident group (controlled by residential units).

b) Steps being taken to comply with requirements

The following activities will be initiated for the compliance with the ESS requirements in relation to the BR sphere:

- completion of all the remaining activities identified by the re-engineering project;
- regular conduct of the annual survey of local business units;
- introduction of the unit of company groups based on the cluster of the affiliated legal units,
- searching and the analysis of data quality of the existing and new administrative sources. For example, the NBS (data on foreign affiliates in Serbia), Central Securities Registry...;

c) Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

The basic obstacles to the improvement of the BR quality, i.e., for a further development and compliance with the international standards include the following two obstacles:

- Lack or insufficient quality of resources: financial and human
- Insufficient cooperation and administrative sources quality

DOMAIN 4. STATISTICS ON AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES

Theme 4.01. Agricultural statistics

Module 4.01.01. Crop products statistics

a) Description of the current situation

The surveys conducted in relation to the production of crops include the areas, production and yields for about 60 crop types, for legal units engaged in the agricultural production either as a primary or secondary activity, as well as for family agricultural holdings.

The data for legal units are conducted by preparing regular annual reports based on the data obtained from the accounting or other records maintained by legal units. Whereas family agricultural holdings, the data on areas represent the estimates based on the data obtained from the comprehensive cadastral records. The network has been established of around 1250 statistical estimators who cover 4000 estimation areas subject to the estimation, and each region consists of one or more cadastral municipalities. Agricultural experts or advanced agricultural producers have been engaged as statistical estimators. The same fall within the competence of the regional offices of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia.

The Crop Products Statistics conducts the following surveys:

- Survey of Sown Areas in autumnal sowing – as at 30 November;
- Survey of Sown Areas and Permanent Crops at the end of spring sowing and the expected yields of early crops and fruits – as at 25 May;
- Annual Survey of the Production of Vegetables and Fruits Under Protective Cover– as at 25 May;
- Survey of Early Crops and Fruits Yields and Expected Yields of Main Late Crops – as at 31 July;
- Survey of the Expected Yields of Late Crops, Fruits and Grapes – as at 1 September;
- Survey of the Generated Yields of Late Crops, Fruits and Grapes – as at 10 November;

The indicators covered by surveys are as follows: the total area, area of used agricultural land, area of arable land and gardens by crops (cereals, leguminous plants, industrial plants, sugar beet, vegetable, flowers and decorative plants, fallows), permanent grassland and permanent crops, total and average yields.

The data are published at a municipality level and per products based on the Classification of activities (CA) and the National Nomenclature of Products and Services in agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishery.

Some indicators and definitions have been harmonized with the Eurostat regulations (*Council Regulation (EEC) No 543/2009, 18 June 2009 concerning statistical information to be supplied by the Member States on crop production*).

b) Steps being taken to comply with requirements

- establishment of the Statistical Register of agricultural holdings;
- introduction of surveys of crop production on the basis of a sample;
- production of food balance sheets for cereals, fruits and vegetables, oil crops, potatoes, leguminous plants, beet, oil beet, sugar and wine;
- three-year survey of decorative plants;
- five-year survey of orchards;
- ten-year survey of vineyards;

Full harmonization is expected to take place by the end of 2015.

c) Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

- Non-existence of the Statistical Register of agricultural holdings;

Module 4.01.02. Livestock, meat and eggs statistics

a) Description of the current situation

The annual statistics on the number of livestock (cattle, pigs, sheep, goats and poultry) livestock balance, as well as the data on milk, eggs (total production), honey and wool production are collected from the regular annual surveys: The annual report on livestock-for legal units and Survey on Livestock Number-for family agricultural holdings, on a sample.

The Survey on Livestock Number – on a sample has been conducted every year since 1956, as at 15 January. Since then, the sample has been changed for several times, as per size and type.

Pursuant to the Census of population, households and apartments in 2002 a new sample was formed, and since 2004 the two-phased stratified sample has been in place covering 1% of family agricultural holdings. Since 2006, the status as at 1 December has been monitored, according to livestock categorization harmonized with the EU standards.

With respect to slaughtering livestock in slaughter houses, monthly surveys on livestock slaughtering in the registered slaughterhouses in the territory of the Republic of Serbia have been conducted since 2008, based on the report of the Veterinary Administration –the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management.

The data on livestock increase and meat production are calculated on the basis of the available data on exports and imports of livestock, data from the Survey on the Livestock Number and the Annual Reports on Livestock, as well as on data on slaughtering livestock in slaughterhouses.

The data on exports and imports of poultry according to the purpose of use and origin (grandparent, parent flocks) have been monitored within the Foreign Trade Department of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia.

Meat production estimates per type of livestock are not made by the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, neither the appropriate food balance sheets for livestock products.

The data are published based on the Classification of activities (CA) and the National Nomenclature of Products and Services in agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishery.

Some features and definitions have been harmonized with the Eurostat regulations governing this field (*Council Regulation No 1165/2008 of 26/01/2009 and repealing Council Directive 93/23/EEC, 93/24/EEC, 93/25/EE*).

b) Steps being taken to comply with requirements

- providing monthly data on setting eggs production, according to the purpose of use and origin (grandparent, parent flocks);
- providing annual data on the structures of setting eggs capacities;
- providing semi-annual data on pigs;
- meat production estimates;
- production of food balance sheets for livestock products;

Full harmonization is expected to take place by the end of 2015.

c) Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

- non-existence of the Statistical Register of agricultural holdings;
- insufficient use of administrative sources;
- lack of financial and human resources;

Module 4.01.03. Milk and dairy products statistics

a) Description of the current situation

- Data on milk production are obtained through the following surveys:
 - Survey on the Livestock Number in family agricultural holdings, on a sample;
 - The Annual Report on Livestock (enterprises and agricultural cooperatives).

