

Twinning Project

Contract: GE 16 ENI ST 06 18

Strengthening the Capacity of the Georgian Statistical System

Component 1: Development of External Sector Statistics

Component 1.2: "Statistics on International Trade in Services (ITS)"

MISSION REPORT

Activity: 1.2.C (RS): Analysis of Data sources and questionnaire design

Mission carried out by
Helene Feveile, Statistics Denmark
Selma Mustafic, Statistics Denmark
Stefan Ambro, Statistics Denmark

June, 22nd – July, 1st 2020

Version: Final

Expert contact information

Ms. Helene Feveile
Statistics Denmark
Copenhagen, Denmark
Tel: +45 3917 3825
Email: hfe@dst.dk

Ms. Selma Mustafics
Statistics Denmark
Copenhagen, Denmark
Tel: +45 3917 3664
Email: smu@dst.dk

Mr. Stefan Ambro
Statistics Denmark
Copenhagen, Denmark
Tel: +45 3917 3139
Email: sfb@dst.dk

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1. General comments

This mission report was prepared within the EU Twinning Project "Strengthening the Capacity of Georgian Statistical System". It was the third mission within the sub-component 1.2: "Statistics on International Trade in Services (ITS)". Due to COVID-19 the mission was carried out as a Remote Session in the period from June 22nd to July 1st 2020. The mission was mainly devoted to the core methodology of the new statistics, i.e. sampling design and grossing up procedures. Moreover, progress within the area of data collection since last mission was reviewed.

In more detail, the purposes of the mission was to discuss and work on the below mentioned subjects:

- Review of results from business survey
- Decision on methodology
- Development of sample design and size
- Development of grossing up procedures
- Development of imputation procedures
- Defining the period of observation (2019 year or quarterly 2020 data)
- Data collection process
- Review of finalized questionnaire
- Review of finalized instructions for filling in the questionnaire
- Status on documentation of existing compiling process
- Future work division between Geostat and NBG
- Progress on contact to data providers
- Country distribution in existing supplementary sources
- IT plan for pilot survey
- Work plan review

The consultants would like to express their gratitude to the Geostat staff who participated in the mission, for the kind support and valuable information received during the mission.

The views and observations stated in this report are those of the consultants and do not necessarily correspond to the views of the European Union, Geostat, Statistics Denmark, or other statistical institutions involved in the implementation of the project.

2. Assessment and results

The mission was carried out as a Remote Session in the period from June 22nd to July 1st 2020. Within this period three Zoom meetings were held, on which topics from the Terms of Reference were discussed. On each meeting experts and Geostat participants agreed on tasks to be performed and presentations to be prepared for the next meeting of the session. Conducting the mission remotely has been more difficult, less focused and more time consuming than if the mission was conducted with experts being present in Georgia. But in general all parties were well prepared for each meeting, worked dedicated in between the meetings and achieved results, which fully fulfil the most urgent objectives within the mission, i.e. the objectives related to sampling design. However, due to the limited time spent together, it was not possible to cover all objectives related to supplementary sources and compilation of the final statistics. Therefore, it was decided to keep the physical mission 1.2.C with a hope to carry it out in September 2020. All in all, it is the experts perception that within the remote session, substantial steps were taken towards the final target of the sub-component and that the missions planned for the future will allow the Twinning project to finalize the subcomponent 1.2 successfully.

