

# In-depth assessment of Population Statistics of the Republic of Moldova and its adherence to the EU Statistical Requirements Compendium

## Final Report

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

BMA	Bureau of Migration and Asylum
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
EA	Enumeration area
EU	European Union
HBS	Household Budget Survey
ICD	International Classification of Diseases
ID	Identification
IOM	International Organisation for Migration
IT	Information and Technology
LFS	Labour Force Survey
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
NBS	National Bureau of Statistics of the Republic of Moldova
NCPD	National Commission for Population and Development
SE Registru	State Enterprise "State Information Resources Center "Registru"
SIRC	State Information Resources Centre
SRP	State Register of Population
NCHM	National Centre for Health Management, Ministry of Healthcare
PES	Post Enumeration survey
UNDESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNSD	United Nations Statistics Division
WHO	World Health Organisation

## Introduction and background

1. In the context of the negotiations between the Republic of Moldova and the EU, the national statistical systems should respect the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, but also the European Requirements for Statistics and the Statistics Code of Practice, in order to align the national statistical system with the European norms and standards.
2. The actors of the National Statistical System (National Bureau of Statistics and other data producers) has undertaken continuous progress to improve their statistical infrastructure and methodologies. However, compliance with international and EU standards remains one of the priority areas of the Strategy of National Statistics development 2008-2011.
3. The last global assessment of the national statistical system (being also the first global assessment of the Moldovan statistics by Eurostat) conducted in 2007, concluded that only one third of the statistical domains fully corresponded to the EU requirements. In the domain of Population Statistics, the assessment concluded that it seemed that Moldova was able to meet all or most of the data requirements. The NBS was following the methodological recommendations of the UN, which are largely in line with the EU methodological standards. It was not clear how reliable migration data were, since quite a large number of Moldavians worked abroad on a temporary basis. The last Population Census was conducted in 2004. It was noted that the NBS did not make population projections, but wanted to start work in this area as soon as resources permit. Regarding Migration and Asylum, Moldova did not meet the requirements of the EU on foreign workers.
4. Since that assessment, NBS has undertaken numerous measures to improve harmonization with the international and EU standards, to develop new statistical tools and surveys, and to enhance the dialogue and cooperation with other data producers and with data users. Strategic plans were developed such as the National Development Strategy 2008-2011 and the Strategy of National Statistics Development 2008-2011.
5. The current evaluation is that Moldovan official statistics provides data that seem to be reasonably accurate and relevant to the needs of national users, but which may not be internationally comparable because of the limited statistical indicators available, as well as the methodological differences which might exists. It is considered important to identify and gradually resolve these issues by improving the compliance with international standards and learning from EU member countries' experience.

## Objective of the mission

6. The objective of the mission is to conduct an in-depth evaluation of population statistics in the country in order to provide a detailed assessment of the system's strengths and weaknesses in this area.
7. The mission should also draw recommendations and suggest where and what kind of improvements are most needed.

## Executive Summary

8. Population statistics in the Republic of Moldova covers the main domains of the EU Statistical Requirements Compendium, *ie* vital statistics, international migration, population censuses. Population projections are not produced nationally but are not covered by any EU requirements.
9. Population statistics are mainly produced by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS). The NBS devotes limited resources to this important branch of official statistics and does not seem to put population statistics on the top of its priorities. This may reflect a certain lack of political interest for population issues, despite the decrease of population of the country. In addition, the methods of work are quite obsolete and could be improved by better IT development and reengineering of the processes.
10. However, all the partners recognize the central role of NBS in this area and support the idea of reinforcing NBS to produce more information.
11. The country is consolidating a considerable amount of administrative data in a central database, managed by an institution, SE Registru<sup>1</sup>. This represents a very promising source for population statistics, on the resident population, on international migration as well as internal migration. However, the system is still in its infancy and faces some limitations in terms of coverage and consistency. This is mainly due to insufficient controls of administrative procedures or incentives for population to declare every change of place of usual residence. The SE Registru, obviously highly qualified in IT, lacks statistical skills and could collaborate more with the NBS to improve the quality of the data.
12. By sub-domains, the main findings of the assessment is the following:

### Vital statistics

13. *Vital statistics* are produced in full compliance with the international principles and EU requirements. Based on a very efficient civil registration system, the quality of vital statistics is good, to the important exception of the absence of coverage of the Transnistria region<sup>2</sup>. The process is quite straightforward and includes quality controls at the different stages. Improvements are being made by the Civil Registration Office to register births directly in maternities and thus reduce delays.

### Migration and Asylum

14. Statistics on international migration are mostly provided by administrative sources from the Bureau of Migration and Asylum<sup>3</sup> as well as the State Register of Population<sup>4</sup>. These sources

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<sup>1</sup> State Enterprise "State Information Resources Center "Registru" (SE "SIRC "Registru") is one of the leading subordinate enterprises of the Ministry of Information Technology and Communications, aimed at realization of integration processes of the state information resources formation, [http://www.registru.md/about\\_en/](http://www.registru.md/about_en/)

<sup>2</sup> **Transnistria** is a [breakaway territory](#) located mostly on a strip of land between the [Nistru River](#) and the eastern Moldovan border to [Ukraine](#). Since its self-[declaration of independence](#) in 1990, it is governed as the **Pridnestrovian Moldavian Republic** (PMR, also known as "Pridnestrovie"), an [unrecognized](#) state which claims the territory to the east of the river Nistru, the city of [Bender](#) and its surrounding localities located on the west bank, <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transnistria>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.migratie.md/>

are among the most appropriate to meet the international requirements for international migration statistics and to support policy development.

15. Migration statistics are affected by three main problems:
  - a. The definitions used in Moldova are not fully in compliance with the international and EU definitions;
  - b. They don't cover the Transnistria region, and this creates inconsistencies in addition to lack of coverage;
  - c. They don't cover all the spectrum of data required by the EU regulation on international migration.
16. In addition, administrative data cannot be taken as such to build reliable statistics. They are flawed by several intrinsic limitations such as the lack of incentive for the population to provide updated information to the registers. Only the NBS has the skills to control the data and correct them in order to produce statistics following the international standards.

## Population census

17. The NBS did not start the preparation of the next Population and Housing Census. Only a draft census law was submitted to the government. The draft does not provide a definition of the population to be enumerated in accordance with the international recommendations and EU standards.

18. The previous Population and Housing Census<sup>5</sup> of 2004 was also not conducted following strictly the international definition of usual resident population. The Final report of the International Expert Group on the Monitoring of the 2004 Population and Housing Census noted that "*Despite the fact that the Expert Group concluded that the census had been carried out in general in a professional manner, on the basis of the observations carried out in the field, it also had some reservations about how well selected aspects of the census had been carried out, particularly concerning the inclusion in the census of some persons who had been living abroad for more than a year, the enumeration of persons living in some major urban areas and the recording on the census questionnaires by some enumerators the responses to questions dealing with nationality/ethnic origin and language.*"

19. Considering the state of preparedness of the NBS in regard to the amount of work necessary to prepare adequately a population and housing census, it is difficult to consider that a census in compliance with the standard of quality of the EU could be conducted in 2013, unless the NBS put in place immediately a project structure in charge of it.

## Population projections

20. There is no national population projection elaborated neither by the NBS nor by other institutions. Even if there is no requirement regarding population projection in the EU statistical requirements compendium, there is an obvious demand for it. The NBS is the institution having the best capacity and sustainable organisation to take this responsibility but should be strengthened and trained to be able to produce regularly updated population projections. The

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<sup>4</sup> [http://www.registru.md/rsp\\_en/](http://www.registru.md/rsp_en/)

<sup>5</sup> [Population Census conducted in 2004, http://www.statistica.md/pageview.php?l=en&idc=295&](http://www.statistica.md/pageview.php?l=en&idc=295&)

population projections produced by the United Nations and Eurostat are not used by the National Commission for Population and Development and other partners, maybe because they include Transnistria.

## Gender perspective

21. The NBS has a good capacity to develop gender statistical analysis, based on demographic data but also social and economic information. Most of the demographic and social statistics produced are systematically available by sex, which is the minimum to allow developing gender analysis.

22. The publication "Women and men in Moldova" represents a valuable document to increase gender awareness based on statistical evidence.

## Recommendations

23. The following recommendations are made in order to improve the compliance of the Population Statistics of the Republic of Moldova with the international standards and the EU statistical requirements:

1. First of all, it is **urgent** that NBS appoints a census manager and a team to start the preparation of the next census. The date of the census should be chosen after careful planning of the operation. Census is a costly operation and it is always better to postpone it rather than conduct an unprepared operation that would provide inaccurate results.
2. The size of the Demographic Statistics Unit is rather small to perform all the tasks requested. The unit should be reinforced by at least one , and most preferably two persons, with good background in demography.
3. The NBS should build a strong strategy for developing demographic statistics based on the opportunities given by administrative data, such as the population register and the Migration Profile Project.
4. This is particularly crucial in the domain of migration statistics, which suffers from a lack of appropriate administrative data. Therefore, the NBS should develop cooperation with other public authorities that collect administrative data, and request access to individual data to be able to perform controls of coherence and more detailed tabulations. The statistical law authorizes the NBS to obtain these data.
5. A way of organisation could be to build a decentralized system of statistics with statisticians in the ministries collecting or using statistical information. The NBS would play a coordination role of this system, ensuring sharing of methodology and training of the statisticians. A mobility policy between these statistical services and the NBS could improve mutual understanding and common practices.
6. The NBS and its partners should develop dissemination and analysis of demographic information to raise awareness in population issues faced by the country. More user-friendly publications, accessible to lay users and including comments should be published.



7. The role of the National Commission for Population and Development is essential to develop demographic information and should be strengthened. In that regard, the question to create a new institution for demographic analysis seems a bit precocious in regard to the capacity of the educational system of the country to produce demographers who could be employed by this institution.
8. The process for producing vital statistics could be improved in two ways: working with the Civil Registration Office to get electronic data of good quality, and internally to the NBS to provide the Demographic Statistics Unit with immediately usable data, in Excel format and also as individual data.
9. The international projections (by UN and Eurostat) should be considered first. They have the advantage of being elaborated by high level specialists and following a common methodology for all countries. It is recommended to engage discussion with the UN Population Division and Eurostat to know what are the sources and assumptions used. Once reinforced, the Demographic Statistics Unit should be trained in projection elaboration and take opportunity of the next census to start building new projections.
10. The next edition of "Women and Men in Moldova" could go further by developing more advanced gender analysis addressing analytical issues, for example the link between fertility and economic activity, the model of the family and its evolution, etc.

## **General assessment of Population statistics in regard to the ESS methodologies and standards**

24. In this section, common features of the four sub-domains of population statistics (vital statistics, migration and asylum, census and projections) are assessed.

### **Legal basis (statistical law)**

25. The Law 412-XV of December 09, 2004 on official statistics<sup>6</sup> constitutes the main piece of the legal framework that regulates statistical activities in the Republic of Moldova. The law defines the object of statistics, establishes the principles of official statistics (impartiality, statistical deontology, relevance, transparency, confidentiality, cost-efficiency, national level coordination and, international collaboration), establishes the organization of official statistics and sets the attributions of the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), establishes a Council for Statistics and provides safeguards for confidentiality for statistical information.

26. The NBS is responsible for the organization of official statistics, and has the right to obtain and collect for statistical purposes statistical and administrative data. NBS has in particular the duty to disseminate the non-confidential statistical information to users and to comply with the main principles of the official statistics.

27. The law stipulates that population censuses are carried out every 10 years on the basis of a separate law.

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<sup>6</sup> <http://lex.justice.md/index.php?action=view&view=doc&lang=1&id=317904> and <http://www.statistica.md/pageview.php?l=en&idc=323&>

28. In terms of demographic statistics, the law provides access to administrative data, such as vital registration, population register and migration data. It provides legal basis for conducting a population census every ten years, as recommended by the United Nations and Eurostat.

**ASSESSMENT**

*The Law on Official Statistics is in full compliance with the United Nations Principles of Official Statistics and the European Statistics Code of Practice.*

### **Mechanism for users' consultation**

29. User's consultation mechanisms are an important part of the quality of statistics. According to the Principle 11 of the European Statistics Code of Practice, "relevance", statistics must meet the needs of users. An indicator of compliance with this principle is that processes are in place to consult users, monitor the relevance and practical utility of existing statistics in meeting their needs, and advise on their emerging needs and priorities.

### **Statistical Council**

30. The article 12 of the Law on Official Statistics aforementioned provides such a mechanism for user's consultation:

"To develop and promote the official statistics, assure an objective, transparent, and scientific character of the methodologies, indicators and classifications used in the statistical activity, a council for statistics shall be set up under the government, which is a consultative body in the statistical field..."

31. The Council for Statistics<sup>7</sup> is composed of three representatives of the central statistical body, one representative of the Moldovan Academy of Science, one representative of the National Bank of Moldova, five representatives of the specialized bodies of the central public authorities, one representative of the specialized higher education institution, one representative of the trade unions, one representative of mass-media, one representative of the employers' organizations and, one representative of the business sector. However, no evidence on its functionality could be found.

### **National Commission for Population and Development**

32. The National Commission for Population and Development was created in 2007 by the government. The Commission is composed of representatives of several institutions, governmental, academic, from the civil society and UNFPA<sup>8</sup>, who proposed the creation of the Commission.

33. The Demographic Policy Section of the Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family provides technical support to the commission, as secretariat. At the inception of the

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<sup>7</sup> Established on the basis of the Government Decision no.532 as of 15.05.2007, <http://lex.justice.md/index.php?action=view&view=doc&lang=1&id=323994>, the Regulation of the Council is approved through the Government Decision no. 905 as of 09.09.2007, <http://lex.justice.md/index.php?action=view&view=doc&lang=1&id=324952>

<sup>8</sup> United Nations Population Fund, [www.unfpa.org](http://www.unfpa.org)

Commission, the secretariat was provided by the Ministry of Economy, but now the Commission is linked to the Prime Minister.

34. The Commission is responsible for all aspects linked to demography, gathers experience from neighbouring countries and promotes policies. The Commission works in close cooperation with NBS. The Demographic Statistics Unit of NBS is invited to every meeting of the Commission, but the official representative of the NBS to the Commission is the Director General.

35. The Commission decides every year on a plan of activities, available on its website<sup>9</sup> as well as all the documents produced (reports, minutes of the meetings, etc.). Two working groups were established by the Commission and are currently in activity, one on migration and the other on demographic projections.

#### ASSESSMENT

*The composition of the Statistical Council is more oriented to public users than to users from the civil society. However, the mission could not assess the contribution of the Council to user's consultation, as it was not possible to find documents or reports of its activity. Therefore, the compliance with the principle 11 of the European Statistics Code of Practice (relevance) cannot be fully assessed.*

*The National Commission for Population and Development provides a useful place to debate population issues and to address requests to the statistical system in this domain, as well as to conduct in depth analysis of demographic topics.*

*It is recommended to improve the representativeness of the Statistical Council and its functioning to give to users a real institution where to express their needs.*

### Statistical Strategy

36. The document "Strategy of National Statistics Development for the period 2008 – 2011"<sup>10</sup> presents the strategy of the statistical system of Moldova. The main directions of the Strategic plan are the following:

- a. Implementation of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)
- b. Indicators System Improvement and of their Calculation Methodologies (mostly economic indicators)
- c. Statistical Information Collection System Improvement
- d. Improvement of the quality of publications, of dissemination and of relations with users
- e. Capacity consolidation of statistical organs and of other institutions
- f. Statistical system's personnel training
- g. International collaboration development in the statistics domain

37. In the area of demographic statistics, the objectives are:

<sup>9</sup> <http://demografie.md/index.php?pag=page&id=16&l=en>

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.statistica.md/pageview.php?l=en&ide=152&>

- a. Improvement of the indicators system in accordance with international standards, adaptation of concepts to international definitions;
- b. Improvement of the system of data collection and processing on demographic phenomena on the basis of computerization of inter-institutional information collaboration;
- c. Improvement of the system of statistical migration information collection with the aim of achieving ample completion, both of internal migration, as well as of the external one (international);
- d. Creation of the demographic database, that will contain the main demographic indicators;
- e. Improvement of the quality of demographic statistics for insuring complex information about the level, quality and conditions of life of population, in accordance with the objectives stipulated in the Millennium Development Goals of the UN;
- f. Promotion of statistical data disaggregation improvement according to gender in all domains of statistics;
- g. Gender statistics development for the purpose of ensuring information support, for developing and monitoring national policies and programs' achievement on ensuring equality of chances for women and men.

