



Overview of the progress made within the EU-Moldova cooperation in the field of **statistics**

2021 EU-Moldova Sub-Committee
on Economic and other Sector Cooperation Cluster 1
3-4 March 2021

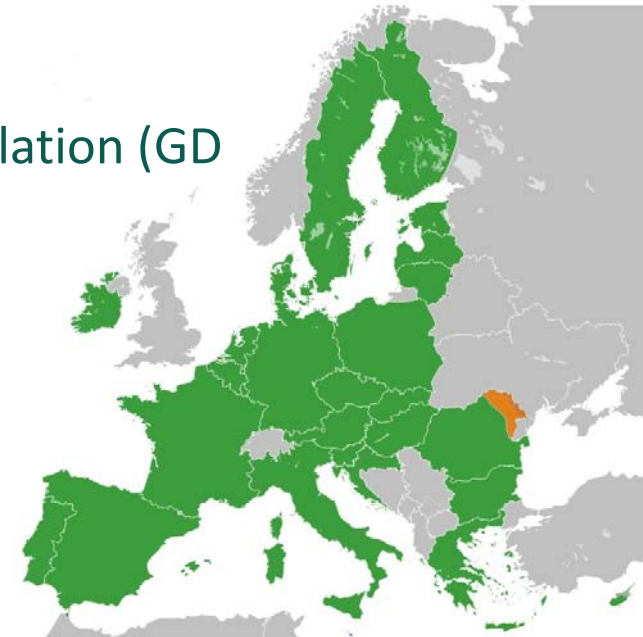




NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEM

- UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics(FPs)
- European Statistics Code of Practice (CoP)
- International and European statistics standards and best practices
- National Statistical Law (No.93/2017) and related legislation (GD No.935/2018)
- Annual and multi-year Statistical Programs

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BASED ON:

- EU-MD Association Agreement Action Plan
- Government Action Plan 2020-2023
- Recommendations from the 2019 Adapted Global Assessment (AGA), by Eurostat
- Strategy on Development of National statistical system 2016 — 2020, approved by Government

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OFFICIAL STATISTICS

- Are essential tools for evidence-based policy making
- Enable decision makers to formulate policies, to monitor and evaluate impact
- Ensure transparency and accountability in the process of economic and social reforms





OPERATIONAL CONCLUSIONS 2020



(1) Determination, approval and formalization of the Other National Authorities producers of official statistics

Status: Under implementation

✓ A **draft Regulation** on identification of Other National Authorities producers (ONA) of official statistics prepared

✓ Draft is consulted with an international and a national consultant

► To be finalised together with the development of **operational guidelines** on the certification of ONA, including the relevant procedures *[TBC 2nd Q 2021]*

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Assistance: EU-funded Project “Support to National Bureau of Statistics in the framework of Public Administration Reform (PAR) in the Republic of Moldova” [EuropeAid/138242/DH/SER/MD, ID 8721123512592 on amp@gov.md]

Note: The project has started by the end of the 2019 year, 2 years delay





OPERATIONAL CONCLUSIONS 2020



(2) Introduce the Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSPBM) and Single Integrated Metadata structure (SIMS) into national statistics (at least for 2 statistical processes)

Status: Completed

√ **Capacities** of NBS specialists built on documenting statistical processes based on the EU's generic statistical process model (**GSBPM**)

√ **Instructions and standard forms** on the documentation of statistical processes were developed

√ **Strategic vision report** on gradual implementation of the quality framework in national statistics according to EU standards (QMF quality management framework) and an **action plan** on the organization of quality documenting with the application of GSBPM prepared

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OPERATIONAL CONCLUSIONS 2020



(2) Introduce the Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSPBM) and Single Integrated Metadata structure (SIMS) into national statistics (at least for 2 statistical processes) [continuation]

Status: Completed

✓ **statistical processes for 2 surveys (Labour Force survey and PRODMOLD survey on enterprises) fully documented, based on the GSBPM**

