



GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

**Negotiating position of the Republic of Serbia for the Intergovernmental  
Conference on the Accession of the Republic of Serbia  
to the European Union  
for Chapter 18 – Statistics**

*Belgrade, February 2018*

## **I. Introductory statement**

The Republic of Serbia accepts the acquis of the European Union (EU) covered by the Chapter 18 “Statistics” as it stands on 1st January 2017 and it does not expect difficulties in implementing the EU acquis within this Chapter. The Republic of Serbia will have implemented any outstanding acquis, namely acquis adopted after 1st January 2017 by the time of accession to the European Union, subject to the outcome of the negotiations under this chapter.

The Republic of Serbia does not request specific adaptations under this Chapter.

## **II. Existing legislative and institutional framework**

### **II.1 Statistical Infrastructure**

#### **II.1.1 Legislative framework**

The legislative framework of the Serbian official statistics includes the following legal acts: Act on Ministries (Official Gazette of RS, No 72/2012); Official Statistics Law (Official Gazette of RS, No 104/2009); Decision on Program of Official Statistics, 2016 – 2020 (Official Gazette of RS, No 55/2015); Regulation on Yearly Plan of Official Statistics; Law on National Bank of Serbia (Official Gazette of RS, No 72/2003, 55/2004, 85/2005-II, 44/2010, 76/2012, 106/2012, 14/2015 and 40/2015 – Decision CC); Law on Foreign Exchange Operations (Official Gazette of RS, 62/2006, 31/2011, 119/2012 and 139/2014); Law on Classification of Activities (Official Gazette of RS, No 104/2009); Regulation on Classification of Activities (Official Gazette of RS, No 54/2010); RS Agricultural Statistics Development Strategy, 2014-2018 (Official Gazette of RS, No 143/2014).

Official Statistics Law is almost fully aligned with Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2009 on European statistics (hereinafter: Regulation (EC) No 223/2009), Regulation (EU) No 759/15 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2015 amending Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 on European statistics (hereinafter: Regulation (EU) No 759/2015) and the provisions contained in Commission Regulation (EU) No 557/2013 of 17 June 2013 implementing Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council on European Statistics as regards access to confidential data for scientific purposes (hereinafter: Regulation (EU) No 557/2013), as well as with the European Statistics Code of Practice.

Official Statistics Law stipulates the production and dissemination of data and information of official statistics and the organization of the system of official statistics in Serbia. Official statistics is defined as an activity that ensures, on impartial basis, numerical and representative data and information on mass economic, demographic and social phenomena, and on the phenomena of the domain of labour force and environmental protection, for all users and public at large.

As the organizer and coordinator of official statistics, the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia creates the five-year Program of Official Statistics (the Program to be adopted by the National Assembly) and yearly Plan of Official Statistics (the Regulation on Plan of Official Statistics is passed by the Government of the Republic of Serbia).

Five-year Program of official statistics includes the following elements: official statistics development strategy in Serbia for a period of five years; summary of expected results of official statistics development; summary of the major infrastructure and development activities that are not categorized in certain domains, i.e. statistical areas; the authorized producers of official statistics and expected difficulties and conditions for the program implementation.

Every year the Government adopts in the form of regulation the annual plan of official statistics and it includes the following: the detailed elaboration of the five-year Program for the period 2016 – 2020, the list of authorized producers of official statistics, the list of statistical surveys to be implemented, the list of administrative sources, and the list of data to be provided with specified deadlines.

The conduct of large statistical campaigns – censuses is stipulated by special legal acts, namely: the Law on Census of Population, Housing and Dwellings (Official Gazette of RS, No 104/2009) and the Law on Census of Agriculture (Official Gazette of RS, No 104/2009).

SORS created the document entitled “Official statistics development strategy and modernization of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia” (hereinafter: Strategic Program), which is supplementary to the existing strategy being an integral part of the five-year Program of Official Statistics, which is adopted by the National Assembly. As a strategic objective Strategic Program envisages the SORS linking to the National Assembly, thereby supporting on an upgraded level the independence of SORS. Simultaneously the public confidence would be strengthened. This document (Strategic Program) is seen as a prerequisite to make grounds for initiating the procedure of passing the new Official Statistics Law. This document was adopted in May 2017.

## **II.1.2 Institutional Framework**

The Law on Official Statistics stipulates that the operations of official statistics fall in charge of the following authorized producers of official statistics:

1. Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia;
2. National Bank of Serbia and
3. Other authorized producers of official statistics as defined by the five-year statistical Program.

**Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia (hereinafter: SORS)**, pursuant to Official Statistics Law and as the main agent within the statistical system, is authorized for the following activities: to produce and disseminate national accounts; conduct censuses; implement household surveys; implement surveys in domain of economy and agriculture, as

well as to introduce and maintain statistical registers. Excluded here are certain surveys of the financial sector.

There are several Memoranda of Understanding signed between SORS and other producers of official statistics or institutions that provide administrative data, of which to be noted is the Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Finance and the National Bank of Serbia in the domain of macroeconomic and financial statistics and it stipulates the institutional share of charges among the producers of official statistics regarding the collection, processing and distribution of statistics. With the aim to ensure a more precise distribution of charges in the domain of national accounts statistics of the government sector and the related statistics, the memorandum is in the process of being amended.

In addition, SORS has executed bilateral agreements with the National Bank of Serbia, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water management, the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Economy, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development, Serbian Business Registers Agency, Environmental Protection Agency, the Central Register of Social Contribution Payers, Pension and Disability Insurance Fund, National Health Insurance Fund, Social Protection Office, Republic Geodetic Authority, and other.

The workforce of SORS amounts to 425 staff members that are permanently employed, of which 272 employees in the central office in Belgrade, while the number of 153 employees is located in 15 regional offices (divisions).

**National Bank of Serbia (hereinafter: NBS)** is authorized for the collection, processing and analysis of monetary, financial and balance of payments statistics, international investment position (IIP) and foreign debt data. Monetary and financial statistics are processed according to the Law on the National Bank of Serbia, Official Statistics Law and by-law acts of NBS. Balance of payments statistics, international investment position and foreign debt data are produced according to the Law on the National Bank of Serbia, Official Statistics Law and the Law on Foreign Exchange Operations with the respective by-law acts. The Law on Foreign Exchange Operations envisages that NBS creates the balance of payments projections and monitors their implementation.

Within NBS Directorate for Economic Research and Statistics, 29 staff members are engaged in the area of statistics. The staff number and equipment are adequate to meet the current needs within these domains; however the capacities are being strengthened in compliance with the requirements of the EU acquis.

**Other authorized producers of official statistics** as defined in the five-year Program are the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water management, the Ministry of the Interior, Commissariat for Refugees and Migration, the Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs, the Ministry of Mining and Energy, Public Health Institute of Serbia "Dr Milan Jovanović Batut", National Employment Service, Environmental Protection Agency, National Health Insurance Fund, Pension and Disability Insurance Fund, Public Prosecutor's Office, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of

Economy, Development Agency of Serbia, Republic Geodetic Authority, Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit Government of the Republic of Serbia. The mentioned other producers of official statistics implement surveys within the scope of their authorities and domain of activities.