The data on sales and purchase of milk are collected on a monthly level in the Department of Local Trade Statistics.

The data on dairy products are obtained within the industry statistics (monthly and annual level).

In view of harmonization with the EU standards (Directive 96/16/EC), monthly surveys have been introduced on the production of cow milk and cow milk products, as well as the annual surveys on the production of milk and dairy products.

b) Steps being taken to comply with requirements

- activities for the improvement of data coverage and quality (Table A and B);
- activities for the improvement of milk use data quality in family holdings (Table C);
- providing three-year milk statistical data (tables D, E, F and G).

Full harmonization is expected to take place by the end of 2015.

c) Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

- high non-response rate of dairies;
- insufficient use of administrative sources;

Theme 4.02.Agricultural structures

Module 4.02.01. Farm structure survey

a) Description of the current situation

The data at an agricultural holding level are not available. The farm structure survey has not been conducted, neither the Survey on Agricultural Production Methods (*SAPM – Survey on Agricultural Production Methods*).

The economic indicators for agricultural holdings are not available.

During 2009, within the IPA 2007 project, the preparations for the Census of Agriculture were initiated within which the pilot Census of Agriculture was conducted. The Pilot Census was conducted within the project the Europe Aid/126969/C/SER/YU and in accordance with the Eurostat methodology for conducting the Survey on the agricultural holdings structure (*Regulation (EC) No. 1166/2008*), and the manual for the implementation of the definitions provided in the said regulation (*Handbook on implementing the FSS and SAPM definitions CPESA/SB/652.rev.5*), as well as with the World program for agricultural census (*World Program for Agricultural Census, 2010. FAO-UN*). Prior to conducting a Pilot Census, the Law on Census of Agriculture had been adopted.

The Pilot Census tested the instruments for conducting the census (questionnaire and instructions for enumerators, as well as the census method. With respect to family agricultural holdings, the interview method was used for collecting data, while the reporting method was used for legal persons and the legal persons sent the filled questionnaires to the Office.

The pre-census testing was made of final instruments and the method of collecting data by interviewing legal units, under the same project.

Within the regional project IPA 2008, the activities were initiated for the preparation of the SO (standard output) coefficient to perform a typology of agricultural holdings after the Agricultural Census.

b) Steps being taken to comply with requirements

- conducting the Agricultural Census (including the indicators relating to the production method in agriculture) each ten years and the Farm Structure Survey between two censuses;
- establishment of the Statistical Register of agricultural holdings;
- EU typology of agricultural holdings;

Full harmonization is expected to take place by the end of 2015.

c) Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

- lack of financial and human resources;
- absence of survey of the Farm Accounting Data Network (FADN).

Theme 4.03. Land use and land cover

Module 4.03.01. Land use and land cover statistics

a) Description of the current situation

The data on land use are collected in the Department of agriculture and forestry statistics, through the following surveys:

- Survey of Sown Areas in autumnal sowing – as at 30 November;
- Survey of Sown Areas and permanent crops at the end of spring sowing and the assessment of early crops and fruits yields – as at 25 May;

The data on legal units are conducted by preparing regular annual reports based on the data obtained from the accounting or other records maintained by legal units. Whereas family agricultural holdings, the data on areas represent the estimates based on the data obtained from the comprehensive cadastral records. The network has been established of around 1250 statistical estimators who cover 4000 estimation areas subject to the estimation, and each region consists of one or more cadastral municipalities. Agricultural experts or advanced agricultural producers have been engaged as statistical statistical estimators. The same fall within the competence of the regional offices of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia.

The indicators covered by surveys are as follows: the total area, area of used agricultural land, area of arable land and gardens by crops (cereals, leguminous plants, industrial plants, sugar beet, vegetable, flowers and decorative plants, fallows), permanent grassland and permanent crops, total and average yields.

b) Steps being taken to comply with requirements

Currently, there are no plans for the introduction of this survey.

c) Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

Lack of financial resources and personnel trained for using remote observation techniques;

Theme 4.04. Agricultural accounts and prices

Module 4.04.01. Agricultural accounts and prices

a) Description of the current situation

The data on usage of agricultural products obtained from own production on the agricultural holding (with respect to crop and livestock production) are obtained within the department of agriculture and forestry statistics, from the survey of agricultural holdings (SAH).

The same survey includes data on the total costs of the agricultural production on the agricultural holding. This includes the costs of seeds/planting material, energy (fuel, heavy fuel oil, electricity, gas, etc.), livestock feed, mineral fertilizers, plant protection agents, veterinary services, equipment and machines maintenance, facilities maintenance, production services and other material and services.

The Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia started to collect certain data that are necessary for calculating the aggregates of the agricultural economic accounts.

Further, the drafting of the methodology on sources and methods of calculation EAA (“Inventory of the new EAA methodology – Questionnaire & Guide”) is currently in place. This activity has been conducted within the regional IPA 2008 project;

Agricultural price indices are calculated by using the existing trade statistics weights.

The Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia has started to collect data on absolute agricultural prices in accordance with the EU standards and recommendations. The survey is to be conducted on a quarterly basis and it includes 152 reporting units.

b) Steps being taken to comply with requirements

- work on pilot calculations of basic aggregates of the agricultural economic accounts;
- the calculation of agricultural prices indices using absolute agricultural prices;
- The drafting of the methodology on sources and methods of calculation EAA (“Inventory of the new EAA methodology – Questionnaire & Guide”);
- transfer to a revised classification of activities (NACE Rev. 2);
- the Agricultural Census;
- drafting the agricultural economic accounts;
- calculation of agricultural unit values; use of data on absolute prices for the main agricultural products and inputs;
- the revision of the calculation in accordance with the System of National Accounts 2008 (Eng. *SNA – System of National Accounts 2008*).

c) Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

- lack of financial and human resources;
- there are no appropriate price indices necessary for the calculation;
- the problem with the administrative data sources (insufficient cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management and the Ministry of Finance).

