



## Participation of the BNSI in European Programmes and Projects

Bulletin № 9, 2018



2 trainings of young statistics from the countries from the European Neighbourhood Policy - Eastern Partnership and from the Western Balkans countries  
45 trained employees



2 international conferences on projects funded by the EC  
2 informal meetings



4 study visits in different fields of statistics  
3 expert visits



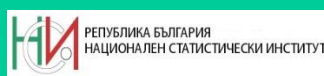
13 successfully implemented projects funded by the EC  
24 ongoing projects funded by the EC  
15 new projects negotiated with the EC



2 signed agreements for cooperation in the field of statistics with the National Statistical Committee of Belarus and Statistical Office of Republic of Serbia

## ***European Commission's Projects for provision of expert and technical assistance within the European Neighbourhood Policy***

### **Project "Support to the State Statistical Committee in Harmonisation of the National statistics System of The Republic of Azerbaijan in line with EU standards " (EuropeAid/138625/DH/SER/AZ)**



On the 30<sup>th</sup> of January 2018 the implementation of the [project "Support to the State Statistical Committee in Harmonisation of the National statistics System of The Republic of Azerbaijan in line with EU standards"](#) has started. Lead partner is the ICON Institute – Germany, and the consortium includes the statistical offices of Bulgaria, Germany, Lithuania and the Netherlands. The main objective of the project is to obtain an effective statistical system which supports and monitors the processes of economic reform and contributes for the economic and social development of Republic of Azerbaijan. The project duration is 24 months. The total grant amount is 1 138 050 euro.

The project consists of the following 4 components:

- Component 1: Improvement of production and price indicators for macroeconomic surveys.
- Component 2: Implementation of current international statistical classifications in the identified fields for the purpose of comparability of statistical data between different countries and regions.
- Component 3: Operationalisation of the latest statistical actions, developed during EU -funded Twinning projects and other partnerships.
- Component 4: Improvement of the capacity of statisticians and other employees of the State Statistical Committee and other interested parties for the production of quality statistical data.

The Bulgarian National Statistical Institute participates with one non-key expert in the field of short-term business statistics.

## Trainings for foreign experts



### ***Strengthening regional cooperation*** ***Training of young statisticians from the countries from the*** ***European Neighbourhood Policy – Eastern Partnership***

In the year 2018, the National Statistical Institute continued to pursue successfully its policy for development of cooperation with the countries from the European Neighbourhood Policy- Eastern Partnership” (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine).

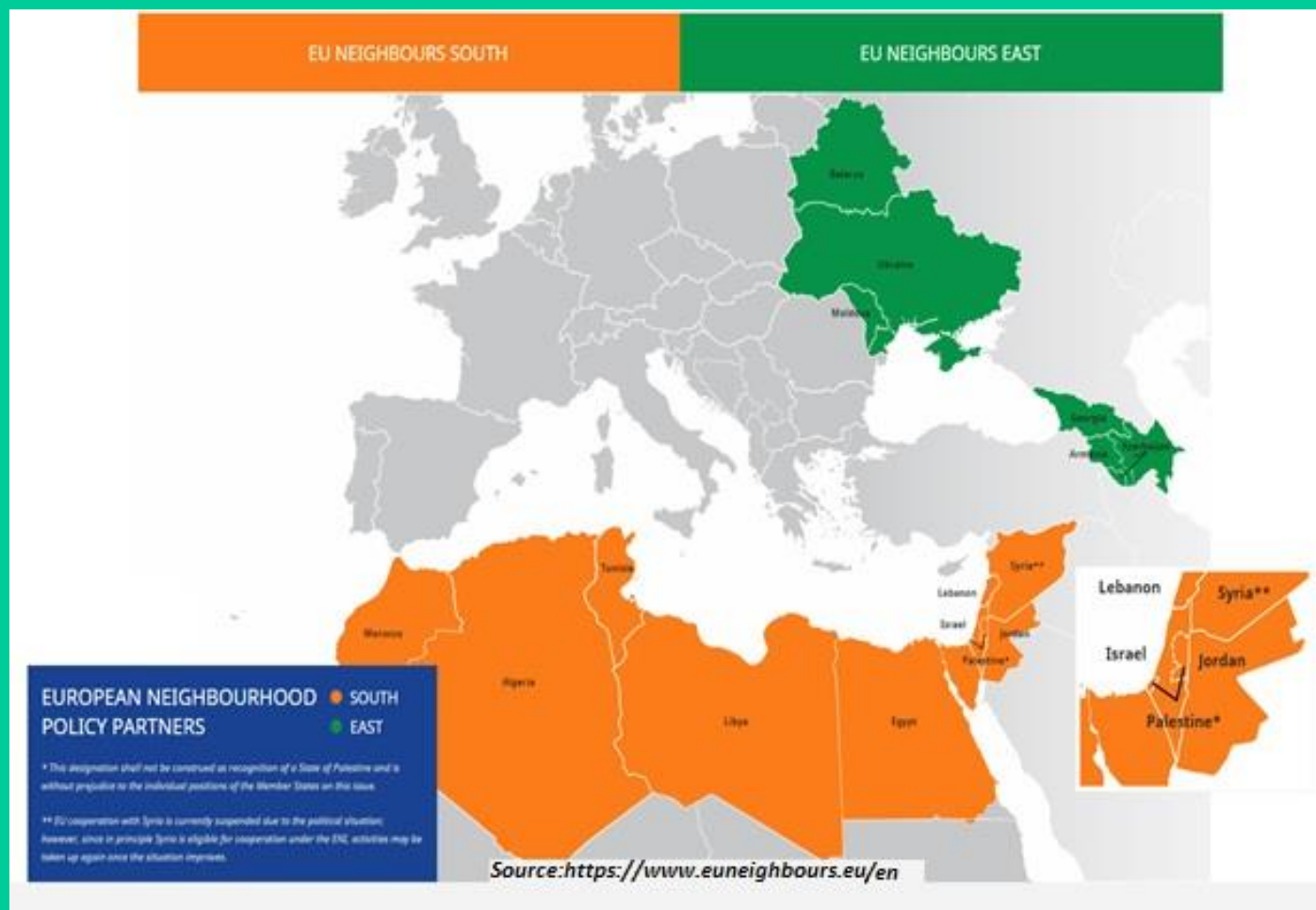
For the **second consecutive year**, the NSI conducted a training course for **24 young statisticians from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine**.

