

Twinning Project

Contract: GE 16 ENI ST 06 18

Strengthening the Capacity of the Georgian Statistical System

Component 4: *“Strengthening Social Statistics”*

Sub-component 4.2: *“Household Income and Expenditure Survey Methodologies and data collection tools”*

MISSION REPORT

Activity: 4.2.B (RS): Further discussions on methodology and new indicators

Mission carried out by
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From June 16th to June 25th of 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". This was the second mission within the sub-component 4.2: "Household Income and Expenditure Survey Methodologies and data collection tools". Due to COVID-19 the mission was carried out as a Remote Session in the period from June 16th to June 25th 2020. There were three remote sessions (June 16th, June 23th, June 25th). The mission was mainly devoted to further discussions on methodology and new indicators.

The purposes of the mission were:

- To discuss the current situation and outline of a work plan and thereby;
 - Evaluate the work done in respect to the questionnaire changes suggested by the experts
 - Determination of differences between methodologies of regularly produced indicators and internationally adopted standards
 - Evaluation of the possibility of producing new internationally comparable indicators

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 16th to June 25th 2020. Within this period three online 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 this 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 the results 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.

Meeting 1: In the first half of the virtual meeting it was presented which indicators published by Geostat and the methodology behind. In the second half the CZSO experts presented the international core indicators application in the European and national contexts (mainly At-risk-of-poverty rate and Material and social deprivation rate).

Meeting 2: There was a presentation of MDSD possibilities and obstacles in Geostat by the Geostat team. Furthermore, the methodological guidelines of items entering in MDSD were presented by CZSO.

Meeting 3: We focused on income definition, composition and figures in Geostat and a their comparison with income variables according to the EU methodology.

3. Conclusions and follow up

- The aim of Activity 4.2.B was to determine the differences between methodologies of regularly produced indicators and internationally adopted standards in the European context. Within the remote session (RS) 2 core indicators were discussed – At-risk-of-poverty rate and Material and social deprivation rate (presentation: *200616_Geostat_1_indicators.pptx*).
- The other topics were:
- Comparison of the use of the equivalence scales and consumption units for income and expenditure data.
- Evaluation of the possibility of producing main internationally comparable indicators from the existing Georgian datasets (presentation: *200625_Geostat_3_indicators.pptx*).
- Detailed description of items of material and social deprivation (presentation: *200623_Geostat_2_MDSD.pptx*, methodological guidelines: *MDSD.pdf*)
- Detailed description of housing conditions indicators from the EU-SILC data (sent methodological guidelines: *Housing_conditions.pdf*). Statistics Explained *Living conditions in Europe – housing quality* has been sent in connection with this (*Housing_quality.pdf*).
- Detailed description of income as defined in the Household Income and Expenditure Survey (presentation: *200625_Geostat_3_AROP.pptx*, methodological guidelines: *AROP.pdf*). The use of ESSPROS (European system of integrated social protection statistics) classification for social income (sent manual and user guidelines: *ESSPROS_manual.pdf*).
- Method of calculation of indicators and their standard breakdowns for dissemination.

Actions needed for moving forward:

Action	Deadline	Responsible person
Discussion of calculation possibilities of international core indicators	September, 2020 (for a follow-up discussion during the foreseen study visit)	Geostat HIES experts
Studying all important documents that were sent within the RS.	September, 2020 (for a follow-up discussion during the foreseen study visit)	Geostat HIES experts
Discussion and identification of questions which should be added in current questionnaire – for calculation of new indicators.	October, 2020	Geostat HIES experts
Comparison of income methodology and description of differences.	October, 2020	Geostat HIES experts
Preparation of algorithms to compute international core indicators.	October, 2020	Mr. Martin Zelený and Ms. Táňa Dvornáková

Annex 1. Terms of Reference

Mandatory results and benchmarks for sub-component 4.2

- Household Income and Expenditure Survey methodology and data collection tools improved

Indicators of Achievement (baseline and targets):

- Availability of Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) data according to updated methodology
 - **Baseline:** 2019 – Methodology is partially outdated
 - **Target:** : November 2020 – Methodology is updated and HIES data is produced according to the updated methodology
- Availability of feasibility study on reworked or new poverty indicators
 - **Baseline:** 2019 – Feasibility study on reworked or new poverty indicators are not available
 - **Target:** November 2020 – feasibility of new indicator(s) established and findings presented to Geostat management

Activity 4.2.B (RS): Further discussions on methodology and new indicators

1. Purpose of the activity

- Evaluation of work done in respect to the questionnaire changes suggested by the experts
- Determination of differences between methodologies of regularly produced indicators and internationally adopted standards
- Evaluation of the possibility of producing new internationally comparable indicators

2. Expected output of the activity

- The work performed at Geostat in respect to the questionnaire changes suggested by the experts have been evaluated
- Differences between methodologies of regularly produced indicators and internationally adopted standards assessed are revealed
- New internationally comparable indicators to be produced are determined
- Mission report written
- ToR for next mission prepared
- Work plan updated for sub-component 4.2



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Annex 2. Persons met

Geostat

Mr. Vasil Tsakadze, Head of Social Statistics Department,
Mr. Giorgi Mikeladze, Head of Living Conditions Statistics Division,
Mr. Giorgi Kiknadze, Senior Specialist of Living Conditions Statistics Division,
Ms. Ana Varamashvili, Senior Specialist of Living Conditions Statistics Division,
Ms. Nino Maghradze, Senior Specialist of Living Conditions Statistics Division,
Mrs. Marina Gogebashvili, Chief Specialist of Living Conditions Statistics Division,
Mrs. Tsitsino Tediashvili, Chief Specialist of Living Conditions Statistics Division,
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