# The European Union's IPA 2013 Programme

"Support to the Improvement of Statistical Information System" - Albania

Europe Aid/136334/IH/SER/AL

Service contract no. (CRIS) AL/IPA2013/03

Output 1a2.4:

Improvements on data collection methodologies, standardisation and modern tools

Dragan Vukmirović



This project is funded by The European Union

A project implemented by





December 2016

## Contents

PROJECT REFERENCES			
	OBJECTIVES		
	OACH		
	NT ACTIONS		
ANNEY 1 ARREVIATIONS A			





## **PROJECT REFERENCES**

Project reference number	Europe Aid/136334/IH/SER/AL	
Project title	Support to the Improvement of Statistical Information	
	System	
Contract number	AL/IPA2013/03	
Location	Albania	
Contractor	The project is implemented by the consortium who is composed by two companies Computas IT Romania and IN2	
Contracting Authority	Central Finance and Contracting Unit (CFCU) within the Ministry of Finance	
Beneficiary	The national statistical institution of Albania (INSTAT)	
Project start date	06 <sup>th</sup> of June 2016	
Project end date	05 <sup>th</sup> of June 2018	
Project duration	24 months	

## Status of document:

Submitted on	1 <sup>th</sup> of December 2016	5
Version	1.0	
Status	Draft	
	For discussion	
	Approved	Х

## Change history:

Version	Date	Summary of Change
V1.0	1 <sup>th</sup> of December 2016	Initial version for the Beneficiary's for discussion









## **REPORT OVERVIEW**

Project:	Support to the Improvement of Statistical Information System
Component:	Component 1 - Redesign and improve corporate statistical business processes and enhance institutional capacities in the production and usage of Agricultural and Labour Force statistics
Sub-component:	1a. Redesign and improve corporate statistical business processes
Activity:	1a.2 Review and improve core statistical business process environments
Task 4:	Review of data collection methodologies
Sub-activities:	1a2.17: Creation of an inventory of the existing data collection methodologies 1a2.18: Analysis of data collection methodologies 1a2.19: Report preparation
Outputs:	Output 1a2.4: Report: Improvements on data collection methodologies, standardisation and modern tools
Expert:	Dragan Vukmirovic
Date of report:	1 <sup>th</sup> of December 2016
Venue:	Tirana, Albania







#### **COMMON CONCLUSIONS**

In this report, an overview of data collection methodologies in INSTAT and some recommendations for their necessary improvements are presented.

Most surveys conducted in INSTAT following EU standards and methodologies, although it does not fully comply with these standards<sup>1</sup>.

The specific characteristic of the Albanian SBS is the data collection method. The address system in Albania has yet to be established that's prevents easy identification of respondents locations (enterprise or household), especially in Tirana.

Data collection, data entry and coding are performed according to international recommendations. In INSTAT there are separate teams/sectors responsible for the methodology development, data entry and data coding. Those teams collaborate closely with each other having in mind that survey activities are interlinked. The subject-matter units prepare working plans, with defined deadlines for each activity. The work plans are shared and agreed with other relevant teams.

INSTAT ensures the right processing of statistics production in each phase<sup>2</sup>. The processes very much dependent on specific survey since there are no general guidelines or recommendations in the organisation. In order to ensure a degree of consistency in the design of the surveys, methodology units follow and implement the European recommendations and statistical legislation for sample survey design or estimation requirements - for example, relating to the degree of accuracy required.

For the some surveys the logical controls are implemented directly during data entry (when data entry is done in CsPro.)<sup>3</sup>. Those controls reduce non-sampling errors (logical control: consistency checking, route checking, etc.). For example, filter questions are skipped automatically and not manually as happens in paper questionnaires).

Before the data collection phase, respondents are provided with all necessary documents (leaflets, letters, and guidelines which are regularly updated and reviewed). Data collection process is being controlled periodically in the field. The controls consist of monitoring how the data collection is proceeding, monitoring the presence of the enumerator (interviewer) in the survey unit, and so on.