Theme 4.05. Forestry statistics

Module 4.05.01. Forestry statistics

a) Description of the current situation

Data on forests are collected from public companies in charge of forest management. The data on surfaces cover three-year periods. The data on roads, transport means and mechanization are collected on the annual level. Data on the production, sales and stocks of forest assortments are collected through monthly reports submitted by forest estates and organizations disposing of forests within their primary or secondary business activity, as well as the companies entrusted with forest management and exploitation.

The data on hunting are obtained from hunting associations, organizations engaged in hunting, other institutions and companies in possession of the property for such purpose of use and hunting estates. This survey is conducted every second year.

The data on logging, growth and maintenance, planting, intensive planted areas and hunting are conducted on the basis of a full coverage. The data on damage in state forests are based the full coverage, while the same data in private forests are collected in a smaller volume, and these are data relating to the damage caused by fire.

The collection of data relies on the reporting method, based on technical documentation, accounting records, studies, etc.

b) Steps being taken to comply with requirements

- further harmonization with the Eurostat methodology;
- improving the methods for collecting data on private forests;
- further harmonization to meet the requirements of the National accounts.

Full harmonization is expected to take place by the end of 2015.

c) Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

- Non-existence of the Register of private forests;

Theme 4.06. Fishery statistics

Module 4.06.01. Fishery statistics

a) Description of the current situation

The data within the Fishery Statistics are collected by the reporting method.

Two annual surveys are conducted: The Annual Survey on the Production of Consumable Fish and Spawn in Fish Ponds and the Annual Survey of Fish Landing in Rivers, Lakes and Channels.

The indicators covered by surveys are as follows: The production of consumable fish and spawn, employment in fisheries sector, fishing boats and equipment, use of food and energy (aquaculture), as well as fish landing in rivers, lakes, channels and fish restocking.

Serbia has no access to the sea/ocean.

b) Steps being taken to comply with requirements

- Further harmonization with the Eurostat methodology (*Council Regulation No. 762/2008/EC of 26/01/2009*)

Full harmonization is expected to take place by the end of 2015.

c) Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

- Undercoverage;
- Insufficiency of quality administrative sources.

Theme 4.07. Agri-environmental statistics

Module 4.07.01 Agri-environmental statistics

a) Description of the current situation

Agri-environmental statistics is at its beginning. Some parts of the methodology are in accordance with COM/2006/508.

The Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia collects the annual data on irrigation through the Department of Agricultural and environmental Statistics, as follows:

- sources of water for irrigation – own water supplies (surface and underground waters) and public water supply system;
- installations and irrigation systems;
- irrigated and used areas per crops.

The annual survey on the protection from harmful impacts of water and waterflow arrangement covers the reporting units whose core activities have been defined according to the spheres 03.01 – Water Management, 03.03 – Waste Waters Removal and 45.24 – construction of hydro-facilities in accordance with the nomenclature of the Classification of Activities CA harmonized with the Statistical Classification of Economic Activities of the European Community.

The collected data include the data on:

- Areas of arable land and gardens covered by drainage system;
- Flooded arable land and gardens;
- Land erosion and protection against erosion (infrastructure and channels, afforestation and creation of new land areas);
- Use of fossil fuels.

The data on irrigated surfaces and use of water are ready to be submitted to the Eurostat through eDAMIS.

b) Steps being taken to comply with requirements

Filling up the database in accordance with the COM/2006/508 requirements and other relevant national and EU regulations, 2011-2015;

The revision of the existing surveys within the agri-environmental statistics in accordance with the EU standards and national regulations.

Full harmonization is expected to take place by 2015.

c) Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

Legal basis, financial resources and lack of human resources.

Theme 4.08. Rural development and maritime policy statistics

Module 4.08.01. Rural development statistics

a) Description of the current situation

The rural development statistics has not been established yet, however, there is a possibility to collect the indicators regarding rural development within the Office. Numerous statistical surveys conducted within the Office (in different divisions), provide the appropriate statistical data on employment, transport, education, infrastructure and other appropriate indicators that may be used for this type of survey. Some indicators may be deducted from the population census, as well. The population census data are shown per type of settlement on the basis of the officially adopted typology of settlements. According to this classification, all the settlements have been divided into “urban” and “other” settlements. “Urban” settlements include the settlements established as such by a legal document or by the agreement of the local government competent units. “Other” settlements are rural or urban.

b) Steps being taken to comply with requirements

- collection of the appropriate data (social, demographic, economic, etc.) in accordance with the methodology of the Eurostat *Council Regulation (EC) No. 1698/2005*.
- Agricultural Census

The timeframe has not been identified.

c) Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

Lack of the appropriate typology.

Module 4.08.02. Maritime policy statistics

a) Description of the current situation

Since Serbia has no access to the sea and ocean, this Module is not applicable.

DOMAIN 5. MULTI-DOMAIN STATISTICS

Theme 5.01 Statistics for business cycle analysis

Module 5.01.01 Euroindicators /PEEIs

a) Description of the current situation

For the time being, data Serbia's data are not relevant for the Eurostatistics - Data for short-term economic analysis.

b) Steps being taken to comply with requirements

SORS will put the effort to provide and produce Selected Principal European Economic Indicators according to the required methodologies and disseminate them to Eurostat.

c) Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

Mainly connected to the limited human resources.

Module 5.01.02 Eurotrend

a) Description of the current situation

The same as in Module 5.01.01

b) Steps being taken to comply with requirements

The same as in Module 5.01.01

c) Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

Mainly connected to the limited human resources.

Theme 5.02 Europe 2020 strategy and sustainable development

a) Description of the current situation

For the time being, Serbian data are not relevant for the Europe 2020 strategy.

b) Steps being taken to comply with requirements

The SORS will develop both structural indicators and the sustainable development indicators defined and recommended by Eurostat.

c) Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

Mainly connected to the limited human resources.