#### ASSESSMENT

*The strategic plan of NBS on development of the statistical system gives little importance to demographic statistics, most of the strategy being focused on economic statistics. It is significant that demographic statistics are presented at the end of the document.*

*The objectives related to demographic statistics are not very specific, focused on improvement without fixing any measurable goal. However, the importance of gender statistics development is stressed.*

*It is recommended to build a strong strategy for demographic statistics based on the opportunities, such as the population register and the migration profile project.*

### International Cooperation

38. According to the Strategic plan<sup>11</sup>, the NBS gives a priority role to international collaboration and cooperation for: 1) the development of data in accordance with international standards, especially those of the EU, for the purpose of ensuring their comparability, in the conditions of continuous improvement of statistical methods and of information technologies; and 2) the presentation of statistical information to international organisms, in accordance with the obligations assumed by the Republic of Moldova.

<sup>11</sup> Plan of actions of National Statistics Development for the period 2008-2011, <http://www.statistica.md/pageview.php?l=en&idc=152&>

39. NBS has an agreement with Eurostat on data exchange signed on the basis of Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the Republic of Moldova and the European Union. The NBS has also agreements with the United Nations and its institutions (United Nations Development Program (UNDP), United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Fund for Population (UNFPA), the United Nations Fund for Women (UNIFEM – now part of UN Women), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Education, Science and Culture Organization (UNESCO), the World Bank (WB), the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for the purpose of presentation of qualitative statistical information, and obtaining technical assistance for adapting the national statistics to international standards.

40. At country level, the NBS collaborates with CIS countries under the aegis of the CIS statistical committee for the exchange of experience through methodological materials, statistical publications, etc.

41. In terms of international cooperation in demography, NBS has an agreement with Statistics Norway. Cooperation was initiated by Statistics Norway in 2004. In particular, Norway provides some technical assistance in the area of population register and also IT for on-line tabulation using PC-Axis.

42. The head of the Demographic Statistics Unit of NBS participated in international meetings of UNECE, or international meetings such as the global forum on gender in Roma, or the forum on migration in Edinburgh. She was appointed as gender statistics expert for middle Asia countries.

#### ASSESSMENT

*The international cooperation of NBS seems limited to international organisations and CIS countries. In the area of demography, apart the collaboration with Statistics Norway (initiated by this country) and with some of the CIS countries, little international collaboration exists.*

*In order to increase the degree of integration of EU standards, the NBS should enlarge its cooperation to other EU countries in the area of demographic statistics, in particular for the Population and Housing census, as Norway does not conduct a traditional census anymore, but uses registers.*

### National Partners

43. Demographic statistics involve usually different producers: registration institutions for the elaboration of vital statistics, National Office of Statistics for censuses and surveys, and the elaboration of statistics from registration of vital events, institutions in charge of immigration for migration statistics. A smooth collaboration is essential for the production of accurate and timely statistics. In that regard, the expert mission met the various institutions involved to assess their role and the mechanisms of cooperation.

44. NBS is collaborating with a number of partners to produce demographic statistics: the Civil Registration Office, the National Centre for Health Management (NCHM), the State Information Resources Centre (SE Registru), the Bureau of Migration and Asylum (BMA), the

Academy of Science, the Demography Policy Division of the Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family, the International Organisation for Migration and other international organisations. However, the NBS is somehow lacking authority to obtain from administrative partners that they take into consideration its statistical requests, for example to include additional variables, to perform quality controls or to provide to the NBS individual data.

45. The NBS has also strong partnership with the National Commission on Population and Development and the Academy of Science, especially in the area of demographic analysis.

#### ASSESSMENT

*The Demographic Statistics Unit of NBS has obvious good relations with its partners involved in the production, dissemination and analysis of demographic statistics. However, collaboration is usually not always formalized and is not regularly reviewed by the top management of the institutions involved.*

*When it comes to negotiate with other institution the integration of statistical considerations into administrative systems (such as the population register), it is recommended that the Demographic Statistics Unit benefit from support at a higher level of the NBS or the line ministry to give more weight to its requests.*

### Organisation and Management

46. The Demographic Statistics Unit of the NBS is a subdivision of the Labour Market and Demographic Statistics Division. There is an annual plan of statistical works/activities, approved by the Government on annual basis<sup>12</sup>, that includes the list of statistical works and surveys to be carried out by NBS and by other institutions responsible for the production of statistical information (official and administrative), as well as the data profiles (meaning dimensions of disaggregation, or representativeness), periodicity and dissemination timetable (including statistical publications - paper or online). However, there is no regular reporting to the hierarchy of the NBS.

47. The Population and Housing census (as well as agricultural census and other national surveys) is managed in another division<sup>13</sup>, Division of Censuses, with a status apart in the organisation chart of NBS. The current situation creates some problems, as the two units have to work in collaboration in the area of demography.

#### ASSESSMENT

*The positioning of the Demographic Statistics Unit within the Division in charge of Demography and Labour Market Statistics is reasonable as the two domains are linked to demographic and social statistics.*

<sup>12</sup> Government Decision no. 1044 as of 8.11.10 on approval of the Plan of statistical works for year 2011, <http://lex.justice.md/viewdoc.php?action=view&view=doc&id=336639&lang=1>

<sup>13</sup> Division of Census of NBS, <http://www.statistica.md/pageview.php?l=en&idc=23&> and <http://www.statistica.md/pageview.php?l=ro&idc=23&id=2317>

*Most problematic is the distance in the organisation chart between the Demographic Statistics Unit and the Division of Censuses. Even if population censuses and agriculture censuses have synergies such as the organisation model and logistics issues, they are dealing with different domains. It is also significant that the preparation of the next population and housing census has not really started yet, the division being fully busy with the census of agriculture being conducted in April 2011. The population census is a key component of demographic statistics and the basis for intercensal population estimates and projection. Therefore, there is a high benefit in having the demographic statistics unit and the team in charge of the population census working closely, preferably under the same umbrella (division or department). The new organization chart of the NBS entering into force in October 2011 indeed gathers in a Demography and Population Census Statistics Division the two sections of Demography Statistics and Population Censuses*

*The Demographic Statistics Unit and the Censuses Division, as certainly the NBS as a whole, would gain from using project management tools: timetable, regular reporting, etc. This would allow better running of the processes and better decision making.*

## Human resources

48. The Demographic Statistics Unit is composed of three people: the Head of the unit and two staff. In addition, a person is working half-time in the IT Division: for collection, processing, validation, storage of demographic data (along with data on social and labour statistical domains).

49. The Head of the unit is working in the area of population statistics for 20 years, one staff has been working for 6 years in statistics in the NBS territorial office of the municipality of Chisinau as head of dissemination unit and the last one has joined the team 3 years ago. All of them have university degree in economy (It is only recently that the university offers curricula in statistics). They received some training in demographic area, but rather general and sporadic. They also participated in some workshops or study visits but mainly on migration and gender. A training session was organized by UNFPA with the Vienna Institute of Demography on the calculation of demographic ratios. All of them understand English and speak Russian, thus have access to international documents and to participation in seminars.

50. Due to its small size, the unit is not able for the moment neither to train nor to produce population projections that are required by many users.

51. In the Censuses Division, only one person is currently involved in the preparation of the next population and housing census, and has joined the division after the last census.

### ASSESSMENT

*The size of the Demographic Statistics Unit is rather small to perform all the tasks requested. The current production of demographic statistics at national level and for international organisations implies lots of manual tasks, to the detriment of improvement in methodology, data production and analysis.*

*The unit should be reinforced by at least one person, most preferably two, with good background in demography.*

*The situation of the next census is even more worrying. It is not possible to prepare seriously a population and housing census following the EU standard of quality with barely one person, one year before the enumeration date. NBS should take immediate measures to increase the workforce devoted to the preparation of the next census.*

## Information and technology resources

52. The IT Main Division of NBS<sup>14</sup>, includes 11 Sections, out of which two units composed of 20 staff have the main purpose of providing IT services for NBS statistical units. About 60 applications are currently running. Out of them, only one is for demography.

53. In September 2010, a new frame<sup>15</sup> has been approved and the Division is at the very beginning of its implementation. With the support of Statistics Norway, it will create a data centre to cover NBS needs for production of statistics. The main task of the IT Division will be to move existing applications to the new platform and also to provide interoperability with other administrative systems, such as the population register.

54. Regarding statistical software packages, SPSS and SAS are the basic tools in use for statisticians in the NBS, but the IT Division recognizes that having two statistical software packages entails some complications, in terms of licensing, training and deployment.

### ASSESSMENT

*The IT Division seems quite understaffed to face the requirements of a modern office of statistics, in terms of database management, development of applications and integration of new technologies.*

*The development of computer applications by the IT department is not really organised and prioritised, it seems that the department functions on a “first-come first-served” basis, without any formalized procedures including priorities set by the management of NBS.*

*It is strongly recommended to reinforce the IT Division both on the number of staff and their qualifications. It is also recommended to adopt a more professional way of conducting IT projects, giving room for decisions at the top-management level on the investments to undertake and their priorities, as well as allowing better monitoring of the development of applications.*

## Archiving

55. The IT Division of the NBS has no specific policy of archiving. New surveys are just stored and backed up regularly. Some old surveys have already been lost.

56. Vital statistics questionnaires are destroyed (manually) after one year and not transferred to National Archives.

<sup>14</sup> [IT Main Division](#), as entity, without legal person status, subordinated to the NBS, including 11 Sections. Two of these sections have the function to ensure the administration of information systems, design and implementation of software applications. The other 9 sections have the functions of: statistical data gathering, processing, validation and storage by statistical domains, as well as, statistical registers and classifications maintenance, and acquisitions. Out of the last 9 sections one section is in charge for work with data from the social, demographic and labour statistical domains – all together, <http://www.statistica.md/pageview.php?l=ro&idc=23&id=2312>

<sup>15</sup> Government decision no. 859 as of 21.09.2010 on approval of the Technical Concept of the automatized information system of NBS, <http://lex.justice.md/index.php?action=view&view=doc&lang=1&id=336114>



## ASSESSMENT

*There is no comprehensive policy for archiving in the NBS.*

*The NBS should develop a policy for archiving the statistical databases and ensure proper conservation for further utilisation. This includes not only data but also documentation and metadata necessary to use the data. Technical assistance could be sought from other National Statistical Offices more advanced in this domain, for example in the EU.*

## Specific assessment for each Sub-domain

### Vital Statistics

57. A vital statistics system is defined by the United Nations as "*the total process of (a) collecting information by civil registration or enumeration on the frequency of occurrence of specified and defined vital events, as well as relevant characteristics of the events themselves and of the person or persons concerned, and (b) compiling, processing, analysing, evaluating, presenting and disseminating these data in statistical form. The vital events of interest are: live births, adoptions, legitimations, recognitions; deaths and foetal deaths; and marriages, divorces, separations and annulments of marriage.*", United Nations (2001).

58. The main source of vital statistics is records of vital events from civil registration, which involves the continuous gathering of information on all relevant vital events occurring within the boundaries of a country.

### Legal basis

59. According to *UN Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System*<sup>16</sup>, the civil registration law should provide clear guidelines on the type of organizational structure adopted for the civil registration system in the country and the rights and obligations of all parties in carrying out its provisions. It should cover the types of vital events that must be registered, their definitions, the designation of informants for each type of event, the time allowances for registering each type of vital event, procedures for late registration, the registrars' duties, the penalties for non-compliance, storage and the preservation of records.

60. The legal basis for vital events registration and vital statistics is provided by the aforementioned Law No 412- XV regarding official statistics, and the following specific laws or Government decisions:

- a. The Law No 100-XV<sup>17</sup> regarding the documentation on civil/marital status, adopted by the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova on April 26th, 2001, stipulates the bodies that provide state registration of documentation on civil/marital status; defines the method of registration, amendment, reconstitution and cancellation of an act on civil/marital status; as well as storage method and time limits of the civil/marital status records;

<sup>16</sup> United Nations, 2001. Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System, Revision 2. United Nations, New York. ST/ESA/STAT/SER.M/19/Rev.2. [http://unstats.un.org/unsd/publication/SeriesM/SeriesM\\_19rev2E.pdf](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/publication/SeriesM/SeriesM_19rev2E.pdf)

<sup>17</sup> <http://lex.justice.md/index.php?action=view&view=doc&lang=1&id=312727>

- b. The registration procedure for birth, perinatal mortality and general mortality is regulated by two common Orders of the Ministry of Information Development and national Bureau of statistics:
- The Common Order No 44/347/100 as of 11.10.2005<sup>18</sup> of the Ministry of Information Development, Ministry of Health and National Bureau of Statistics regarding the issuance of the birth-confirming certificate;
  - The Common Order No 132/47/50 as of 29.04.2004<sup>19</sup> of the Ministry of Information Development, Ministry of Health and National Bureau of Statistics regarding the issuance of the death-confirming certificate.
61. The abovementioned orders provide a single informational flow and the control of the completion and accuracy of vital registration. According to the evaluation of the Health Information System in the Republic of Moldova conducted in 2007 by the Health Metrics Network (HMN, 1007)<sup>20</sup>, the birth and death certificates are issued in accordance with the WHO recommendations (International Statistical Classification of diseases and related health problems. Tenth Revision, vol. II, Instruction Manual, WHO, Geneva, 1993).
62. In addition, it is necessary to mention the Government Decision No 333 regarding the concept of the automatic system "The State Population Record" and the regulations on the State Population Record approved on March 18th, 2002<sup>21</sup>.

#### ASSESSMENT

*The legal basis for vital statistics in the Republic of Moldova is in full conformity with the international recommendations: it covers "the types of vital events that must be registered, their definitions, the designation of informants for each type of event, the time allowances for registering each type of vital event, procedures for late registration, the registrars' duties, the penalties for non-compliance, storage and the preservation of records." (United Nations, 2001).*

## Methodology

### Principles of methodology

63. The main source for vital statistics is the civil registration of every vital event in the country. The Ministry of Health is responsible for the issuance of medical certificates confirming births and deaths, the Civil Registration Office of the Ministry of Justice is responsible for the registration of civil status documents and to send copies of these documents to the NBS that is responsible for the statistics on the natural movement of the population.

64. For births and deaths, a doctor issues the medical certificate that will be used by the family to register the event at the Civil Registration Office. The Civil Registration Offices copies

<sup>18</sup> <http://www.starecivila.gov.md/pages/acte-normative>

<sup>19</sup> <http://www.starecivila.gov.md/pages/acte-normative>

<sup>20</sup> [http://www.cnms.md/\\_files/639-Rapprt\\_de\\_evaluare\\_rom.pdf](http://www.cnms.md/_files/639-Rapprt_de_evaluare_rom.pdf)

<sup>21</sup> <http://lex.justice.md/index.php?action=view&view=doc&lang=1&id=296142>

some of the information contained in the medical certificate on a statistical form on paper transmitted to the NBS. The death medical certificate is sent to the National Centre for Health Management, subordinate of the Ministry of Healthcare, to code the cause of deaths. Statistics on cause of deaths (including maternal mortality) are then posted on the websites of the NCHM and NBS for dissemination.