The training course was conducted in the period 23th September – 04 October 2018 in the facilities of UNWE(23-26 September 2018) and in NSI’s Training Centre in SLivek, Lovech region(26 September – 04 October 2018) within the framework of the Bulgarian Development Assistance Programme of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria. The training was entirely funded by the Bulgarian Development Assistance Programme.

The main goal of the Programme is providing assistance for the bolstering of the institutional and administrative capacity of the partner countries of the Western Balkans and the Black Sea Region.

The training programme was developed and implemented jointly by the Methodological and Training Center Directorate of the National Statistical Institute and the Centre for Statistical Studies at the University of National and World Economy (UNWE) - Sofia.

The topic of the training was “Introduction to the theory and organisation of statistical surveys”. During the course the participants were introduced to practical aspects of the statistical surveys conducted in Bulgaria in the fields of demographic, macroeconomic and business statistics as well as several new methods of data acquisition, including Big Data.



## Trainings for foreign experts



### *Training of young statisticians from the Western Balkans countries*

In accordance with the arrangements reached at the Informal meeting of the Heads of Statistical offices of the countries of Balkan region, held on 30 August 2018 at the Training Center in the village of Slivek, Lovech region, the National Statistical Institute hosted a **training of young statisticians from the Western Balkan countries - Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia and Montenegro**. Young statisticians from Bulgaria also participated in the course.

The training course "Introduction to theory and organisation of statistical surveys" was organised jointly with the University of National and World Economy - Sofia in the period 10 - 14 December 2018 at the NSI's Training and Qualification Centre in Slivek, Lovech Region and is within the framework of the Programme of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria "Building of Administrative capacity and democratic institutions"

In the first two days assoc.prof. Alexander Naidenov introduced the young statisticians to the basics of statistical theory and organisation of sample surveys, as well as the SPSS software. The classes were of great interest to the participants. In the remaining three days experts from the Bulgarian NSI shared their experience in conducting statistical surveys. Lybomira Stoilova, Rasim Ruistem, Elena Bakalova, Valentin Chavdarov and Galya Stateva, PhD, shared their working experience in the fields of short-term business statistics, income and living conditions statistics, macroeconomic statistics and use of alternative data sources (Big Data). The variety of topics and the great academic background of the speakers provided the necessary working environment for the active participation of the young statisticians.

At the end of the training course Mr. Bogdan Bogdanov, PhD, Deputy-President of the NSI held a round table and different topics of interest were discussed - the National Statistical System of the Republic of



Bulgaria, the confidence in official statistics, the opportunities for career development in Statistical offices.