## **II.2 Classification and Registers**

The classifications used in all stages of statistical production process are almost fully aligned with the EU acquis. For statistical purposes the following classifications and nomenclatures are applied:

- SORS applies the classification of occupations that is fully aligned with the International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO 08) (Commission Regulation (EC) No 1022/2009 of 29 October 2009 amending Regulations (EC) No 1738/2005, (EC) No 698/2006 and (EC) 377/2008 as regards the International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO)).
- SORS applies the classification of education that is fully aligned with the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED 2011) adopted at the UNESCO's 36th General Conference held in November 2011 (in Member States applicable are Commission Regulation (EU) No 317/2013 of 8 April 2013 amending the Annexes to Regulations (EC) No 1983/2003, (EC) No 1738/2005, (EC) No 698/2006, (EC) No 377/2008 and (EU) No 823/2010 as regards the International Standard Classification of Education, and Commission Regulation (EU) No 912/2013 of 23 September 2013 implementing Regulation (EC) No 452/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the production and development of statistics on education and lifelong learning, as regards statistics on education and training system).
- Classification of Activities (CA 2010) – the standard classification of activities NACE Rev. 2 used in the European Statistical System (ESS) was fully adopted (introduced pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 1893/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 December 2006 establishing the statistical classification of economic activities NACE Rev. 2 and amending Council Regulation (EEC) No 3037/90 as well as certain EC Regulations on specific statistical domains).
- Classification of products is fully aligned with the Statistical Classification of Products by Activity (CPA) that is applicable in the EEC, version 2.1 (introduced pursuant to Council Regulation (EU) No 1209/2014 of 29 October 2014 amending Regulation (EC) No 451/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 April 2008 establishing a new statistical classification of products by activity (CPA) and repealing Council Regulation (EEC) No 3696/93).
- Nomenclature of countries is formally based on the classification ISO alpha-2, and used is GEONOM 2006 and its amendments (Commission Regulation (EC) No 1833/2006 of

13 December 2006 on the nomenclature of countries and territories for the external trade statistics of the Community and statistics of trade between Member States).

- Nomenclature of industrial products and services is fully aligned the EC List of products (Prodcom List). The list is amended every year as required by Council Regulation (EEC) No 3924/91 of 19 December 1991 on the establishment of a Community survey of industrial production (hereinafter: Council Regulation (EEC) No 3924/91) and the Prodcom List applicable for the referent year.

- Classification of types of constructions is fully aligned with the classification of constructions applicable in the EU. Eurostat publication: Classification of Types of Constructions (CC) was released on 15 October 1997.

Apart from the Statistical Business Register, which is presented within Sectoral Statistics, SORS keeps and maintains the following registers: Statistical Farm Register that is kept on the basis of the results of the Census of Agriculture, statistical (surveys, etc.) and administrative sources, and Statistical Register of Employees that is based on the data of the Central Register of Social Contribution Payers and Statistical Business Register.

### II.3 Sectoral Statistics

**Transport statistics:** *Air transport statistics* are fully aligned with Regulation (EC) No 437/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 February 2003 on statistical returns in respect of carriage of passengers, freight and mail by air (hereinafter: Regulation (EC) No 437/2003). The data have been transmitted to Eurostat. *Statistics of transport on inland waterways* is partially aligned with the Regulation (EC) No 1365/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6 September 2006 on statistics of goods transport by inland waterways (hereinafter: Regulation (EC) No 1365/2006). The data have not been transmitted to Eurostat. Outstanding are indicators on movements of empty vessels and number of containers. *Railway statistics* are partially aligned with the Regulation (EC) No 2016/2032 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 October 2016 on rail transport statistics (hereinafter: Regulation (EC) No 2016/2032). The data have not been transmitted to Eurostat. *Road transport statistics* include statistics of transport of goods and passengers by road, statistics of road accidents and statistics of registered motor vehicles. Statistics of transport of goods and passengers by road is partially aligned with the Regulation (EU) No 70/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 January 2012 (hereinafter: Regulation (EU) No 70/2012) that concern statistical returns in respect of carriage of goods by road. Surveys on transport of goods and passengers are envisaged to include economic subjects engaged in the activity of road transport. Outstanding are data on economic subjects for whom road transport is not the main activity. Road accident statistics are partially aligned with Council Decision No 93/704/EC of 30 November 1993 on the creation of a Community database on road accidents (hereinafter: Council Decision No 93/704/EC) and these fall within the joint charges of SORS and Road Traffic Safety Agency. The data on the types of transported goods in railway statistics, road transport statistics and

inland waterway transport statistics are collected in accordance with NST 2007 nomenclature according to Commission Regulation (EC) No 1304/2007 of 7 November 2007 with respect to the establishment of NST 2007 as the unique classification for transported goods in certain transport modes here full compliance has been achieved. Serbia transmits to Eurostat the Common Questionnaire that contains data from all domains of transport statistics, including the data on road networks, registered vehicles and road accidents, in compliance with the Eurostat standards. *Maritime transport* is not relevant for Serbia, since the country does not have any maritime coastlines.

**Statistics of agriculture:** In the period from 1 October to 15 December 2012 implemented was the Census of Agriculture. Presently Farm Structure Survey is in the process of being prepared and the implementation is envisaged for 2018. *Farm Structure Statistics* are partially aligned with Regulation (EC) No 1166/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 November 2008 on farm structure surveys and the survey on agricultural production method (hereinafter: Regulation (EC) No 1166/2008). Full alignment will be achieved when the data on applied measures supporting rural development come available. The supporting measures are in charge of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water management and are topic for the Negotiating Group 11 – Agriculture and Rural Development. Typology for agricultural holdings has been established and it is fully aligned with Commission Regulation (EC) No 1242/2008 of 8 December 2008 establishing a Community typology for agricultural holdings. *Crop production statistics* are fully aligned with Regulation (EC) No 543/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 June 2009 concerning crop statistics (hereinafter: Regulation (EC) No 543/2009). These data have been regularly transmitted to Eurostat starting from 2016. *Statistics of permanent crops* –The prepared methodology and instrument are fully aligned with Regulation (EC) No 1337/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011 concerning European statistics on permanent crops (hereinafter: Regulation (EC) No 1337/2011). This survey was implemented in 2017. The part of the Regulation concerning vineyards is partially aligned pursuant to the Law on Wine (Official Gazette of RS, No 41/09 and 93/12), Rules on contents and method of keeping Vineyard Register and on application form for Vineyard Register (Official Gazette of RS, No 33/10 and 9/14) and Rules on technical and staff requirements for the Expert organization in charge of keeping Vineyard Register, and on the methods on Vineyard Register related operations (Official Gazette of RS, No 46/10 and 27/15). *Milk and milk products statistics* are fully aligned with Council Directive No 96/16/EC of 19 March 1996 on statistical surveys of milk and milk products (hereinafter: Directive 96/16/EC). The regular transmission of milk and milk products statistics to Eurostat has been established starting from 2015. Data are provided on the basis of the Agricultural statistics development strategy for the Republic of Serbia, 2014 – 2018, Regulation on Yearly Plan of Official Statistics and Official Statistics Law. *Livestock and meat statistics* are fully aligned with Regulation (EC) No 1165/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 November 2008 concerning livestock and meat statistics (hereinafter: Regulation (EC) No 1165/2008). Livestock statistics have been transmitted to Eurostat on regular basis from 2013. In 2015 produced was the forecast of gross indigenous production (GIP) of meat and there from the regular transmission to Eurostat of these data