65. Registrations records of marriages and divorces are sent by the Civil Registration Office to the NBS for the elaboration of statistics. No official statistics are published by the NBS on annulments, judicial separation, adoption or legitimation.

66. The internationally recommended vital events to be registered are the following (United Nations (2001):

Event	Statistics available in Moldova
Live birth	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Foetal death	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Death	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Marriage	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Divorce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Annulment	<input type="checkbox"/>
Judicial separation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Adoption	<input type="checkbox"/>
Legitimation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Recognition	<input type="checkbox"/>

: yes : no

67. The principles of civil registration as a reliable source for vital statistics are:

Characteristic	Situation in Moldova
Compulsory nature of civil registration	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> : provided by law
Universal coverage	<input type="checkbox"/> : available data cover Moldova without "Transnistria region"
Continuity and permanence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> : provided by law. Continuous registration observed.
Confidentiality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> : provided by law.






: yes : no

#### ASSESSMENT

*The vital statistics system follows most of the international principles: it covers the main recommended events and is in compliance with the principles of compulsory and continuous registration, as well as confidentiality of the data collected. However, it doesn't cover the complete national territory as the data do not cover the Transnistria region.*

## Compliance with the international definitions

68. The international definitions of vital events and the situation in Moldova are listed below (Source: WHO, 2008; United Nations, 2001):

Definitions (United Nations, 2001) and (WHO, 1993)	Situation in Moldova
<p><b>Live birth:</b>  <i>"complete expulsion or extraction from its mother of a product of conception, irrespective of the duration of pregnancy, which after such separation, breathes or shows any other evidence of life, such as beating of the heart, pulsation of the umbilical cord or definite movement of voluntary muscles, whether or not the umbilical cord has been cut or the placenta is attached; each product of such a birth is considered liveborn (all live-born infants should be registered and counted as such, irrespective of gestational age or whether alive or dead at the time of registration, and if they die at any time following birth they should also be registered and counted as deaths)."</i></p>	 (since 2008)
<p><b>Death:</b>  <i>"permanent disappearance of all evidence of life at any time after live birth has taken place (postnatal cessation of vital functions without capability of resuscitation) (This definition excludes foetal deaths, which are defined separately below)"</i></p>	
<p><b>Foetal death:</b>  <i>"death prior to the complete expulsion or extraction from its mother of a product of conception, irrespective of the duration of pregnancy; the death is indicated by the fact that after such separation the foetus does not breathe or show any other evidence of life, such as beating of the heart, pulsation of the umbilical cord or definite movement of voluntary muscles."</i>  <i>The legal requirements for the registration of foetal deaths vary from country to country. It is recommended that dead fetuses weighing 500 or more grams at birth (or those of 22 completed weeks of gestation or crown-heel body length of 25 or more centimetres if weight is not known) be registered.</i></p>	 recorded since 2008. Foetal deaths are for dead fetuses weighing 500 grams or more at birth (before 2008 it was 1000g).
<p><b>Marriage:</b>  <i>"the act, ceremony or process by which the legal relationship of husband and wife is constituted. The legality of the union may be established by civil, religious or other means as recognized by the laws of each country."</i></p>	
<p><b>Divorce:</b>  <i>"final legal dissolution of a marriage, that is, that separation of husband and wife which confers on the parties the right to</i></p>	

*remarriage under civil, religious and/or other provisions, according to the laws of each country."*

**ASSESSMENT**

*The definition used for live births, death and foetal death are in full compliance with the WHO definition. The definitions used for marriage and divorce are also in full compliance with the United Nations definitions.*

**Compliance with the international recommended topics**

69. The *United Nations Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System, revision 2*, present a list of internationally recommended topics to be investigated by the civil registration method. The recommended list comprises two “collection priorities”. The higher priority topics, indicated in bold typeface, are designed to constitute an immediate goal, while those not so indicated constitute a less urgent goal.

***Live births***

<b>Recommended Topics on Live Births</b> (high priority in <b>bold</b> )	<b>Birth Statistical Form</b> ( <i>Buletin statistic pentru nastere, 2 September 2008</i> )
<i>Characteristics of the event</i>	
<b>Date of occurrence (of birth)</b>	☐
<b>Date of registration</b>	☐
<b>Place of occurrence</b>	☐ ( <i>Name of institution in the birth certificate</i> )
<b>Place of registration</b>	☐
<b>Type of birth</b> (i.e. single, twin, triplet, quadruplet, or higher multiple delivery)	☐
<b>Attendant at birth</b>	☐
Type of place of occurrence (hospital, home, etc)	☐
<i>Characteristics of the child</i>	
<b>Sex</b>	☐
<b>Birth weight</b>	☐
<i>Characteristics of the mother</i>	
<b>Date of birth or Age</b>	☐
<b>Marital status</b>	☐
<b>Educational attainment</b>	☐

<b>Recommended Topics on Live Births</b> (high priority in <b>bold</b> )	<b>Birth Statistical Form</b> ( <i>Buletin statistic pentru nastere, 2 September 2008</i> )
Literacy status	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ethnic and/or national group	<input type="checkbox"/>
Citizenship	<input type="checkbox"/>
Economic activity status	<input type="checkbox"/>
Usual occupation	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Place of usual residence</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Duration of residence in usual place	<input type="checkbox"/>
Place of residence at a specified time in the past	<input type="checkbox"/>
Place of birth	<input type="checkbox"/>
Date of the last menstrual period or Gestational age	<input type="checkbox"/>
Number of prenatal visits	<input type="checkbox"/>
Month of pregnancy prenatal care began	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Children born alive to mother during her entire lifetime</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Children born to mother during her entire lifetime and still living</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Foetal deaths to mother during her entire lifetime</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Date of last previous live birth</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Date of marriage</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Characteristics of the father</i>	
<b>Date of birth or Age</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Marital status</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Educational attainment</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Literacy status	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ethnic and/or national group	<input type="checkbox"/>
Citizenship/nationality	<input type="checkbox"/>
Economic activity status	<input type="checkbox"/>
Usual occupation	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Place of usual residence</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Duration of residence in usual place	<input type="checkbox"/>
Place of residence at a specified time in the past	<input type="checkbox"/>
Place of birth	<input type="checkbox"/>
















: yes   : no

#### ASSESSMENT

*Information collected on live births is mostly in compliance with the international recommendations at the highest priority level and to a lesser extent at the second priority level.*

Three main recommended topics that are missing at the highest priority level: 1) Place of occurrence, 2) Date of last previous live birth, which is used to calculate the interval since the last previous live birth, and 3) characteristics of the father, including Marital status, Educational attainment, and Place of usual residence.

## Deaths

<b>Recommended Topics on Deaths</b> (high priority in <b>bold</b> )	<b>Death Statistical Form</b> (Buletin statistic pentru deces, 2 September 2008)
<i>Characteristics of the event</i>	
<b>Date of occurrence (of death)</b>	
<b>Date of registration</b>	
<b>Place of occurrence</b>	 (information in the death certificate)
<b>Place of registration</b>	
<b>Cause of death</b>	 Information in the death certificate, coded by the Ministry of Health and provided to the NBS
Manner of death	
Whether autopsy findings were used to establish cause of death	 Information in the death certificate)
Pregnancy-related death (for females 15-49 years of age)	 Information in the death certificate, coded by the Ministry of Health and provided to the NBS
<b>Certifier</b>	 (Anyway, the certifier is always a physician in Moldova)
Attendant at birth (for death under one year of age)	
Type of place of occurrence (hospital, home, etc.)	
<i>Characteristics of the decedent</i>	
<b>Date of birth</b>	
<b>Sex</b>	
<b>Marital status</b>	
Date of marriage	

<b>Recommended Topics on Deaths</b> (high priority in <b>bold</b> )	<b>Death Statistical Form</b> ( <i>Buletin statistic pentru deces,</i> <i>2 September 2008</i> )
Children born alive to mother during her entire lifetime (for females of child-bearing age and over)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Children born to mother during her entire lifetime and still living (for females of child-bearing age and over)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Educational attainment	<input type="checkbox"/>
Literacy status	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ethnic and/or national group	<input type="checkbox"/>
Citizenship	<input type="checkbox"/>
Whether birth was registered (for deaths under one year of age)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Born in wedlock (for deaths under one year of age)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Economic activity status	<input type="checkbox"/>
Usual occupation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Place of usual residence</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Place of previous residence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Place of residence at a specified time in the past	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Place of birth	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

: yes   : no

70. Causes of deaths are coded in the current WHO official International Classification of Diseases (ICD-10). Until 1996, statistics on causes of death were produced by both NBS and the Ministry of Health, which resulted in divergences in data. Since then, in order to ensure coherence of data, the National Centre for Health Management of the Ministry of Healthcare is the only institution responsible for producing these official statistics.

#### **ASSESSMENT**

*Information collected on deaths is mostly in compliance with the international recommendations at the highest priority level and to a lesser extent at the second priority level. One main recommended topics is missing at the highest priority level: the place of occurrence.*

#### **Foetal deaths**

71. A special medical certificate (106-2/e, 29 April 2004) is used for perinatal deaths and collected by NCHM. The international definition of a perinatal death is "*a death during the perinatal period, commencing at 22 completed weeks (154 days) of gestation and ending seven completed days after birth (168 hours)*" (WHO, 2008). This covers foetal deaths (see definition above) and early neonatal mortality (death of a live-born baby within the first seven days of life).



There is a separate code for foetal death (1) and death during the first week (2). However, no separate data on foetal deaths are published on the NBS website. Statistics on abortion are collected by NCHM, but not reported to NBS.

<b>Recommended Topics on Foetal Deaths</b> (high priority in <b>bold</b> )	<b>Medical Certificate Perinatal Death</b> (Formular nr. 106-2/e 29/04/04)
<i>Characteristics of the event</i>	
<b>Date of occurrence</b> (of foetal delivery)	☐
<b>Date of registration</b>	☐
<b>Place of occurrence</b>	☐
<b>Place of registration</b>	☐
Type of birth (i.e. single, twin, triplet, quadruplet, or higher multiple delivery)	☐
Attendant at birth	☐
Certifier	☐
Cause of foetal death	☐
Type of place of occurrence (hospital, home, etc)	☐
<i>Characteristics of the foetus</i>	
<b>Sex</b>	☐
Born in wedlock	☐
Weight at delivery	☐
Date of the last menstrual period or Gestational age	☐
<i>Characteristics of the mother</i>	
<b>Date of birth or Age</b>	☐
Number of prenatal visits	☐
Month of pregnancy prenatal care began	☐
<b>Children born alive to mother during her entire lifetime</b>	☐
	<i>(only the total number of births)</i>
<b>Children born to mother during her entire lifetime and still living</b>	☐
<b>Foetal deaths to mother during her entire lifetime</b>	☐
<b>Date of last previous live birth</b>	☐
<b>Date of marriage or duration of marriage</b>	☐
Educational attainment	☐
Literacy status	☐
Ethnic and/or national group	☐
Citizenship	☐
Economic activity status	☐
Usual occupation	☐

<b>Recommended Topics on Foetal Deaths</b> (high priority in <b>bold</b> )	<b>Medical Certificate Perinatal Death</b> (Formular nr. 106-2/e 29/04/04)
<b>Place of usual residence</b>	☐
Place of birth	☐
<i>Characteristics of the father</i>	
<b>Date of birth or Age</b>	☐
Educational attainment	☐
Literacy status	☐
Ethnic and/or national group	☐
Citizenship/nationality	☐
Economic activity status	☐
Usual occupation	☐
<b>Place of usual residence</b>	☐
Place of birth	☐

#### ASSESSMENT

*Information collected on foetal deaths is not fully in compliance with the international standards at the highest priority level as the registration form does not record the total number of children born alive and the total number of children still alive, as well as the age of the father and his place of residence.*

### Marriages

<b>Recommended Topics on Marriages</b> (high priority in <b>bold</b> )	<b>Marriage Statistical Form</b> (Buletin statistic pentru casatorie, 2 September 2008)
<i>Characteristics of the event</i>	
<b>Date of occurrence</b> (of marriage)	☐ (Same as registration)
<b>Date of registration</b>	☐
<b>Place of occurrence</b>	☐ (same as registration)
<b>Place of registration</b>	☐
Type of marriage	☐
<i>Characteristics of bride and groom (separately)</i>	
<b>Date of birth or Age</b>	☐

<b>Recommended Topics on Marriages</b> (high priority in <b>bold</b> )	<b>Marriage Statistical Form</b> <i>(Buletin statistic pentru casatorie, 2 September 2008)</i>
Marital status (previous)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Number of previous marriages	<input type="checkbox"/>
Educational attainment	<input type="checkbox"/>
Literacy status	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ethnic and/or national group	<input type="checkbox"/>
Citizenship	<input type="checkbox"/>
Economic activity status	<input type="checkbox"/>
Usual occupation	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Place of usual residence</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Duration of residence in usual (present) place	<input type="checkbox"/>
Place of previous residence	<input type="checkbox"/>
Place of residence at a specified time in the past	<input type="checkbox"/>
Place of birth	<input type="checkbox"/>
















: yes : no

#### ASSESSMENT

*Information collected on marriages is not fully in compliance with the international standards at the highest priority level as the registration form does not record the place of usual residence of the spouses.*

#### *Divorces*

<b>Recommended Topics on Divorces</b> (high priority in <b>bold</b> )	<b>Divorce Statistical Form</b> <i>(Buletin statistic pentru divort, 2 September 2008)</i>
<i>Characteristics of the event</i>	
<b>Date of occurrence</b> (of divorce)	<input type="checkbox"/> (Same as registration)
<b>Date of registration</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Place of occurrence</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>Recommended Topics on Divorces</b> (high priority in <b>bold</b> )	<b>Divorce Statistical Form</b> <i>(Buletin statistic pentru divort, 2 September 2008)</i>
	(Same as registration)
<b>Place of registration</b>	
Type of marriage	
<i>Characteristics of divorcees (husband and wife (separately))</i>	
<b>Date of birth or Age</b>	
Type of marriage being dissolved	
Number of dependent children of divorced persons	 <i>(number of minor children to the dissolved marriage)</i>
Number of children born alive to the marriage being dissolved	
<b>Date of marriage or duration of marriage being dissolved</b>	
Mode of dissolution of previous marriages	
Number of previous marriages	
Educational attainment	
Literacy status	
Ethnic and/or national group	
Citizenship	
Economic activity status	
Usual occupation	
<b>Place of usual residence</b>	
Duration of residence in usual (present) place	
Place of previous residence	
Place of residence at a specified time in the past	
Place of birth	
Place of occurrence of marriage being dissolved	

#### ASSESSMENT

*Information collected on divorces is in full conformity with international recommended topics at high priority level and includes some of the second priority level.*

## Data processing

### Workflow

72. The Ministry of Healthcare is responsible for issuing medical certificates related to births and deaths. The content of medical certificates was developed in cooperation with NBS and the Ministry of Information Technologies and Communications, to ensure that the information needed for the elaboration of vital statistics was included. Only 41 accredited institutions (maternity) can deliver medical birth certificates.

73. The **birth** certificate is prefilled with an ID number randomly chosen. The certificate is filled in by a medical doctor. One part of the document is given to the parents as birth certificate and the other to the civil registration office. Parents have 3 months to register their child at the civil registration office. Since 2009, the civil registration office has set up offices in the maternities to offer the possibility to register births there. Twice a week, a staff of the registration office comes to the maternity to register the new born. Registration is free in Moldova. There is also a project to install a computer in the maternity to proceed to the registration.