✓ **3 statistical surveys (Labour Force Survey, PRODMOLD enterprises survey, social protection statistics) fully documented according to SIMS (Single Integrated Metadata Structure)**

► Documenting of statistical processes according to GSBPM and SIMS for **rest of NBS statistical surveys** (over 100), but also their integration within the unique metadata information system of the NBS, will continue **gradually**, representing a **continuous**, but long process with the necessary planning *[gradual & permanent]*

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OPERATIONAL CONCLUSIONS 2020



(3) Develop and approve the regulation on statistical confidentiality and disclosure protection in compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation

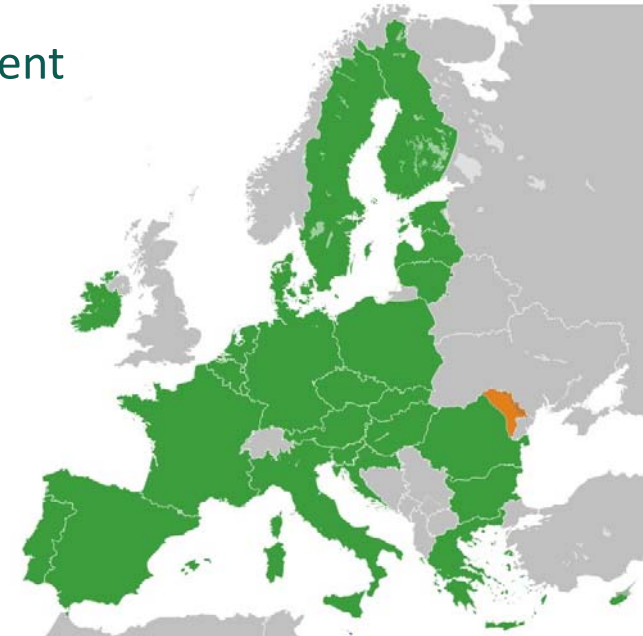
Status: Under implementation

√ NBS specialists **familiarized** on:

- Commission Regulation (EU) No 557/2013 of 17 June 2013 implementing Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council on European Statistics as regards access to confidential data for scientific purposes and repealing Commission Regulation (EC) No 831/2002
- EU Guidelines for the assessment of research entities, research proposals and access facilities / 2020
- procedures related to Statistical Disclosure Control and practices of European countries (Denmark and Finland).

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OPERATIONAL CONCLUSIONS 2020



(3) Develop and approve the regulation on statistical confidentiality and disclosure protection in compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation [continuation]

Status: Under implementation

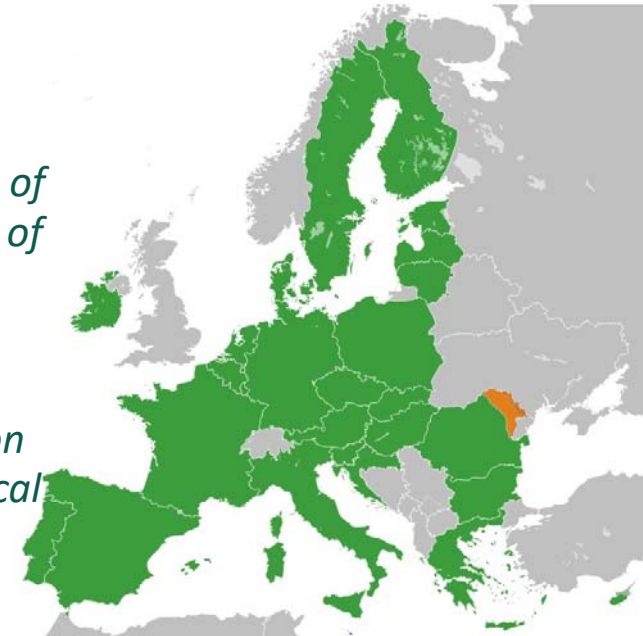
✓ **NBS regulation on access to individual data for scientific purposes drafted in compliance with the Law 93/2017 on official statistics and following the EU recommendations**

