

TWINNING CONTRACT

AZ/16/ENI/ST/01/19 (AZ/53)

**Support to the State Statistical Committee and the State Tax Service under
the Ministry of Economy to
strengthen collection, harmonization, analysis, publishing and
dissemination of business statistics**



MISSION REPORT

Activity 5.4.B

Planning the renewed SME report

Component 2: The production of business statistics/ SME statistics in terms of content and organization is upgraded

Mission carried out by

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26 - 29 October 2021

On-site mission at the premises of the State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Version: FINAL

Twinning Project: AZ/16/ENI/ST/01/19 (AZ/53)

“Support to the State Statistical Committee and the State Tax Service under the Ministry of Economy to strengthen collection, harmonization, analysis, publishing and dissemination of business statistics”

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List of Abbreviations

AD	Administrative Data
AZ	Azerbaijan
BC	Beneficiary Country
EBS	European Business Statistics
EC	European Commission
ESS	European Statistical System
EU	European Union
MS	EU Member State
NACE	Nomenclature générale des Activités économiques dans le Communautés européennes NACE is the industrial classification of units dealing in economic activities
NSI	National Statistical Institute
RS	Remote Sessions
RTA	Resident Twinning Adviser
SRSU	State Register of Statistical Units
SSC	State Statistical Committee
STS	State Tax Service under the Ministry of Economy
ToR	Terms of Reference

1. General comments

This mission report was prepared within the EU Twinning Project “Support to the State Statistical Committee and the State Tax Service under the Ministry of Economy to strengthen collection, harmonization, analysis, publishing and dissemination of business statistics”. It was the fourth mission to be devoted to the preparation, presentation and dissemination of Annual SME statistics report supported in line with EU/OECD definitions within Component 2, Result 5 within Activity 5.4.A of the project.

The purpose of the mission was:

- Full SME statistics report with statistics, graphics, infographics and interpretations prepared and presented in close collaboration with the SSC, the State Tax Service under the Ministry of Economy and the SME Agency staff.

The consultant would like to express his/her thanks to all officials and individuals met for the kind support and valuable information which he/she received during the stay in Azerbaijan which highly facilitated the work of the consultant.

This views and observations stated in this report are those of the consultant and do not necessarily correspond to the views of EU, SSC, STS, SME-Agency, Statistics Finland, Statistics Lithuania, Statistics Netherlands, Statistics Denmark and HAUS.

2. Status at the beginning of the mission

SSC had worked actively to finish the data for the year 2020. The data was ready with just a few exceptions when the activity started. Also, almost all the tables were compiled with data for two years at this stage. Thanks to this dedicated effort, the participants were able to go through the process during the week with discussions based on actual results.

STS is preparing the SME foreign trade data based on the information from the State Customs Committee. Discussions are ongoing with respect to getting approval of the State Customs Committee to include the foreign trade data into the new SME report. The availability of foreign trade information on SMEs seems promising in the very near future. This has also been one of the main objectives of the SME Agency for the new SME report.

3. Status of mission results

- Indicator by indicator, the participants
 - looked at and discussed the data compiled with results for two years
 - discussed table structure and contents, including detailed technical aspects
 - had a joint consideration of the relevancy of including graphs
 - produced actual graphs, where deemed relevant.
- This was done for both the existing indicators as well as the new indicators (e.g. expenditure and labour indicators).
- Guidelines for tables, graphs and descriptive/analytical text were presented by the STEs and discussed among participants, based on useful reference documents from UN and NSIs.
- The structure and order of publication content was discussed, including the topical ordering of indicators. A template for indicator/contents overview was provided and discussed.

4. Sustainability of the achievements

All parties agreed on the Activity analysis. Should the need arise, adjustments can be made later in the regular production

5. Recommendations for the future (short and long term)

Short term

- It would be useful for SSC to make a list of the suggested/desired changes to the publication, determine what is relevant and how to prioritise the work still to be done (what is realistic in short vs middle/long term).
- Check that the terms in the English translation are used consistently.
- Having an explanation and also definitions for the statistical units relevant to the SME publication would help users to more easily observe what data is included in each table (legal units only or also individual entrepreneurs).
- Continue work on the administrative processes needed to receive data for the share of foreign trade for the SMEs.