74. If a woman delivers at home a committee of three doctors is constituted within 10 days to examine the child and the mother and issue the birth certificate.

75. For **deaths**, the process is a little different. There are two types of medical death certificate, one of them is specific for perinatal death (see above). The perinatal certificate has only one part, and the registration is made in the medical institution. The register remains in the maternity and is kept 75 years.

76. The death certificate includes ID number of the deceased and is composed of two parts as the birth certificate. The medical doctor fills in the certificate including the cause of death. One part is sent to the civil registration office and the other given to the family to register the death within 3 days. The late person cannot be buried without certificate of registration. If the death is not registered within 3 days, the police will proceed to inquiry.

77. The registration office fills in the paper statistical form and sends it to NBS.

78. Death certificate are sent by the Civil Registration Office to the NBS with the statistical form and after processing to NCHM to code the cause of death. A team of 6 staff in NCHM proceed to coding and contact the doctor if needed. NCHM sends the results to NBS and also analyses the data on cause of death for the Ministry of Healthcare. The classification used to code the cause of deaths is the 10th revision of ICD (International Classification of Diseases) as recommended by WHO. Maternal mortality is also calculated by NCHM according to WHO definition.

79. The process for **marriages** and **divorces** is the following:

- a. Couples come to the office to declare marriage. Some marriages are concluded in town hall, and information is sent to the Civil Registration Office by the end of the month.
- b. In case of divorce by mutual agreement, they come to the Civil Registration Office to declare it, and the divorce is registered in a period of one month legally.
- c. In case of divorce pronounced by Court decision, it enters into force in 20 days. Within 3 days the Court sends copy of the decision to the civil registration office. The person comes after to get a certificate of divorce.

80. The civil registration office transmits data to the central population register within 2 days. Electronically and on paper. Information is stored in the central database of the Civil Registration Office when both are received. Only electronic transmission is considered for the future.

81. NBS receives paper statistical forms from the civil registration offices, corresponding to individual events based on registration records. There are five forms, one for each type of vital event (births, deaths, marriage, divorce), plus a monthly report. Each form contains around 25 variables, including the identification number. These forms are printed or manually filled by the civil registration offices at raion level, depending on their equipment, and then transmitted to the NBS regional office (also at raion level). Then, controls are performed manually by NBS office to check if all the fields are filled, and also logical controls. In case of missing or incorrect data, forms are sent back to the civil registration office. The documents are then sent to the IT Division of NBS (Section providing data processing for demographic statistics) where they are captured by operators and processed. Additional controls are carried out. Around 7 operators are engaged in this operation. 122,000 events are processed yearly (for example in 2010: 40,500 live births, 43,500 deaths, 26,500 marriages, 11,500 divorces). NBS considers of high quality the work of staff involved in the process, in regional offices of NBS as well as in the IT Division, some of them working there for 20 years.

82. Paper documents are stored until the yearly report is issued and after are shredded manually as the unit does not have at her disposal a shredder. This takes of course a lot of time (without mentioning the risks in terms of confidentiality).

83. The IT Division provides the output tables to the Demographic Statistics Unit, but not the individual data for lack of appropriate software to tabulate these data in the unit. Tables are provided in text format, which obliges the Unit to convert them manually in Excel format. This takes time and is subject to errors. NBS does not have unique statistical software in use in the office. Some units use SPSS but the demography unit does not, for lack of time to devote to training. Request has been made to the IT Division to receive directly the data in Excel format, but also the complete database ready to tabulate in a statistical software, but no time limit was given.

84. Then tables are stored in a database on the local network using the PX-Edit software (from the PC-Axis family of software), to be posted on the website.

#### ASSESSMENT

*The process for elaboration of vital statistics is quite straightforward and includes controls at the different stages. Improvements are being made by the Civil Registration Office to register births directly in the maternity.*

*At the present moment, the NBS prefers to receive paper forms and capture them than electronic extracts from the Civil Registration Office databases. The reason is the quality of capture by the Civil Registration Office. However, one can doubt that the quality of the copy to a statistical form, that represents additional work, is of higher quality. This problem should be tackled by the NBS together with the registration office to obtain better quality of*

*the data capture (which is essential in terms of registration) to transmit to NBS electronic databases. This would gain a lot of time in the internal process of NBS.*

*The process should be improved in NBS as too many manual tasks are involved in the Demography unit for the final preparation of tables for publication. This increases the delay for dissemination and also the risk of errors. Data should be directly prepared in Excel format by the IT Division. Another possibility would be to receive the individual database and tabulate it. This would need that the Demographic Statistics Unit uses (and is trained to use) a statistical software such as SAS or SPSS, already in use in the NBS.*

## **Timeliness**

85. Information from local registration offices is transmitted at the end of the month to the raion office, and then captured within 14 days. So the maximum delay to register a birth event is 4.5 months (if a birth occurs at the beginning of a month and the parents register it only 3 months after). However, the civil registration office does not calculate any statistics on the delay between the date of birth and date of registration.

86. In the NBS, monthly preliminary data are received the 9th day of the next month and final data after the 20<sup>th</sup> day. Monthly data are captured in Excel form by the Demographic Statistics Unit of the NBS for the monthly and quarterly reports. Preliminary data related to the vital events of the year are received in February and a report is presented to the ministry by the end of March, and a press release published in April. Final data are received around the end of March by the Unit, controlled and some corrections made, and then published in May or June. In addition, a series of press releases for main facts and findings are also written by the Unit and posted on the website from April to June.

### **ASSESSMENT**

*Yearly data are available firstly as preliminary results in March and as final results in May. This could be improved in three ways:*

*- First estimates of the number of births and deaths of the last quarter of the year could be elaborated with a light survey to the most important hospitals and maternities. This could allow publishing first results of the year by the end of January.*

*- Reducing the delay to register a birth (3 months seems too long in a country like Moldova with good health infrastructures, one week may be enough).*

*- Sending extracts of Civil Registration Office electronic databases to the NBS. This would need strong quality control of data capture in the registration offices.*

*Also, monthly NBS fills the questionnaire on vital events for the UN.*

## **Quality assurance mechanism**

87. In terms of quality assurance, a person in the hospital is assigned for control and checking of all certificates once a month. NHCM developed a guide for doctors with the most difficult cases. Seminars were also organised for doctors on coding cause of death, but no more recently.

88. The Civil Registration Office compares systematically the form received from the medical doctors (part A of the medical certificate) to the registration (or absence of registration) by the family.

89. The IT Division of the NBS checks the correspondence between the forms and a summary form. Logical controls are embedded in the data capture application, and batch controls are performed afterwards.

#### ASSESSMENT

*The process of elaboration of vital statistics is quite straightforward and includes controls at different stages. However, there is no real quality assurance mechanism all along the process. For example, there is no control of the data capture performed in the Civil Registration. It is also significant that none of the institutions had calculated the real time for registration of a live birth. Maybe the three months allowed by law could be reduced if the observation shows that most of the registrations are made within a shorter period of time.*

### Quality of the data

90. A study conducted by UNDP in 2011<sup>22</sup> using the WHO methodology concluded that health statistics related to MDGs 4 and 5 are reliable, accurate and consistent (UNDP, 2011).

91. The main problem is the Transnistrian region, which is not covered by official vital statistics. Documents issued in this region are not officially recognized and vice versa. A working group was established to solve the issue, but did not come up with any solution for the moment.

### Documentation

92. The NBS website presents metadata such as definitions, description of the source used and calculations of indicators.

#### ASSESSMENT

*The metadata presented on the NBS's website are rather comprehensive. However, there is no detailed documentation of the data processing treatments. The Labour Force Survey presents a comprehensive documentation that could serve as example to enhance the documentation of population statistics.*

*The tables presented in the website (statistical database section) lack definitions and sources. It is recommended to complete the documentation attached to each table.*

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<sup>22</sup> Fern Greenwell, Review of the health statistics of the Republic of Moldova related to Millennium Development Goals 4 & 5, UNDP, 2011



## Dissemination and Analysis

### Compliance with the Eurostat Statistical Requirements Compendium

93. The annual demographic questionnaires are collected by Eurostat on voluntary basis, on agreement with the Member States, Candidate Countries and EFTA countries within Eurostat Working Groups on Demography and on written consultations on the structure of the questionnaires. Eurostat cooperates with United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) for the main demographic data collection – 'Eurostat-UNSD Joint Demographic Data Collection'. 'Eurostat-UNSD Joint Demographic Data Collection' and 'Rapid Demographic Data Collection' data are carried out by Eurostat also on behalf of the Council of Europe.

94. As described in the Eurostat Statistical Requirements Compendium, Eurostat carries out four demographic data collections per year: 'Rapid Demographic Data Collection' (deadline 15 May), concerning the main demographic data aggregated at country level; 'Eurostat-UNSD Joint Demographic Data Collection' (deadline 15 September), collection of detailed demographic statistics; 'Nowcast Demographic Data Collection' (deadline 15 November), gathering the latest available monthly data series for the purpose of a timely estimate of the total population per country at the beginning of the following year and 'Regional Demographic Data Collection' (deadline 15 December) for those countries which have agreed with the EC a regional breakdown (Eurostat, 2011).

95. The Demographic Statistics Unit of the NBS receives three questionnaires from Eurostat concerning the joint data collection UNSD-Eurostat. For all three questionnaires the deadline is September. Filling in the questionnaire takes around one month and half, as the unit has to enter manually all the data. The unit is able to fill the questionnaire on time with no specific problem, except for the data not available, such as the country of birth for deaths.

96. In addition, a rapid questionnaire is sent by Eurostat in May to collect basic information such as number of births, deaths, marriage, divorce, immigrants and emigrants, as well as population estimate.

#### ASSESSMENT

*Vital events are disseminated to the Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family, Ministry of Health on monthly basis (for their administrative purpose), and on quarterly basis – to the large public/all other users, which seems to satisfy the users.*

*The NBS fully complies with the Eurostat Statistical Requirements Compendium regarding data transmission and transmits the tables on time.*

## Demographic indicators

97. Population estimates are calculated for 1<sup>st</sup> January every year at national (excluding Transnistria) and raions, city and villages. Estimate by sex and detailed age are produced for raions and cities, and only by four age groups for villages.
98. The methodology used is the component method, adding to the population of the previous year the number of births occurred in the previous year and the number of immigrants, and subtracting the number of deaths occurred in the previous year and the number of emigrants.
99. The basis of the current population estimates is the population given by the census 2004. Unfortunately, this census 2004 enumerated both persons currently residing in the country, and also members of households living permanently abroad. Even if the census provided the resident population and the total enumerated population, decision was taken at a high level to consider as population of the country the latter, and to use it as a basis for further estimates, despite the opposite opinion of the demography unit. As a consequence, population estimates are over the real resident population. This affects negatively the ratios of some indicators, such as the MDG indicators. As the denominator is overestimated, the ratios are de facto underestimated.
100. Births and Deaths are given by vital statistics as seen before, and are considered as high quality.
101. Data from the Bureau of Migration and Asylum provided by the IS Regstru give the number of immigrants and emigrants (not distributed by sex) by raion and urban/rural. These numbers are distributed proportionally to the population by village. NBS is considering the revision the agreement with Regstru to obtain data at village level.
102. The following demographic indicators are also calculated, combining information on vital statistics and population estimates as a denominator:
- Average annual number of population by age, areas and sex
  - Natural growth rate – difference between birth rate and death rate (per 1000 inhabitants).
  - Gross immigration rate – annual number of international immigrations divided by annual average population (per 1000 inhabitants).
  - Gross emigration rate – annual number of emigrations and divided by annual average population (per 1000 inhabitants).
  - Net migration rate - generally estimated on the basis of the difference between population change and natural increase between two dates.
  - Birth rate
  - Mortality rate, by age group and sex
  - Marriage rate (urban/rural)
  - Divorce rate (urban/rural)
  - Infant mortality rate
  - Total fertility rate – Sum of fertility rate by age group
  - Life expectancy, by sex
  - Ageing population by sex
  - Demographic dependence or demographic dependence report by sex

- o. Mean age of the population is the mean age of the population at the beginning of a respective year
- p. Specific mortality rate by sex and ages - the report of deaths to a certain age group in the reference year and the average number of people the same age, for a given sex.

#### ASSESSMENT

*The methodology used for the calculation of demographic indicators is in full compliance with the Methodology for the calculation of Eurostat's demographic indicators (Eurostat, 2004).*

*However, the main problem comes from the difficulty to estimate the population of the year by country due to two main factors: the lack of quality of the last census and the lack of statistics on the Transnistria region.*

### Dissemination and Analysis

103. A comprehensive set of tables related to yearly vital statistics is published on the web site of NBS and more detailed tables are available for internal use or upon request for external users. Monthly data are published in quarterly statistical reports. Tables are available online in both Romanian and English – for internal/national user, but also for the international community. A DATABANK on the website of NBS allows the user to browse the tables and filter criteria (<http://statbank.statistica.md/pxweb/Database/EN/databasetree.asp>).

104. All publications are announced on the NBS website in the yearly Timetable of statistical publications with deadline for their issue ([http://www.statistica.md/public/files/publicatii\\_electronice/Plan\\_publicatii\\_2011.pdf](http://www.statistica.md/public/files/publicatii_electronice/Plan_publicatii_2011.pdf))

105. Two main publications are regularly issued by the NBS: "Population and demographic processes in the Republic of Moldova"<sup>23</sup> (last issue 2009), and the "Population of the Republic of Moldova by age and sex, in territorial aspect, as of January 1" (last issue 2011).

106. The publication "Population and demographic processes in the Republic of Moldova" edition 2009, contains statistical data on administrative-territorial divisions of the country and series of statistical data concerning the number and demographic structure of the population, as well as its natural movement (births, deaths, marriages, divorces) and migratory (international) movement for 2001-2009. The publication also includes demographic indicators of the population's reproduction processes – total fertility rate, life expectancy at birth and certain age groups. The main demographic indicators of the Republic of Moldova are presented in comparison with other countries.

107. The publication "Population of the Republic of Moldova by age and sex, in territorial aspect, as of January 1" contains data regarding the number and structure of the population by age and sex in territorial aspect (raions, municipalities). The information is presented without the data on the localities from the left side of the Nistru river and municipality Bender.

<sup>23</sup> <http://www.statistica.md/pageview.php?l=ro&idc=263&id=2198>

108. In order to disseminate in a more user-friendly way the main demographic indicators in Moldova, a MAP was prepared. It has been printed in 600 copies, containing 3 languages, and disseminated in the territory (local public administration and local statistical offices) and line-ministries, academia, etc. It is also available in electronic format for the large public on NBS website: [http://www.statistica.md/public/files/Demographic\\_Situation\\_2008.pdf](http://www.statistica.md/public/files/Demographic_Situation_2008.pdf)

109. Together with UNFPA, NBS developed a user guide on demographic definitions and terms (Population: Definitions and indicators), available on the UNFPA website (<http://unfpa.md/index.php/ro/publicatii.html>). This guide presents concrete examples of use of demographic indicators and should be also made available on the NBS website.