and slaughtering statistics has been established, as well as the reporting on data quality. *Statistics of eggs* is partially aligned with Regulation (EC) No 617/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2008 laying down detailed rules for implementing Regulation (EC) No 1234/2007 as regards marketing standards for eggs for hatching and farmyard poultry chicks (hereinafter: Regulation (EC) No 617/2008). The data on poultry chicks trade have been regularly transmitted to Eurostat since 2012 on monthly basis. Monthly statistics on production and sales of eggs for hatching and farmyard poultry chicks, as well as annual data on structure and use of hatcheries are not available. *Organic production statistics* are fully aligned with Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 of 28 June 2007 on organic production and labelling organic products (hereinafter: Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007) and Commission Regulation (EC) No 889/2008 of 5 September 2008 on detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 (hereinafter: Commission Regulation (EC) No 889/2008). The Directorate for national referent laboratories of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Water management in charge of keeping the records on organic production and they are regularly transmitted to Eurostat. Organic aquaculture data are not collected since this production is not relevant for Serbia. In order to ensure good quality data, developed is the software of the database on organic production, which enabled data entry for livestock subcategories (number of fattening and breeding heads), and thereby full alignment was achieved. Data transmission will be resumed in the forthcoming period. *Statistics of pesticides* – Law on pesticides (Official Gazette of RS, No 41/09) is not aligned with Regulation (EC) No 1185/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2009 concerning statistics on pesticides (hereinafter: Regulation (EC) No 1185/2009). Data on turnover and use of pesticides are not available.

**Fishery statistics** are partially aligned with the Regulation (EC) No 762/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 July 2008 on the submission by Member States of statistics on aquaculture and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 788/96 (hereinafter: Regulation (EC) No 762/2008). Further work is required to upgrade the methodology and data quality.

**Economic accounts for agriculture** are almost fully aligned with Regulation (EC) No 138/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 December 2003 on the economic accounts for agriculture in the Community (hereinafter: Regulation (EC) No 138/2004). The Working Paper “Economic Accounts for Agriculture” is published by SORS on annual basis. The results are presented for the period from 2007 to 2016 and they concern the elements of production account and factor income in agriculture. The results of calculations are presented in current and constant prices. The calculation of GFCF in plantations/permanent crops, as well as the calculation of GFCF for non-agricultural fixed assets were compiled in 2017. In order to achieve full alignment, it is necessary to introduce unit value statistics.

**Energy statistics** are almost fully aligned with Regulation (EC) No 1099/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 October 2008 on energy statistics (hereinafter: Regulation (EC) No 1099/2008). Full alignment was achieved concerning annual reporting to Eurostat. Partial alignment was achieved as regards transmission of monthly data. Monthly



data concerning electricity, coal and natural gas are transmitted within three months following the reporting month, the data source being the Ministry of Mining and Energy. Monthly data on oil/petroleum products, which need to be submitted within three months following the reporting month, are not presently transmitted. Reporting on monthly basis still has not been established. Alignment was achieved concerning the requirements stipulated by Commission Regulation (EU) No 431/2014 of 24 April 2014 amending Regulation (EC) No 1099/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council on energy statistics, as regards the implementation of annual statistics on energy consumption in households. Electricity and gas prices are calculated starting from 2013. The calculation method is fully aligned with the requirements given in Regulation (EU) 2016/1952 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 October 2016 on European statistics on natural gas and electricity prices and repealing Directive 2008/92/EC (hereinafter: Regulation (EU) 2016/1952).

**Statistics of environment** are almost fully aligned with Regulation (EC) No 2150/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2002 on waste statistics (hereinafter: Regulation (EC) No 2150/2002). As regards statistics on generation of waste, full alignment was achieved for all CA sections and waste from households. Statistics on waste treatment was aligned for the most of treatment category and capacities of facilities for waste recovery.

**Environmental economic accounts** area is stipulated by two EU regulations: Regulation (EU) No 691/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6 July 2011 on European environmental economic accounts (hereinafter: Regulation (EU) 691/2011) and Regulation (EU) No 538/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 amending Regulation (EU) No 691/2011 on European environmental economic accounts (hereinafter: Regulation (EU) 538/2014). As regards Regulation (EU) 691/2011 partial alignment has been achieved. Data are available for the modules of air emissions account, environmental taxes account and economy wide material flow account. Alignment with the principle of (non-) residency was not implemented in the compilation of these modules. As regards Regulation (EU) 538/2014, partial alignment was achieved. Available are only the parts of environmental protection expenditure account related to investments and current expenditures for environmental protection, as well as environmental protection related revenue.

In the area of **economic and monetary policy**, SORS observes and implements the requirements of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1287/2003 of 15 July 2003 on the harmonization of gross national income at market prices (GNI Regulation). So far the series on GNI for the period 2005 – 2015 was transmitted to Eurostat. In compiling national accounts SORS applies Regulation (EU) No 549/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 May 2013 on the European system of national and regional accounts in the European Union (hereinafter: Regulation (EU) No 549/2013). In accordance with ESA 2010 transmission program, SORS on regular basis transmits to Eurostat the main aggregates of annual and quarterly accounts: gross domestic product (GDP) by production and expenditure approach (data series starting from 1995), the data on regional gross domestic product as well as nonfinancial accounts for all economic sector (data series from 2005). The GDP

calculations from 2014, and the entire revised GDP data series from 1995, include non-observed economy, research and development, software, military systems, FISIM allocation by user sectors, as well as other specific methods of the gross value added (GVA) calculations for financial institutions (the central bank, insurance, etc.) and other improvements that are continuously implemented within new IPA projects carried out in cooperation with Eurostat. Within IPA 2014 Multi-beneficiary statistical cooperation programme experimental estimation of NA employment as well as experimental estimation of GDP by income approach were done for 2015. In 2016 initiated was the compilation of supply and use tables that was delayed due to the postponed implementation of the national IPA project – Strengthening the Serbian statistical system by upgrading methodologies and standards and by the appliance of good practice (IPA 2012). The project was commenced in 2016 and before the end of 2017 is expected that this important, but outstanding segment of the national accounts system will be completed and thereby the alignment considerably upgraded.

The Republic of Serbia sent an official notification on the nomenclature of statistical territorial units to Eurostat in October 2017. The notification is pursuant to the Article 3 (1) of Regulation (EC) No 1059/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 May 2003 on the establishment of a common classification of territorial units for statistics (NUTS) (*Official Journal L 154, 21/06/2003 P. 0001 – 0041*).

NBS is responsible for the overall compilation and publishing of financial accounts for all sectors. Currently, financial accounts for the government sector with subsectors are produced and they are aligned with the European System of Accounts – ESA 2010 (Regulation (EU) No 549/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 May 2013 on the European system of national and regional accounts in the European Union). The work concerning the area of government finance statistics (GFS) is shared between SORS, being in charge of calculating nonfinancial transactions of the government sector, and NBS that is responsible for financial transactions of the government sector. SORS transmits on regular basis the detailed list of taxes and social contributions by subsectors and type of taxes, including the National list of taxes, as in compliance with Regulation (EU) No 549/2013. Working together with the NBS and the Ministry of Finance, SORS transmit to Eurostat on regular basis the Excessive Deficit Procedure (EDP) statistics. The EDP reporting is based on the best efforts basis in collecting available data; however, the reporting itself is not yet fully aligned with the EU acquis.