Interviewers and other supporting staff are trained for each survey. In addition each interviewer is given an interviewer's manual. It contains detailed information about the survey process and guidance for dealing with respondent behaviour. Interviewers

http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/45004/6182541/SR report BS Albania Final.pdf

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> http://www.census.gov/population/international/software/cspro/





<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Report on sector review of the Business statistics in Albania, Report prepared by Ms Violeta Kunigeliene and Ms Virginia Balea, 2015,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> LPR 13 and LPR 15



#### Support to the Improvement of Statistical Information System - Albania Europe Aid/136334/IH/SER/AL



are advised to collect information about non-responding cases, which are addressed through imputation or re-weighting processes according to the survey methodology.

Data coding is done centrally in INSTAT. The coding is done in full accordance with the international classifications.

Administrative data are mainly used for comparison and to improve the accuracy of survey-based estimates.

INSTAT has made good progress in use of technology (including tablets, web-based questionnaires, and scanning technology - OCR) in data collection and data entry.

INSTAT should have a clear vision on harmonisation with EU aguis, mainly in reporting to Eurostat. This means transmission of data sets, quality reports and questionnaires. This all increases the compliance level of INSTAT statistics and improves it's position for the negotiation process towards EU full membership.

#### **DESCRIPTION OF REPORT OBJECTIVES**

#### Objectives:

The production processes for the various statistical domains within Institute of Statistics of Albania (INSTAT) over recent years have been subject of changes due to increment of the work program and the introduction of the new methodologies, technologies and techniques. This has contributed to the progress of the Institute towards its alignment with the European best practices and the EU acquis in statistics. However, this expansion may lead to the devoting insufficient attention to the standardisation and integration of processes and the usage of common tools and applications.

The targeted result is the improvement of the efficiency and effectiveness of the INSTAT's operation and at the same time preparation the Institute for the establishment of centralised data warehouse(s) and for the introduction of the new information technologies and methodologies. Also the statistical business process environments shall be reviewed and upgraded.

Expected results related with the Activity 1a.2: Review and improve core statistical business process environments, Task 4: Review of data collection methodologies are formalized as Output 1a2.4: Report: Improvements on data collection methodologies, standardisation and modern tools.

The main objectives of this report are:

Review of data collection methodologies in INSTAT - how well INSTAT comply with the European Statistics Code of Practice (ESCOP) and with specific EU Regulations for official statistics in data collection methodology domain









- Define some recommendations for Improvements on data collection methodologies in INSTAT
- Define the strategic goals for INSTAT

#### **BACKGROUND**

The report is related to the work within the IPA 2013 Project: Support to the Improvement of Statistical Information System (Project). Project is conceptualized into three main components with large number of activities, sub-activities and tasks having a different degree of complexity and largely depending on a number of various factors, of internal and external nature.

Component 1 - Redesign and improve corporate statistical business processes and enhance institutional capacities in the production and usage of Agricultural and Labour Force statistics

Component 2 - Develop and test system for upgraded corporate ICT infrastructure with inclusion of establishment and pilot implementation of centralised Data Warehouse(s)

Component 3 - Strengthen communication function and statistical coordination role of INSTAT with focus on dissemination and quality management.

The activities to be performed during the Project have been singled out according to the objectives of the Project and were further defined according to discussions made during the meetings with the beneficiary's - INSTAT nominated experts. The institutional framework provides solid background, so that the project is managed in an efficient and transparent way at high professional level and respecting existing legislation.

The purpose of this Project is to enhance the institutional capacities in the Albanian Statistical System (ASS), and in particular in INSTAT, for streamlining the statistical processes and development of a redesigned IT architecture based on the data warehouse concept, enabling efficient and effective production, analysis and dissemination of official statistics meeting the requirements of the acquis in statistics and following best practices as implemented in the European Statistical System (ESS).