110. In addition, a series of press releases is issued regularly on various topics, including the demographic situation on the year  $y$ , published in June on year  $y+1$ . Systematic analysis by sex is conducted in these publications. The following press releases were issued between January and September 2011:

1. 08.07.2011: Average life length in the Republic of Moldova in 2010
- a. 06.06.2011: Demographic situation in the Republic of Moldova in 2010
- b. 31.05.2011: Children situation in the Republic of Moldova in 2010
- c. 10.05.2011: The structure of resident population of the Republic of Moldova, by age and sex, as of January 01, 2011
- d. 21.04.2011: Deceased by main causes of death in 2010
- e. 15.04.2011: The number of live-births by age group of the mother, live-birth order and area in 2010
- f. 12.03.2011: Number of resident population in the Republic of Moldova as of 1st January 2011, in territorial aspect
- g. 08.02.2011: Preliminary number of resident population in the Republic of Moldova as of January 1, 2011

111. In terms of analysis, the NBS cooperates with partners such as the Academy of Science or the National Centre for Health Management, most usually under the auspices of the National Commission for Population and Development (NCPD). The Demographic Sector of the Academy of Science, created in 2009, has for main objective the development of scientific work in area of demography. 7 persons work in the sector, mainly on mortality, migration, reproductive behaviour, marriage and families, ageing and population projections. The team is composed of persons interested in demographic topics, but not with demographic education.

#### ASSESSMENT

*The dissemination of demographic information is comprehensive and presents most of the data available in paper publications as well as online, with download facilities. This is noticeable in regard to the small size of the Demographic Statistics Unit of the NBS. The*

*Databank<sup>24</sup> presents tables in a user friendly way, allowing users to select criteria, but should include better metadata, in particular systematic definitions.*

*Nevertheless, the publications to a certain extent lack comments and present many tables in a quite “dry” way. Efforts should be made to improve the layout of the publications, for example including graphs and maps, and to present short comments to help lay users (especially journalists) to understand the demographic situation of the country and its trend. This is even more crucial as there is limited analytical capacity in demography in the country in a national context of population decrease.*

*The National Commission for Population and Development plays an important role in the development of demographic analysis. The Academy of Science, the National Centre for Health Management and the NBS appear to be the main players in demographic analysis of vital events. However, the capacity of the NBS is limited and should be reinforced to be able to play its role adequately.*

## **Gender perspective**

112. All demographic statistics are available by sex, which enables to conduct gender analysis.

113. The Demographic Statistics Unit of the NBS published in 2008 "Women and Men in Moldova"<sup>25</sup>, statistical compilation presenting a comprehensive analysis of the various economic and social topics related to gender issues. A new publication on regional statistics of Moldova through gender perspective is planned for this year, tentatively containing similar sectors/topics as “Women and men” and new ones.

114. Also, for the general users there was developed with the support of NBS Project/partners the Gender Statistics User Guide (available [http://www.statistica.md/public/files/publicatii\\_electronice/Gender/Gen\\_Guide\\_2008.pdf](http://www.statistica.md/public/files/publicatii_electronice/Gender/Gen_Guide_2008.pdf)) – which aimed to explain to lay user (in particular policy-makers) the correct use of gender statistics. It contains chapters:

- analysis of data from different sectors - intra and inter-sector
- Use of disaggregated data for gender analysis and/or evaluation of gender impact of the public policies.
- Many examples used in the guidelines are from demographic statistics.

115. Also, a conference has been organized:  
(<http://www.statistica.md/newsview.php?l=en&id=2605&idc=30>).

### **ASSESSMENT**

*The NBS has a good capacity to develop gender analysis, based on demographic data but also social and economic information. The Head of the Demography unit has followed training in this area and was appointed as reference person for the CIS and Central-East countries.*

<sup>24</sup> <http://statbank.statistica.md/pxweb/Database/EN/databasetree.asp>

<sup>25</sup> <http://www.statistica.md/pageview.php?l=ro&id=2199&idc=263>

*The publication "Women and men in Moldova" represents a valuable document to increase gender awareness based on statistical evidence. The next publication could go further by developing more advanced gender analysis addressing analytical issues, for example the link between fertility and economic activity, the model of the family and its evolution...*

## **Migration and Asylum Statistics**

### **Legal basis**

116. According to the Law on Official Statistics, the NBS is the central body for producing national statistics, including those on international migration, that are relevant, reliable and in agreement with international statistical recommendations. It stipulates that NBS has the right to obtain and collect for statistical purposes statistical and administrative data, including explanations, from all the ministries or services. This gives NBS ground to obtain from institutions in charge of collecting data on migration, such as the Bureau of Migration and Asylum.

117. The 2004 law on the regime of foreigners was modified last year by the Law no. 200 of 16.07.2010<sup>26</sup>, entering in force on December 24, 2010. There is no more definition of the concepts related to migration (for example immigrant or emigrant) in the law.

118. The National Strategy on Migration and Asylum 2011-2020 was approved through the Government Decision no 655 as of 08.09.2011 (<http://lex.justice.md/index.php?action=view&view=doc&lang=1&id=340066> ) which stipulates as priority objective:

1. "Ensure definitions and concepts used in national legislation becoming in compliance with the EU legislation, in particular Regulation 862/2007 of the European Parliament, of the Council of 11 July 2007 on Community statistics on migration and international protection and Regulation 311/76 on the compilation of statistics on foreign workers. Adjustments will allow an assessment of processes and accurate statistical records, will enable the monitoring indicators of migration processes and policy outcome"
2. "when bilateral agreements will be negotiated when in particular relating to aspects of migration and asylum, there will be included clauses regarding the optimization of the information exchange, organization of the exchange of statistical data and analytical info in problems of common interest

119. The law Nr. 180 as of 10.07.2008 on labour migration (<http://lex.justice.md/index.php?action=view&view=doc&lang=1&id=328963>) - gives definitions, regulates the documentation of immigrants, and the obligation made to agencies involved in labour

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<sup>26</sup> <http://lex.justice.md/index.php?action=view&view=doc&lang=1&id=336056>

migration to provide quarterly reporting to NBS and National Agency for Employment on persons employed abroad.

120. The Government Decision no. 1401 as of 13.12.2007 on approval of Concept of Integrated automatized Information System “Migration and asylum”

(<http://lex.justice.md/index.php?action=view&view=doc&lang=1&id=326412>) - stipulates definitions, concepts, stipulates the data flow from sources of data. The definitions given are not in full compliance with international standards. For example, immigrant is defined as "a foreign citizen or stateless person who has obtained the right to establish permanent or temporary in Moldova" and emigrant as a "Moldovan national who go abroad to settle down permanently or temporarily in another State".

121. The Government Decision no 1035 as of 04.10.2005

(<http://lex.justice.md/index.php?action=view&view=doc&lang=1&id=297234>) on approval of Regulation of the National Bureau for Migration - establishes the responsibilities in the field of management of the migration processes. According to this decision, the Bureau is responsible to organize the data collection of statistics from the line-ministries, local and central public administration, store, process and disseminate the info on internal and external migration processes, and ensures the functioning of the regional and international mechanisms for data exchange in the field of migration.

#### **ASSESSMENT**

*The Government Decision n. 1035 of 2005 gives to the National Bureau for Migration the responsibility to organize the data collection of statistics from the line-ministries, local and central public administration, store, process and disseminate the info on internal and external migration processes, but does not make reference to the National Bureau of Statistics. According to the article 8 the Statistical Law, the NBS together with the central public authorities, should decide on the unified methodology used to produce statistical information, in compliance with the international practice. This creates some ambiguity on the responsibility on migration statistics. .*

*The definitions provided by the Government Decision are not in full compliance with the International Standards and the EU definitions as they don't refer to a 12 months period and limit the status of emigrant to Moldovan nationals.*

*The government had 6 months after adoption of the new law on regime of foreigners to precise the definitions of the new law on foreigners but has not yet done it. This is an opportunity to implement definitions in compliance with the international standards.*

## **Methodology**

### **Sources**

2. Several sources are used to produce statistics on migration:

#### ***Administrative data***

122. The Bureau of Migration and Asylum<sup>27</sup>, subordinate to the Ministry of interior, produces administrative data regarding immigrant applicants. Data on border crossing are collected by the Border Guard Service<sup>28</sup> Administration and integrated in the Population Register System, but due to the problem of Transnistria there are double entries or exits.

123. Another source is the local public authorities registers, but registration of address is not thoroughly done, as people have no incentive to report that they will emigrate. In addition, municipalities have interest to keep persons in their register as it count for granting of funds. The concept of *usual resident population* is not widely used.

124. NBS receives quarterly data on authorised immigrants on paper but no individual data, even anonymised, which would allow further tabulations and quality controls. Last year NBS formulated requests for additional tables but didn't receive answer.

125. As noted by Poulain (Poulain et alii, 2011), these administrative data sources are among the most appropriate to meet the international requirements for international migration statistics and to support policy development. However, administrative data can never be taken as such to build reliable statistics and only the NBS has the skills to do it.

#### **ASSESSMENT**

*Administrative data on migration are collected by the Bureau of Migration and Asylum and disseminated as such, apparently without statistical processing. The NBS does not receive individual data and is not in the situation to proceed to statistical editing. This is in contradiction with the law on Statistics and also not in full compliance with the EU regulation No 862/2007 on Community statistics on migration and international protection. According to Article 8 of the regulation, Member States shall provide all the information necessary to evaluate the quality, comparability and completeness of the statistical information.*

*Therefore, in order to fulfil successfully its obligations, the NBS should develop cooperation with other public authorities collecting administrative data, and **request individual data**, even anonymised, to allow perform controls of coherence and more detailed tabulations. The statistical law authorizes the NBS to obtain these data.*

*Nevertheless, due to the question of the Transnistria region, these administrative data are flawed in two ways:*

*They do not cover completely the country*

*They are not completely consistent as some exits or entrances to the country are made in Transnistria and not recorded.*

#### **The State Information Resources Centre: SE Regstru**

126. The State Enterprise “State Information Resources Centre “Regstru” (SE “SIRC Regstru”) is a subordinate enterprise of the Ministry of Information Technology and Communications. It was created in 1995, and takes an active part in formation of a national system of information services in the Republic of Moldova within the context of the National Strategy «e-Moldova».

<sup>27</sup> <http://migratie.md/>

<sup>28</sup> <http://www.border.gov.md/>



127. The SE “SIRC Registru” is a holder of the following registers:
- The State Register of Population (SRP)<sup>29</sup>
  - The State Register of Legal Entities<sup>30</sup>
  - The National Geographic Information System<sup>31</sup>
  - The State Register of Transport Means<sup>32</sup>
  - The State Register of Drivers<sup>33</sup>.
128. There is no housing units register or even register of address. The State cadastre<sup>34</sup> is responsible to maintain an address file.
129. SE Registru employs 1915 persons and has 95 territory offices, among them 48 for population register activities.
130. Its activity is regulated by different laws, such as the State law on registers (no 71-XVI as of 22.03.07), the law on access to information (982-XIV as of 11.05.00), the law on informatisation (467-XV as of 21.11.03), the law on personal data protection (17-XVI as of 15.02.0), etc<sup>35</sup>.
131. A central database is ensuring the connection among the registers.
132. Partners institutions can be connected through secure channel, using interface on user computer, web based services or exchange of physical media. NBS has access via web service, but this access is not working currently due to technical problems. All access is recorded and logged. Access to information is regulated by law: each institution has access to a certain information. For example, the Ministry of Internal Affairs has large access, but credit companies have limited access.
133. Partners institutions include:
- Border Guard Service
  - Ministry of Internal Affairs
  - National Center for Health Management
  - Customs Service<sup>36</sup>
  - Ministry Foreign Affairs and European Integration<sup>37</sup>
  - National Employment Agency<sup>38</sup>
  - etc.
134. The system of registers is used for the issuance of official documents.
135. The State Register of Population (SRP) covers the following categories of physical persons:
- Citizens of the Republic of Moldova, permanently residing on its territory;

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<sup>29</sup> <http://www.registru.md/rsp/>

<sup>30</sup> <http://www.registru.md/rsud/>

<sup>31</sup> <http://www.registru.md/sign/>

<sup>32</sup> <http://www.registru.md/rst/>

<sup>33</sup> <http://www.registru.md/rsca/>

<sup>34</sup> State Enterprise “Cadastru”, [http://www.cadastru.md/?lang=en&menu\\_id=217](http://www.cadastru.md/?lang=en&menu_id=217)

<sup>35</sup> <http://www.registru.md/laws/>

<sup>36</sup> <http://www.customs.gov.md/index.php?id=1>

<sup>37</sup> <http://www.mfa.gov.md/start-page-en/>

<sup>38</sup> <http://anofm.md/>

- Citizens of the Republic of Moldova, permanently or temporarily (more than 3 months) residing abroad;
  - Foreign citizens and stateless persons, permanently residing on the territory of the Republic of Moldova;
  - Stateless persons and foreign citizens, who temporarily stay on the territory of the Republic of Moldova;
136. The SRP contains the following information:
- ID number of the person is the key for individual's identification and linkage between registers
  - Birth date and place:
    - From the civil registration office. Births of Moldovan citizen abroad are registered at the consulate, or when the person comes back to Moldova. Births of foreigners occurring in the country are mandatory to register otherwise the child would not be able to leave the country.
  - Marriage, divorce:
    - From civil registration offices
  - Address:
    - Since a decision of Supreme Court of Justice in 1997, a permanent living address is no more mandatory, as free movement is guaranteed in the constitution. However, registration on a specific address is mandatory. Registration of address of residence is done through territorial branches and cities. In rural areas local public authorities are responsible for registration but have no possibility to enter data online. They check the documents of the person, and then fill a form which is sent to the raional office within 48 hours. Children are registered on the address of one parent.
  - Type of address, permanent or temporary
    - If a person registers in a new place, the older address is automatically updated. Temporary address is allowed, for example for student in addition to their parent address.
  - For immigrants and immigration - the purpose of migration to / from Moldova, reason of arrival
  - Place of employment:
    - Declared by the person. Currently there is a project in progress to integrate information from the National Social Insurance House.
  - Ethnic origin from the birth certificate
  - Religion asked at the moment of registration
  - Vehicle owned (from the register of vehicles)
  - Border situation:
    - Entries and exits are registered using the ID number on the passport, except if occurs in the Transnistrian region). Foreigners entering the country are also introduced in the Integrated Information System of Border Guard Service

(SIISG), but not in the population register. Information on their entry/exit is kept with no limit date.

- Police inquiries for requested persons
- In addition, linkage is made with the relatives at first degree: parents, spouse and children.

137. According to the current collaboration agreement between IS Registru and NBS, 15 statistical tables are provided quarterly, on migration. Data are provided within 20 days. Minor changes on the previous quarter could be included and if so NBS is informed.

138. The SE Registru has no specific role in controlling the quality of the data. Its main role is to maintain the system of registers operational. Each institution providing data to the register is responsible for the quality of their data. However, the SE Registru only implements some logical controls in its local offices and central office.

139. There is no specific operation to measure the coverage of the population register. The Registru Centre proposed to include the ID number in the questionnaire of the Census 2013 to check and update the population register. However, the NBS is not in favour in including such information in the population census as not in line with the unique statistical objective of the census.

#### ASSESSMENT

*The State Register of Population is a very promising database for providing statistical data on both migration flows and stocks. Nevertheless, the SRP cannot be yet considered as a fully reliable source for international migration. Major limitations affecting the coverage of the SRP include:*

*- As frequently observed in other countries, the main problem is the low level of de-registration for citizens leaving the country. Persons leaving for 12 months and more still keep their permanent residence in Moldova. As a consequence, the number of international emigrants is largely under-estimated as well as the number of repatriation of Moldovan citizens.*

*- Two age groups are temporarily presenting a significant level of under-coverage: Children currently between 8 and 14 years old, that is to say born before the application of the system of documentation at birth since 2002, and not yet documented as citizen at 14 years old which the age required by the law.*

*Persons around 62 to 67 years old due to the fact that some persons were not documented through the Pensioners Registration as they were still working at the time this project was implemented.*

*- Not all the citizens who live in the Transnistrian region have requested their documents and therefore are not present in the register.*

*- Some persons are registered in the State Registry of Population without having a registered address of place of residence. This group of persons includes those who have been removed from the records and are not registered at their new place of residence, the ones who have left for the Transnistrian region, the ones who have been recorded in the State Register of Population through different documentation projects and the ones who are not requested to have a residence visa.*

*- the changes of permanent residence do not correspond to the international definition of change for at least 12 months.*

*Anyway, data should be regularly checked and analyzed by statisticians in order to identify the possible weak points existing in the data collection and the maintenance of the system before considering the register as a reliable source for migration statistics.*

*In addition, registration of emigrants abroad should be improved. Until recently, few Moldovan citizens registered abroad in consulate, as it was not free of charge. Now, registration is free, and it is possible to register online with the consulate. The need to be registered at the consulate to obtain the renewal of the passport could also be an incentive.*

### **Population census**

140. The last Population census of 2004 provided information on migration through three questions: place of birth, place of previous residence, and date of arrival in the current place of residence.