The training ended with a test, which all participants successfully completed.

The course concluded with a ceremony led by Mr. Sergey Tsvetarski, President of the NSI, who personally awarded certificates to all participants, signed by him and by Prof. Stati Statev, PhD, Rector of the University of National and World Economy. Mr. Sergey Tsvetarski also presented his views on the future development of the European statistics, the future image of the young statistician, the need for cooperation in our region and the need of constant self-improvement of young statisticians in their career advancement.

All participants were thankful for the cordial welcome and the good training, as well as the opportunity to explore Bulgaria with their visits to Sofia, Veliko Tarnovo and Lovech. They were also grateful for the opportunity to expand their knowledge and to discover the beauty of Bulgarian nature and important moments from Bulgarian history.



## Study visits



### ***Study visit in the field of statistics on tourism***

In the period 27 - 28 February, 2018 the National Statistical Institute hosted a two-day training, where experts from 'Statistics on tourism and Business surveys' Department acquainted their colleagues from the State Statistical Office of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia with the Bulgarian experience in the field of statistics on tourism.

The study visit was organized within the framework of IPA 2015 Multi-Beneficiary Statistical Co-operation Programme of the European commission, with the beneficiary countries from Western Balkans and Turkey.

The main topics, discussed during the study visit were the following:

- Planning of statistical surveys in the field of tourism in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia - methodology and tools, methods for data collection, sampling design, publication of data from statistical surveys, data submission to Eurostat;
- Quality reports of statistical data in the field of tourism;
- Presentation of Information System 'Tourism' - objectives, structure, data processing.

The visit contributed to strengthen the good relations between both Statistical offices and is a prerequisite for further development of cooperation between them.

### ***Study visit in the field of demographic statistics***

In the period 12-13 July 2018, the National Statistical Institute hosted a training in the field of population census for experts from the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia. The visit of Serbian statisticians was in connection with the preparations for the population census in the Republic of Serbia in 2021.

NSI experts from Demographic and Social Statistics Directorate and Multi-Domain Statistics and User Services Directorate introduced the Serbian colleagues with the Bulgarian experience in this field. The study visit was organized under the European Commission's Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance 2015 (IPA 2015) with the beneficiaries of the Western Balkan countries and Turkey.

## Study visits

The main topics discussed during the working visit were:

- Bulgaria's experience in conducting the Population census in 2011, in particular the electronic census as a method of collecting information during the census;
- Information System „Census 2011“;
- Organization, methodology used for online data collection, advantages and disadvantages of the electronic census;
- Issues related to the quality of collected data - scope, double counting, use of administrative data.

### ***Study visit in the field of Harmonized Indices of Consumer Prices***

In the period 19 - 21 September 2018, the National Statistical Institute hosted a three-day training course where experts from 'Consumer prices, Housing prices and Purchasing Power Parities' Department introduced their colleagues from the State Statistical Office of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia with Bulgarian experience in the field of Harmonized Indices of Consumer Prices.

The training was organised in the framework of IPA 2015 Multi-Beneficiary Statistical Co-operation Programme with beneficiaries of Balkan countries. The meeting was opened by Mr. Bogdan Bogdanov, PhD, Deputy President of the NSI. The training of Macedonian experts was chaired by Ms. Albena Dancheva, Head of 'Consumer prices, Housing prices and Purchasing Power Parities' Department, with the involvement of the experts from the same department.

The main topics, subject of discussion during the visit were as follows:

- Review and implementation of legislation in the field of statistics of consumer prices;
- Bulgarian experience in applying the quality assessment methods;
- Treatment of seasonal products;
- Procedures for collection and validation of data;
- Harmonized index of consumer prices at constant tax rates;





- Classification of HICP sub-indices of fully or partially administered level 5 of COICOP;
- New inventory structure of HICP sources and methods and quality reports;
- Construction and production of house price indices.

### ***Study visit in the field of business registers within the framework of the MEDSTAT IV programme***

The National Statistical Institute is pursuing a coherent policy of development of bilateral cooperation with the countries of the European Neighborhood Policy – South (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Libya, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Syria and Tunisia).

In the period 23-25 October 2018, the National Statistical Institute hosted for the first time a study visit under the Programme MEDSTAT funded by the European Union. The visit was organized jointly with the French International Agency for technical cooperation Expertise France.

The Programme [MEDSTAT IV \(2016 - 2019\)](#) is dedicated to improving the quality and coverage of data as well as aims to promote democratic development by improving the availability, visibility and accessibility of reliable, credible and timely statistics in the countries of the European Neighborhood Policy – South.

