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## **IMPRESSIONS ABOUT WORKING IN NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STATISTICS OF ROMANIA**

My name is **Andrea Hajdar**, and I work in Project Management Unit in Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia (SORS). Applying to traineeship in the National Institute of Statistics (NIS) Romania enabled me to learn in a professional organization in a neighbouring country that passed through a transition period not so long time ago and share the experience and practical knowledge in the field of European projects after my return.

My traineeship on European Projects Management started on the 9th of September 2013 under the framework of MB IPA 2011 Programme. I was assigned to the Programme Implementation Unit (PIU) as part of the Department of European Affairs and International Co-operation. PIU is among other things, in charge of planning and implementing technical cooperation projects in the field of official statistics.

Traineeship in the NIS Romania allowed me to get better acquainted with the preparation of projects financed from the EU funds, the implementation phases and internal procedures of project management. NIS has at its disposal a number of projects and the use of Structural and Cohesion Funds, so it was a good opportunity for me to acquire practical knowledge that I can apply in my Project Management Unit in Serbia.

I would like to mention that my work in SORS slightly differs from the work comprised in PIU. This was great opportunity for me to complement my knowledge that I can apply in my future work as well as to enhance my professional skills. Moreover, I actively participated in the ongoing work of PIU, under the guidance of my mentor Ms Ana Maria Ranta, when I was given opportunity to get introduced with different Grant projects.

During this traineeship I was getting acquainted with the hierarchical and organizational structure of the hosting institution. I got to know how the unit was organized, the main activities and how the responsibilities are shared - basically the content of Programme Implementation Units daily work. During my traineeship I got acquainted with following projects: Phare Programme, Business and Consumer Survey (BCS), Simstat ESS net project, e-Survey Online Portal (e-SOP) for takeover of statistical data, Environmental accounts and MEETS Programme.

Most of my daily work in this traineeship was assisting my colleagues in different projects as for example monitoring the costs of staff assigned to the action, checking timesheets, salary slips and working hours and afterwards introducing the data into the internal calculation summarizing table that is

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used. Working on these tasks and different projects gave me insight in financial procedures and calculations used for monitoring of the projects as well as an insight in the latest Eurostat requirements (travel and subsistence scales, Structural Funds use) that are to be fulfilled in SORS in the future.

I liked the working atmosphere and the manner in which the tasks, requests, ideas and results of the work were communicated between colleagues very much. From the very beginning of my traineeship I felt that I had full support of all of my colleagues regarding my work in the unit. I was welcomed very friendly and hospitably and if something was not familiar to me or I had some doubts, I was always free to ask colleagues that are more experienced than I am.

I find it very useful to discuss and exchange experiences with my colleagues regarding the solutions for preventing the difficulties in project implementation such as delays in carrying out activities compared to the contract schedule and the risk of delay in submitting reimbursement documentation. It was an excellent way to express my own and to hear opinions of other colleagues about the problems in every day work and how to solve them. The contacts acquired during my traineeship will certainly be a precious part of my statistical and social networking in the upcoming years.

It is said that you can not have the first impression twice, and my first impression about Bucharest as well as National Institute of Statistics Romania was how huge and wide everything is! The Bucharest, I perceive like captivating city of the architectural, artistic, social and cultural opposites and contrasts. Very impressive about Bucharest are the number of lakes and beautiful parks scattered around the city.

For the end, I have to praise the very good working atmosphere and communication in the office that made my traineeship very pleasant and I managed to get a broader picture of work organization in big system such as NIS Romania. I feel very privileged that I had the opportunity to work with really hostile and friendly people. This was an experience that I will certainly not forget and it will make me smile, anytime I remember it.