



TWINNING CONTRACT

GE 21 NDICI ST 01 23

Further Strengthening of the Georgian Statistical System

MISSION REPORT

on

Component 3:

Capacity of government institutions for the production and use of official statistics strengthened.

Activity 3.1.1:

Identifying additional administrative data sources; Further developing Work Plan for Component 3

Mission carried out by
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Tbilisi, Georgia
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List of Abbreviations

- EU = European Union
- BC = Beneficiary Country (Georgia)
- DESAP = the generic checklist for a systematic quality assessment of surveys in the European Statistical System (ESS)
- ESS = European Statistical System
- GSBPM = Generic Statistical Business Process Model
- GAMS0 = Generic Activity Model for Statistical Organizations
- MR = Mandatory results
- MS = EU Member State (Finland, Germany, Italy)
- PL = Project Leader
- RTA = Resident Twinning Advisor
- SR = Sub-results
- STE = Short-term Expert

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1. General comments

This mission report was prepared within the EU Twinning Project ‘Further Strengthening of the Georgian Statistical System’.

Purpose of the activity was to carry out administrative data inventory and documentation, identify new possible data sources and indicators and plan the activities and schedule of the sub-components 3.1 and 3.2.

The mission included a joint activity on components 2 and 3: carrying out a seminar with administrative data holders for increasing awareness of the administrative data role in statistical production.

The consultants would like to express their thanks to all officials and individuals met for their kind support and valuable information, which they received during the mission and which highly facilitated their work.

The views and observations stated in this report are those of the consultants and do not necessarily correspond to the views of EU, Statistical Office of Georgia, Statistics Finland, Statistics Germany, or Statistics Italy.

2. Status at the beginning of the mission

This was the first mission of the Twinning project component 3 following the planning activity 01A.1 ‘Scope the Activities to be carried out in the implementation phase of the project for all Results in Components 1–3’. The aim of the mission was to carry out an administrative data inventory and documentation, identify new possible data sources and indicators (step 1), and plan the activities and schedule of the sub-components 3.1 and 3.2. The role of the administrative data is vital for both components, so a joint seminar about AD with the key data providers was held on the second day of the mission.

In discussions with Geostat experts, we received information about previous work carried out in these domains, including the previous TAIEX project, the topic of which was the establishment of a population register. The results of the previous TAIEX round, as well as the development in Geostat between the projects will also be taken into account in the on-going project.

Geostat has a long-term cooperation with various international organisations such as the European Union (EU), the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), the United Nations (UN) and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

3. Status of mission results

The results stated in the ToR were fully met. Further details on the planned activities within the components are outlined in “GE_Twinnin2024_ActivitiesPlanning.pptx”

Component 3. Capacity of government institutions for the production and use of official statistics strengthened.

The third component of this project is focuses on enhancing the data production side as well as the use of statistics in decision making in Georgia. There are many overlapping issues with components 2 and 3, as the administrative data crosscuts all statistics and processes in Geostat. The required development work is not just about developing the statistics or Geostat processes. It is evident after discussions with Geostat personnel as well as with the administrative data holders that many of the development efforts should be undertaken by other organizations than Geostat. The role of the Ministry of Justice (and its offices) is evident in the development of a modern Population register, and this issue is dealt with in detail on component 2 mission report.

On the second day of the mission there, was a seminar where the administrative data holders, Geostat, and twinning project personnel and experts discussed various topics related to the setup of the population register. Most data providers are also the end users of statistical information.

After the inception mission in May 2024, Geostat has worked on the administrative data inventory file, which was further refined and restructured during the mission. The work will continue as more detailed information will be included in this inventory. The inventory will serve as a tool for identifying priority areas in developing content, coverage, accuracy, and other aspects of administrative data. Another angle to the same issue is to find out which new statistical indicators are most wanted, and whether it would be possible to produce them if certain existing or emerging administrative data were be available for Geostat.

During the mission the rolling work plan was updated to cover almost the remaining months in this twinning project. For Sub-result 3.1: Use of administrative data for production of official statistics increased, and on sub-result 3.2: Data usage of government institutions for decision-making enhanced, the following missions were planned:

Activity	Title	Timing	Content summary
3.1.1 (this mission)	AdminData I	20-23.8.2024	Seminar, inventory, planning the activities for 3.1 and 3.2
3.1.2	AdminData II	17-20.12.2024	Identified additional administrative data sources, new indicators
3.1.3	AdminData III	February 2025	Non-traditional data sources
3.1.4	AdminData IV	open	Topic is still open and will be decided based on previous mission findings
3.1.5	AdminData V	open	Topic is still open and will be decided based on previous mission findings
3.1.6	AdminData VI	02/2026	Joint mission with C2 and C3 AdminData follow up Seminar with adminData holders/ administrative users
3.2.1	Decision making enhanced I	20-23.5.2024	Promoting the use of statistics among governmental bodies Tracking the data users User needs analysis among administration
3.2.2	Decision making enhanced II	09/2025	Providing information to decision making, Statistics Finland Data Room and Research Laboratory

3.2.3	Decision making enhanced III	10/2025	Topic is still open and will be decided based on previous mission findings
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This plan will be later revised based on the mission findings. The suggested dates of the mission may change.