Middle/long term (1-2 years)

- Make use of the close cooperation established with
 - SME Agency to receive the relevant user needs and feedback for the changes made and further development
 - STS to further work on using administrative data to gradually supplement and replace the SSC survey
- Revisit the prioritised plan made for the remaining work on renewing the SME report. Evaluate if changes need to be made and carry on the work successfully started.

6. Identification of needs for additional support

No need for additional support.

7. Outstanding issues

No specific outstanding issues.

Annex 1. Terms of Reference

Terms of Reference

EU Twinning Project: AZ/16/ENI/ST/01/19 (AZ/53)

Support to the State Statistical Committee and the State Tax Service under the Ministry of Economy to strengthen collection, harmonization, analysis, publishing and dissemination of business statistics

Component 2: The production of business statistics/ SME statistics in terms of content and organization is upgraded

26-29 October 2021 Hosting institution: State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Activity 5.4.B Supporting the production of the renewed SME report

Result 5: The preparation, presentation and dissemination of Annual SME statistics report supported in line with EU/OECD definitions

Indicator of Achievement:

5.1.4 Full SME statistics report with statistics, graphics, infographics and interpretations prepared and presented in close collaboration with the SSC, the State Tax Service under the Ministry of Economy and the SME Agency staff.

Prerequisite: 5.4.A

This activity will be carried out in 4 Working Day's mission.

Purpose of the activity

Result 5: The preparation, presentation and dissemination of Annual SME statistics report supported in line with EU/OECD definitions.

Expected Outputs of the Activity

- Draft version of the renewed SME statistics report. The draft should make it possible for BC to finalize the report independently for publication.
- Mission report

Resources

State Statistical Committee (SSC)

- Mr. Nuru Suleymanov, Department of National Accounts and Macroeconomic Indicators Statistics, Head of Department
- Ms. Sevinj Fattahova, Enterprise statistics sector, sector manager
- Ms. Ilaha Babayeva, Chief Advisor, Department of National Accounts and Macroeconomic Indicators Statistics
- Mr. Turgut Shahmarli, Leading Advisor, Department of National Accounts and Macroeconomic Indicators Statistics

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State Tax Service under the Ministry of Economy (STS)

- Mr. Telman Mammadov, Chief State Tax Inspector of Economic Analysis Main Department
- Mr. Elvin Alizada, State Tax Inspector of Economic Analysis Main Department
- Ms. Aytan Shahmarova, Chief State Tax Inspector, International Relations Main Department
- Mr. Asadov Seymur, State Tax Inspector, Main Department of Economic Analysis and Control of Accounting - Seymur.Asadov@taxes.gov.az
- Ms. Rahimova Nazli, State Tax Inspector, Main Department of Economic Analysis and Control of Accounting- nazli.rahimova@taxes.gov.az

Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises Development Agency (SME-A)

- Ms. Samaya Allahverdizada, Chief Advisor of Strategy and Development Department

MS Experts

- MS: Ms. Ulla Virtanen, Senior Statistician, Statistics Finland
- MS: Dr. (Mr.) Michael Elgaard Nielsen, Chief Adviser, Statistics Denmark

Twining Project Administration

- Mr. Ville-Matti Pilviö, RTA
- Ms. Gultakin Babayeva, RTAA
- Mr. Tarlan Arzumanov, Language Assistant

Agenda

Day/Time	Place	Event	Purpose / Details
26 October 2021 Tuesday	SSC	Session 1	Practical support on extracting and analysing data, drawing charts, writing texts etc.
27 October 2021 Wednesday	SSC	Session 2	Practical support on extracting and analysing data, drawing charts, writing texts etc.
28 October 2021 Thursday	SSC	Session 3	Practical support continued
29 October 2021 Friday	SSC	Session 4	Plan for finalizing the report for publication Main findings to an activity report