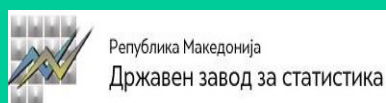
MEDSTAT IV (2016-2019) covers nine countries of the European Neighborhood Policy – South, namely: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Libya, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Syria (the cooperation with Syria still remains suspended) and Tunisia.

The visit was opened by Mr. Sergey Tsvetarski, President of the National Statistical Institute, who welcomed all attendants. The theme of the three-day study visit was: „Administrative records as main resource for Business registers and statistics“.

Lecturers of the study were, as follows: Ms. Svetoslava Filipovich, Ms. Karmen Iskrova, Mr. Anastas Troianski, Ms. Emilia Milosheva, Mr. Martin Rendov, Ms. Elena Bakalova and Ms. Margarita Tzvetkova. The NSI's experts from „Business statistics“ Directorate and „Macroeconomic statistics“ Directorate presented to the participants from the ENP-South countries the Bulgarian experience in the field of the sources of administrative data used by NSI, Business statistics production, Statistical Business register, the organization of the Labour market surveys. The representatives of the Statistical offices and other institutions from the nine countries were also



## Expert missions



aware of the compilation of aggregated National accounts data based on Business statistics. The topics covered were met with great interest and triggered lively discussions.

It is expected that the study visit will contribute to the harmonization of statistics in the ENP-South countries in accordance with the EU standards, as well as to the establishment of bilateral relations in the field of statistics between Bulgarian experts and experts from the participating Statistical offices, which is a prerequisite for the development of the NSI cooperation with the countries of the region.

### ***Expert mission in the field of statistics on tourism***

The first expert mission was held on January, 30 and February, 1 2018 at the State Statistical Office of FYROM in Skopje.

Ms. Lidia Sandeva, state expert from the “Statistics on Tourism and Business surveys” Department provided methodological and technical assistance for the purpose of improvement of quality and comparability of national tourism survey in FYROM. The European legislation in the field of tourism statistics was presented, as well as the NSI-used methodology of Bulgaria for calculation and dissemination of data about internal and international tourism. A review of the progress achieved was conducted. The needs for further improvement of the applied practices for the survey Travel of the local population – organization, design and sample size, collection of data, processing and dissemination of results, were identified. Recommendations for the development of a questionnaire about National Tourism survey according to the Regulation (EU) № 692/2011 concerning European tourism statistics were executed.

### ***Two expert missions in the fields of Harmonized Indices of Consumer Prices***

The first expert mission took place in the period 28 - 30 March 2018 at the State Statistical Office of FYROM in Skopje. Two experts from the “Consumer Prices, Housing Prices and PPP” Department participated in it – Ms. Albena

Dancheva, Head of the Department and Ms. Desislava Zaharieva, Chief expert in the same Department.

Technical assistance for the development of an application for data collection was provided, including recommendations for the software used, programming, design of the questionnaire, the implementation of the logical control, the validation, the preparation of user interface, the implementation of the questionnaire and the navigation, transfer and export of data.

The second expert mission took place in the period 20-22 June 2018 at the State Statistical Office of FYROM in Skopje. The participants on behalf of NSI were Ms. Albena Dancheva, Head of the “Consumer Prices, Housing Prices and PPPs” Department and Ms. Kamelia Popova, Chief expert from the same Department. The Bulgarian experts provided technical assistance for the purpose of improvement of quality and comparability of Harmonized Indices of Consumer Prices (HICP) of FYROM. An assessment of the implementation of the standards for HICP for the compilation of Consumer Price Indices was made, which included the implementation of the European Regulations, weightings and compilation of aggregates, the treatment of seasonal items and a check of quality of samples. An assessment of experimental calculations for HICP at constant prices was made as well as a revision of indices and their dissemination on the basis of the best practices

## Transnational programmes



## ***Participation in projects within transnational programmes***

### ***Project „Improving institutional capacities and fostering cooperation to tackle the impacts of transnational youth migration (YOUNIG)“***

A workshop within the project ‘Improving institutional capacities and fostering cooperation to tackle the impacts of transnational youth migration’ ([YOUNIG](#)), which is realized by the Danube Transnational Programme (Interreg - Danube Transnational Programme - ERDF) took place on 30.04.2018 at the National Statistical Institute.

Specific indicators related to the measurement of youth migration were presented and were discussed during the meeting.



During the second workshop hosted at the NSI on October, 30 2018 a subject of discussions were policies and indicators related to the measurement of youth migration, as well as the development of models of multilevel governance of the phenomenon.