Joint seminar with component 2 and 3

On Wednesday, the joint seminar for component 2 and 3 on the topic “Geostat & EU-Funded Twinning Project: Further Strengthening of the Georgian Statistical System” was carried out. Participants included representatives from administrative data holders and agencies such as the National Bank of Georgia, the State Revenue Service (part of the Ministry of Finance), the Public Service Development Agency (PSDA, subordinated to the Ministry of Justice), National Center for Disease Control and Public Health. The administrative data holders and Geostat also working together in an interagency working group on the population register. The aim of the seminar was to highlight the importance of administrative data for the statistical process and to gain a common understanding of the population register. Geostat expressed the wish to continue the interagency working group on population register with the participants of the seminar, stating that the seminar is the starting point for this.

Further, Geostat presented the ideas on the population register, including the advantages of the register, the potential users, and the information that should be included in the population register. The main challenges establishing the population register are clarifying the question where the register is located, coordinating between data holders and Geostat, motivating the population to register their actual address as there are no enforcement mechanisms, and to creating a legal framework. All agencies during the seminar expressed interest in establishing a population register and their need for such a register, especially for the information where people actually live. There is a need to clarify who would hold this register, as some participants expressed concerns that they would not have access to a population register based at Geostat.

Further, Geostat presented an overview of administrative data use at Geostat. Data from up to 40 bodies/authorities is used by Geostat to produce official statistics. Indirectly, roughly half of the official statistics use/benefit from administrative data. The use of administrative data is to be increased to address the immediate cause of the lack of specific high-quality statistics to completely meet the demands of policymakers and other critical stakeholders. It was highlighted that, therefore, the cooperation between Geostat and data owners/providers and main stakeholders is to be expanded. Furthermore, it’s necessary to address issues such as the quality of the administrative data, the lack of disaggregated administrative data and methodology and metadata issues.

Additionally, the use of the administrative population data in Finland was presented as an example of how administrative data and registers can be used to produce population statistics. The history of administrative registers in Finland, as well as the main reasons for building the register-based statistics system, were mentioned. It was emphasized that the most important preconditions for the implementation of the register-based statistics system were the creation of the legal basis and good cooperation between the Statistical Institute and administrative authorities.

In the subsequent discussion, the need to recognize the distinction and different purposes between population and civil registers was also addressed, with an emphasis on defining the primary goal of the population register, whether it be tracking migration, demographic changes, or simply counting the population.

The next activity of this component will be on 17-20 December 2024 (subcomponent 3.1). The content of the activity will be as follows:

- Availability of the identified additional administrative data sources
- Availability of assessed new indicators

4. Sustainability of the achievements

All parties agreed on the Activity analysis. Should the need arise, adjustments can be made later through the rolling work plan.

5. Recommendations for the future (short and long term)

The initial work plan should be revised with each steering committee meeting.

6. Identification of needs for additional support

Support for the development of the Civil Register, held by Public Service Development Agency (PSDA)

Support for the implementation of the address register in National Agency of Public Registry (NAPRA)

Support for the development of the Register of the Buildings and Dwellings (in PSDA or NAPRA)

7. Outstanding issues and next steps

Tasks to be concluded before the next missions:

- Further develop the existing and potential administrative inventory towards the agreed formulation of the file.
- Work on inquiries to administrative data holders about the existing additional data.
- Identify data and information requirements which cannot be met with today's data.

The next activities to take place:

- Identifying additional administrative data sources and new indicators, 17-20 December 2024

Annex 1. Terms of Reference

EU Twinning Project GE 21 NDICI ST 01 23 Further Strengthening of the Georgian Statistical System

Component 3:

Capacity of government institutions for the production and use of official statistics strengthened

Activity 3.1.1:

Identifying additional administrative data sources; Further developing Work Plan for Component 3

Dates: 20 - 23 Aug 2024

*Hosting Institute: National Statistics Office of Georgia
30, T. Dadiani St., 0180 Tbilisi, Georgia*

0. Objective, Mandatory results and Sub-results for the components 2 and 3

Objective:

Administrative data inventory and documentation, new possible data sources and indicators;

Planning the activities and schedule of the sub-components 3.1 and 3.2.