Theme 5.03. Environment statistics and accounts

Module 5.03.02. Statistics on waste and hazardous substances - Data Centre "Waste"

a) Description of the current situation

Waste Statistics:

Based on the analysis of the conducted pilot survey in 2008, as of 2009, a regular statistical survey of industrial waste has been conducted, harmonized with the Regulation (EC) No. 2150/2002 on Waste Statistics, to include: formation-generation (of toxic and non-toxic) waste, treatment and disposal. The survey includes all enterprises with 10 and more employees pursuant to the Classification of Activities in accordance with the NACE Rev.1 for Sector B –Mining and Quarrying, Sector D –Manufacturing and Sector E –Electricity, gas and water supply (excluding the activity 37 – Recycling and 41 – Water Purification and Distribution). The time series have been translated in accordance with the CA (2010) harmonized with the NACE Rev. 2. The data are published at the national level and according to branches of activities pursuant to the Regulation on Waste Statistics (Regulation (EC) No. 2150/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council on Waste Statistics). Together with the form, the reporting units are provided with the Methodological Instructions with the European Catalogue of Waste, for easy and quality completion. The Office has submitted the data on industrial waste for 2008 to the UN through UNSD/UNEP – Environmental Statistics, questionnaire (JQ UNSD/UNEP- Environmental statistics).

The available data on municipal waste are statistical data collected through surveys conducted by the Office for 1993, 1996, 1999 and 2006 (in cooperation with the Environmental Protection Agency - SEPA), while SEPA collects the data for 2005 and as of 2007 on its own. The methodology for data collection has been partially harmonized with the Waste Statistics Regulation, 2150/2002, EC, in accordance with the national condition and potentials in this sphere.

Toxic chemicals statistics:

The data on the use of toxic and hazardous chemicals in Manufacturing Industry have been obtained as the result of a pilot survey that was conducted in 2008 in accordance with the EU Directive on chemicals (REACH, 1907/2006/EC).

The analysis of the pilot survey results and the necessary corrections of a questionnaire are currently in place as a preparatory phase for conducting a regular survey.

b) Steps being taken to comply with requirements

Waste Statistics:

- pursuant to the needs of the Environmental Protection Agency and conclusions from the workshop on industrial waste, (SIDA, project), the development of methodological instruments for the introduction of survey of agricultural waste has been envisaged in the Office – Group for Environmental Statistics, in view of completing the databasa and in accordance with the Regulation (EC) No. 2150/2002.
- completion of the database on waste in cooperation with the SEPA, 2011-2015.

Toxic chemicals statistics:

- conducting regular statistical survey on the use of toxic and hazardous chemicals in the industry for 2010;
- development of database on toxic and hazardous chemicals, 2011 - 2012
- collection of data in accordance with the NACE Rev.2, as of 2011.

c) Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

Legal regulations, financial resources and insufficient number of employed professional staff.

Module 5.03.03. Water statistics

a) Description of the current situation

Water Statistics:

The data for water statistics are provided through regular annual surveys that include the data on covering and use of water for: public water supply system, industrial production, cooling (heat exchange), sanitary requirements, etc. (C, D and E sectors under the Classification of Activities in accordance with NACE Rev.1.); for irrigation (Sector A, connected with Module 4.07.01); processing-water purification (treatment type: primary, secondary and tertiary), waste water discharge (from industry and public sewage) and land drainage. Water statistical data are available on the web site and publications issued by the Office (Statistical Annual Review, Serbian Municipalities, Eco-Bulletin and Communications).

The time series data have been translated in accordance with the CA (2010) in compliance with the NACE Rev.

The Office prepares the statistical data on waters for reporting to the Eurostat through eDAMIS application.

The data are submitted also to the UN Statistical Department (UNSD and UNECE) and FAO.

b) Steps being taken to comply with requirements

- The review of statistical surveys in the field of water in accordance with the methodology JQ Eurostat/OECD and the Water Framework Directive, 2000/60, in compliance with the national requirements and capacities (depending also on human resources). 2011-2013
- Completion of the database on water in view of providing the indicators in this field, 2011-2015
- Collection of data in accordance with the NACE Rev.2, as of 2011.

c) Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

Legal regulations, financial resources and insufficient number of employed professional staff.

Module 5.03.04. Environmental accounts – Data Centres: "Natural Resources" and "Products"

Environmental accounts

a) Description of the current situation

The Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia holds data about investments and current expenditure for environmental protection in the period 2006-2009. The source of data concerning investments and current expenditure for environmental protection is a regular survey entitled Annual Survey on Fixed Assets Investment. This Survey includes the collection of data for the level 60 of CA (Classification of Activities), harmonised with the international classification NACE Rev. 1.1).

This Survey is a part of the Statistical Survey Programme of the Republic Statistical Office and is conducted on a yearly basis. The reporting units are all legal persons.

As regards the investments in the protection of environment, the data refer to the investment in land, buildings and other facilities and equipment for: waste management, inland water protection, air protection, protection of underground waters and soil, protection of nature, protection against noise and total protection. As regards current expenditure for environmental protection, the data refer to the expenditure incurred to prevent, eliminate or reduce harmful environmental effects (current expenditure related to the operation and maintenance of devices and equipment for environmental protection - current expenditure for used energy, spare parts, employees and other current expenditure), presented by the same segments as the environmental protection investments.

In addition, the Office holds data about the resources used in households for environmental protection in the period 2004-2009, by the following categories: Waste collection, Sewerage collection, Water supply, Electricity, Gas, Firewood, Coal, Central heating and hot water services, which are presented as percentage of total costs. The source of data is the Household Budget Survey.