This report, Improvements on data collection methodologies, standardisation and modern tools, is an output 1a.2.4 for the:

- Component 1: Redesign and improve corporate statistical business processes and enhance institutional capacities in the production and usage of Agricultural and Labour Force statistics;
  - o Sub-component 1a:Redesign and improve corporate statistical business processes;







- Activity 1a.2: Review and improve core statistical business process environments
  - Task 4: Review of data collection methodologies

#### **METHODOLOGICAL APPROACH**

The methodological approach for creating this Report was based on three planed sub-activities:

- 1a2.17: Creation of an inventory of the existing data collection methodologies
- 1a2.18: Analysis of data collection methodologies
- 1a2.19: Report preparation

We analysed data collection methodologies in the three main domains: Business statistics, Social statistics and Agriculture statistics (covered by following Directories: Economic Statistics, Social Statistics and Agriculture and Environment Statistics -Figure 1).

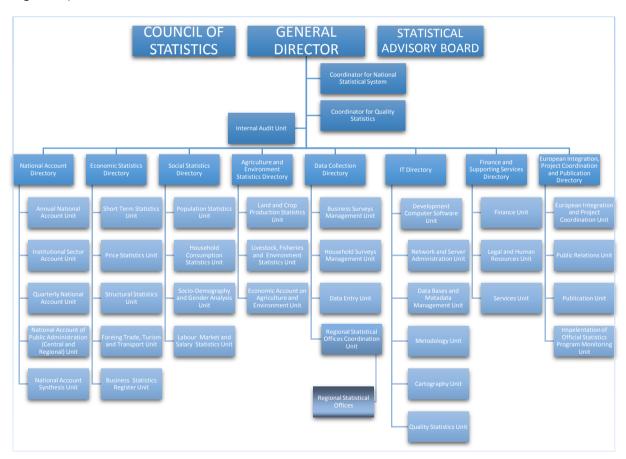


Figure 1. INSTAT's organisational chart









The first step was to review the input documents and other necessary information:

- Law no. 9180, dated 05.02.2004 "official statistics",
- Official Statistics Programme for the period 2012-2016,
- Draft Official Statistics Programme for the period 2017-2021
- IPA 2014 Multi-beneficiary statistical cooperation programme, MISSION REPORT - DRAFT, Pilot Project 18, Developing a Metadata System, May, 2016.
- Project output 1a.1Blueprint of a corporate statistical business process architecture aligned with the Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM)
- Report on sector review of the Business statistics in Albania, Report prepared by Ms Violeta Kunigeliene and Ms Virginia Balea, 2015
- Sector review of Implementation of the Labour Force Survey in Albania, Draft report ver. March, 2016,
- · Case Study: Albania INSTAT, Ertugrela Curumi, Specialist of Databases and Metadata Management Unit,
- Adapted Global Assessment of the National Statistical System of Albania, 2010,
- Light Peer Review of the Implementation of the European Statistics Code of P ractice in the Republic of Albania - Final Report, 2014 (LPR 13)
- Report on Limited Peer Review of the Institute of Statistics of Albania, 2015 (LPR 15),
- List of tools (existing and envisioned),
- Structural Business Survey SBS 2013, Technical Report, INSTAT, www.instat.gov.al
- Short Term Statistics - STS 2014, Technical Report, INSTAT, www.instat.gov.al
- Quality reports and definitions,
- Non-key expert (NKE) mission reports

Second step: Consultation with INSTAT staff.

Third step: Creation an inventory of the existing data collection methodologies per category: primary and secondary research

Fourth step: Analysis of data collection methodologies.

Final step: Define recommendations for Improvements on data collection methodologies in INSTAT

#### THE OVERVIEW

The frame for the basic Inventory of the existing data collection methodologies in INSTAT is five years strategic plan named Official Statistics Programme for the









period 2017-2021 (OSP 2017-2021) and the Statistical requirements compendium (Compendium)<sup>4</sup>. Five years programme of the official statistics is the basic document that provides the production of statistical data by the National statistical system needed for the observation of economic, social and environmental situation in the Republic of Albania, respecting the guarantee of the implementation of statistical principles provided in law and in the European Statistics code of Practice. This programme is in preparatory phase but for future activities is more appropriate then Official Statistics Programme for the period 2012-2016 (OSP 2012-2016)<sup>5</sup>.