✓ **NBS specialists trained to get **practical skills and abilities** in applying the *Mu-argus* and *Tau-argus* softwarea (*envisaging application of rules and methods to maintain the confidentiality of statistical data in the process of providing access to microdata for scientific purposes and, respectively, during the dissemination of statistical data*)**

▶ **Gained skills and abilities to be applied in practice by NBS (*provision of access to microdata for research purposes and SDC for dissemination of statistical outputs*)**

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[EuropeAid/138242/DH/SER/MD]





OPERATIONAL CONCLUSIONS 2020

(4) Develop and approve the legal framework for organizing the Population and Housing Census (round 2020) Moldova

Status: Under implementation

- ✓ **Law** on the population and housing census, planned within the 2020 round, drafted in accordance with the UN recommendations and taking into account EU regulations
- ✓ **Drafted law** adjusted and transformed into a **generic** one, to be valid and applied for more global rounds of Censuses, thus avoiding the drafting of a specific law every 10 years

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Assistance: Institutional support to the National Bureau of Statistics, funded by UNFPA, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation/SDC [Project ID MDA03PD4]





OPERATIONAL CONCLUSIONS 2020

(4) Develop and approve the legal framework for organizing the Population and Housing Census (round 2020) Moldova [continuation]



Assistance: Institutional support to the National Bureau of Statistics, funded by UNFPA, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation/SDC [Project ID MDA03PD4]

Status: Under implementation

- ▶ Draft law to be analysed from the perspective of:
 - ▶ ▶ **compliance with the current national legislation** in order to identify those legal acts which would need amendment
 - ▶ ▶ **requirements of personal data protection legislation** to enable personal data will be collected, (re)used and processed during the Census
- ▶ **Fine-tuned law** to be submitted to the government for approval [TBC 2nd Q 2021]



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OPERATIONAL CONCLUSIONS 2020

(5) Development of the draft Strategy for the development of the national statistical system (NSS) 2021-2030 in accordance with the recommendations of the EU and PARIS21



Assistance planned:
United Nations Country Team



Status: Under implementation

√ **Internal working group** on development of new strategy for development of NSS created

√ **Report on degree of implementation** of Strategy's Action Plan for the period 2016-2020 to the NSS Development Strategy (2016-2020) developed, non-implemented activities to be taken over in the new strategic document

√ **Negotiations with UN** Resident Coordinator's Office to support: (a) evaluation of expired strategy & (b) development of new strategic paper which is to involve more producers of statistics

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OPERATIONAL CONCLUSIONS 2020

(5) Development of the draft Strategy for the development of the national statistical system (NSS) 2021-2030 in accordance with the recommendations of the EU and PARIS21 *[continuation]*



Assistance planned:
United Nations Country Team

Status: Under implementation

- ▶ Team of experts to be hired by UN to perform
 - ▶ ▶ **evaluation** of the expired strategy of NSS development *[TBC 2nd Q 2021]*
 - ▶ ▶ develop **new strategy** in a participatory manner and considering the actual data users' requirements, in the context of EU-RM Association Agenda, 2030 Sustainable Development Objectives, National Development Strategy Moldova 2030 and other needs *[TBC 3rd Q 2021]*

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EU TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Support to National Bureau of Statistics in the framework of Public Administration Reform (PAR-Stat)



Project duration: 30 months
Project budget: 1,87 MEUR
(EuropeAid/138242/DH/SER/MD)

Overall objective Strengthen capabilities of NBS for **effective approximation** to EU norms and standards, in line with Chapter 6 of the Association Agreement between the Republic of Moldova and the European Union (EU)

Results (examples)

Implementation of GIS in data collection management system of household surveys

A beta version of the computer application developed and tested, incl. collection integrated with geographic data at point-based level.