Presently, the Office, involved in the SIDA Project entitled Development of Environmental Protection Statistics, is in the phase of learning about the methodological bases for the preparation of the economic accounts for transactions related to the environment, which is the initial phase regarding the environmental protection expenditure accounts and accounts for other transactions related to environmental protection.

As regards other Environmental account modules, the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia presently does not perform relevant activities.

b) Steps being taken to comply with the requirements

- Development of a database for: Expenditures related to environmental protection and environmental tax/fee revenue, necessary for the preparation of economic accounts for the transactions related to the environment; harmonisation with the EU regulations and requirements;
- Defining methodological bases for the preparation of economic accounts for the transactions related to the environment;
- Revision of national accounts system in line with SNA2008 and accordingly, the revised version of ESA.

c) Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

- Lack of human and financial resources for the introduction of specific surveys in this field of statistics.

Statistics on air emissions:

a) Description of the current situation

In accordance with the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (CLRTAP) and UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), as the basis for the calculation of SO₂ and NO_x emissions, the Republic Statistical Office has been developing a database for the consumption of fossil fuels in the following sectors: A (Agriculture), C (Ore and stone exploitation), D (Processing industry) and I (Production and supply of electrical energy, gas and water), the Classification of Activities (in line with NACE Rev.1.), both in households at the level of RS (annually) and according to the EMEP network, 50x50 km² of surface (every 5 years for the sectors C, D and I. The Hydrometeorology Institute calculates the SO₂ and NO_x emissions and submits the results to EMEP.

b) Steps to be taken to comply with the requirements

SORS intends to continue cooperating with the Hydrometeorology Institute, the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning and the Serbian Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA), with the assistance of Swedish statistics experts, within the SIDA Project, with the aim of improving the quality and quantity of statistical data related to air emissions and for the purpose of completing the database in accordance with the CLRTAP/UNFCCC requirements, 2011 – 2015.

c) Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

Legal regulations, financial resources and insufficient number of employed professional staff.

Theme 5.04 Regional and urban statistics

Module 05.04.01. Regional indicators

a) Description of the current situation

The Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia produces and published, on a regular basis, a great number of various statistical indicators at the level of municipalities and administrative districts. These indicators are published in a yearly publication entitled *The Municipalities in Serbia*, and can be aggregated in a relatively simple way and presented at higher levels of territorial division that correspond to NUTS 3 and NUTS 2 divisions. The following statistical areas are covered by these indicators: Demographic Indicators, Employment and Wages (Salaries), Fixed Assets Investments, Agriculture, Postal Services and Telecommunications (number of post offices, number of phone subscribers), Educational Statistics (data about pre-school institutions, primary and secondary schools, university education, educational staff, financing of education), Construction, Environmental Protection (use of waters and treatment of waste material), Science and Technology (investments into research-developmental activities), Statistics of Tourism (data about accommodation capacities and number of overnight stays of domestic and foreign tourists), etc.

Most regional indicators, included in the REGIO system data collections, are already available. However, complete integration in the aforementioned system and creation of all prescribed indicators require further development of Industry Statistics responsible for the production of municipal and regional indicators; in the course of 2010, the revision of the existing data will be conducted and adequate future steps will be defined.

b) Steps being taken to comply with the requirements

The adoption of the changes of **Law on Regional Development** and the adoption of the **Regulation on Statistical Territorial Units** established the institutional foundations for the systematic development of statistical indicators in accordance with the EU standards and statistical regulations. For the purpose of conducting the policy of economical and regional development, the **Law on Regional Development** from 2009 was amended in 2010, defining the position and role of the SORS in this process. Afterwards, the **Regulation on the Nomenclature of Statistical Territorial Units** established the statistical regionalisation of the Republic of Serbia in accordance with the NUTS principles. A separate organisational unit for the calculation of regional national accounts and other economic indicators at the municipal and regional levels has been established within the National Accounts Department of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia. The first official estimate of the regional GDP is expected in 2011 in accordance with the methodology of the European System of National Accounts. All industry

statistics of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, responsible for the production of regional and municipal indicators, are in the process of harmonisation with the EU legislation as regards methodology, quality and processing of data. After the comprehensive revision of the availability of regional and municipal indicators, the operational plan for the elimination of missing indicators will be prepared.

c) Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

- Insufficient level of cooperation and harmonisation with the administrative sources of data - Ministry of Finance, Treasury Administration, Tax Administration, etc.
- Human, financial and technical resources remain a limiting factor for the development of industry statistics concerning the collection of data required for the development of all indicators contained in the REGIO system. Therefore, the example of Workforce Survey or Price Statistics Survey reveals that the size of sample and available funds prevent the compilation of reliable and good quality data at the administrative districts level (NUTS 3).

Module 5.04.02. Development of regional indicators

a) Description of the current situation

The legislative changes resulted in the creation of institutional foundation for the systematic development of regional and urban statistics in compliance with the EU statistics. All industry statistics of Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia have been actively included in the process of harmonisation with the EU statistical standards and regulations. The Labour Force Survey (as the basic source of data for the development of labour market indicators) is conducted twice a year and in cooperation with the experts from the European Union and the International Labour Organisation, the methodology of this system has been mainly harmonised with the European and international standards. The changes in the LBS survey have facilitated significantly the calculation of the regional GDP; further improvements are expected in 2011. A great part of other regional indicators contained in the collections of REGIO system already exist in the databases of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, while further improvements are expected in the coming years, depending on the availability of resources, primarily financial resources for conducting relevant surveys that would ensure their territorial representativeness in accordance with the NUTS.

b) Steps being taken to comply with the requirements

The Population and Household Census will be carried out in 2011 and the collected data will represent the basic source of data for the development of demographic indicators. The Census of Agriculture, which is going to be conducted simultaneously with the Population Census, will enable the creation of basis for the calculation of agricultural account (not before 2010) and the development of indicators from the REGIO collection related to the Agriculture. The improvements of the Structural Business Statistics surveys related to the introduction of module in local units will allow regular regionalisation of macroeconomic aggregates for the sector of non-financial institutions. The data about municipal distribution of local units, employment rate

and income of financial institutions are collected regularly through a special annual survey. The expected improvement of cooperation with state bodies regarding municipal and regional data will provide a solid foundation for the preparation of economic accounts in accordance with the European standards. The main source of information for labour market indicators is the Labour Force Survey that has been successfully harmonised with the European standards with the assistance of international experts. However, the lack of financial resources represents a limiting factor for the regularity of surveys and the size of sample, which prevents the development of reliable indicators at the level of administrative districts NUTS 3.