### ***Project „Innovation capacity boost of Small and Medium-sized enterprises” (SME Innovation Capacity Boost - SMEInnoBoost)***

Within the framework of the project “Innovation capacity boost of Small and Medium-sized enterprises” ([SME Innovation Capacity Boost – SMEInnoBoost](#)) on January, 31 and February, 1, 2018, the National Statistical Institute hosted **an international seminar** for development of a questionnaire and methodology for conducting a statistical survey on innovation activity of Small and Medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Albania, Bulgaria and FYROM.



The Project is implemented within the framework of Interreg - Balkan-Mediterranean 2014 - 2020 Transnational Programme and is aimed at increasing the innovation potential of Small and Medium-sized enterprises in the region.



The Project started early August 2017 and has a duration of 24 months. The main objective of the Project is to boost the transnational innovation capacity of SMEs and to support the creation of sustainable networking formations, including innovation clusters with other SMEs from the Balkan-Mediterranean region, in order to share know-how and to develop innovation through the creation of tripartite partnerships to provide SMEs with relevant data, tools and systems.



Partners on the project are the Statistical offices of Bulgaria, Albania and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the National Association of Small and Medium Businesses, the Science and Technology Park of Crete at the Foundation for Research and Technology - Greece, the Institute of Information and Communication Technologies at BAS, Foundation for Small and Medium-sized enterprises - Skopje, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the Regional Development Agency of the Korce, Albania; monitoring partners - the Software Engineering and Internet Technologies Laboratory at the University of Cyprus and the Innovation and Technological Development Fund of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Leading partner is the National Association of Small and Medium Business in Bulgaria.



The implementation of the tasks related to the development of specialized software for the interviewers and provision of technical means for the surveys continued.

## ***Projects within the framework of ESS Vision 2020***

### ***ESSnet project in the field of Big Data***

Within the framework of ESSnet Big Data Project “Pilot projects for Big Data – II”, in accordance with the Grant Agreement № 11104.2016.010-2016.756 the National Statistical Institute hosted and co-organised, together with Statistics Belgium, **an international conference** at which the results of the ESSnet Big Data project were presented.

Mr. Sergey Tsvetarski, President of the NSI, Ms. Mariana Kotzeva, Director-General of Eurostat, Mr. Dominik Rozkrut, President of Statistics Poland and Mr. Peter Struijs, Project coordinator participated in the event, which took place on 14-15 May 2018 in Sofia.

At the opening of the conference, Mr. Sergey Tsvetarski, President of the NSI noted that the future of official statistics in the era of Big Data is still a matter of discussions and experimental studies. At the same time, he underlined that it is necessary for the entire international and European statistical community to adapt to the new digital reality and to respond adequately to the opportunities and challenges, which it offers.

Ms. Mariana Kotzeva, Director-General of Eurostat, made a presentation on the topic “From Big Data to trusted Smart Statistics – Official statistics in a digital society and economy”. She stressed that smart systems are constantly evolving and this requires that official statistics remains part of those systems. In this way, smart statistics are developing in the framework of the European Statistical System, where credibility is a key element. A prerequisite for this to happen is a change of thinking and human capital skills.

Mr. Dominik Rozkrut, President of Statistics Poland delivered a keynote speech on the topic “Big Data in official statistics - where has the velocity gone?”.



According to him, at this stage the need to integrate Big Data in the statistical business process has become evident, which requires a high level of standardization at the conceptual and technological level.

At the same time, the strategic partnership between National Statistical Institutes and owners of Big Data sources is crucial for achieving ultimate success.

During the two days of the conference, the results of the various project work packages were discussed with all participating European countries, experts, representatives of Eurostat, international organisations, academia and businesses in Bulgaria.

At the closing session of the seminar, an extensive discussion was held on the influence of Big Data on official statistics and the future of the European Statistical System. During the panel discussion, the participants emphasised the importance of building partnerships with private entities and academia, as well as the role of National Statistical Institutes in the context of the digitalisation of the economy and society.

This is the second time such an event hosted by the National Statistical Institute is held in Sofia. In the future, the NSI will continue to work on projects in the field of Big Data.

### ***Project „Digital communication, analysis of users and innovative products“(DIGICOM)***

Project [DIGICOM \(Digital communication, User analytics and Innovative products\)](#) is designed to meet the priorities of ESS Vision 2020 – identification of user needs and dissemination and communication of European statistical data. A total of 18 Statistical offices are included in the implementation of the project.