Improve linguistic skills of NBS employees in order to facilitate access to international standards and statistical methodologies.

4 courses of English language organized to train 60 NBS staff for a period of 3 months.

Guidelines on implementation of a quality policy in statistics

draft of quality guidelines developed (85%)

Use of adm. data for statistical purpose
Master sample for HHs surveys
Assessment of the Business Register, of Non-observed Economy

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STEP

Statistics
Through
Eastern
Partnership

EU TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE



Topics addressed (examples):

Webinar monitoring labour markets in lockdowns caused by COVID-19 virus: essential labour force survey content and treatment of special groups
- *The information received was used in the analysis of the impact of covid-19 on the labour market situation.*

Training access to microdata for researchers - *knowledge gained used in elaboration of the NBS Regulation on access to microdata for scientific purposes*

Improvement of production and dissemination of good quality statistics - knowledge used in elaboration of quality guidelines for statistical products and statistical processes at the NBS

Workshop conducting household sample surveys in labour statistics - knowledge gained used to improve the CBGC questionnaires, namely Chapter 4 of the main questionnaire "Occupation of household members".

Development of statistics on road transport of goods - great help in the activities related to the alignment to the EU standards and the elaboration of the survey instrumentation/methodologies in the field of transport and ICT statistics in enterprises.

Project duration: 34 months
Project budget: 4,7 MEUR

<https://eu-step.eu/>

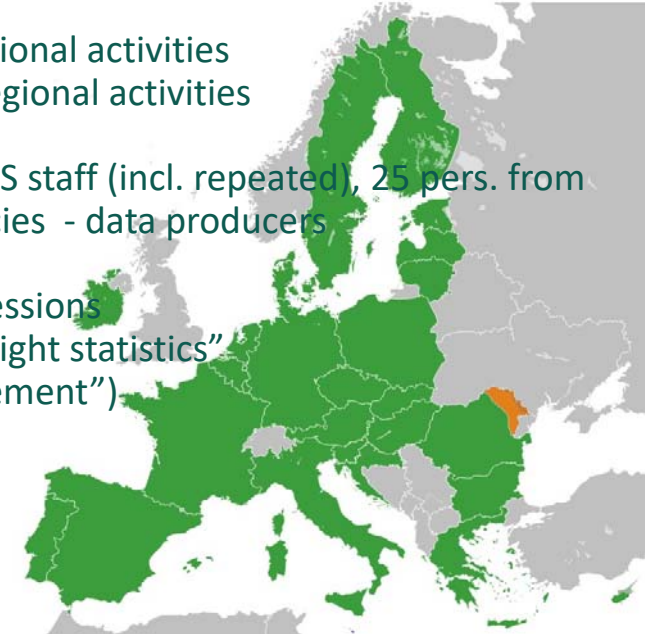
*Participants: Armenia,
Azerbaijan, Belarus,
Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine*

2020 - 34 regional activities initiated:

- 2 regional publications (gender and energy)
- 2 virtual groups (coordination of NSS, STATA)
- 2 workshops
- 8 trainings
- 5 onsite regional activities
- 15 online regional activities

Participation: 70 NBS staff (incl. repeated), 25 pers. from ministries and agencies - data producers

Format: follow-up sessions
training on "road freight statistics"
and "quality management")



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MAIN CHALLENGES



- Understaffing and overloading of NBS staff – makes the statisticians’ job more challenging (in Covid-19 consequences) – but still functional and reactive
- Limited capacity of absorption from NBS staff - transfer of *know-how* is time consuming and insufficient
- Institutional and technological constraints because of Covid-19 for majority activities, in particular requiring fieldwork (Mobility restrictions, weakly covered from technological persp.)
- Use of new communication tools – functioning in a ‘new reality’
- Increase in non-response rate for HHs and business surveys
- Critical need to obtain consent, willingness and de facto access to public registers (individual data)

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