During 2011, the existing statistical surveys and methodologies will be reviewed to define precisely the missing indicators necessary for the full integration of the SORS in the REGIO system of regional and urban indicators. The adequate action plans will be adopted after this revision and their implementation will depend on the availability of resources (human, financial and technical).

c) Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

- Insufficient level of cooperation and harmonisation of information systems with other state bodies and institutions, such as: the ministries, the Treasury Administration, the Tax Administration, Social Welfare Funds, as the most important administrative sources of statistical data;
- Lack of human, financial and technical resources, particularly for conducting necessary statistical surveys that would provide required data at the level of municipalities (Local administrative units – LAU) and administrative districts (NUTS 2, 3).

Module 05.04.03. Urban statistics

a) Description of the current situation

As regards the statistical data about the towns of the Republic of Serbia, although the SORS databases and administrative sources already contain a great deal of statistical data, full integration into the Urban Audit Project requires a special survey to be conducted. At the moment, there are no particular plans and decisions concerning this kind of survey; the lack of human and financial resources represents, like in other cases, the main problem.

b) Steps being taken to comply with the requirements

Presently, the SORS will be focusing on the development of regional and municipal indicators, many of which will be available for the needs of Urban Audit. We believe that in the future period, with the assistance of international experts, we shall have the capacity to conduct the mentioned survey that will be in line with the European standards concerning Urban Statistics.

c) Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

There is no developed methodology or specialised survey that would provide the data required for the development of urban indicators envisaged by the Urban Audit system. There is a lack of

human resources and a special organisational unit that would systematically develop and improve this segment of Regional Statistics.

Module 5.04.04. SIRE

a) Description of the current situation

As regards the municipal level indicators, the SORS databases contain data from the population and household census conducted every 10 years. A new census will be conducted in 2011 and will cover some 45 variables. In addition to standard demographic variables, they include data about housing, level of education, social inclusion, migrations, etc. The new census will be organised in full compliance with the UN and EU standards. In addition, a great number of regional indicators can also be relatively simply presented at the level of municipalities because the surveys are organised in the way that the regional data are obtained by aggregating the values established at the municipal level. The indicators to be established by the Ministry of Economy and Regional Development are defined at the level of municipalities, administrative districts and regions.

b) Steps being taken to comply with the requirements

The Population Census will be conducted in 2011 and its organisation and preparation are entirely harmonised with the EU and UN standards. This database will represent the basic element for the integration of Serbia in the SIRE database.

c) Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

The production of data at the municipal level is most often hindered by the insufficient size of statistical sample or the lack of financial resources for conducting a survey that would result in representative data for the municipal level.

Module 5.04.05. Management of the NUTS classification

a) Description of the current situation

The Regulation on Nomenclature of Statistical Territorial Units (*Official Gazette of RS*, Nos. 109/09 and 46/10), adopted in accordance with the Law on Regional Development (*Official Gazette of RS*, Nos. 51/09 and 30/10), defines the statistical functional territorial units (three hierarchical levels: NUTS1, NUTS2 and NUTS3). The levels of grouping territorial units, determined by this Regulation, represent the standard for the statistical activities of collecting, processing, presenting and analysing statistical data as well as the data, information and indicators of regional development efficacy.

The criteria for grouping the levels of NUTS are based on the general criteria established according to the European Union standards (NUTS classification), as follows: number of inhabitants, geopolitical position, natural potentials, existing territorial organisation and cultural-historical heritage.

NUTS is based on the territorial organisation of the Republic of Serbia. The basic principle for establishing a level in the nomenclature is to respect the existing administrative divisions. The NUTS levels are statistically functional territorial units. Each functional territorial unit has its code and name:

NUTS 1 consists of two functional units: Serbia - North and Serbia - South;

NUTS 2 consists of five functional units/regions: Belgrade region, Vojvodina Region, Sumadija and West Serbia Region, South and East Serbia Region and Kosovo and Metohia Region;

NUTS 3 consists of thirty districts. The names of districts are determined according to the names of administrative districts whose territorial units of local government constitute a part of certain district and in the case of Belgrade, according to the name of the city which is not an administrative district.

The codes of functional territorial units have been defined for the needs of the Republic of Serbia.

b) Steps being taken to comply with the requirements

The use of statistical functional territorial unit codes at all levels, in accordance with the EU standards and nomenclature.

c) Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

There are no obstacles.

Theme 5.05. Geographical and local information

Module 5.05.01. GISCO

a) Description of the current situation

The SORS keeps the Register of Spatial Units in accordance with the **Law on Register of Spatial Units** (*Official Gazette of RS*, Nos 19/89, 53/93, 67/93, 48/94). The elements of Register are alphanumerical data (names, unique registration numbers, background) of the following spatial units: administrative districts, towns, municipalities, settlements, cadastral municipalities, local communities, statistical and enumeration areas. The graphic part of the Register of Spatial Units is in the purview of the Republic Geodetic Authority.