**External trade statistics** are fully aligned with Regulation (EC) No 471/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6 May 2009 on Community statistics relating to external trade with non-member countries, *Extrastat* (hereinafter: Regulation (EC) No 471/2009). The data are regularly transmitted to Eurostat every month. As regards *Intrastat* trade system, Serbia is not obligated to compile these data before becoming a Member State.

**Balance of Payments statistics**, by the way of by-laws of the NBS, are fully aligned with the essential requirements of the EU acquis stipulating the domain of balance of payments, Regulation (EC) No 184/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council of

12 January 2005 on Community statistics concerning balance of payments, international trade in services and foreign direct investment (hereinafter: Regulation (EC) No 184/2005). Balance of payments, international investment position, international trade in services and foreign direct investment are compiled in compliance with the International Monetary Fund methodology – Balance of Payments Manual, 6th edition (BPM6). Starting from 24 June 2014 regular reports are transmitted to Eurostat in compliance with BOP Vademecum. So far all reports have been timely transmitted (on monthly, quarterly and annual basis): balance of payments and international investment position, international trade in services, and foreign direct investment, by using SDMX-EDI messages via EDAMIS portal. The historical data were provided in 2015 for the period – 2007 – 2013. As stated in the Eurostat Progress report on Serbia alignment with the relevant EU acquis in the area of balance of payments for the year 2015, the transmitted data and the form of transmission are assessed as being almost fully aligned with Regulation (EC) No 184/2005 and Commission Regulation (EC) No 555/2012.

**Purchasing Power Parities** are fully aligned with the EU acquis and produced in accordance with the standards envisaged by Regulation (EC) No 1445/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2007 establishing common rules for the provision of basic information on Purchasing Power Parities and for their calculation and dissemination (Regulation (EC) No 1445/2007). **Harmonized Index of Consumer Prices (HICP)** has been calculated since 2009. It is almost fully aligned with the Eurostat methodology and requirements defined in Regulation (EU) 2016/792 on harmonized indices of consumer prices and the house price index. In January 2014 SORS started to transmit these data to Eurostat, and starting from October 2016 they are released on the Eurostat site. **House Price Index** is in the process of being developed from 2012 and the experimental phase is still ongoing. The data processing methodology is almost fully aligned with the methods applicable in Member States.

**Structural Business Statistics** are partially aligned with Regulation (EC) No 295/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2008 concerning structural business statistics (hereinafter: Regulation (EC) No 295/2008). The coverage of statistical units in the survey has been extended by including other legal entities. For the calculations of variables used are the data from new administrative sources and provided is the part of outstanding variables related to purchase of goods and services, stocks and regional data. In 2017 a part of data sets contained in Annexes 1 – 4 and 8 was prepared for transmission to Eurostat.

**Short Term Statistics (STS)** are almost fully aligned with Council Regulation (EC) No 1165/98 of 19 May 1998 concerning short-term statistics (hereinafter: Council Regulation (EC) No 1165/98). The indicators: Production in industry, Turnover in industry, Production in construction, Building permits, Retail trade turnover at current prices, Retail trade turnover at constant prices, Number of employment, hours worked and earnings data, Turnover index in catering services are fully aligned with Commission Regulation (EC) No 1165/98. Outstanding are price indicators as regards construction and services.

**Statistical Business Register** is by structural units and contents almost fully aligned with Council Regulation (EEC) No 696/93 of 15 March 1993 on the statistical units for the observation and analysis of the production system in the Community and with Regulation (EC) No 177/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 February 2008 establishing common framework for business registers for statistical purposes. Apart from these acts used was the Eurostat Business Register Recommendations Manual as an important tool for the keeping, development and upgrading of statistical business register. SBR data are transmitted to Eurostat on regular annual basis via EDAMIS. In 2017 it was introduced the calculation of activities of enterprises by top-down approach, and preparation of the status of groups of enterprises for 2015.

**Annual survey of industrial production (PRODCOM)** is fully aligned with Council Regulation (EEC) No 3924/91 and Commission Regulation (EC) No 912/2004 of 29 April 2004 implementing Council Regulation (EEC) No 3924/91 on the establishment of a Community survey of industrial production (hereinafter: Commission Regulation (EC) No 912/2004). The national List of Products is fully aligned with the Prodcom List (EC) for the referent year. The coverage of reporting units for the referent classes CA (2010) is regularly extended.

SORS compiles **inward FATS (Foreign Affiliates Statistics)** for Serbia and they are partially aligned with Regulation (EC) No 716/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2007 on Community statistics on the structure and activity of foreign affiliates (hereinafter: Regulation (EC) No 716/2007). SORS is informed about FRIBS Regulation and changes related to FATS that will happen with its entering into force. **Outward FATS (Foreign Affiliates Statistics)**, the reporting of which is in charge of NBS, are partially aligned with Regulation (EC) No 716/2007, i.e. with the regulation that will replace it (Commission proposal on the Regulation on European Business Statistics COM 2017 - 114 final) since the reporting to Eurostat has not been started.

**Research and Development (R&D) statistics** has been fully aligned from 2016 with Decision No 1608/2003/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 July 2003 concerning the production and development of Community statistics on science and technology (hereinafter: Decision No 1608/2003/EC), and Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 995/2012 of 26 October 2012 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Decision No 1608/2003/EC (hereinafter: Regulation (EU) No 995/2012). The survey on **Government Budget Appropriations and Outlays on Research and Development (GBAORD)** has been conducting since 2014. The full alignment with Regulation (EU) No 995/2012 is achieved as of 2016 by applying the methodological recommendations and standards of Frascati Manual. **Innovation statistics** has been compiling from 2010 and is fully aligned with Decision No 1608/2003/EC and Regulation (EU) No 995/2012. The methodology defined in Oslo Manual is applied. The data and quality reports concerning the three surveys were transmitted to Eurostat.

**Data on ICT usage** are almost fully aligned with Regulation (EC) No 808/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 April 2004 concerning Community

statistics on the information society (hereinafter: Regulation (EC) No 808/2004). The surveys in this area are regularly implemented on annual basis. The data for 2016 and 2017 were transmitted to Eurostat.

**Census of Population, Housing and Dwellings** was organized and carried out in 2011 and is fully aligned with Regulation (EC) No 763/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 July 2008 on population and housing censuses (hereinafter: Regulation (EC) No 763/2008). **Demographic statistics** are fully aligned with Regulation (EU) No 1260/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 November 2013 on European demographic statistics (hereinafter: Regulation (EU) No 1260/2013), as well as with Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 205/2014 of 4 March 2014 laying down uniformed conditions for the implementation of Regulation (EU) No 1260/2013 (hereinafter: Regulation (EU) No 205/2014).

