

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: 1.2.C (RS2): *Developing imputation and validation methods, and follow up on previous issues*

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

September, 14th – September, 22nd 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

Table of contents

1. General comments	4
2. Assessment and results	4
3. Conclusions and recommendations	4
Annex 1. Terms of Reference	4
Annex 2. Persons met	9

1. General comments

This mission report was prepared within the EU Twinning Project "Strengthening the Capacity of Georgian Statistical System". It describes the second remote session within the third mission of the sub-component 1.2: "Statistics on International Trade in Services (ITS)". The remote session was partly devoted to the core methodology of the new statistics, i.e. sampling design and grossing up procedures, partly to the compilation procedures for a number of specific service items.

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

- Review of final sampling and grossing up procedures
- Review of final imputation procedures
- Collection and compilation of travel services
- Collection and compilation of insurance and pension services
- Collection and compilation of construction services
- Review of finalized questionnaire
- Review of finalized instructions for filling in the questionnaire
- Estimation of transport services based on customs data
- Status on documentation of existing compiling process
- Future work division between Geostat and NBG
- Country distribution in existing supplementary sources
- Progress on contact to provider of potential, new supplementary sources

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 remote session was carried out in the period from September, 14th to September, 22nd 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 to a large extent fulfil the objectives within activity 1.2.C which were not fulfilled in the first remote session 1.2.C (RS). 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

- The sampling and grossing up procedures for both pilot survey and regular survey has been agreed upon. The procedures are described in the document "Brief description of Sampling Procedure".
- For the regular survey, Geostat will evaluate the possibility of adding stratification by industry.
- Procedure for updating of the sample has been drafted and will be finalised during the first year of the regular survey.
- Imputation will be handled by adjusting weights. Only in case of a large number of missing or faulty reports, special procedures for estimating trade based on previous reports from the entity in question will be developed.

- Final questionnaire and instructions for the pilot survey have been approved.
- Compilation of travel, insurance and construction have been discussed. Final decision on the future compilation of these items will be taken later, based on the results of the pilot survey.
- The size of current estimations of freight transportation import based on customs declarations (CIF-FOB corrections) has been reviewed. It has been agreed that data are trustworthy.
- The future compilation of freight transport has been discussed and risks of double counting when combining CIF-FOB corrections with survey data have been highlighted.
- Final decision on compilation of freight transport will be taken based on the results from the pilot survey.
- Country distribution is available for the majority of existing supplementary sources. However, for data from ministries country distribution is currently not available.
- A number of potential new supplementary sources have been identified, however further investigation are needed to decide if they can be used in the future compilation.
- The work division between Geostat and National Bank of Georgia will remain the same as today, where survey of ITS is handled by Geostat while compilation of ITSS is handled by National Bank of Georgia.

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. The dataset will include final Business Survey weights	October 2020	Geostat
Geostat will carry out pilot survey	November 2020	Geostat
Geostat/NBG will investigate potential sources for premium supplements	December 2020	Geostat/NBG
Geostat will ask providers of supplementary sources for country distribution in the cases where this information is not already available and the supplementary source will be used in the future data compilation.	December 2020	Geostat
Geostat will finalise investigations of potential new sources identified and collect data form relevant providers in cases where the sources will be relevant for the new data compilation	December 2020	Geostat
Geostat and National bank of Georgia will prepare fully compiled pilot statistics of ITS based on the pilot survey and send to DST at least two weeks before the next mission.	December 2020	Geostat/NBG
Geostat and National Bank of Georgia will prepare detailed written documentation of the compilation methods for the test statistics and send to DST at least two weeks before the next	December 2020	Geostat/NBG



ევროკავშირი
საქართველოსთვის
The European Union for Georgia



mission.		
Geostat will evaluate the possibility of adding stratification by industry to the regular survey.	December 2020	Geostat

Annex 1. Terms of Reference

Terms of Reference

EU Twinning Project GE 16 ENI ST 06 18

September 14th – September 22nd 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 (RS2): Developing imputation and validation methods, and follow up on previous issues

1. Purpose of the activity

To discuss and work on the below mentioned subjects:

- Review of final sampling and grossing up procedures
- Review of final imputation procedures
- Collection and compilation of travel services
- Collection and compilation of insurance and pension services
- Collection and compilation of construction services
- Review of finalized questionnaire
- Review of finalized instructions for filling in the questionnaire
- Estimation of transport services based on customs data
- Status on documentation of existing compiling process
- Future work division between Geostat and NBG
- Country distribution in existing supplementary sources
- Progress on contact to provider of potential, new supplementary sources
- Work plan review

2. Expected output of the activity

- Sampling and grossing up procedures are final
- Imputation procedures are final
- Collection and compilation of travel services have been drafted and GEOSTAT has been put in a position to finalize these issues
- Collection and compilation of insurance and pension services have been drafted and GEOSTAT has been put in a position to finalize these issues
- Collection and compilation of construction services have been drafted and GEOSTAT has been put in a position to finalize these issues
- Questionnaire for pilot survey is finalized

- Instructions for filling questionnaires are finalized
- Method for calculation of transport services has been discussed and validated and GEOSTAT/NBG has been put in a position to make final decision on it
- Action plan for documentation of the future statistics is agreed
- Future work division between Geostat and NBG is agreed
- Suitability of existing supplementary sources has been evaluated
- Suitability of the identified potential new sources has been evaluated
- Work plan is reviewed and updated where relevant
- Mission Report written
- ToR for next activity prepared



ევროკავშირი
საქართველოსთვის
The European Union for Georgia



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. Ivane Kechakmadze, Sampling specialist by contract

National Bank of Georgia

Mr. Vakhtang Pkhakadze, Head of Balance of Payments division,

Ms. Manana Bakashvili, Leading Specialist Macroeconomics and Statistics Department

RTA Twinning Team

Mr. Steen Bielefeldt Pedersen, Resident Twinning Advisor

Ms. Eka Lobzanidze, Resident Twinning Adviser Assistant