The SORS has a georeferentiation network of spatial units kept in the Register (of administrative districts, municipalities, towns, settlements, cadastral municipalities, local communities, statistical and enumeration areas) in a digital form, which allows the graphic presentation of data up to the level of statistical area.

b) Steps being taken to comply with the requirements

It has been planned to introduce in the database the geo-referential network of enumeration areas, after the 2011 census, which would allow the graphic presentation of statistical data at all territorial levels; in addition, it has been planned to connect the RSU (Register of Spatial Units) database with other statistical databases and to introduce the address data system into the Register. The deadline for the implementation of all planned activities is the end of 2015.

c) Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

The acquisition of adequate equipment and GIS software; organising and connecting databases; education for using advanced software tools for the presentation of spatial data; establishing legal mechanisms that would allow to keep the Register up to date.

Module 5.05.02. INSPIRE

a) Description of the current situation

The Law on State Survey and Cadastre (Official Gazette of RS No. 72/09) created a legal framework for establishing infrastructure spatial data in Serbia in compliance with European tendencies directed through the INSPIRE (Infrastructure for Spatial Planning in Europe) Directive.

The National Geospatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) represents an integrated system of geospatial data, which allows users to identify and access spatial information from different sources, from local through national to global levels, in a comprehensive manner.

The goal of the NSDI is to create a common national framework for the exchange of spatial environmental information between public institutions and better opportunities for public access to spatial information. Spatial information, unified within a common infrastructure, provide a multitude of possibilities for upgrading public services, while disabling data duplication and data inconsistency.

A successfully established NSDI is an essential pillar for the development of e-government. NSDI also makes part of an international network of spatial service, where co-operation is particularly important at the European level in the area of geo-information.

The Republic Geodetic Authority, supported by the Norwegian Mapping and Cadastre Authority, began initial activities to establish a spatial data infrastructure in Serbia, in line with European initiatives and tendencies. The support was based on the successful experiences achieved in Norway on the establishment and development of Spatial Data Infrastructure Digital Norway.

Past activities, carried out largely through co-operation within the Serbian-Norwegian RGA-SK Twinning Project:

- The Law on State Survey and Cadastre includes one chapter providing a legal basis for establishing NSDI in Serbia, while also certain regulations of the INSPIRE Directive have been directly transposed into the law. The transposition of other provisions from the Directive into by-laws is also planned. The Law on State Survey and Cadastre came into force in September 2009.
- The bodies of the NSDI include the NSDI Council and working groups. The main role of the NSDI Council is to manage the creation of institutional and technical framework for the establishment of joint geo-information infrastructure at the national level through the formulation of clear guidelines and resources to achieve this goal. The role of working groups is putting into operational status thematic issues for specific areas such as technical infrastructure, standards, metadata and spatial data, collaboration among participants, financial models, research, education and so on.

- The Government of the Republic of Serbia at its session of 21 January 2010 appointed president and members of the NIGP Council. The Director of the Geodetic Institute was appointed as President of the NSDI Council, while representatives of the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, the Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government, the Ministry of Telecommunications and Information Society, the Ministry of Defense, the Ministry of Mining and Energy, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, the Ministry of Economy and Regional Development, the Statistical Office and the Republic Hydrometeorology Institute were appointed as members.
- The strategy for establishing NSDI in Serbia for the period 2010-2012 defines activities and measures that will in future lead to the creation of Serbian infrastructure that will provide the exchange of high-quality spatial data sets and services based on co-operation between the parties for the public sector, the economy sector and the public in general. The Strategy was adopted on 28 October 2010 by the Government of the Republic of Serbia. The aim of the strategy is to define guidelines for all parties involved to create a national infrastructure for easy browsing, viewing and sharing geo-information, which is also part of the European infrastructure and makes an important contribution to the development of e-government.
- The role of metadata is to document content, structure and location of geo-information and allow their finding, evaluation and use. The Republic Geodetic Authority developed a proposal of metadata standards for NSDI that describe: data about the metadata, the characteristics of the data set, authorized organization, compliance, overview, classification, key words, conditions and restrictions, distribution, maintenance, reference system, the location and quality. The proposed NSDI metadata standard is based on: the INSPIRE implementing rules for metadata, ISO 19115 – Geographic information – Metadata and ISO 19139 – Geographic information – Metadata – XML scheme.
- Metadata editor is an application that was developed for collection and maintaining metadata and supports the standard for metadata. The editor is available for download on the geo-portal and allows the institutions that provide spatial data to collect and maintain metadata from their jurisdiction in accordance with the standard.
- The initial geo-portal 'Geosrbija' (<http://www.geosrbija.rs>), as a tool for viewing and sharing distributed spatial data and services under the umbrella of NSDI, was launched on 27 November 2009. Geo-portal 'Geosrbija', over the Internet, provides access to search and view services with a limited number of metadata, spatial data sets and services from the jurisdiction of the Republic Geodetic Authority and other related institutions, while ensuring public access to information about space.

b) Steps being taken to comply with requirements

Implementation of the Strategy for the establishment of NSDI in Serbia. The aim of the strategy is to establish an infrastructure, providing support to a high-quality and stable environmental development, coupled with economic growth, through efficient services, fulfilling the needs and demands of the public and private sectors, as well as citizens at large. The strategy represents a framework within which detailed policies may be developed to ensure wide use of geo-information to avoid duplicated effort and reduce administrative costs.

The purpose of the strategy is to promote the exploitation and benefits from the NSDI and to create a framework for supporting national and European initiatives in the area of geo-information.

The strategy will lead to creation of NSDI in Serbia through the following strategic areas:

1. Co-operation
2. Spatial data and services
3. Standardization
4. Legal framework
5. Geodetic reference system
6. Financing
7. Research, development and education

Implementation of the strategy requires a package of administrative, organizational and technological measures, which will be implemented through the support of the legal framework and appropriate policy. The NSDI Council will coordinate other bodies of the NSDI and involved groups to ensure uniform development of various strategic components.

Co-operation and coordination are fundamental for achieving coordination between all participants in the geo-sector.

c) Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant.