**Migration and asylum statistics:** The domain of migration in Serbia is stipulated by Law on Foreigners (Official Gazette of RS, No 97/08), Law on Asylum (Official Gazette of RS, No 109/07), Law on State Borders Protection (Official Gazette of RS, No 97/08), Law on Migration Management (Official Gazette of RS, No 107/2012) and Law on Employment of Foreigners (Official Gazette of RS, No 128/2014). The issue of asylum is in the first place stipulated by Law on Asylum (Official Gazette of RS, No 109/07). The Serbian legislation stipulating the domain of migration is partially aligned with the EU acquis concerning the area of legal and irregular migration. The applicable Law on Foreigners prescribes the legal instruments that are partially aligned with the standards envisaged by 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 (hereinafter: Regulation (EC) No 862/2007). Serbia has the capacity to ensure statistics on residence permits issued to foreign citizens for the family reasons, education, studying, statistics of foreign citizens with the respective residence permits in Serbia on the basis of employment and professional engagements, as well as on other grounds stipulated by the applicable legal acts, apart from those above stated, and statistics as regards foreign citizens with permanent residence in Serbia. Presently Serbia cannot provide statistics on foreign citizens with residence permits issued on the basis on blue card, scientific research activities, permits for highly-qualified, seasonal workers, and statistics on single residence and work permits. As far as statistics of irregular migration is concerned, Serbia has the capacity to provide the statistics as envisaged by Regulation (EC) No 862/2007; however, IT applications concerning irregular migration that are used by the Ministry of the Interior require upgrading so to achieve alignment as regards processing of the statistics that is already compiled with the prescribed reporting methods. As far as the legislation is concerned, no additional efforts are required. Law on Asylum stipulates the legal instruments that are almost fully aligned with Regulation (EC) No 862/2007. Therefore, Serbia presently has the capacity to ensure all statistics of the domain of asylum as stipulated by Regulation (EC) No 862/2007, apart from the statistics as regards humanitarian reasons for staying and displaced persons, since these instruments are not envisaged by Law on Asylum. The draft version of the new Law on Asylum, which was created by the Ministry of the Interior as proposer, is partially aligned with the EU Directives,

in the first place with Directive No 2011/95/EU, Directive No 2013/32/EU, Directive No 2013/33/EU and Directive No 2001/55/EK. During the previous period, the Draft Law on Foreigners was drafted, which was forwarded to the European Commission for an opinion, which in May 2017 submitted comments on the Draft Law, some of which were incorporated into the Draft, while the explanation for others was provided for which reasons, at this phase of harmonization, it was not possible to include them in the text of the Draft Law. The Draft Law on Foreigners is in preparation phase for sending to the Government of the Republic of Serbia for adoption. Also, the Draft Law on Asylum and Temporary Protection has passed all internal procedures, and is fully ready for adoption.

In the area of **Public Health statistics**, the national legislation is fully aligned with Commission Regulation (EU) No 328/2011 of 5 April 2011 implementing Regulation (EC) No 1338/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council on Community statistics on public health and health and safety at work, as regards statistics on causes of death (hereinafter: Commission Regulation (EU) No 328/2011). The recommendations of the Working Group for establishing minimum requirements as regards Community statistics on causes of death are implemented. Starting from 2017 statistics on causes of death are aligned with the Eurostat requirements. As regards Commission Regulation (EU) No 141/2013 of 19 February 2013 implementing Regulation (EC) No 1338/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council on Community statistics on public health and health and safety at work, as regards statistics based on the European Health Interview Survey (EHIS), the subject of this legal act is a composite part of the Program of Official Statistics 2016 – 2020. Since a new version of implementing Regulation, as regards statistics based on the European Health Interview Survey (EHIS-wave 3), is expected to be adopted in January 2018, then the process of harmonizing the national legislation in this area with the EU acquis will be resumed.

The actual concept of statistics on **accidents at work** in Serbia is not aligned with the ESAW methodology, namely with Commission Regulation (EU) No 349/2011 of 11 April 2011 implementing Regulation (EC) No 1338/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council on Community statistics on public health and health and safety at work, as regards statistics on accidents at work (hereinafter: Commission Regulation (EU) No 349/2011). An inter-ministerial working group has been set up whose task is preparing proposal of regulation for introduction of the ESAW Methodology into national legislation.

In the area of **labour market statistics**, **Labour Cost Survey (LCS)** was for the first time implemented in 2013 and it is fully aligned with Commission Regulation (EC) No 698/2006 of 5 May 2006 implementing Council Regulation (EC) No 530/1999 of 9 March 1999 as regards quality evaluation of structural statistics on labour costs and earnings. The data and quality reports were transmitted to Eurostat. Labour Cost Survey was implemented for the second time during 2017. **Labour Cost Index (LCI)** is estimated in compliance with the Commission Regulation (EC) No 1216/2003 of 7 July 2003 implementing Regulation (EC) No 450/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 February 2003 concerning the labour cost index. The data are transmitted to Eurostat on quarterly basis. Starting from 2015 **Labour Force Survey (LFS)** is continuously implemented and it is fully aligned with Commission Regulation (EC) No 377/2008 of 25 April 2008 implementing

Council Regulation (EC) No 577/98 of 9 March 1998 on the organization of a labour force sample survey in the Community. The data are quarterly published and transmitted to Eurostat. Microdata and quality reports are also transmitted to Eurostat on quarterly basis, however with certain delay. The microdata for 2014 are presently being prepared for transmission. **Structure of Earnings Survey (SES)** was for the first time conducted in 2015 as a pilot survey within IPA 2012 Multi-beneficiary statistical cooperation programme. It is fully aligned with Commission Regulation (EC) No 1916/2000 of 8 September 2000 on implementing Council Regulation (EC) No 530/1999 of 9 March 1999 concerning structural statistics on earnings and on labour costs. The data and quality reports were transmitted to Eurostat. The methodology required for **job vacancy statistics (JVS)** is prepared within IPA 2014 Multi-beneficiary statistical cooperation programme.

**Survey on Income and Living Conditions (SILC)** has been implemented starting from 2013 and it is fully aligned with Regulation (EC) No 1177/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 June 2003 concerning Community statistics on income and living conditions (EU-SILC) (hereinafter: Regulation (EC) No 1177/2003). The full set of data and quality reports were transmitted to Eurostat. Presently the comments on the quality reports for the years 2014 and 2015 are expected to be confirmed by Eurostat.

**Administrative data collection on social protection statistics (ESPROS)** has been conducting from 2011 within IPA 2012 Multi-beneficiary statistical cooperation programme. It is fully aligned with Regulation (EC) No 458/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 April 2007 on the European system of integrated social protection statistics (ESSPROS) (hereinafter: Regulation (EC) No 458/2007). The data are transmitted to Eurostat on annual basis.

In the domain of **statistics on education system**, UOE questionnaire has been regularly completing and transmitting to Eurostat on annual basis as of 2014. It is fully aligned with Commission Regulation (EU) No 912/2013 of 23 September 2013 implementing Regulation (EC) No 452/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the production and development of statistics on education and lifelong learning (hereinafter: Commission Regulation (EU) No 912/2013). **Adult Education Survey (AES)** has been conducting from 2011 and is fully aligned with Commission Regulation (EU) No 1175/2014 of 30 October 2014 implementing Regulation (EC) No 452/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the production and development of statistics on education and lifelong learning, as regards statistics on the participation of adults in lifelong learning (hereinafter: Commission Regulation (EU) No 1175/2014). The second wave was carried out in 2016. The microdata and control tables were transmitted to Eurostat in 2017. **Continuous Vocational Training Survey (CVTS)** is not implemented.