The National Statistical Institute of Republic of Bulgaria is a part of all 4 Work Packages of the project:

- Analysis of the users;
- Innovative and shared products and tools;
- Dissemination of open data;
- Communication and promotion.

In the year 2018, within the framework of the DIGICOM Project, the National Statistical Institute in cooperation with EUROSTAT – the Statistical Office of the European Union – hosted a **Conference for the European.**



ПО-ДОБРО СЪТРУДНИЧЕСТВО  
ПО-КАЧЕСТВЕНИ ДАННИ

BETTER COOPERATION  
BETTER DATA QUALITY



**statistical data users in Bulgaria – “Better Cooperation, Better Data Quality”**, which took place at the end of June in Sofia.

The event was held within the framework of the Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the European Union and on the occasion of the 138<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the official Statistical institution in Bulgaria. Ms. Mariana Kotzeva, Director General of Eurostat presented the general policies of Eurostat in the field of dissemination under the slogan **“Putting users first”**. During the conference the topics **“Official statistical data – objective for reality”** and **“The Benefit of European Statistics for the Preparation of Analyses, Decision Making and Monitoring - Good Practices”** were discussed.

Good practices in the field of dissemination, interpretation and analysis of statistical data were presented and the role and significance of European statistical information for the development of country, business, science, non-governmental sector and the whole society were highlighted.

The National Statistical Institute has carried out a number of **initiatives aimed at increasing the interest in statistics and improving the statistical culture of users**, in particular secondary school and university students.

NSI organized and hosted in Bulgaria **the first European Statistical Olympics** for secondary school students. A total of 11 EU Member states participated with 2366 teams. The number of participants from Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Finland, France, Greece, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia and Spain reached 6300.

The initiative aimed at improving the statistical culture of the youth, encouraging their curiosity and interest in statistics and its role in society.

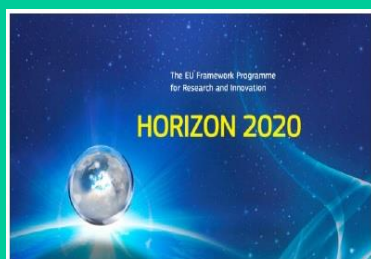
The Olympics was held in two stages – national and European, with two categories secondary school students: X - XII grade and students VIII - IX grade. The teams involved in the competition consisted from 1 up to three students with a teacher-mentor. At the national stage of the Olympics 527 students, divided into 194 teams participated.

At the European stage of the Olympics only the winners of the national stage were allowed to participate. The 6 winning teams from Bulgaria participated and had a great showing with a 2-minute video, in which they answered the question **“Why is the official statistics important for our society?”**.

The winners of the European stage of the Olympics were announced on May 23<sup>rd</sup> 2018 and were given their awards during the European Conference on Quality in Official Statistics 2018, which took place in the period 26-29<sup>th</sup> June in Krakow, Poland.



Project within the  
framework of the 8<sup>th</sup>  
EU Framework  
Programme for  
research and  
Innovation “Horizon  
2020”



In October 2018 the **Second European Statistical Olympics** for secondary school students 2019 started and will finish in May 2019. More information you can find on [www.eso2018.eu](http://www.eso2018.eu) and on the Facebook profile of Eurostat.

***Project „Mapping and Assessment for Integrated ecosystem Accounting“ (MAIA)***

Implementation of the action on the project started on the 1<sup>st</sup> of November 2018. The project is funded by the European Commission, represented by the Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (EASME). Participants in the project are different institutions from the Netherlands, Germany, Bulgaria, Finland, Spain, Greece, Belgium, Czech Republic, France, United Kingdom and Norway. Partners with experience in the field of statistics, eco-modeling and economy of the environment from different foreign universities, government agencies, organisations, statistical institutes of Netherlands, Norway and Bulgaria, the National Institute of Geophysics, Geodesy and Geography, the Bulgarian Executive Environment Agency, the Finnish Environment Institute, Norwegian Institute for Nature Research, the Nature and Forest Research Institute – Belgium, the Spanish National Research Council, the Global Change Research Institute of the Czech Academy of Sciences, World Conservation Monitoring Centre, Paris Institute of Technology for Life, Food and Environmental Sciences, Flemish Institute for Technological Research.

Coordinator of the project is the University and Research Centre in Wageningen, Netherlands. Duration of the project is 48 months. The budget of the action is 3 002 007,50 Euro.