141. In addition, the census included information on temporarily absent household members. However, there was no maximum time limit for temporary absence of persons. As a consequence, persons who lived abroad for more than 12 months (and should not be considered as part of the usual resident population of Moldova according to the UN recommendations) could be still considered as temporarily absent and counted among household members. However, it did not include persons who live abroad, even for short time, but who did not have any household members in Moldova.

3. The following tables were produced and are available on the NBS website:

- Population by place of birth and main nationalities, in territorial aspect
- Temporarily absent population, went abroad, by sex, reason and duration of absence, in territorial aspect
- Temporarily absent population, went abroad, by age group, in territorial aspect
- International migrants by country of previous residence and duration of permanent residence in the Republic of Moldova, by sex and area
- Population by duration of permanent residence, by age group, sex and area
- Population by duration of permanent residence, by sex and area, in territorial aspect
- Population by duration of permanent residence, main nationalities and area, in territorial aspect
- Population by place of birth and main nationalities, by sex and area, in territorial aspect
- International migrants by country of previous residence and duration of permanent residence in the Republic of Moldova, by sex and area
- Internal migration of the population during the past two years prior to the census, by previous place of residence, in territorial aspect
- Temporarily absent population, went abroad, by sex, age group and area
- Temporarily absent population, went abroad, by sex and age group, in territorial aspect
- Population aged 15 years and over, temporarily absent, went abroad, by marital status, sex, age group and area

- Temporarily absent population, went abroad, by country of the current location and duration of absence, by sex and area
- Temporarily absent population, went abroad, by country of the current location and duration of absence, in territorial aspect
- Temporarily absent population, went abroad, by country of the current location and reason for absence, by sex and area
- Temporarily absent population, went abroad, by country of the current location and reason for absence, in territorial aspect
- Temporarily absent population, went abroad, by educational attainment, sex and age group

#### ASSESSMENT

*The information provided by the Population Census 2004 on international and internal migration is quite comprehensive and complies with the EU requirements.*

*However, the census does not provide totally reliable information on international migration due to its limitations in the population covered (persons living abroad more than 12 months counted in the population and lack of coverage of the Transnistria region)..*

#### **Households surveys**

142. A special module on international migration was included within the Labour Force Survey (LFS) in 2008<sup>39</sup> to provide an estimate of the number of emigrants abroad and their characteristics. The purpose of the survey was to obtain additional characteristics concerning persons who left abroad for work or in search of work, such as: the reason of leaving, ways to emigrate for labour, emigration costs, ways to look for a job and work conditions, status of residence in the destination country, occupation and economic activity of the job, work relations, problems they faced, where did they go to solve the problems, etc. The sample of the survey was formed of a) the basic LFS sample for the 2nd quarter of 2008 and b) the sample of LFS households, which in 2007 had at least one member who was abroad for work or looking for a job. In total, 12430 households took part in the survey. Data was collected from 5730 persons who “at the moment of the interview or during the last 12 months prior to the interview, were abroad, for work or looking for a job”. Two questionnaires were used:

- a. - Questionnaire for “absent migrants” – persons who were absent in the household at the moment of the interview because living abroad for work or looking for a job. The information was provided by other present members of the household during the interview; and
- b. - Questionnaire for “returned migrants” – persons who at the moment of the interview were in the household and who stated that during the last 12 months prior to the interview they were abroad for work or looking for a job.

143. Michel Poulain, in his report on the assessment of migration statistics in the Republic of Moldova" (Poulain et alii., 2011), notes that "however, only persons who have some household members in Moldova can be covered by the survey. Also, even if the duration of absence is

<sup>39</sup> [http://www.statistica.md/public/files/publicatii\\_electronice/migratia/Migratia\\_FM\\_en.pdf](http://www.statistica.md/public/files/publicatii_electronice/migratia/Migratia_FM_en.pdf)

included, it cannot be used effectively for estimating the annual emigration flow: the number of persons abroad for more than one year will include all persons ever emigrated still living abroad while persons living abroad for less than one year will include also short-term migrants who will return within 12 months". A review of the corresponding publication confirms this assessment. In addition, no precise information on the weighing method is given, so it is not possible to evaluate the relevance of the figure published of 318 300 persons living abroad for work during the last 12 months. Some characteristics in percentage, such as the country of emigration or the reasons for leaving are more robust and provide valuable information on the migration pattern in Moldova. However, it is important to consider only the characteristics that are not subject to bias due to the sample design. Marital status of emigrant is an example: married persons are more likely to emigrate with their family than single persons. In this case, they cannot be covered by the survey as no member of the household is present in Moldova to answer.

144. The Household Budget Survey (HBS) can provide limited information on remittances, but only as a part of total income for all households. There is no information on the total number of households who receive remittances or on the socio-economic composition of these households.

145. M. Poulain (*op. cit.*) reports that estimations on total number of absent household members given by the LFS and the HBS are different. According to HBS the number of such persons is about one third smaller, probably because the HBS sample did not include a stratum of household with a migrant member.

146. In general, household sample surveys cannot satisfactorily cover foreign immigrants. Due to their small number in the population, the results of these surveys can not be statistically significant for the foreign population. Immigrants may also reside in specific places and not completely evenly on the territory, for example more in Chisinau than in rural areas. Then, the sample design may not be able to correctly represent this population.

#### ASSESSMENT

*Household surveys can barely provide reliable absolute figures on international migration essentially due to the sample size and design. However, some characteristics can be analysed using household surveys as long as they are not biased by the sample design. In that regard, it is recommended to the NBS to follow the work of the Suitland Working Group on Improving Migration and Migrant Data Using Household Surveys and Other Sources<sup>40</sup>.*

### ***The Integrated Automated Information System SIIAMA***

147. The project of Integrated Automated Information System "Migration and Asylum" (SIIAMA)<sup>41</sup> is being developed by the Bureau of Migration and Asylum of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. The project aims at developing an information system to integrate different databases or information systems for the purpose of state policy on migration and asylum, and in particular to ensure the monitoring of the migration flows, as well as the control the foreigners'

<sup>40</sup> See the Suitland Working Group website: [www.unece.org/stats/groups/suitland/suitland.html](http://www.unece.org/stats/groups/suitland/suitland.html)

<sup>41</sup> Government Decision no. 1401, as of 13.12.2007,  
<http://lex.justice.md/index.php?action=view&view=doc&lang=1&id=326412>

and stateless persons' stay regime on the territory of the country. SIIAMA is planned to include sources of information:

1. A subsystem 'Migration and Asylum' managed by Bureau of Migration and Asylum under the Ministry of Internal Affairs and including 5 databases: Immigration, Asylum, Repatriation, Invitations, and Contraventions,
  2. The State Register of Population,
  3. The State Register of Legal Units,
  4. Integrated information system of law enforcement (Ministry of Justice),
  5. Civil Registry Offices
  6. Integrated medical information system (Ministry of Health)
  7. Educational information system (Ministry of Education)
  8. Information System of Labour Market (National Employment Agency of the Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family)
  9. Integrated Information System of Border Guard Service (SIISG)
  10. Integrated information system of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration (MFAEI Consular Registry)
  11. Integrated customs information system ASYCUDA (Custom Service of the Ministry of Finance)
148. SE "SIRC "Registru" is in charge of providing users with on-line access to individual information on persons and producing a set of 24 statistical tables. The templates of these statistical tables have been elaborated in common agreement with the NBS and each line-ministry involved.

#### **ASSESSMENT**

*The Integrated Automated Information System "Migration and Asylum" project is very promising as it brings together producers of information, specialists of migration and statisticians. Lot of administrative information is potentially available and could be used to produce statistics in conformity with the international standards. It is highly recommended that the NBS be actively part of this project, bringing its statistical expertise.*

*However, it is still far from being fully operational. In addition, as administrative individual information is continuously updated, sometimes with delay, the statistical tables extracted on a fixed period of time may differ according to the time they are extracted. A usual solution is to extract at an appropriate fixed time a complete copy of the content of the database and to 'freeze' it so that all statistical tables will be produced on the same basis for answering all data requests on a consistent way. A complement to this solution could be to produce a first set of early estimates and a set of definitive data.*

*Administrative data contained in the system are subject to the limitations already mentioned (coverage, lack of statistical controls). However, this initiative is promising as administrative practice can improve over time as the consequence of the use of the*

*information and the detection of flaws. Moldova could benefit from the experience of some EU countries, such as Portugal<sup>42</sup>, in building a statistical system in collaboration with immigration administration.*

## Compliance with the international definitions

149. It was already mentioned that the new law on the regime of foreigners does not include the definitions related to migrants. The comparison of the current definitions with the definitions of the EU<sup>43</sup> ones is as follow:

EU definition (EU Regulation (EC) No 862/2007)	Definitions used in Moldova
<p><b>Usual residence:</b>  <i>"usual residence means the place at which a person normally spends the daily period of rest, regardless of temporary absences for purposes of recreation, holiday, visits to friends and relatives, business, medical treatment or religious pilgrimage or, in default, the place of legal or registered residence;"</i></p> <p>This definition has been completed by the regulation No 763/2008 on Population and Housing Censuses as follow:  <i>" The following persons alone shall be considered to be usual residents of the geographical area in question:</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;"><i>(i) those who have lived in their place of usual residence for a continuous period of at least 12 months before the reference date; or</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;"><i>(ii) those who arrived in their place of usual residence during the 12 months before the reference date with the intention of staying there for at least one year.</i></p> <p><i>Where the circumstances described in point (i) or (ii) cannot be established, 'usual</i></p>	<p><b>Census 2004:</b>  <i>Resident population: number of persons, permanently resident on the given territory, including the persons temporarily absent.</i></p> <p><i>Persons who were temporary absent but still having permanent residence in Moldova were enumerated according to information given by household members that have some impact on the quality of data on these persons.</i></p> <p><b>Population Register:</b>  <i>Resident is a person registered with a permanent address in the country.</i></p>

42 For example, see "Migration Statistics Mainstreaming - Conciliating policy makers and statistical needs on immigration - the Portuguese experience" Note presented by Statistics Portugal at the Joint UNECE/Eurostat Work Session on Migration Statistics. 14-16 April 2010. Geneva. Available online at: <http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/stats/documents/ece/ces/ge.10/2010/wp.17.e.pdf>

43 EU regulation on Community statistics on migration and international protection and repealing Council Regulation (op. cit.)



*residence' shall mean the place of legal or registered residence;"*

**Immigration/Immigrant**

*"Immigration" means the action by which a person establishes his or her usual residence in the territory of a Member State for a period that is, or is expected to be, of at least 12 months, having previously been usually resident in another Member State or a third country.*

*"Immigrant" means a person undertaking an immigration*

**Emigration/Emigrant**

*"Emigration" means the action by which a person, having previously been usually resident in the territory of a Member State, ceases to have his or her usual residence in that Member State for a period that is, or is expected to be, of at least 12 months.*

*"Emigrant" means a person undertaking an emigration*

**Immigrant** (Law on migration 1518-XV, 06.12.2002) :

*Foreign citizen or person without citizenship who obtains the right for permanent or temporary residence in the Republic of Moldova.*

**Repatriation** (2010 Law on regime of Foreigners):

*Voluntary return of persons born in the RM and their descendants to the homeland according to law.*

**Repatriate** (*ibid.*)- *Moldovan national and / or the person who was born in Moldova and his/her followers, and the person who previously lived continuously in the country for at least 10 years and has the right to settle down permanently in the Republic of Moldova under the law.*

**Emigrant** (Law on migration 1518-XV, 06.12.2002) :

*Citizen of the Republic of Moldova who leaves abroad for permanent or temporary residence on the territory of another country.*

**ASSESSMENT**

*As shown in the table above, definitions used in Moldova are not in full compliance with the international and EU definitions:*

- only foreigners are considered as immigrants, whereas citizens of Moldova ?? who have lived abroad during more than one year and coming back to the country are considered as immigrants according the international definitions. The concept of repatriates can not be considered as the remaining part of immigrants as it considers only persons born in RM (and not citizens) and it does not give a duration of intended stay.*

- similarly, only citizen of Moldova can be considered as emigrants.*

*- internal migrations, ie change of residence are not measured according to the international definition of at least 12 month.*

*Therefore, Republic of Moldova should revise its legislation and practices to comply with international definition related to migration, including the 12 months criteria.*

## Data Processing

150. Regarding administrative data, the workflow is linked to the different administrative procedures.

151. Under the contract on the mutual exchange of information National Bureau of Statistics obtains from SE Registry in the form of tables of information on movement population both within the country as well as abroad, with some characteristics of migrants: gender, age, marital status, level of education.

152. Ministry of Interior took over the functions related to the invitations, managing the flow of input Foreigners in the Republic of Moldova, the issuing and renewal of visas and the status of repatriated immigrant, the functions relating to asylum and refugees. Quarterly NBS receives appropriate information in the form of tables.

153. No detailed information was provided to the mission on the administrative procedures within the ministries of internal affairs.

154. There is no complete documentation and metadata available on the processes and the quality assurance mechanisms included. The only information available on the NBS website is that under the contract on the mutual exchange of information National Bureau of Statistics obtained from SE Registry "in the form of tables of information MITC stipulated in the bilateral agreement on movement population both within the country as well as abroad, with some characteristics of migrants: gender, age, marital status, education level. Ministry of Interior took over the functions related to the invitations, managing the flow of Foreigners in the Republic of Moldova, the issuing and renewal of visas and the status of repatriated immigrant, the functions relating to asylum and refugees. In terms of timeliness, these tables are sent to the NBS quarterly, and posted on the NBS website.

## Dissemination and Analysis

### Compliance with the EU recommended tabulations

155. According to the regulation (EC) No 862/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 July 2007 on Community statistics on migration and international protection, Member States of the EU are required to provide a set of statistics on international migration. Even if the current partnership framework between Moldova and the EU does not request Moldova to supply international migration statistics according to EU Regulation, it would be useful to follow the principles of this regulation to ensure comparability with other European countries and to provide relevant data for migration policy.