INSTAT's OSP 2017-2021 follows the Compendium. The Compendium summarises the key reference information for European statistical production. Eurostat updates the Compendium to take into account new legislation and other developments relevant for European statistics. The structure of the 2016 edition of the Compendium generally follows the structure of the European Statistical Program 2013-2017 and the corresponding Annual Work Programs of Eurostat. Modules are grouped according to their priority area in the statistical program. The presentation of the priority areas and modules is made from the perspective of a statistical data provider in a country. It means that in general only modules for which there is a legal or methodological basis that influences the way statistics are produced in countries being part of the European Statistical System or for which there are obligations to provide data to Eurostat are included.

For candidate countries such as Republic of Albania, the compendium is used to assess compliance level with the EU acquis in the area of statistics. The Compendium provides a short description for each statistical module as well as legal acts with other documents relevant for the compilation of statistics, including methodological information, and data requirements.

In the current organizational structure of INSTAT there is methodological unit under the IT Directory. This sector cooperates closely with the production units which are responsible for providing statistical indicators in each area. In the case of new surveys or variables, the relevant production unit makes proposals for different aspects of methodology. The approaches, definitions, statistical methods, validation of results, and so on are agreed between the production units and methodological unit<sup>6</sup>.

In this report: Improvements on data collection methodologies, standardisation and modern tools, (Output 1a2.4) we made an inventory and analysis of the existing data collection methodologies in INSTAT and put some recommendations for their improvements

http://www.instat.gov.al/media/207341/official\_statistics\_national\_program\_2012\_-\_2016.pdf







http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/3859598/7535696/KS-GQ-16-003-EN-N.pdf/d3f54ab4-97af-4f53-be59-45aca3ecfb80





#### **Overall assessment:**

In the current organizational structure of INSTAT there is methodological unit under the IT Directory. This Unit cooperates closely with the production units which are responsible for providing statistical indicators in each area. In the case of new surveys or variables, the relevant production unit makes proposals for different aspects of methodology. The approaches, definitions, statistical methods, validation of results, and so on are agreed between the production units and methodological units<sup>7</sup>.

When a new survey is being planned, or substantial changes have to be made to existing surveys, a working group or a steering committee is established. Such groups mainly comprise INSTAT staff in the relevant fields, representatives of interest groups (governmental and other international organisations) and experts in the subject matter from outside INSTAT. The groups are responsible for the development and validation of the questionnaire or the major changes in it. Questionnaires are always tested before the survey takes place so that both respondents and interviewers understand the meaning of the questions, and to check the length of the interviews.

**Prioritisation of user needs** is done in the annual work programme after meetings with users. Negative priorities are evaluated annually in the work programme. INSTAT established users group as an effective instrument for collecting user needs and feedback on statistical products and methodology (instruments, of first place). This is an opportunity for informing users about metadata and quality reports, and for promoting other topics for discussion as the format and the content of related useroriented quality reports<sup>8</sup>.

Until now, five regular user groups have been established, for the:

- National Accounts,
- Media relations,
- Agricultural statistics,
- Statistical business register (SBR) and
- Gender statistics.

## Methods for data collection in INSTAT

Two methods for data collection are in place in INSTAT:











- a. Primary research surveys
- b. Secondary research use of administrative records and data from administrative registers

In some cases combination of primary and secondary research are used (Business statistics -BS)

### a. Primary researches

Primary researches include surveys as the main data source in INSTAT. Three methods of data collection are used: PAPI, CAPI and CAWI.

**PAPI**: Most of the surveys are done on paper (PAPI – Paper and Pencil Interviewing<sup>9</sup>). The data-entry process is done manually by INSTAT's operators using CSPro, Microsoft Access or other tools (developed by Software Development Sector for that particular purpose).

This process is demanding and, taking a validation process into account, it requires a lot of resources.

Business statistics data are collected directly from enterprises through face-to-face interviews by interviewers (instead of postal interview).

Additional staff members in the surveys are controllers, and they ensure logical and mathematical correctness of the questionnaires. Interviewers perform the face-to-face interviews.