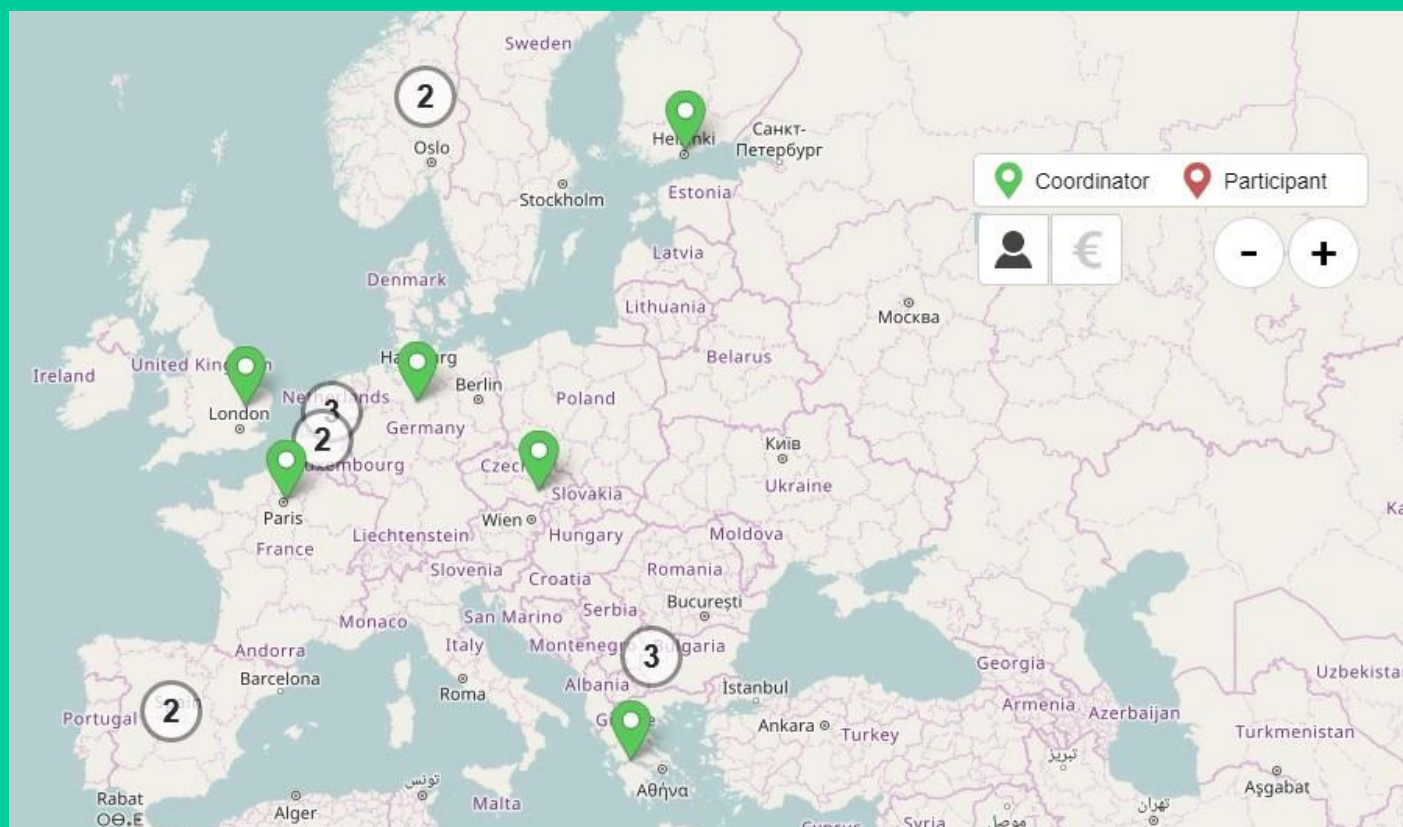
The purpose of the action is to integrate the natural resources and the assessment of the ecosystems in EU Member countries. MAIA utilizes the System for Environmental- Economic Accounting – Experimental Ecosystem Accounting (SEEA-EEA) as a methodological basis for natural resources and ecosystem accounting. SEEA-EEA provides a consistent framework for analyzing and storing information on ecosystem assets and ecosystem services flows, both in physical and currency units. SEEA EEA follows spatial



approach, requiring extensive (spatial) data and models as input data in the reports. MAIA will follow a flexible approach, which will allow adaptation of the framework of SEEA EAA to the particulars of different EU countries. MAIA will focus on:

- Evaluating policy reporting priorities;
- Testing, pilot implementation and integration of natural resources and environmental accounting of ecosystems in 10 countries;
- Testing innovative approaches in natural resources and reporting of ecosystems in the European context;
- Supporting natural resources and ecosystem reporting across the EU through various communication and dissemination activities, including guidance, web-based information system and other facilitating activities.