156. The following table compares the availability of data in Moldova to the collection of statistics requested in the regulation:

Statistics requested according to the EU regulation	Corresponding Statistics available in Moldova
<b>Art. 3: Statistics on international migration, usually resident population and acquisition of citizenship</b>	
<p>Number of immigrants moving to the territory of the country:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• by citizenship, age and sex;</li> <li>• by country of birth, age and sex;</li> <li>• by country of previous usual residence, age and sex;</li> <li>• by country of birth and citizenship</li> </ul>	<p>Number of immigrants moving to the territory of the country – source NBS website:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• citizenship not crossed with age and sex</li> <li>• immigrants by age and sex</li> <li>• country of birth not available</li> <li>• country of immigration not crossed with age and sex</li> <li>• repatriates by countries (by sex and separately data for total number of children and retired persons).</li> </ul>
<p>Number of emigrants moving from the country:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• by citizenship, age and sex;</li> <li>• by country of birth, age and sex;</li> <li>• by country of countries of next usual residence, age and sex;</li> <li>• by country of birth and citizenship</li> </ul>	<p>Number of emigrants moving from the country – source NBS website:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emigrants (only citizen of Moldova) by country of destination, sex and age</li> </ul>
<p>Number of persons having their usual residence in the country at the end of the reference period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• by citizenship by age and sex;</li> <li>• by country of birth by age and sex;</li> <li>• by country of birth and citizenship</li> </ul>	<p>Number of persons having their usual residence in the country at the end of the reference period:</p> <p>- source NBS website:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resident population by sex and age only</li> </ul> <p>- source State Register of Population:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total resident population by sex and age.</li> <li>• Total resident population by citizenship.</li> </ul>
<p>Number of persons having their usual residence in the country having acquired national citizenship during the reference year and having formerly held the citizenship of another country or having formerly been stateless, disaggregated by age and sex, and by the former citizenship.</p>	<p>Number of persons having their usual residence in the country having acquired national citizenship during the reference year and having formerly held the citizenship of another country or having formerly been stateless:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No data available yet</li> </ul>
<b>Art. 4: Statistics on international protection</b>	

- Monthly number of persons having submitted an application for international protection or having been included in such an application as a family member during the reference period by age and sex, and by the citizenship of the persons concerned
- Monthly number of persons who are the subject of applications for international protection under consideration by the responsible national authority at the end of the reference period by age and sex, and by the citizenship of the persons concerned
- Monthly number of applications for international protection having been withdrawn during the reference period, by age and sex, and by the citizenship of the persons concerned.

...

***Art. 5: Statistics on the prevention of illegal entry and stay***

- Annual number of foreign citizens (third-country nationals) refused entry to the country's (Member State's) territory at the external border by grounds for refusal, the nationality (citizenship) of the persons refused and the type of border (land, air or sea) at which they were refused entry.
- Annual number of foreign citizens (third-country nationals) found to be illegally present in the country's (Member State's) territory under national laws relating to immigration by age and sex, and by citizenship of the persons concerned

***Art. 6: Statistics on residence permits and residence of third-country nationals***

- Annual number of residence permits issued to persons who are third-country nationals, disaggregated as follows:
  - (i) permits issued during the reference period whereby the person is being granted permission to reside for the first time, disaggregated by citizenship, by the reason for

Some data published on asylum seekers on the website of the Bureau of Migration and Asylum, but apparently not with fixed periodicity.

Some data (violation of stay) available on the Bureau of Migration and Asylum website, but apparently with no fixed periodicity. The following tables are expected from the Bureau of Migration and Asylum as SIAMA reports: Table 4.3. Statistical data regarding the number of expulsion decisions issued by the courts regarding foreigners and stateless persons. Table 4.4. Statistical data regarding the number of decision to reduce the period of stay, issued by the police bodies in regards to foreigners and stateless persons. Table 4.5. Statistical data regarding the number of violations of the stay rules committed by foreigners and stateless persons on the territory of the RM.

Annual number of residence permits issued to persons who are third-country nationals and Annual number of long-term residents at the end of the reference period:  
Some data (Permits for staying/living, Visas and invitations) available on the Bureau of Migration and Asylum website, but apparently

the permit being issued and by the length of validity of the permit;

(ii) permits issued during the reference period and granted on the occasion of a person changing immigration status or reason for stay, disaggregated by citizenship, by the reason for the permit being issued and by the length of validity of the permit;

(iii) valid permits at the end of the reference period (number of permits issued, not withdrawn and not expired), disaggregated by citizenship, by the reason for the issue of the permit and by the length of validity of the permit;

- Annual number of long-term residents at the end of the reference period, disaggregated by citizenship.

with no fixed periodicity. Indicator conditionally feasible in the SIIAMA.

#### ***Art. 7: Statistics on returns***

- Annual number of third-country nationals found to be illegally present in the territory of the Member State who are subject to an administrative or judicial decision or act stating or declaring that their stay is illegal and imposing an obligation to leave the territory of the country, disaggregated by citizenship of the persons concerned;

- Annual number of third-country nationals who have in fact left the territory of the Member State, following an administrative or judicial decision or act, as referred to in point (a), disaggregated by the citizenship of the persons returned.

Some data available on the Bureau of Migration and Asylum website, but apparently with no fixed periodicity. The following tables are expected from the Bureau of Migration and Asylum as SIIAMA reports:

Table 4.3. Statistical data regarding the number of expulsion decisions issued by the courts regarding foreigners and stateless persons.

Table 4.5. Statistical data regarding the number of violations of the stay rules committed by foreigners and stateless persons on the territory of the RM.

#### **ASSESSMENT**

*The compliance with EU regulation on international migration is quite weak, both due to differences in the concepts and definitions and due to lack of published data. This situation is not unusual as many countries face difficulties to measure accurately and completely international migration. Nevertheless, Moldova should revise the concepts and definitions used in order to align them to international standards. This would allow producing statistics in conformity with the EU regulation on statistics on international migration.*

*The Integrated Automated Information System "Migration and Asylum" and the Migration Profile project are key in the elaboration of harmonized statistics on international migration. They represent an excellent initiative that will certainly help to harmonize and*

*make available data that are only potential. But at present little is really available and following the EU standards, in terms of definitions and periodicity. Therefore, they should be fostered and the NBS bringing its statistical expertise in order to produce statistics in compliance with the EU standards, in terms of concepts, definitions, indicators and periodicity.*

## Dissemination

157. NBS disseminates tables received from the BMA on its website as is, without performing any control or editing on the data, as no individual data is available. The following tables are posted on the web:

- Immigrants by country of origin ("destination" on the website) and purpose of arrival (*work, studies, family immigration*), yearly since 1993
- Immigrants by nationality and purpose of arrival, yearly since 1993
- Emigrants by country of destination, sex and age group, yearly since 2001
- Repatriates by category (Children, Pensioners) and sex, yearly since 1994
- Repatriates by nationality and country of destination, yearly since 2007

158. The SE "SIRC Regstru" disseminates on its website extracts of the State Population register for the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month:

- Statistics on physical persons residing on the territory of the Republic of Moldova in the territorial and administrative division
- Statistics on physical persons residing on the territory of the Republic of Moldova in the division of age groups
- Statistics on physical persons residing on the territory of the Republic of Moldova in the division of citizenship
- Statistics on the Republic of Moldova citizens who went abroad for permanent residence.

159. The Bureau of Migration and Asylum disseminates on its website information with apparently no fixed periodicity:

1. Number of decisions granting the right of residence for foreigners compared to the same period last year (seven months), by cause (family reunification, to work, to study, humanitarian activities, independently, other cases).
2. Number of repatriated to Moldova compared to the same period last year (8 months).
3. Number of extensions of stay (period covered?)
4. VISA and invitations:
  - Number of examined inviting applications for foreigners, compared to the same period last year (8 months);
  - Number of prepared invitations compared to the previous year (eight months).
  - Number of rejected application for guests compared to the previous year (8 months).

- Number of withdrawn applications.
  - Number of examined visas compared to the same period of precedent, (8 months);
  - Number of long term visas compared to the previous year (8 months).
5. Asylum system
- Number of people registered compared to the previous year (8 months).
  - with refugee status compared to the previous year (8 months).
  - beneficiaries of humanitarian protection compared the same period last year (8 months 2010-63).
  - Number of asylum seekers compared to the same period last year (8 months).
6. Violations of staying:
- Number of recorded and documented violations compared to the same period last year (8 months).
  - Number of cases of violation by foreign citizens or stateless rules to stay in Moldova ;
  - Number of cases of job placement for foreign citizens or stateless persons who are temporarily in the Republic of Moldova without a residence permit for work issued in accordance with the legislation;
  - Number of cases of work activity by foreign citizens or stateless persons who are temporarily in the Republic of Moldova, without authorization of admission to employment issued as required by law .
  - Number of cases of other articles on foreigners registered.
  - Criminal cases registered:
    - Art. 326 par. 2 Criminal Code (trafficking in influence) – number of criminal cases;
    - Art. 361 al. A Criminal Code (manufacture, possession, sale or use of official documents, the prints, stamps or seals false) – number of criminal cases;
    - Art. 362 par. A Criminal Code (trafficking in influence) – number of criminal cases;
    - Art. 207 par. A Criminal Code (illegal removal of children in the country) – number of criminal cases;
    - Art. 325 par. A criminal Code (active bribery) – number of criminal cases.
  - Issued decisions on expulsion of foreign nationals compared to the same period last year (8 months).
  - Issued decisions to revoke the right of residence in the Republic of Moldova.
  - Number of placements of foreigners by the Center for Temporary Placement.
  - Based on the Agreement between Moldova and the EU on readmission of illegal residents, number of considered requests for readmission, readmission in the EU of Moldovan citizens.

160. At the beginning of 2010, a project of "Migration Profile" was launched under the auspices of International Office for Migration (IOM) based on the template developed by EU and implanted in more than 50 countries. The process includes thorough assessment of data, object of

the report of IOM aforementioned. As the Extended Migration Profile exercise requires extensive capacity-building and government support, it was established a Technical Working Group (TWG) with representatives of the ministries and public institutions involved in migration issues or data collection, as well as international agencies. The group is now finalising the template of the report. A very detailed set of tables, based on the IOM template, was prepared.

This templates includes tables on:

1. Population and development
  - 1.1. General demographic indicators
2. National population and indicators relevant to migration
  - 2.1. Emigration
  - 2.2. Temporary emigration
  - 2.3. Moldovan citizen living abroad
  - 2.4. Repatriation
  - 2.5. Moldovan citizen victims of human trafficking
3. Population with foreign background
  - 3.1. Immigration of foreigners
  - 3.2. Stock of population with foreign background
  - 3.3. Demographic composition of the population of foreign origin
  - 3.4. Regulated migration
  - 3.5. Population of foreigners in working age
  - 3.6. Foreigners in labour force
  - 3.7. Asylum and statelessness
  - 3.8. Irregular immigration

161. Data collection has started with the aim of having the first report by the end of the year. The institution in charge of coordinating the report is not yet decided. This point has to be discussed in the next meeting of the working group and by the National Commission on Population Development, which will have authority to decide. NBS is a potential candidate but maybe the Ministry of Labour could take the lead, but its unit for labour migration, that has only one person, would need to be strengthened. Another possibility would be to ask an academic structure, such as the Institute of Economy and Finance.

#### **ASSESSMENT**

*Data disseminated by NBS and other institutions such as the BMA and the SE Regstru is basically administrative raw data not following strict standard of statistical data dissemination:*

- *no statistical processing is applied (consistency controls, edits)*
- *data do not refer to strict reference date*
- *no detailed metadata is disseminated*

*This should be improved by providing the NBS with individual data to allow performing statistical consistency controls before dissemination. The NBS, which is by law the central statistical body in charge of managing and coordinating the statistical activity, should require such individual data and metadata from the BMA.*

*The Migration Profile is a promising and ambitious project. By gathering producers and putting data together in a single document, it will help to identify data inconsistencies and*



*improve the sources. However, it seems a bit unrealistic to engage the production of such a big amount of indicators without having cleared first the issues of concepts, definitions, and statistical processing of the data by competent institutions.*

## Analysis

162. Some analytical publications were issued on international migration. The results of the 2008 LFS module on migration were published in "Migration- Employment" by the NBS. It describes the profile of Moldovan emigrants by country, by reason for migration, occupation status, etc.

163. IMO Moldova also released a series of publications on migration, such as "Countering Trafficking In Moldova, 2009", or "Labour Migration and Remittances in Moldova: Is the Boom Over? (2009)"<sup>44</sup>, which analyses the trends and preliminary findings from the IOM - CBSAXA Panel Household Survey 2006 - 2008. Another publication, "The Socio-Economic Impact of the Economic Crisis on Migration and Remittances in the Republic of Moldova. Early Findings - Spring 2009"<sup>45</sup>, analyses the perception of the migration phenomenon by the Moldovan population.

164. More recently, the publication "Specific Needs of Children and Elderly Left Behind as a Consequence of Labour Migration"<sup>46</sup>, published by IOM and the Minister of Labour and Social Protection analyses the impact of migration on the vulnerable population of children and elderly.

### ASSESSMENT

*A significant number of publications are published by IOM and NBS, in partnership with the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection. This shows the importance of migration issues for policy-making in Moldova. This emphasizes even more the need to improve migration statistics to provide reliable and internationally comparable data.*

## Gender perspective

165. International and internal migration affects differently men and women. Various patterns are observed among the countries, and inside a country. Therefore, it is crucial that systematic breakdown by sex is published to allow gender analysis of migration. The reference guide elaborated by NBS for users of statistics contains a chapter on gender analysis including considerations on migration and the gender impact of policies.

### ASSESSMENT

*The tables of data disseminated by the BMA through their website or publications do not contain systematic breakdown by sex. Every table should be released with such breakdown.*

<sup>44</sup> [http://iom.md/attachments/110\\_2009\\_05\\_05\\_remmit\\_boom\\_over\\_eng.pdf](http://iom.md/attachments/110_2009_05_05_remmit_boom_over_eng.pdf)

<sup>45</sup> [http://iom.md/attachments/110\\_2009\\_06\\_02\\_socio\\_economic\\_impact\\_eng.pdf](http://iom.md/attachments/110_2009_06_02_socio_economic_impact_eng.pdf)

<sup>46</sup> [http://iom.md/attachments/110\\_necedit\\_cop\\_virst\\_ro.pdf](http://iom.md/attachments/110_necedit_cop_virst_ro.pdf)

*Gender analysis of migration should be developed, for example on the migration patterns in the country.*

## **Population Census**

166. The last Population census was conducted in 2004 and was prepared and carried out on the basis of a government decision. The census was monitored by a group of expert of Eurostat. Their report<sup>47</sup> is available in English. The main conclusion of the Expert Group was that the general quality of the 2004 census data in demographic terms could and should be considered satisfactory or reasonably good. In addition, the experts formulated the following recommendations that should be considered when planning future censuses in the country:

- "a post-enumeration survey ought to be conducted immediately after the census enumeration. This will give estimates of the coverage and overall quality of the census;
- a unique identifier should be considered for use in the data collection stage of the census. Cross-checking by means of unique identifiers would be useful for identifying cases of double counting of persons;
- questions on language and nationality/ethnic origin should more closely follow the new set of UNECE and Eurostat recommendations for the 2010 round of censuses in the ECE region. These recommendations should also be followed with respect to the exclusion from the usually resident population of persons who have been living abroad for more than 12 months;
- the statistical office should develop a more multi-faceted publicity and media campaign for its future censuses;
- the Expert Group recommended to the Council of Europe and other relevant institutions the setting up and establishment of expert groups for international monitoring missions at an earlier stage of the process."

167. The Eastern region of the country was included in preparation but the population refused to participate So the census covered Moldova without Transnistria.

168. The international definition of usual residence was used in the census. People living abroad were counted but the questionnaire included a question on the duration of stay abroad, in order to determine if they were part of the resident population (stay abroad less than 12 months) or not. However, decision was taken at high level (by President of the national committee for population census) to include both usual resident and persons living abroad whatever the duration of stay in the population. For the next census, decision regarding this issue is not taken yet. The questions will be discussed at the level of the National Census Commission

169. The next population and housing census is planned for 2013. The team in charge of the preparation is not yet constituted; only one person is involved so far. The team will be set up once the law is adopted and when other members of the Census Division will be free from the agriculture census, which has been conducted in April 2011. The Division considers possible to

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<sup>47</sup> Final report of the International Expert Group on the Monitoring of the 2004 Population and Housing Census, plus addendum to report, International Census Observation Mission in the Republic of Moldova, 21 November 2006

carry out the census in 2013 if the law is adopted in October. No specific preparation was undertaken up to the present assessment apart of the law drafting.