**Statistics of tourism** is partially aligned with Regulation (EU) No 692/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6 July 2011 concerning European statistics on tourism (hereinafter: Regulation (EU) No 692/2011). Monthly and annual data on arrivals and overnight stays of domestic and foreign tourists, number of bed-places and bedrooms and net occupancy rate of bed-places and bedrooms are transmitted to Eurostat. Outstanding are

annual data on capacities, arrivals and overnight stays in tourist accommodation establishments by type of locality classified by degree of urbanization (Regulation (EU) No 692/2011, Annex I), and data as regards the complete tourist demands (Regulation (EU) No 692/2011, Annex II).

### **III. Plan for harmonization of Legal and Institutional framework with the EU Acquis**

#### **III.1 Statistical Infrastructure**

##### **III.1.1 Legislative Framework**

With the aim of strengthening capacities and achieving full alignment of the Serbian legislation with the EU acquis for the domain of statistics, SORS has initiated the process of amending the existing Official Statists Law. The major objective of amending Official Statistics Law is to achieve the full alignment with Regulation (EC) No 223/2009, Regulation (EU) No 759/2015 and the provisions contained in Commission Regulation (EU) No 557/2013, as well as the European Statistics Code of Practise.

Main amendments to the Official Statistics Law shall relate to professional independence, the appointment of the director and the management of SORS, their fixed mandate, ways and reasons for the termination of their incumbency or for the dismissal, improved transparency, established calendar of statistical releases with precisely defined deadlines and the right guaranteed for SORS to act in cases of wrong interpretation or misuse of statistics.

Apart from the above stated, the new Official Statistics Law will stress the coordination role of SORS among the authorized producers of official statistics, the methodological role in establishing administrative registers and the fifteen principles of the European Statistics Code of Practise will be defined as fundamental for the work of SORS and the authorized producers of official statistics. The new Law is expected to be adopted in the second quarter of 2018.

##### **III.1.2 Institutional Framework**

Serbia has in place the respective institutional framework for implementing the EU acquis with respect to Chapter 18. Therefore, the establishment of new institutions or bodies is not required, but only the further strengthening and ongoing development of the existing ones.

The existing administrative capacities of the Serbian national statistical system are not sufficient to ensure further harmonization with the statistical system of the EU as regards the implementation of statistical surveys and the provision of statistical indicators.



NBS has established the respective legal and organizational structure and adequate administrative capacities are in place for the implementation of the EU acquis in the domain of statistics that fall in charge of NBS. In addition, NBS will resume the intensive activities on strengthening the capacities, with the aim to ensure efficiency in the period before accession while introducing the EU acquis.

### **III.2 Classification and Registers**

For the forthcoming period envisaged is the continuous process of harmonization of the national standards as regards classification and nomenclatures in line with the changes in the international standards.

### **III.3 Sectoral Statistics**

**Transport statistics:** In the area of *Air transport statistics* we will continue with regular data transmission to Eurostat in order to secure full alignment with Regulation (EC) No 437/2003. *Statistics of transport on inland waterways* will be fully aligned with the Regulation (EC) No 1365/2006 before the end of 2018, since the data transmission to Eurostat starting from the fourth quarter 2018. *Railway statistics* will achieve full alignment with Regulation (EC) No 2016/2032 by the end of 2019, since the data transmission to Eurostat will be commenced in the fourth quarter of 2019. The activities aimed at achieving harmonization in the area of *road transport statistics* with the EU acquis will be resumed. The implementation of a pilot survey on own-account transport is envisaged for 2018 within IPA 2015 Multi-beneficiary programme. The full alignment with the Regulation (EU) No 70/2012 is expected to be achieved in the fourth quarter of 2021. Also, working together with Road Traffic Safety Agency, the process of alignment with Council Decision No 93/704/EC will be resumed.

**Statistics of agriculture: Farm Structure Statistics** – Farm Structure Survey will be implemented in 2018, within the national IPA 2016 programme. The full alignment with Regulation (EC) No 1166/2008 is expected to be achieved in the fourth quarter of 2021. **Crop production statistics** are fully aligned with Regulation (EC) No 543/2009. These data have been regularly transmitted to Eurostat starting from 2016, which will be resumed as an ongoing process. **Statistics of permanent crops** – The Survey on Orchards was implemented in 2017. Survey results will be transmitted to Eurostat in the third quarter of 2018, when these statistics will become fully aligned with the part of Regulation (EC) No 1337/2011 concerning statistics on orchards. The part of this Regulation as regards statistics of viticulture stipulates the establishment and keeping of Vineyard Register, which is in charge of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water management and subject for Negotiating Group 11 – Agriculture and Rural Development. In order to accomplish the establishment of Vineyard Register, apart from Law on Wine and Other Grape and Wine products, other respective rules and established systematic keeping of Vineyards Register are envisaged to be adopted by the end of 2021 (4th quarter). This will ensure the circumstances for the data transmission to Eurostat as required. **Milk and milk products statistics** are fully aligned with

Council Directive No 96/16/EC. The regular transmission of milk and milk products statistics to Eurostat has been established starting from 2015 and it will be resumed as an ongoing process. **Livestock and meat statistics** are fully aligned with Regulation (EC) No 1165/2008. Livestock statistics have been transmitted to Eurostat on regular basis from 2013 and it will be further resumed. **Statistics of eggs** – To achieve full alignment with Regulation (EC) No 617/2008 it is necessary to make amendments to the national legislation. This Regulation falls in charge of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water management and is subject for Negotiating Group 11 – Agriculture and Rural Development. The harmonization of the national legislation is anticipated for 2019 while full implementation of Regulation is envisaged in 2021. The activities at defining methods to ensure monthly statistics on production and sales of eggs for hatching and farmyard poultry chicks, as well as annual data on structure and use of hatcheries will be implemented within IPA 2015 Multi-beneficiary programme – point 5.2 – Statistics of livestock, which started in July 2017. **Organic production statistics** are fully aligned with Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 and Commission Regulation (EC) No 889/2008. The Directorate for national referent laboratories of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water management is in charge of keeping the records on organic production and they are regularly transmitted to Eurostat. **Statistics of pesticides** – The implementation of Regulation (EC) No 1185/2009 is in charge Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water management and subject for Negotiating Group 12 – Food Safety, Veterinary and Phytosanitary Issues. For the first quarter 2021, a new Law on pesticides is envisaged to be passed, which is expected also to be aligned with Regulation (EC) No 1185/2009 concerning statistics on pesticides, and on the basis of this law the Rules on statistics of pesticides shall be adopted during the fourth quarter 2021, in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1185/2009, excluding the provisions that are not applicable for the national legislation.

**Fishery statistics** will become fully aligned with the Regulation (EC) No 762/2008 by establishing the regular data transmission to Eurostat. Data transmission started in 2017.

**Economic accounts for agriculture:** In the forthcoming period the activities on achieving full alignment with Regulation (EC) No 138/2004 will be resumed in creating the first three accounts: production account, generation of income account and entrepreneurial income account. Within IPA 2015 programme, 5.3 Agro-monetary statistics, envisaged is the established unit value statistics. The full alignment is expected to be achieved by the date of accession.

