

# 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.D (RS) “Evaluation and recommendations to optimized questionnaire and new indicators”

Mission carried out by  
Mr. Martin Zelený, Czech Statistical Office  
Ms. Ms. Simona Měřinská, Czech Statistical Office

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## 1. General comments

This mission report was prepared within the EU Twinning Project "Strengthening the Capacity of the Georgian Statistical System". This was the fourth 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 like the previous two ones in 2020 as a series of 3 Remote Sessions in the period from 9<sup>th</sup> of March to 30<sup>th</sup> of March with a briefing of the Geostat management on the 8<sup>th</sup> of April. The mission was mainly devoted to the continued work on the possibilities of calculating comparable indicators with the existing Georgian national HIES survey (income based indicators part) or with a limited set of data items potentially collected in Georgia (material deprivation part).

The purpose of the mission was to review the first draft of the income based indicators part of the feasibility study and first draft of eventual ad-hoc module covering selected material deprivation items. The topics covered were in particular:

- Review of detailed income components comparison vis-à-vis the income components covered by the harmonized household disposable income definition used in the EU-SILC:
  - presentation and discussion of detailed income comparison
  - covered income components in HIES compared to EU-SILC
  - household membership – persons covered in household income calculation with respect to the applied definition of the household membership and equivalence scales derived from the household composition
  - detailed assessment of selected income components in the HIES survey, explanation of the national specific income sources and their nature
  - borderline cases between current (income) items and capital transfer items, and how these are implemented in the national questionnaire
  - reflection of the finding with respect to the best available income aggregate for comparison with the EU-SILC concepts based indicators
- Material and Social Deprivation Questionnaire draft prepared by Geostat
- Low work intensity – calculation details for this indicator
- Household composition matrix and coding, with focus on the household composition details for the overcrowding indicator

Like in the previous two remote missions, the consultants would like to again express their gratitude to the involved Geostat staff who participated in the mission, for their active involvement, valuable information received during the sessions and in particular for the efforts and calculations done between the sessions on the existing Georgian survey data and their presentation within the remote sessions.

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 9<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> of March 2021. Within this period 3 videoconference Zoom meetings were held, on which topics from the Terms of Reference were discussed – three meetings on 09., 12. and 30. of March. A short follow-up coordinating video-conference meeting with the Geostat management took place on the 8<sup>th</sup> of April.

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. It is the experts perception that the mission was successful and that substantial steps were taken towards the final target of the sub-component.

The first part of the mission thematic scope was devoted to the reviewing of the pre-identified details of the existing income data collection national Georgian Household Income and Expenditure Survey. The exchange on this topic at the detailed component data collection level confirmed the reasonable coherence in the covered income components with the EU-SILC. The identified particular components were jointly assessed with respect to their inclusion or non-inclusion into the best available aggregate for comparative results with the EU indicators based on EU-SILC. The current link between household composition data – inclusion / non-inclusion of persons leaving / joining the household in the course of the 3 months income reference period – was explained by the Geostat team – the impact of the current methodology on the coverage of the income and income equalisation / per capita income characteristics was discussed subsequently, with possibilities for methodological adjustments for better coherence in the collected data.

In the non-income part of the agenda, the experts presented the data collected and approach used for the calculation of the LWI low work intensity indicator, part of the AROP composite indicator, and the household composition / relationships data collection. Geostat team presented a draft of a set of potential material deprivation questions for the ad-hoc module on material deprivation.

### 3. Conclusions and follow up

Details of selected income components were mutually discussed and their inclusion into the total income for the indicators was agreed. Geostat will prepare the proposed aggregation scheme for the best available aggregate from the existing collected income items used in HIES – adjustment / in-/non- inclusions in comparison to the national income total Excel scheme. The experts will incorporate the findings and conclusions on income components and income total composition into the feasibility study text – income based indicators part. The experts will review and incorporate the material deprivation proposed questions into the material deprivation indicators part of the feasibility study, possible ad-hoc module proposal. The feasibility study semi-definite text will be prepared by mid-May and exchanged with the Geostat team electronically before the planned study visit. Sampling – related topics were confirmed as an essential topic for the foreseen study visit. The Geostat team is welcome to send tips for details on topics / aspects of sampling design and implementation which are of particular interest to them, to guide the preparation of the study visit materials on that topic. The study visit is planned for June, with a possible shift towards July-August-early September, depending on the travel and administrative restrictions in place and their evolution over time.

Actions needed for moving forward:

Action	Deadline	Responsible person
The best available total household income aggregate calculation scheme	29 <sup>th</sup> April, 2021	Geostat
Draft text of the feasibility study on income based and material deprivation indicators to be send electronically	16 <sup>th</sup> May 2021	Martin Zeleny and Simona Merinska, CSU
Feed-back and comments to the draft feasibility study. A meeting will be arranged if necessary	1 <sup>st</sup> June 2021	Geostat and RTA
Final version of the feasibility study to be send	16 <sup>th</sup> June 2021	Martin Zeleny and Simona Merinska, CSU
Tips / suggestions for the study visit themes of a particular interest for the Georgian team	29 <sup>th</sup> April, 2021	Geostat
Study visit of the Geostat team at CSU	June – early September, if postponement is necessary)	CSU, Geostat

## Annex 1. Terms of Reference

### EU Twinning Project GE 16 ENI ST 06 18

March 9<sup>th</sup> – March 18<sup>th</sup> 2021

#### Component 4: Strengthening Social Statistics

##### Sub-component 4.2: Household Income and Expenditure Survey Methodologies and data collection tools

###### 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:** February 2021 – 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:** February 2021 – feasibility of new indicator(s) established and findings presented to Geostat management

##### Activity 4.2.D (RS): Evaluation and recommendations to optimized questionnaire and new indicators

###### 1. Purpose of the activity

- Outlining the draft feasibility study
  - Income based indicator part
  - Material deprivation part
- Clarify the used equivalence scale
- Coding of household matrix

###### 2. Expected output of the activity

- Outstanding issues concerning calculation of new indicators have been discussed and solved
- First draft of the feasibility study have been finalized
- The need for an extra expert mission has been discussed and decided
- Mission report written
- ToR for next mission prepared
- Work plan updated for sub-component 4.2

## Annex 2. Persons met

### Geostat

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

Mr. Teimuraz Paksashvili, Contracted Data base administrator of Living Conditions Statistics Division

Mr. Ivane kechakmadze, Contracted Weighting and Sampling Specialist of Living Conditions Statistics Division

### RTA Twinning Team

Mr. Steen Bielefeldt Pedersen, Resident Twinning Advisor