3. Conclusions and follow up

- All known entities with ITS will be sampled for the new ITS survey

- Grossing up will be based on weights from Business survey. Business survey weights will be adjusted to account for the inclusion into the sample of entities from the FDI survey.
- The sample will be updated annually. For the update, a screening question on ITS should remain in annual FDI survey and Business survey. In the quarterly FDI survey and the quarterly Business survey, the screening question can be removed
- Imputation will be done through adjustments of weights and/or estimations on entity level based on previous reports
- A closer analysis of available sources for travel is needed in order to decide if travel should be collected in the ITS survey or be fully based on supplementary sources.
- Auxiliary insurance services should be added the draft questionnaire produced by Geostat.
- Geostat should consult NBS regarding the need for more detailed data collection in the area of construction than proposed in the draft questionnaire.
- Apart from the above remarks regarding, travel, insurance and construction, the questionnaire produced by Geostat can be approved.
- Geostat's draft instructions for filling in the questionnaire can be approved with some minor remarks. Remarks are stated in the file "Questionnaire instructions with DST comments.docx"
- The data on freight transport derived from customs declarations by NBS and the underlying methodology should be carefully reviewed as figures are larger than expected.

Actions needed for moving forward:

Action	Deadline	Responsible person
Geostat will send full anonymised data set on ITS from Business Survey and FDI survey to Statistics Denmark	July 2020	Geostat

Annex 1. Terms of Reference

Terms of Reference

EU Twinning Project GE 16 ENI ST 06 18

June 22th – June 26th 2020

Component 1: Development of External Sector Statistics

Sub-component 1.2: Statistics on International Trade in Services (ITS)

Mandatory results and benchmarks for sub-component 1.2:

- Statistics on International Trade in Services (ITS) compiled

Indicators of Achievement (baseline and targets):

- Availability of International Trade in Services as a statistical product
 - Baseline:** 2019 – ITS is not produced by Geostat.
 - Target:** March 2021 – ITS available as a statistical product
- Number of staff capable of producing ITS
 - Baseline:** 2019 – 0
 - Target:** March 2021 – At least 3 staff members trained and capable of producing ITS

Activity 1.2.C (RS): Analysis of Data sources and questionnaire design

1. Purpose of the activity

To discuss and work on the below mentioned subjects:

- Review of results from business survey
- Decision on methodology
- Defining the period of observation (2019 year or quarterly 2020 data)
- Review of finalized questionnaire
- Review of finalized instructions for filling in the questionnaire
- Status on documentation of existing compiling process
- Future work division between Geostat and NBG
- Development of sample design and size
- Development of grossing up procedures
- Development of imputation procedures
- Data collection process
- IT plan for pilot survey
- Progress on contact to data providers
- Country distribution in existing supplementary sources
- Work plan review

2. Expected output of the activity

- Results from business survey have been reviewed
- Methodology has been drafted and GEOSTAT has been put in a position to finalize it
- Grossing up procedures have been drafted and GEOSTAT has been put in a position to finalize them
- Imputation procedures have been drafted and GEOSTAT has been put in a position to finalize them
- Relevant meetings with possible data providers are established



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- Questionnaire for pilot survey is finalized
- Instructions for filling questionnaires are finalized
- Future work division between Geostat and NBG is agreed
- Action plan for documentation of the future statistics is agreed
- Suitability of existing supplementary sources has been evaluated
- Suitability of the identified potential new sources has been evaluated
- Data collection process is finalised
- IT work plan for pilot survey is drafted
- Work plan is reviewed and updated where relevant
- Mission Report written (Light version)
- ToR for next activity prepared

Annex 2. Persons met

Geostat

Ms. Maka Kalandarishvili, Head of External Trade and Foreign Investments Statistics Department

Ms. Nino Maisuradze, Head of Foreign Investments Statistics Division,

Ms. Tamar Lursmanashvili, Chief specialist Foreign Investments Statistics Division,

Ms. Nino Meskheli, Chief specialist Foreign Investments Statistics Division,

Mr. Aleko Zoidze, Senior specialist, Foreign Investments Statistics Division,

Mr. Mamuka Benashvili, Chief specialist, Short-term Statistics Division, Business Statistics Department

Mr. Ivane Kechakmadze, Sampling specialist by contract

RTA Twinning Team

Mr. Steen Bielefeldt Pedersen, Resident Twinning Advisor

Ms. Eka Lobzanidze, Resident Twinning Adviser Assistant