



## Concept Note

### NBS Moldova Workshop

#### *Modern official statistics in the EU accession context*

20-21 February 2024

Chisinau, Republic of Moldova

Venue: Bristol Central Park Hotel, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, Congress Hall

#### **Background**

On 23 June 2022, Republic of Moldova, together with Ukraine was granted the European Union candidate status, following the resolution adopted by the European Parliament.

This historic step has consistent additional practical implications for the activity of the National Statistical System of these states. To implement the Association Agreement and Agenda, reliable and comparable official statistics, produced and disseminated in full professional independence in line with European and international norms and standards, are essential for transparent, democratic societies. Effective human rights advocacy requires the use of sex-disaggregated statistics, carefully collected and objectively analyzed and presented, using the best techniques available.

The opening of the accession negotiations, will be structured according to clusters and chapters. Because the chapter 18 Statistics is part of the Fundamentals Cluster, the assessment of the level of alignment of the national statistics to the EU acquis, as well as the capacity of Moldovan authorities to fully transpose and implement it will be of a critical importance for the success of negotiations and further.

The EU Commission Opinion on the Republic of Moldova's application for membership of the European Union (as of June 2022), stated inter alia that:

- *Further efforts are needed to ensure adequate administrative capacity to develop, implement and enforce legislation;*
- *Improving the public service and human resources management has not yet achieved the desired impact of building a professional and merit-based civil service, due to political instability and lack of political will impacting reforms;*
- *Attracting and retaining professional civil servants is an ongoing challenge, and crucial to build administrative capacity to fulfil the functions of the state and deliver quality services;*
- *Quality of policy making needs to be further improved. Strengthened coordination should focus more on the use of inclusive and evidence-based policy and legislative development strengthened.*

The above-mentioned challenges are in particular faced by the National Statistical Institutes which would represent an additional critical burden and impediment on the way to successful alignment to the EU acquis in official statistics and implementation of the Code of Practice of European Statistics. NSIs need a consistent support of the national governments on strengthening the implementing capacity (including human, institutional, technological resources) to enable the production of relevant, reliable, timely and comparable statistics as the cornerstone of the state governance.

In this context, the National Bureau of Statistics of the Republic of Moldova will organize a Workshop, with support of EU Delegation to Moldova and Eurostat, entitled “*Modern official statistics in the EU accession context*”. The Workshop will include key speeches from the high-level representatives of the Government of the Republic of Moldova and of Eurostat, as well as expert presentations, discussions on best practices and sharing of experiences from participating countries.

### **Key objectives**

The main purpose of the event is to learn from the good practices of the EU National Statistical Institutes (NSIs) participating in the production of the official statistics for the European Statistical System and enhance knowledge and capacity of participants from the Republic of Moldova, as well as other EU candidate countries on how to most efficiently embark on the EU accession negotiations process, as well to build their collaboration on addressing topics such as:

1. The role of the official statistics in the accession negotiations: what would be the expectations towards the Statistics chapter as part of the Fundamentals Cluster to enable further steps in the negotiations;
2. Strengthening the collaboration and partnerships to embark on the EU accession process;
3. Best way forward to modernization of official statistics.

The event will provide support to the institutions within the NSS to improve their capacities in order to respond to emerging needs of the Republic of Moldova in the European Union integration process, in particular, to a cost-efficient optimization of official statistics through the use of administrative and privately held data sources, adaptation of the statistical production methods and enhancing the non-traditional partnerships in the field of statistics.

### **Timeframe**

The Workshop will take place on 20-21 February in Chisinau, Republic of Moldova. The draft agenda is subject to revision upon contributions from the invited counterparts.

### **Organizers and format of the meeting**

The event will be organized by the NBS and will consist of three sessions, each half a day in duration. Participants will be encouraged to actively engaged in the discussions through the use of interactive tools.

### **Participants**

The Workshop is primarily targeted at countries who have successful experience to share on modernization of the official statistics, either as EU member countries or those in the process of accession to EU.

Participation in the Workshop is by invitation only. It is restricted to one-two participants from each country, the Directors General/Chairpersons and senior managers of some National Statistical

Institutes (NSI), including: Albania, Estonia, Georgia, Greece, Kosovo<sup>1</sup>, Latvia, Lithuania, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Türkiye and Ukraine. The costs of travel, accommodation and per diem for delegates from NSIs will be covered by participant countries, EU support for enlargement countries, TAIEX, EU funded projects.

As the hosting country, the participation from the Republic of Moldova will include members of the National Statistical System, the line ministries, and other public institutions as the main data users but also holders of administrative data sources used for statistical purposes, including representatives: of the National Bureau of Statistics, the National Bank of Moldova (NBM), Electronic Governance Agency (AGE), Public Service Agency (ASP) etc.

The logistics of the Workshop are supported by the NBS Moldova, TAIEX and EU funded projects. The Workshop will be held in Romanian and English with simultaneous interpretation. An information note with full details on practical arrangements will be sent to all the registered participants in due course.

All participants are kindly requested to complete the enclosed registration form and return it by **15 January 2024**, by e-mail [natalia.istrate@statistica.gov.md](mailto:natalia.istrate@statistica.gov.md) to Ms. Natalia Istrate with copy to Mr. Catalin Cujba, e-mail: [catalin.cujba@statistica.gov.md](mailto:catalin.cujba@statistica.gov.md) .

Invited NSIs are asked to provide a PowerPoint presentation according to the topic assigned in the agenda, highlighting national experiences that are relevant to share with other participants. These presentations will be shared with organizers (at the e-mail [natalia.istrate@statistica.gov.md](mailto:natalia.istrate@statistica.gov.md) with copy to [catalin.cujba@statistica.gov.md](mailto:catalin.cujba@statistica.gov.md)) by **31 January 2024**. The time allocated for the presentation is up to **15 minutes**.

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<sup>1</sup> This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.