Apart from the benefits of shared infrastructure, there are also many obstacles that may arise during the implementation:

- The need to understand the common needs and close co-operation between parties such as state, local government, economy and private sector.
- It is necessary to provide the sources of funding needed for putting the strategy into operational status. Investment in information technology is strategically important for the development of the national infrastructure.
- The introduction of standards for geo-information and harmonization of spatial data and services in accordance with the INSPIRE requirements
- Adoption of by-laws and other relevant regulations.
- A long-lasting project versus the need for short-term visible results.
- The need for experienced and professional staff in geo-sector.

Theme 5.06. Science, technology and innovation

Module 5.06.01. Statistics on science and technology

Statistics of research and development (R&D)

a) Description of the current situation

- This collection provides users with data concerning R&D expenditure and R&D personnel broken down by following institutional sectors: business enterprise (BES), government (GOV), higher education (HES) and private non-profit (PNP) sector.

All data are broken down by the above mentioned sectors of performance.

- The R&D expenditure is further broken down by source of funds, by type of costs, by type of economic activity (NACE), by type of R&D, by fields of science and by socio-economic objectives.
- R&D personnel data is available in full-time equivalent (FTE), in head count (HC), as a % of employment. The data is further broken down by occupation, by qualification, by gender, by citizenship, by age groups, by fields of science and by economic activity (NACE).
- R&D data are compiled in accordance to the guidelines laid down in the Proposed standard practice for surveys of research and experimental development - Frascati Manual.
- The population surveyed varies according to the institutional sectors. In the business enterprises sector (BES), our statistic survey by sample, businesses that are known to perform R&D or to be potential R&D performers. In the other sectors, the government sector (GOV) and the higher education sector (HES), all entities are generally surveyed.
- Reference period is the calendar year. Data are not available for the regional level yet.

b) Steps being taken to comply with requirements

The introduction of a survey General Budget Appropriations and Outlays on R&D - GBAORD,

- The introduction of a survey Indicators on High-tech industry and knowledge-intensive services (HTEC)
- Development of indicators on human resources in science and technology (HRST)
- The introduction of survey: career of doctorate holders (CDH).
- Regional data on R&D.
- The introduction of a survey on Patent statistics – PAT.
- Development of new indicators according to international standards and the proposed methodology.
- Planned activities should be implemented in the period 2011-2015.

c) Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant.

- Lack of statisticians/experts in this area;
- Weak cooperation between policy makers and statistics;
- Lack of financial resources and technical support

- When introducing a new survey the technical assistance from one of the countries, which already have developed such a kind of survey, is crucial as is the engagement of an extra expert for the area.

Module 5.06.02. Statistics on innovation

a) Description of the current situation

The Community Innovation Survey (CIS) is a survey on innovation activity in enterprises. The data is collected on a two-yearly basis. The first CIS (CIS-2006) was a pilot exercise, held by SORS in 2008, while the second survey (CIS-2008) was carried out in 2009. The CIS was implemented to obtain information on innovation activities within enterprises, as well as various aspects of the process such as the effects of innovation, sources of information used, costs etc. The CIS is based on the Oslo Manual. The statistical indicators presented cover a range of topics related to:

- Product, process, ongoing and abandoned innovation
- Innovation activity and expenditure
- Intramural research and experimental development (R&D)
- Effects of innovation
- Public funding of innovation
- Innovation co-operation
- Sources of information for innovation
- Hampered innovation activity
- Patents and other protection methods
- Other important strategic and organizational changes in the enterprise

Breakdowns are given at the level of country, type of innovator, size of firm (by number of employees), classification of economic activities (in accordance with NACE Rev. 1) and innovation indicators. The population of the CIS is determined by the size of the enterprise and its principal activity. All enterprises with 10 or more employees in any of the specified sectors were included in the statistical population. Research provides the necessary indicators for the European Innovation Scoreboard. A standard core questionnaire for CIS is used. The target population was to be broken down into strata for sampling purposes. The variables to be used for this were size (according to number of employees) and the activity classification (NACE) as these two variables are highly correlated with innovation activity.

b) Steps being taken to comply with requirements

All efforts would be to minimize the unit non response. Item non-response and partial item non-response will be kept at a minimum. We will do analysis of the quality of response. The tabulation scheme, prepared by Eurostat, for the delivery of the aggregated data, will be provided for research CIS-2010. These tabulations cover the statistical results and their respective breakdowns for national data. Planned activities should be implemented in the period 2011-2012.

c) Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant.

Lack of statisticians/experts in this area;

Weak cooperation between policy makers and statistics;

Lack of financial resources and technical support.

Theme 5.07 Information society

Module 5.07.01 Statistics on information and communication technologies

a) Description of the current situation

In 2004, the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia conducted a pilot survey on the use of information and communication technologies in enterprises operating in banking and insurance. The primary objective of this study was to test the methodology and instruments and prepare for the introduction of similar, regular surveys relating to households and companies.

Since 2006 the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia has conducted two surveys on the use of information and communication technologies. The first relates to households and individuals and the other covers enterprises. Both surveys will also be conducted in 2011.

The surveys are fully harmonized with the Eurostat methodology (Council Regulation No. 1006/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council).

The data are regularly submitted to the Eurostat.

b) Steps being taken to comply with requirements

Keeping track with the changes in the regulations in this area and their implementation in statistical surveys.

c) Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

No major obstacles have been identified.

Module 5.07.02. Postal statistics

a) Description of the current situation

The Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia collects the data on all mandatory activities within universal postal services (the number of letter mail, shipment, payment operations), and also the number of employees and revenues. The data on telecommunications traffic are also collected: the number of telephone connections, spent minutes and impulses, and the number of mobile subscribers and spent minutes of conversation.

b) Steps being taken to comply with requirements

Further harmonization in accordance with future development of international standards.

c) Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant.

There is a significant lack of staff, while at the same time there is a need for professional assistance.