In some cases, interviewers provide enterprises with questionnaires and the questionnaires are self-reported by the enterprise staff. In this case, the role of interviewers is to check and validate the data already filled in.

Interviewers are trained and provided with instructions from the INSTAT personnel on how to collect data, address questions and resolve issues.

Staff members from regional INSTAT offices are involved mainly in data collection process and data coding.

**CAPI**: For the surveys using CAPI (Computer Assisted Personal Interview) method for data collection on laptops, collected data are transferred through VPN and FTP to file servers in INSTAT for further processing (quality checks, data cleaning, data processing and tabulation are some of the processes conducted by INSTAT).

<sup>9</sup> Data obtained from the interview is filled in on a paper form using a pencil



in2





CAPI method is used for The Labour Force Survey (LFS), a quarterly survey, covering the whole country, conducted on continuous basis within private households for the purpose of gathering information about the labour force, using internationally agreed concepts and definitions. All interviews are currently carried out face-to-face, using an electronic questionnaire on laptops developed in CSPro2 by the IT sector within INSTAT.

CAWI (Computer Assisted Web Interview) is used for some surveys: Web form STS questionnaires are being tested currently with big enterprises. In 2014, the STS division staff together with the IT Directory (Development of Computer Software Unit) developed an online application for collecting ten STS questionnaires. Every selected enterprise can access this application using a password and then complete the online questionnaire, which is identical to the printed version. The first test of this new data collection application took place in the third quarter of 2014. Only the 300 biggest enterprises in STS were selected to transmit their data, and 81 enterprises (out of 300) completed the questionnaire online.

**CATI** (Computer Assisted Telephone Interview) is not used in INSTAT.

## b. Secondary researches

INSTAT is aware that Official Statistics should be based on administrative records and registers to the greatest possible extent. In addition, INSTAT has set a target to increase the use of administrative data to replace variables in its surveys. The Law "On Official Statistics" gives INSTAT the mandate to have an access to administrative data produced by other governmental institutions for statistical purposes. In most cases working arrangements with different authorities are functioning well. Administrative data are, at the moment, mostly used either for checking or improving the accuracy of data. The data are also used to update the statistical business register. In this moment INSTAT is working with 43 aggregated datasets and 14 micro data sources. Differences in concepts and definitions are studied in the case of each administrative data file and, after considerations, a decision is being taken whether the data can be used for statistical purposes or should be revised, or cannot be used at all.

The process of using administrative data is slow and difficult because data are often received in printed version and additional work is necessary to enter and edit those information. This impedes the use of administrative data for statistical purposes.

INSTAT is not involved in the design of administrative data, although according to the Law "On Official Statistics", article 7, it has the responsibility to collaborate with all administrative data providers and has the authority to define standards for the method of data gathering. Based on the Law, INSTAT should clearly have a stronger role when administrations are designing their databases.







At the moment the formats and data structures of the administrative data can be completely different from the needs of INSTAT. Different institutions like the Tax Authority and the General Registration Authority and INSTAT undertake a great deal of duplicative work with data entry, since the data are not entered once into electronic databases and are not in the format which could be useable for various authorities 10.

In some cases combination of primary and secondary research are used. For STS, administrative data such as VAT and social security data are important. These data are provided by the tax authority. If data are not collected from quarterly surveys or are unavailable because of non-response, information from administrative sources is used for the data imputation. The data imputation relies on administrative sources and statistical imputation methods such as the average of previous quarters for the enterprise or the average of the indicator for the group 11,12.

There are many issues which still preventing the full use of administrative data in statistical production in INSTAT, as:

- 1. Lack of the methodology for using secondary data
- 2. Not all administrative data are available to INSTAT
- 3. Low intense of usage of administrative data sources as alternative sources.

In short, for the development of the methodology for collecting secondary data, INSTAT must provide training for their statisticians. For secondary data access it is necessary to have Memorandum of Understanding with the respective external administrative data producers. For data using it is necessary to introduce a data warehouse following metadata concepts and quality procedures.

There are many issues which still prevent the full use of administrative data in statistical production. First of all, INSTAT is not involved in the design of administrative data. Consequents: the formats and data structures of the administrative data can be completely different from the needs of INSTAT.