In the area of **Energy statistics**, the data transmission requirements as regards Regulation (EC) No 1099/2008 are fulfilled concerning annual reporting to Eurostat on all energy commodities and transmission of monthly data on electricity, coal and natural gas within three months following the reporting month, the data source is database of the Ministry of Mining and Energy. The activities aimed at maintaining full alignment will be further resumed. For reporting monthly statistics on oil/petroleum products that have to be transmitted within three months following the reporting month, the data will be ensured according to the Regulation on methods of data collection and processing and calculation of average daily net imports, average daily consumption and compulsory reserve quantities of

petroleum and petroleum refined products, which is in charge of the Ministry of Mining and Energy. The reporting of monthly data within three months following the reporting month will be implemented until the end of 2018. The reporting of monthly data on monthly basis will be implemented by the date of accession. Prices for natural gas and electricity are fully aligned with requirements from Regulation (EU) 2016/1952.

**Statistics of environment** will become fully aligned with Regulation (EC) No 2150/2002 on waste statistics by the end of 2018. The full compliance is subject to the condition that certain provisions of Directive 2008/98/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 November 2008 on waste are integrated into the national legislation (i.e. the part as regards the definition of recovery of waste – backfilling), which is in charge of the Ministry of Environmental protection, and the implementation of this activity is anticipated until the end of 2018.

In the area of **environmental economic accounts**, the full alignment with Regulation (EU) No 691/2011/EU as regards the creation of the module of air emissions account, the module of environmental taxes account and the module of economy-wide material flow account will be achieved by the end of 2021. The full alignment with Regulation (EU) No 538/2014 is expected to be achieved by the date of accession. Regarding the module of environmental goods and services sector account compilation will be performed through IPA 2015 (July 2017- October 2019). During the project, compiled statistical data for the selected year will be produced so that full alignment will be achieved by the end of 2021. Harmonization of the energy flows accounts is expected by the end of 2021 on the basis of the energy balance as the main available data source. Harmonization of the module of environmental protection expenditure account will be achieved by the date of accession since the new data sources will be available (supply and use tables, general government environmental expenditure by function).

In the area of **economic and monetary policy**, with the aim to achieve full alignment with Regulation (EU) No 549/2013, the work on implementation of ESA 2010 started within IPA 2011, has continued within IPA 2012 and IPA 2014 and will be continued within IPA 2015. Until the end of 2019 at the latest SORS will have ensured regular compilation and transmission of data on GDP by income approach, including the full set of data on salaries and wages and employment. Within IPA 2014 Multi-beneficiary statistical cooperation programme experimental estimation of NA employment as well as experimental estimation of GDP by income approach were done for 2015. This work will be continued within IPA 2015 Multi-beneficiary statistical cooperation programme. In addition, during 2018 SORS will have transmitted to Eurostat the preliminary results of supply and use tables, the compilation of which and transmission to Eurostat will become an ongoing activity from 2018. Compilation of supply and use tables, initiated in 2016 within the national IPA project (IPA 2012), will be continued within the next national IPA project (IPA 2016) as well as within IPA 2015 Multi-beneficiary statistical cooperation programme. By the date of accession, anticipated is the implemented compilation of financial accounts for all institutional sectors. However, as regards the transmission of the required data series for the period before 2008, certain data cannot be possibly reconstructed. After having insight into

the data series that are available, as well as into the Eurostat requirements for transmission tables, it was noted that certain data are not available in the range as requested, and that they are not obtainable for the required earlier years, except that estimates can be used as the basis for compiling data. As regards GFS and EDP reporting, the full alignment is expected a year before the accession to the European Union, which entails intensive cooperation and coordinated activities among SORS, the Ministry of Finance and NBS as partners in this work. In the meantime, Serbia will resume as a regular activity to transmit data and reports within the excessive deficit procedure of the government sector, in compliance with Council Regulation (EC) No 479/2009 of 25 May 2009 on the application of the Protocol on the excessive deficit procedure, and the bodies authorized for the relevant statistics will further harmonize the data, implement their alignment and control, and upgrade data quality as regards statistical coverage and methodology. The harmonization with the EU requirements is expected to be achieved within the IPA projects (IPA 2015 Multi-beneficiary statistical cooperation programme and national IPA 2016). Working together with NBS, by the end of 2019 SORS is expected to complete the GNI data series (from 1995).

**External trade statistics** are fully aligned with Regulation (EC) No 471/2009. All possible changes to the *Extrastat* legislation will be implemented in the statistical system of Serbia. For 2018 envisaged is the establishment of a Work Group including the representatives of the Customs Administration, Tax Authority and SORS, with the task to define the charges of these institutions in implementing *Intrastat* trade system. The full alignment of Intrastat trade system will be achieved by the date of accession.

**Balance of Payments statistics** are fully aligned with the principal EU acquis stipulating the domain of balance of payments. Serbia will continue the regular submission of data to Eurostat in compliance with BOP Vademecum, while observing the principle of timeliness and punctuality: balance of payments and international investment position, international trade in services, and foreign direct investment.

**Purchasing Power Parities** are fully aligned with the standards stipulated by Regulation (EC) No 1445/2007. In the forthcoming period the implementation of new requirements as envisaged by Eurostat will be carried on. The activities as regards the further alignment of **Harmonized Index of Consumer Prices** are ongoing and they principally concern the extended coverage of HICP and production of HICP-CT. The full alignment of this index with the EU acquis is envisaged to be achieved by December 2018. The quality of **House Price Index** largely depends on data source. For the forthcoming period anticipated is the work on upgrading the quality of data from administrative sources by strengthening cooperation with data providers, as well the efforts aimed at finding supplementary data sources that are expected to offer the basis for calculating a more reliable index. The first data are expected to be available in the fourth quarter of 2021.

**Structural Business Statistics** are partially aligned with Regulation (EC) No 295/2008. It is anticipated that by the end of 2018 the remaining data sets from Annexes 1 – 4 and 8 and business demography statistics will be calculated and transmitted to Eurostat. Thereby the full alignment will be achieved. The data on business demography are partially

sent to Eurostat every year for the current and five preceding years; therefore these data series will be compiled in succession starting from the referent year 2015.

**Short Term Statistics (STS)** are almost fully aligned with Council Regulation (EC) No 1165/98. The calculation of construction and services related price indicator, which is outstanding according to Council Regulation (EC) No 1165/98, will be ensured in the fourth quarter of 2021 and thereby the full alignment with this Regulation will be achieved.

**Statistical Business Register:** In order to upgrade coverage, for 2018 anticipated is the inclusion of so called freelance professions (attorneys and public notaries) as new register units. It is foreseen to implement in 2018 correct definitions of statistical units (enterprise, local units etc.) according to Council Regulation (EEC) No 696/93 of 15 March 1993 on the statistical units for the observation and analysis of the production system in the Community. Due to the lack of respective administrative data, i.e. the distribution of employed by territory (address level) and activities, the survey of local units will be implemented on biannual basis. Data from administrative sources are available in November for year t-1, so SBR will be updated in beginning of every next year - for the year t-2.

Complete statistics are ensured as regards **Annual survey of industrial production (PRODCOM)** in compliance with Eurostat requirements, namely Council Regulation (EEC) No 3924/91, Commission Regulation (EC) No 912/2004 and Prodcom List (EC). The national List of Products is kept fully aligned with the Prodcom List (EC) every year for the referent year. The coverage of reporting units for the referent classes CA (2010) is regularly extended.

