

Twinning Project

Contract: GE 16 ENI ST 06 18

Strengthening the Capacity of the Georgian Statistical System

Component 1: Development of External Sector Statistics

Sub-component 1.1: “Mirror Comparison in International Merchandise Trade Statistics”

MISSION REPORT

Activity: 1.1.C (RS) Discussion and analyses of asymmetry studies

Mission carried out by
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20th October – 17th November 2020

Version: Final



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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 1.1: "Mirror Comparison in International Merchandise Trade Statistics". Due to COVID-19 the mission was carried out as a Remote Session in the period from 27th October to 17th November 2020. Before the mission Geostat had carried out in depth, unilateral investigations of a number of selected asymmetries. The mission was mainly devoted to the results of these investigations. The asymmetries concerns trade with the EU countries.

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

- Discussion of the preliminary results of asymmetry studies
- Identification of relevant partner countries for bilateral cooperation on asymmetry studies
- Concept for final report
- Drafting the work plan for the next mission

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 20th October to 17th November 2020. Within this period five video 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. In general all parties were well prepared for each meeting, worked dedicated in between the meetings and achieved results, which to a fulfills the objectives of the mission. It is the experts perception that the mission was successful and that substantial steps were taken towards the final target of the sub-component.

3. Conclusions and follow up

- There are indications that transit may be a major reason behind asymmetries between Georgia and EU.
 - EU importers may record Georgia as country of origin for goods which are sent from other countries via Georgian ports
 - EU exporters may record Georgia as final destination for goods which are sent via Georgia to other contries
 - Georgian exporter may record EU as final destination for goods which are sent to non EU countries via EU ports
- 6 countries have been selected for bilateral cooperation on the selected asymmetries
- Letters for the selected countries have been drafted and will be sent during December
- A concept for the final report has been agreed

Actions needed for moving forward:

Action	Deadline	Responsible person
Letters to EU partner countries should be sent	December 2020	DST
Further communication with EU partner countries on selected asymmetries	December 2020 – February 2021	Geostat



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Draft of three first sections of the report written and sent to DST	December 10th	Geostat
Feedback on report draft sent to Geostat	December 20th	DST

Annex 1. Terms of Reference

EU Twinning Project GE 16 ENI ST 06 18

October 20th – 26th 2020

Component 1: Development of External Sector Statistics

Sub-component 1.1: Mirror Comparison in International Merchandise Trade Statistics

Mandatory results and benchmarks for sub-component 1.1:

- Mirror Comparison in International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS) accomplished

Indicators of Achievement (baseline and targets):

- Availability of reasons for asymmetries in International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS)
 - **Baseline:** 2019 - Reasons for asymmetries in International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS) are not available
 - **Target:** January 2021- methodological problems identified and / or data quality issues Results prepared
- Number of GEOSTAT Staff familiar with mirror comparisons
 - **Baseline:** 2019 - n/a
 - **Target:** March 2021- At least 3 staff members trained

Activity 1.1.C (RS): Discussion and analyses of asymmetry studies

1. Purpose of the activity

To discuss and work on the below mentioned subjects:

- Discussion of the preliminary results of asymmetry studies
- Identification of relevant partner countries for bilateral cooperation on asymmetry studies
- Concept for final report

2. Expected output of the activity

- Preliminary results of asymmetry studies, including reasons for the asymmetries, are ready
- Possible methodological reasons for the selected asymmetries has been discussed
- Partner countries for bilateral cooperation are selected and plan for establishing the cooperation has been defined
- Concept for final report has been defined
- Mission report written
- ToR for the next activity prepared

Annex 2. Persons met

Geostat

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

Ms. Eka Jananashvili, Head of External Trade Statistics Division,

Mr. Otari Bunturi, Chief Specialist of External Trade Statistics Division,

Mr. Bachuk Bokuchava, Senior Specialist External Trade Statistics Division,

Mr. Irakli Zoidze, Senior Specialist External Trade Statistics Division,

Mr. Beka Benidze, Senior Specialist External Trade Statistics Division.

RTA Twinning Team

Mr. Steen Bielefeldt Pedersen, Resident Twinning Advisor

Ms. Eka Lobzanidze, Resident Twinning Advisor Assistant