The full access and use of administrative records and data from administrative registers strengths to the position of INSTAT as a coordinator of the ASS and also as the focal point in the ASS. The coordinating role of INSTAT refers in particular to issues such as defining of methods, classifications, and other standards that administrative data should meet.

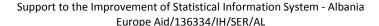
The legal requirement is currently not well known in the administration. The proper implementation of the task might require further clarifications in the statistical

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Short Term Statistics – STS 2014, Technical Report, INSTAT, www.instat.gov.al



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> AGA, LPR 13, LPR 15

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Report on sector review of the Business statistics in Albania, Report prepared by Ms Violeta Kunigeliene and Ms Virginia Balea, 2015,







legislation 13. According to the Law "On Official Statistics", article 7, INSTAT has the responsibility to collaborate with all administrative data providers and has the authority to define standards for the method of data gathering. Based on the Law INSTAT should have a stronger role when other data producers are developing new instruments.

On the other hand, INSTAT is not permitted by the Law to supply identifiable micro data from its business register (names, addresses and NACE codes) to other state agencies. However, contrasting sectoral legislation hinders the proper use of administrative data.

Additional efforts are required in order to establish agreements and MoUs with administrative data producers in order to use and exchange microdata among entire ASS in more effective way. In this respect INSTAT should formalise co-operation with other institutions that produce administrative data, in order to support its statistical activity, as well as to be able to share its own data with other statistics producers.

INSTAT have to continue to institutionalise its contacts with administrative authorities by signing memorandum of understanding or framework agreements with various administrative authorities to guarantee the data delivery needed for statistical production. This represents a significant step towards greater cooperation between entities and integration of the ASS.

A Memorandum of Understanding between INSTAT and Ministry of Agriculture (MARDWA) was signed in March 2016. On the basis of this agreement, INSTAT and MARDWA secure the exchange of data produced, within the scope of respective institutional statistical activities. For the production of official statistics, MARDWA has obligation to transmit to INSTAT the data and the results included in the Official Statistics Program which shall serve for the production of official statistics and key indicators such as those of the contribution of agriculture to the Gross Domestic Product. Also, INSTAT is given the right of access administrative data at the macro level or at the level that is required for the production of these statistical indicators.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Tax Authority was signed in 2015. Earlier, INSTAT has also signed MoUs with the Bank of Albania, the Ministry of Finance, the General Directorate of Customs, and the Ministry of Education.<sup>14</sup>



<sup>14</sup>LPR 13







#### SUGGESTED IMPROVEMENT ACTIONS

**Strategic actions:** Take strategic way - towards to EU standards

INSTAT should have a clear vision on harmonisation with EU Aguis, mainly in reporting to Eurostat<sup>15</sup>. This means transmission of data sets, quality reports and questionnaires. This all increases the compliance level of INSTAT statistics and improves it's position for the negotiation process towards EU full membership.

#### **Concrete actions:**

- User groups should be established for social statistics and business statistics (SBR user group is established).
- Introducing procedure for engagement, control and evaluation of the interviewers. Control of the interviewers would depend on method of data collection, meaning that interviewers engaged in the CAPI surveys can be controlled and evaluated during the whole process of data collection (using Field check tables) and interviewers engaged in PAPI survey would be controlled and evaluated parallel with the data entry. Control of the work should also include in-field checking, conducted by controllers, regardless of method of data collection. Control using telephones should be also considered, having in mind that this is the most economical way of control. However this would require adequate infrastructure in INSTAT.
- The response burden should be reduced by all means available by cooperating with businesses, by exploring and using administrative data and by increasing the usage of CAWI method. In this manner, introduction of CATI should be considered having in mind that this method is proven to reduce both budgetary and response burden, especially in longitudinal surveys, where the first contact with the respondents was made (Business surveys and LFS). This infrastructure, if existing, can also be used for telephone control of interviewers in the field.
- A continuous staff training programme is needed. INSTAT is proposing to develop a comprehensive long-term training programme for the staff, as part of the human resource policy. Training curriculum for the training school is intended to be developed for internal needs as well as for other stakeholders. Continuous vocational training of staff shall help to update skills and special training shall service the rapid growth in numbers of junior staff. Participation in training shall be valued in the career plan.
- Based on the Law, INSTAT should develop and document a strategy and a master plan for improving the statistical methodology used by other producers