Map identifying the partners in the MAIA projects



Source: <https://sc5.easme-web.eu/?p=817527#>

## Cooperation agreements in the field of statistics



On August 30<sup>th</sup> 2018 the Bulgarian National Statistical Institute hosted an **Informal meeting of the Heads of Statistical offices of the countries of the Balkan region** – Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Greece, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia and Montenegro. The main topic, subject of discussion was the restoration of the activities of the Association of Balkan Statisticians (ABS). During the meeting, a general agreement was reached on the resumption of the Association's activities, about its vision, its objectives as well as about the means to achieve them, including the registration and the Associations future activities. Trainings for young statisticians from the Western Balkans were also agreed upon.

During the meeting a **Memorandum of cooperation in the field of statistics was signed between the National Statistical Institute of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia.**

**The National Statistical Institute of the Republic of Bulgaria and the National Statistical Committee of the Republic of Belarus (Belstat)** signed an **Agreement on the cooperation in the field of statistics** on July 19, 2018 in Minsk, Belarus. Mr. Sergey Tsvetarski, President of the National Statistical Institute signed the Agreement on behalf of Bulgaria and Ms. Inna Medvedeva, Chairperson of the National Statistical Committee signed the Agreement on behalf of Belarus.

**An Agreement on the cooperation with the Republic of Moldova,** approved by the Council of Ministers, is in the process of signing.

## Grant Agreements



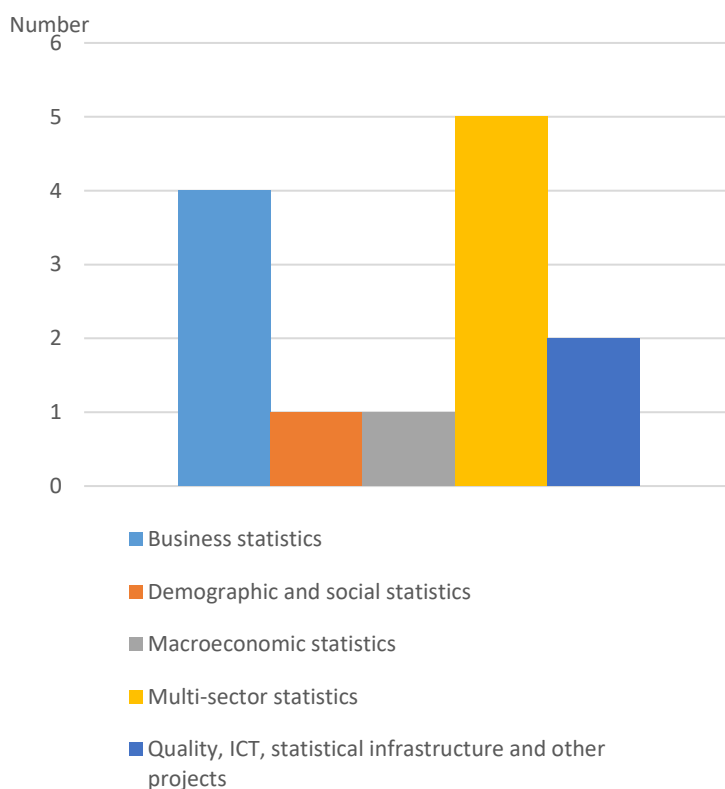
## ***Grant Agreements of the European Commission, awarded to the National Statistical Institute of Bulgaria***

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During 2018 the NSI has successfully finished the implementation of **13 projects**, funded by the European Commission and co-funded by the state budget, in the fields of Macroeconomic statistics, Demographic and social statistics, Business statistics and Multi-domain statistics. Throughout the year the NSI applied and signed contracts with the European Commission on **15 new projects** to be implemented in the period 2019-2020.

The projects are included in the Annual Statistical Programme of Community for 2018 and are pursuant to the new Regulation (EU) 2018/1951 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2017 amending Regulation (EU) № 99/2013 regarding the European Statistical Programme for the period 2013-2017, extending the Programme up until year 2020. In July an audit of nine EC projects was successfully concluded, according to Eurostat's Annual plan for ex-post control.

### Completed projects in 2018 by statistical domains



### Signed grant agreements in 2018 by statistical domains



Summary table of BNSI's project funded under grants of the European Commission can be found [here](#)



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