

Twinning Project

Contract: GE 16 ENI ST 06 18

Strengthening the Capacity of the Georgian Statistical System

Component 1: “Component 1: “Development of External Sector Statistics”

STUDY VISIT MISSION REPORT

Activity: 1.2.SV1 “Inspirations from Danish experience”

Mission carried out

June 25th – June 28th 2019

Version: Draft no 1.0

Hosting Organization: Statistics Denmark

Country: Denmark

Purpose of the visit: Introduction to the Danish experience on Statistics on International Trade in Services (ITS) on survey content, methodology and IT issues

Financing: All costs were covered by the Twinning project

Study visit participants

Aleksandre Ambokadze, *Head of IT department*

Nino Maisuradze, *Head of Foreign Investment Statistics Division*

Nino Meskheli, *Main specialist, Foreign Investment Statistics Division*

Aleko Zoidze, *Senior specialist, Foreign Investment Statistics Division*

Manana Bakashvili, *Chief Specialist at macroeconomics and statistics Department, National Bank of Georgia*

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1. General comments

This Study visit mission report was prepared within the EU Twinning Project "Strengthening the Capacity of Georgian Statistical System". The study visit was carried out within component 1 of the project „Development of External Sector Statistics” under sub-component 1.2 „Statistics on International Trade in Services”.

The purposes of the study visit were:

- To be introduced to the Danish experience on Statistics on International Trade in Services (ITS) on survey content, methodology and IT issues.

The participants would like to express their gratitude to all officials and individuals met for the valuable information which they received during the stay in Copenhagen.

2. Summary

Within the framework of “Twinning project”, we participated in a study visit organized by Statistics Denmark. This visit covered the topic of international trade in services.

From the Danish side, meetings were held by Stefan Ambro, Selma Mulalic and Helene Feveile. During the meeting, us, the representatives of Geostat along with the representative of the National Bank of Georgia, presented the current state of international trade in services statistics to Danish Statistics office representatives.

Experts from Statistics Denmark, discussed the methodological basis of international trade in service statistics, basic sources of information and other methods of collecting, evaluating and correcting of the data. We also reviewed and agreed on the work plan for the next encounter, which is scheduled at the end of August, when the Danish experts come on a mission to Georgia.

During our mission, we also learned about the IT department of Statistics Denmark, how it works and some of the specific details that were completely different from the Geostat IT system.

Alexandre Ambokadze had intensive workshops with the head of IT department and other colleagues related to his field. Both parties discussed the current conditions of IT, goals and challenges of the Statistics office of both partnering countries. Danish colleagues made a presentation about the data base structure of IT strategies and international trading services.

The Study visit to Denmark was overall interesting and fruitful. Obtained information and knowledge will help us further improve the production of International trade in services statistics.

3. Conclusions

- During the study visit, we agreed on a number of tasks to be accomplished before the mission in August in Tbilisi. The tasks are related to three major challenges within the component: methodology, data collection and communication.

Actions needed for moving forward as well as for preparing the next mission:

Action	Deadline	Responsible person
See annex 1	See annex 1	See annex 1

Annex 1. Tasks for the period until August

Methodology

We need to define a population/sampling frame and draw a sample. In relation to this task, we agreed to do the following before the mission in August:

- Geostat/NBG prepares a full description of ITRS, including
 - Sources and production process
 - Frequency of the statistics
 - Information available for transactions under USD 10.000
 - Information available for transactions between USD 10.000 and USD 1.000.000
 - Information available for transactions above USD 1.000.000
 - Data format(Deadline: August 23)
- NBG delivers ITRS to Geostat. Data should be delivered at the most detailed level available. If data for the full calendar year 2018 is available, data should be delivered for the period from January 2018 to the latest available period. If full 2018 data are not available yet, data should be delivered for the period from January 2017 to the latest available period, so that we have at least one full calendar year of data. As data contain confidential company information, it should be delivered through the appropriate secure channels. (Deadline: August 23)
- Geostat/NBG sends an example of ITRS micro-data to Statistics Denmark. It does not have to be a big dataset, but it should contain examples of transactions below USD 10.000, between USD 10.000 and USD 1.000.000 and above USD 1.000.000. Company codes, names, addresses etc. should be replaced by “company X”, so that information is no longer confidential, while DST can still see for which transactions company information is available in the original data set. (Deadline: August 1)
- Geostat prepares a basic analysis of the available sources, comparing total import of services and total export of services for the latest available full calendar year of data from
 - Published ITS figures in BoP
 - ITRS
 - Data collected in survey on external activities(Deadline: August 23)
- Geostat/NBG identifies the total number of companies with services transactions in ITRS in the latest available full calendar year of data. (Deadline: August 23)

Data collection

We have identified underreporting of services as a likely problem in the current survey on external activities. Therefore, we need identify ways of ensuring that this problem will not be replicated in the new ITSS survey. In relation to this task, we agreed to do the following before the mission in August:

- Geostat will send current documents which are available as guidance for reporting companies to DST. (Deadline: July 15)
- Geostat will send questionnaire from survey on external activities to DST. (Deadline: July 15)

Communication

Finally, it has become clear that communication between project participants is a challenge that we want to address explicitly. In order to make sure that we have a common knowledge base and common vocabulary, based on which we can communicate, we agreed to do the following before the mission in August:

- Geostat participants in the study visit will discuss the methodological presentation given by Selma and Helene with relevant staff in Geostat, so that all Geostat staff who will be involved in the project has a good understanding of the methodological basis of the work. (Deadline: August 23)
- Geostat will prepare short presentations of the project participants, so that DST will gain a better understanding of where the different competencies needed to accomplish the tasks in the project are found and how responsibilities are distributed in Geostat. Specifically, we will need to identify competencies/responsibilities within:
 - Statistical methodology
 - ITSS manuals
 - Data collection, data validation and company contact(Deadline: August 23)

To facilitate the translation, we will produce a short glossary for the project. DST will compile a short list of technical terminology which is relevant in the project and send to Geostat. Geostat will find corresponding translations into Georgian and go through the list with Eka. (Deadline: August 23)

Annex 2. Persons met

Statistics Denmark:

Mr. Jesper Ellemose Jensen, *Chief Consultant, International Relations*

Mr. Stefan Ambro, *head of section on Collection and Control, External Economy*

Ms. Selma Mulalic, *Senior Adviser on External Trade in Services, External Economy*

Ms. Helene Feveile, *Semior Adviser on Method, Methodology and Anlaysis*

Mr. Casper Winther, *Head of Division on Management and office support, External Economy*

Henrik Wanscher, *Journalist, Press Team, Communication*

Helle Holm, *Pressechef, Press Team, Communication*

Caroline Bo, *Head of Section on Analysis and Dissemination, External Economy*

Agnes Urup, *Head of Section on Analysis and Dissemination, External Economy*

Sanne Nielsen, *Senior Adviser on Strategy, Architecture, Governance and IT security, IT*