 $^{\rm 15}$  http://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/policy/glossary/terms/acquis\_en





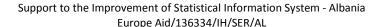


of official statistics within the ASS. A strategy shall be developed for the future use of administrative data sources and registers in the ASS in dialog with the relevant shareholders. Final goal is gradually replace survey data by administrative data where it is feasible. The limitations of sectorial legislations should be eliminated.

- As INSTAT is not involved in the design of administrative data, INSTAT should work with other authorities to ensure that data needed both for administrative and statistical purposes are entered into computer-readable format at one point only in order to avoid duplication of work<sup>16</sup>. Data entry should be done at an early stage in the process that leads to statistical production and should preferably be linked to activities for the digitalisation of economy and society.
- INSTAT shall improve data sharing practices through the implementation of two-way exchanges of data between the different parts of the national statistical system implemented through:
  - Agreements about definitions and formats,
  - o Establishing a repository of available data,
  - o Enabling web services, and
  - Creating common databases.
- INSTAT should propose to the Government the introduction of legislation which:
  - o Requires other state agencies to provide INSTAT with administrative and register data required to implement the 2017-21 Work Programme, making consequent changes to other agencies' legislation where necessary.
  - o Enables INSTAT to receive data from non-state agencies, for statistical purposes.
  - o Enables INSTAT to supply identifiable business register data to other state agencies for the sole purpose of improving the quality of other agencies' registers.
- Makes provision for Memorandum of Understanding to address operational issues<sup>17</sup>.
- The current process of establishing a MoU is rather cumbersome; it takes a long time and requires protracted negotiations. The formal MoUs regarding the formats and frequencies for data transmission to INSTAT for statistical purposes have turned out to be too rigid to enable the acquisition of new and emerging data. The process of establishing a MoU have to be streamlined: at the highest level of the organisation there should simply be a framework agreement; the technical part (an annex) of the agreement should be











- developed by subject-matter experts. The technical annex could then be updated annually to cover any changes that are required 18.
- INSTAT should discuss with the Statistical Council and the Bank of Albania the scope to enable the Bank to access administrative data for statistical purposes, as part of the forthcoming change to Bank's law19.
- A memorandum on data exchange between INSTAT, the Bank of Albania and the Ministry of Finance should be signed by the three statistical producers. This memorandum should specify data sources of common interest and the responsibility of each producer towards the other two<sup>20</sup>.















#### ANNEX 1. ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

**ASS** - Albanian Statistical System

**BS** – Business statistics

**CAPI** – Computer assisted personal interviewing

**CATI** – Computer assisted telephone interviewing

CAWI - Computer assisted web interviewing

**Compendium** - The Statistical requirements compendium

**ESCOP** - European Statistics Code of Practice

**ESS** - European Statistical System

**EU** – European Union

**GSBPM** - Generic Statistical Business Process Model

**INSTAT** - Institute of Statistics of Albania

**ICT** – Information Communication Technology

IPA - Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance

IPA 2014- Multi-beneficiary statistical cooperation programme

LFS - The Labour Force Survey

**LPR – 13** - Light Peer Review of the Implementation of the European Statistics Code of Practice in the Republic of Albania - Final Report, 2014

**LPR – 15** - Report on Limited Peer Review of the Institute of Statistics of Albania, 2015

MARDWA - Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Water Administration

MoU - Memorandum of Understanding

**NKE** - Non-key expert

**OSP 2012-2016** - Official Statistics Programme for the period 2012-2016

OSP 2017-2021 - Official Statistics Programme for the period 2017-2021

**PAPI** – Paper and Pencil Interviewing

**SBR** – Statistical Business Register









SBS - Structural Business Survey

SIDA - Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency

STS - Short Term Statistics

WG - Working Group