**Inward FATS (Foreign Affiliates Statistics)** for Serbia are partially aligned with Regulation (EC) No 716/2007. The full alignment will have been achieved by introducing calculations of outstanding variables related to purchase of goods and services, investments and costs of R&D surveys and by establishing the data transmission to Eurostat by the end of 2018. The reporting on **outward FATS (Foreign Affiliates Statistics)** will be implemented by the date of accession, when the full alignment with Regulation (EC) No 716/2007, i.e. with the regulation that will replace it (Commission proposal on the Regulation on European Business Statistics COM 2017- 114 final), is expected to be achieved. The obligation will be fulfilled by amending the by-law act and by introducing the new forms for direct reporting on foreign direct investments.

For the domain of **Research and Development (R&D) statistics**, envisaged activities include continuous improvement of methodology and accompanying instruments in order to ensure the full alignment with Decision No 1608/2003/EC and Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 995/2012. As regards **innovation statistics**, it is anticipated to ensure also the data on the level of regions by the end of 2018 (CIS 2014-2016).

**Data on ICT usage** will get fully aligned with Regulation (EC) No 808/2004 by the end of 2018. Anticipated is the data transmission and quality reporting to Eurostat for the years 2017 and 2018.

The next **Census of Population, Housing and Dwellings** will be carried out in accordance with the established ten-year dynamics. **Demographic statistics** are fully aligned with Regulation (EU) No 1260/2013 and Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 205/2014. In the forthcoming period the adoption of the new EU legislation will be observed and the measures aimed at ensuring the alignment will be undertaken.

**Migration and asylum statistics:** The alignment with Regulation (EC) No 862/2007 is subject to the adoption of the new Law on Foreigners and Law on Asylum and Temporary Protection. The Action Plan for Chapter 24, subchapter Migration, envisages several legislative measures to be undertaken in order to achieve alignment with the EU acquis. The Action Plan for Chapter 24 envisages that the harmonization of the Serbian legislation as regards migration with the EU acquis for this domain will be implemented in two phases. To this effect, the first stage is in course, the new Law on Foreigners is in the process of being adopted. The deadline for the adoption of the new law is the first quarter 2018. The reporting on residence permits on the basis of blue card, for highly-qualified workers, and single residence and work permits will be implementable only after the second stage of harmonizing the Serbian legislation for this domain, apropos of the fourth quarter of 2020, which is subject to the adoption of the amended Law on Foreigners. The deadline for introducing the subject legal instruments of the EU acquis into the national legislation, according to the Action Plan for Chapter 24 is envisaged to be two years before the date of accession. The Action Plan for Chapter 24, subchapter Asylum, stipulates several legislative activities that are expected to lead to gradual alignment with the EU acquis, and finally to achieving full alignment. According to the Action Plan for Chapter 24, the legislative activities aimed at the alignment of the Serbian legislation in the domain of asylum with the respective EU acquis will be implemented in two stages. Therefore, the new Law on Asylum and Temporary Protection is in the process of being adopted, with the deadline for adoption being the first quarter 2018. By adopting the new Law on Asylum and Temporary Protection, the reporting on residence permits will be upgraded, while the statistics on displaced persons will be possibly available only after the second stage of harmonizing the national legislation; according to the Action Plan for Chapter 24, subchapter Asylum, the deadline for these activities is defined to be two years before the date of accession. Since the statistics kept by the Ministry of the Interior for the subject domains are partially aligned with the EU acquis, it is necessary to create and harmonize the databases, thereby strengthening the administrative capacities.

In the domain of **Public Health statistics**, the ongoing activities will be resumed with the aim to ensure full alignment with Commission Regulation (EU) No 328/2011. The implementation of the European Health Interview Survey – EHIS-wave 3 is planned, in compliance with the Commission Regulation the adoption of which is expected in January 2018.

As regards the domain of **statistics on accidents at work**, in the fourth quarter of 2018 the Health and Safety at Work Administration of the Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs will produce the new Rules on content and issuance procedure for the report on accident at work and professional disease, with included all required elements of the ESAW methodology. For the purpose of transmitting statistics on accidents at work to

Eurostat, the Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs will create the respective software application in order to ensure single keeping of statistics on accidents at work. Because of specific nature of the statistical area, the full alignment with Commission Regulation (EU) No 349/2011 will be achieved by the end of 2021.

In the area of **labour market statistics**, *Labour Cost Survey* was implemented for the second time during 2017. The data and quality reports will be transmitted to Eurostat in 2018. The respective EU acquis and data quality improvement will be further observed. As regards *Labour Force Survey (LFS)*, the EU acquis will be further observed and the facilitated transmission of outstanding microdata and quality reports by the end of 2018. The data for *job vacancy statistics (JVS)* will be available by the end of 2018, subject to the condition that the Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs would amend the *Rules on detailed data contents and keeping and maintaining records on employment* (Official Gazette of RS, No 15/2010 of 19/03/2010) so to impose obligation on the employment agencies to provide the data on announced vacancies according to the registration number of economic subject. Otherwise, SORS will implement the survey in order to make these statistics available by the end of 2021. Within IPA 2015 Multi-beneficiary programme it is anticipated to examine the possibilities of establishing the administrative data source for the calculation of average earnings.

**Survey on Income and Living Conditions (SILC):** To ensure the full alignment with Regulation (EC) No 1177/2003, it is anticipated to resume the continuous data transmission and quality reporting to Eurostat.

**Administrative data collection on social protection statistics (ESSPROS):** The activities of regular data collection and transmission to Eurostat based on the established dynamics are anticipated, which will maintain the full alignment with Regulation (EC) No 458/2007.

**Statistics on education:** The regular compilation of UOE questionnaire on education system will be continued in order to ensure full alignment with Commission Regulation (EU) No 912/2013. The second wave of **Adult Education Survey (AES)** was carried out in 2016. Regular activities will be continued in order to ensure full alignment with Commission Regulation (EU) No 1175/2014. **Continuous Vocational Training Survey (CVTS)** is envisaged to be implemented on five-year basis. The next wave of the European Continuous Vocational Training Survey is planned to be carried out with aim to achieve full alignment with the respective Commission Regulation which will be adopted for this domain.

For the domain of **statistics of tourism**, the full alignment with Regulation (EU) No 692/2011, Domestic tourism, Annex I concerning the data by degree of urbanization, is anticipated to be achieved in the third quarter 2018. The full alignment with Regulation (EU) No 692/2011, Annex II, as regards the complete tourist demands, will be implemented in the second quarter of 2021, after finalization of the survey envisaged within IPA 2015 Multi-beneficiary programme and of the regular survey for year 2020.

#### **IV. Acceptance of the EU Acquis**

The Republic of Serbia accepts the acquis of the European Union (EU) covered by the Chapter 18 “Statistics” as it stands on 1st January 2017 and it does not expect difficulties in implementing the EU acquis within this Chapter.

The Republic of Serbia will have implemented any outstanding acquis, namely acquis adopted after 1st January 2017 by the time of accession to the European Union, subject to the outcome of the negotiations under this chapter.

The Republic of Serbia does not request specific adaptations under this Chapter.