Parallel activity with Component 2: Seminar with administrative data holders for increasing awareness of the administrative data role in statistical production

Mandatory results (MR) and Sub-results (SR) under each MR

- **MR 3:** Capacity of government institutions for production and use of official statistics strengthened

<p>Sub-result 3.1: Use of administrative data for the production of official statistics increased.</p> <p>(4 indicators)</p>	<p>This sub-component aims to increase the use of administrative data in official statistics production, identifying additional data sources, and training of the data owners. Creating an action plan is vital to improve the quality of administrative data.</p> <p>Indicators that assure this deliverable: Availability of identified additional administrative sources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of trained government agencies proficient in managing and utilising administrative data for statistical purposes • Availability of action plan for improving the quality of administrative data for statistical purposes • Availability of assessed new indicators and disaggregated data production potential using administrative data sources
<p>Sub-result 3.2: Data usage of government institutions for decision-making enhanced</p> <p>(4 indicators)</p>	<p>This sub-component aims to enhance the capacity of government institutions to use official statistics in decision-making processes by strengthening officials' skills and promoting the use of official statistics in policy development, monitoring, and evaluation.</p> <p>Indicators that assure this deliverable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Availability of guidance documents for statistical data use • Number of trainings conducted for government representatives from relevant agencies for evidence-based decision-making. • Availability of established task forces for improved decision-making within government institutions
<p>Key activities in Component 3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MS Expert missions with meetings, workshops including presentations and sharing of best practices and hands-on training. • Study visit(s) with hands-on demonstrations in Member State(s). • Joint meetings with Geostat, data providers key data user groups.

Further Strengthening of the Georgian Statistical System

1. Purpose of the activity

- Increasing overall awareness of the importance of the administrative data in statistics and other central administration.
- Study of the current proceedings with the use of administrative data and the use of admin data in statistical production.
- Defining the most important missing indicators in Georgia and identifying potential data sources for compiling these.
- Agreeing with Geostat and MS's about the timing and content of the activities of the component 3.
- Updating the Rolling Work Plan activities by component

2. Expected output of the activity

Common overview of the current situation regarding:

- Access to relevant administrative data and establishing better working relationships with data owners
- Identification on means to improve the use of official statistics
- Seminar with the data providers and key stakeholders
- Administrative data inventory documented
- Listing of the new wanted indicators and potential new administrative data sources for compiling these
- Planning of the subcomponent 3.1 and 3.2 missions; content, timeframe, workdays, required expertise of the STEs

3. Participants

MS Experts

- Mr. Timo Laukkanen, CL, Senior Statistician, Statistics Finland

Twining team

- Mr. Gogita Todradze, PL Counterpart, Executive Director, National Statistics Office of Georgia
- Ms. Mariam Kavelashvili, RTA Counterpart, Head, International and Public Relations Department, National Statistics Office of Georgia
- Ms. Pikria Ghudushauri, Chief Specialist, International and Public Relations Department, National Statistics Office of Georgia
- Mr. Teimuraz Gogishvili, CL Counterpart, Head of Methodology and Quality Management Division, National Statistics Office of Georgia
- Mr. Aleksandre Arabuli, CL Counterpart, Head of Population Census and Demographic Statistics Department, National Statistics Office of Georgia
- Mr. Daviti Zhorzholiani, CL Counterpart, Head of Business Statistics Department, National Statistics Office of Georgia
- Mr. Marko Ylitalo, RTA
- Ms. Irma Gabunia, RTAA

4. Resources

Translation and interpretation will be provided throughout the activity if needed.

5. Overall agenda

- Day 1: Opening. Inventory of the existing administrative data

Further Strengthening of the Georgian Statistical System

- Day 2: Workshop (3.5hrs) with data users and providers; seminar debriefing with BC&MS (joint activity for C2&C3). Continue the inventory of the administrative data.
- Day 3: New indicators wanted by the data users, new and emerging administrative data sources.
- Day 4: Planning the activities and schedule of the Component 3. Summary and conclusions.

Annex A. Tentative programme

Date	Place	Topic
Tuesday – 20 Aug 09:30 – 18:00	Meeting room 3	Welcoming, practicalities, programme of the week (joint meeting with comp 2) (Gogita Todradze and Marko Ylitalo)
		Administrative data inventory and documentation
Wednesday – 21 Aug 09:30 – 18:00	Venue, Holiday Inn	Seminar on administrative data with key stakeholders and administrative data holders (joint meeting with comp 2)
		Seminar debriefing (joint meeting with comp 2)
		Administrative data inventory and documentation (cont.)
Thursday – 22 Aug 09:30 – 18:00	Meeting room 3	New wanted indicators and new potential administrative data sources
Friday – 23 Aug 09:30 – 16:00	Meeting room 3	Planning the activities and schedule of the sub-components 3.1 and 3.2
		Mission wrap-up and next steps in Components 2 and 3 (joint meeting with comp 2)

Abbreviations:

MS = EU Member State (Finland, Germany, Italy)

BC = Beneficiary Country (Georgia)

MR = Mandatory results

SR = Sub-results