**ASSESSMENT**

*The NBS did not start the preparation of the next census planned for 2013. Only a draft law was submitted to the government. It seems quite unrealistic to be ready to conduct a census in 2013 in compliance with the EU standard of quality. It is urgent that NBS appoints a census manager and a team to start the preparation of the next census. The date of the census should be chosen after careful planning. Census is a costly operation and it is always better to postpone it rather than to conduct an unprepared operation that would provide inaccurate results.*

**Legal basis**

170. At present, a draft law has been prepared by NBS and sent to the government for approval before adoption by the parliament.

171. Categories of the population included in the text are:

- Individuals with habitual residence in the Republic of Moldova;
- Persons who are temporarily absent from work and study abroad;
- Staff of diplomatic missions and consular offices of the Republic of Moldova;
- Individuals who have temporary residence in the Republic of Moldova.

172. The precise definition of the usual residence, with reference to a 12 months period, is not in the draft law, neither the definition of "person temporarily absent abroad". It will be defined in the methodological guidelines afterwards.

173. According to the draft law, the census would be conducted from 1 to 14 April 2013, and a pilot census in April 2012.

**ASSESSMENT**

*The draft law does not provide a definition of the population in accordance with the international recommendations and EU standards. Considering the experience of the past census of 2004, for which it was finally decided to include in the population persons living abroad more than 12 months, in contraction with the EU definition, this presents the risk that similar decision will be taken afterwards.*

*The inclusion in the draft law of the date of the pilot census and census enumeration is risky. It is recommended by the United Nations<sup>48</sup> to conduct a pilot census one year before the census to thoroughly test the entire system and make the necessary adjustments. If the law is not voted soon, it may not be possible to prepare and conduct a pilot census and later the census itself in such short period of time.*

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<sup>48</sup> United Nations Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, rev. 2. Para. 1.195, page 46.

## Methodology

### Principles of methodology

174. The methodology of the census is the traditional one, based on the canvassing of the territory by enumerators, interviewing every household in their area of responsibility.

#### ASSESSMENT

*The methodology used is the classical one, based on the partition of the country in enumeration areas and the canvassing of the enumeration areas by enumerators, going door to door to interview households.*

### Compliance with the EU recommended topics

175. The legal basis for population and housing census in the EU is the following:
- Regulation (EC) No 763/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 July 2008 on population and housing censuses, OJ L 218, 13.8.2008, p. 14
  - Commission Regulation (EC) No 1201/2009 of 30 November 2009 implementing Regulation (EC) No 763/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council on population and housing censuses as regards the technical specifications of the topics and of their breakdowns, OJ L 329, 15.12.2009, p. 29
  - Commission Regulation (EU) No 519/2010 of 16 June 2010 adopting the programme of the statistical data and of the metadata for population and housing censuses provided for by Regulation (EC) No 763/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council. (1) OJ L 151, 17.6.2010, p. 1–13
  - Commission Regulation (EU) No 1151/2010 of 8 December 2010 implementing Regulation (EC) No 763/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council on population and housing censuses, as regards the modalities and structure of the quality reports and the technical format for data transmission.
176. The next census of the Republic of Moldova will include a census of dwellings for the first time. In 2004, only living conditions were included. The list of topics is provided by the draft law mentioned above as follows:
1. Individuals
    - situation at the time of the census (present or temporarily absent);
    - relationship to the head of household;
    - sex;
    - date of birth;
    - place of birth;
    - permanent residence in the town during the census (if not living in the moment of birth, name of town or the country where he arrived);
    - about persons with temporary residence in the Republic of Moldova, who live permanently outside the Republic of Moldova, to collect data regarding country of origin, country of permanent domicile, purpose and duration of stay in Moldova.

- citizenship (state name / Member of the nationality of the respondent, including dual nationality);
- ethnicity (no obligation to answer);
- language;
- religion (no obligation to answer);
- level of education;
- marital status;
- number of children born alive;
- current activity status (occupied, unemployed, student, retired, housewife, other status);
- economic activity;
- occupation (title, profession exercised effectively in the workplace);
- professional status (employee, employer, self-employed, family workers, other status);

2. dwelling, household

- type of dwelling;
- housing status (permanent, second / holiday home);
- employment situation dwelling (occupied, unoccupied);
- ownership of the dwelling;
- living rooms (number and size);
- equipment;
- Internet access in the home;
- type of building (house individual house lined / attached, apartment buildings, collective space for living);
- year of construction building that is home.

177. The comparison with the topics required by the EU regulation on population and housing censuses is as follows:

Topics provided by the EU regulation	Draft census law Moldova
<b>Individuals</b>	
Place of usual residence	☐
Place of work	?
Locality	☐
Sex	☐
Age	☐
Legal marital status	☐
Current activity status	☐
Occupation	☐
Industry	☐
Status in employment	☐

Topics provided by the EU regulation	Draft census law Moldova
Educational attainment	Educational level
Place of birth	☐
Citizenship	☐
Ever resided abroad and year of arrival in the country	?
Previous place of usual residence and date of arrival in the current place; or place of usual residence one year prior to the census	?
Household status	☐
Family status	?
Type of family nucleus	?
Size of family nucleus	?
<b>Households/dwellings</b>	
Type of private household	☐
Size of private household	☐
Tenure status of household	☐
Housing arrangements	☐
Type of living quarters	☐
Occupancy status of conventional dwellings	☐
Type of ownership	☐
Number of occupants	☐
Useful floor space and/or Number of rooms of housing units	☐
Water supply system	?
Toilet facilities	?
Bathing facilities	?
Type of heating	?
Type of dwelling	☐
Period of construction	☐

**ASSESSMENT**

*It is not possible to state completely on the compliance of the next Population and Housing Census with the topics recommended by Eurostat in absence of questionnaire and enumeration instructions.*

*In terms of individual topics, the EU recommended topics not mentioned in the draft law are: Place of work, Ever resided abroad and year of arrival in the country (from 1980), Previous place of usual residence and date of arrival in the current place; or Place of usual residence one year prior to the census.*

*In terms of housing units and household topics envisaged for the 2014 Census, the EU recommended topics not explicitly mentioned in the draft law are: Water supply system,*

*Toilet facilities, Bathing facilities, Type of heating. Nevertheless, these topics may be included in "Equipment".*

*It is recommended to determine as soon as possible the list of topics to be included in the next Population and Housing Census in accordance with the EU recommended topics, in terms of definitions and classifications used.*

## Questionnaire

178. No draft questionnaire has been yet prepared by the NBS for the next Population and Housing Census. No users' consultations were made in preparation to the list of topics covered by the census. For example, the Demography Sector of the Academy of Science has not been yet consulted about the preparation of the next census. For the previous census, the Academy was asked to provide comments on the questionnaire, but not on the methodology.

### ASSESSMENT

*Consultation with users and representatives of social groups is an indispensable step in the preparations for the population and housing census that should be taken early in order to take into account users' needs of information.*

*Consultations of the users should be conducted as soon as possible, and the questionnaire drafted by the NBS and tested. This is an essential element of the preparation, with implications on the enumeration instructions, training materials, as well as data capture and processing preparation.*

## Cartography

179. All the cartographic material (maps) from census 2004 was lost. Therefore, a complete cartographic operation, including delineation of enumeration areas (EA) will have to be carried out. This phase has not yet been initiated.

180. There is a proposal inside NBS to initiate the development of a Geographic Information System (GIS) to build the cartography for the census or at least to support the dissemination and integration of other geo-localised statistical information.

### ASSESSMENT

*Cartography preparation is a key element of census preparation, but also time consuming. Without precise and accurate maps, enumerators may not be able to identify the borders of their enumeration area, which entails omissions and duplications.*

*NBS should start as soon as possible the cartographic preparation, especially as it will have to be done from scratch, and devote appropriate resources. Careful planning should be made to determine the time needed for this operation. Collaboration with other institutions, such the Cadastre Agency, which may have digital cartography of the country, should be sought.*

*The proposal to build a Geographic Information System in the NBS should be supported. Even if it cannot be concluded for the cartography of the next census, it can provide useful tools for the dissemination of the census and facilitate the cartographic preparation of future censuses of Agriculture or Population.*

## Process of implementation

### Organisation of the census

181. The main body of central public administration, responsible for organizing and conducting the census, the processing of data, the tabulation of results and methodological assurance is the National Bureau of Statistics Census. The organization and conducting of censuses, including the next Population and Housing Census, is usually carried out in Moldova under the leadership of a commission, the Republican Commission for Population and housing census, which coordinates and oversees the smooth running of the whole action. From the previous experience of NBS, the Government will have to approve by March 1, 2012 the following documents: Nominal composition, Regulation of the Commission nominated, Action plan on organizing and conducting the census, processing and publication of results.

182. The Republican Commission of the previous 2004 (approved through Government Decision no.1146 as of 22.09.2003<sup>49</sup>) Census was composed of:

- Chairman - vice-prime-minister
- Vice-chairman - general director of NBS
- Secretary - vice-director of NBS ( or head of Census Division of NBS)
- Members: vice ministers of health, labour and social protection, economy, finance, justice, education, foreign affairs, defense, representative of State Chancellery, heads of Border guard Service, Department of Information technologies, Bureau of Migration, Cadastre, director of Teleradio-Moldova TV company.

183. In 2004, implementation of the census on the field was conducted by NBS raion offices. They compiled lists of buildings, delineated the enumeration areas, and organised the enumeration. At raion level, a census committee was established to monitor and help local authorities to organise the census and ensure cooperation with other services such as police or cadastre. Among the lessons learned from the previous census 2004 was the need to have a stronger collaboration with the local public administration who play a significant role in the data collection because they help to recruit census staff/interviewers and give them instructions.

184. Each NBS raion office hired a temporary responsible for the census to organise and supervise the operations, with higher education in economic studies, and experience in statistics. At the next level, a chief of census district (“circumscripție”, sub-raion level comprising around 40 to 50 EAs) was appointed. Each district was divided in around 5 sections supervised by an instructor-controller. Then enumerators had to interview around 350 people in urban, 300 in rural areas. The following table summarizes the organization scheme?? of the census in 2004:

Tasks for the temporary hired census personnel:

Census 2004	Urban	Rural
Enumerator	350 pers.	300 pers.

<sup>49</sup> <http://lex.justice.md/index.php?action=view&view=doc&lang=1&id=294109>



Instructor-controller	5 enumerators	4 enumerators
Head of District („circumscripție”)	8-9 instructor-controller	7 instructor-controller

185. For the next census, workload of enumerators will be defined according to number of households.

186. Staff was hired by local NBS offices. Selection was made together with local authorities. Some criteria, such as secondary or high education were applied, as well as the knowledge of the area and communication skills. Priority was given to people in education or health sectors. Local authorities were proposing the candidates, but they were hired by decision of local NBS offices.

**ASSESSMENT**

*The role of the Republican Commission for Population and Housing Census regarding methodology is unclear. For example, will it have to decide what definition of the population will be finally considered? For agricultural census, the Commission formally approved the methodology presented by NBS and all activities were discussed in the Commission, including the content of the questionnaire.*

*NBS should consider the possibility to give the responsibility of the census at regional level to its permanent staff instead of temporary staff. This would ensure a higher level of professionalism in statistical operations, especially because the subordinate levels are inevitably occupied by temporary staff.*

**Training process**

187. For the last Census 2004, NBS Censuses Division trained the heads or other staff of local statistical offices responsible for census by groups of 30 people during one week. Then, the local heads of census trained the instructors-controllers, monitored by staff of the Censuses division of NBS. Enumerators were then trained by controllers monitored by staff of local statistical offices during 3 or 4 days.

**ASSESSMENT**

*Training of the census staff is a key activity of the process of Census organization aimed to ensure the proper appropriation of the methodological and interviewing instructions by the field staff and their correct application during the data collection.*

*3 or 4 days training represents an appropriate duration for training of enumerators. However, the size of the groups of trainees (30) is too large. It is usually recommended to deliver training to groups of 10 to 15 trainees to allow interactivity and better participation.*

**Communication**

188. Communication campaign undertaken during/for the last Population Census 2004, was insufficient and very short. As the last census had been several times postponed, the population was not properly informed of the real moment of the operation.

**ASSESSMENT**

*The communication campaign for the previous census was insufficient and inefficient. As a consequence, the population was not adequately informed and was reluctant to participate.*

*Arranging the communication campaign for any census is one of the important tasks in the census operation. This entails an educational and informing campaign to enlist the interest of the general public and its cooperation. The aims are not only to dissipate any anxiety regarding the purposes of the census but also to explain the reasons for the various questions in the questionnaire and to offer some guidance as to the manner in which these questions should be answered. The publicity campaign may also be an important tool for ensuring the full participation and thus completeness of census coverage, particularly among hard-to-enumerate groups. It is desirable that planning for the general publicity campaign should start as soon as the census is authorized and be developed as an integral part of census planning.*

*The NBS should start as soon as possible the planning of the communication campaign. The elaboration of a communication strategy and action plan is complex and requires specific skills.*

### **Fieldwork protocol**

189. In 2004, each enumerator had a list of dwellings with the number of persons and a map of the enumeration area provided by Cadastre. The lists of dwellings were prepared by NBS office following a special procedure with specific staff hired. Lists were prepared in 2002, updated 6 months before the census. For the next population census, it is planned to use the list provided by the electricity company “Union Fenosa Group”, verify it in the field, as this list is expected to be incomplete, update/complete it and create the lists for census.

190. When enumerators were going to the field, they had to update this list in case they found a new house. Then enumerators had to visit and to interview each and every household following the list.

191. The role of instructors-controllers was to manage the activity of enumerators, daily receive questionnaires, verify, and give feedback. The first days, they had to identify most common errors. In addition, they had to perform control visits on 10% of the dwellings already enumerated, but in practice they had no time to do it.

192. After enumeration and verification, instructors-controllers manually calculated some indicators for preliminary results. These results were presented to the head of district and a brief report was produced at raion level and sent to NBS central office.

#### **ASSESSMENT**

*The fieldwork process was classical and following the usual practice. Nevertheless, it is recommended that **before** enumeration, the enumerators, if possible accompanied by their supervisor, go through the enumeration area to recognise the borders and check the list of housing units to enumerate.*

*The use of dwelling list from administrative sources, such as register or electricity company is a plus for the control, but cannot be substituted to the direct verification on the field.*

## Data processing

193. Special staff was hired to carry out preparation, verification, coding and processing of census data 2004. Optical technology used for data entry, using a software package developed by an Ukrainian company, and used for the census in Ukraine. Scanners were rented. Checkboxes and characters were recognized by the data capture software but not text information. For next census, the Censuses Division would like to use the same technology. The agricultural census conducted in April 2011 was also processed using the same technology.

194. Questionnaires were scanned by raions. Around 500 logical controls were embedded in the scanning process, but only unrecognized characters were verified. Unfortunately, no systematic quality control was performed on recognized character of information.

195. Logical controls were performed and corrections made using the image of the questionnaire. Values missing in the questionnaires were not imputed.

196. Output tables were compared with lists from the Register of Population. The Demographic Statistics Unit was not involved in the validation of 2004 Census data. The census population was 6.2 percent under the count given by the population register. Bigger discrepancies were observed in urban areas.

### ASSESSMENT

*The use of optical data capture through scanning is nowadays well established and provides good results for the processing of census information. The NBS is using this technology for other operations too, such as the Agriculture Census, thus has significant experience in this respect.*

*In depth assessment of the data processing phase for the upcoming population census should be made on the basis of documents describing in detail the process and the quality controls.*

## Census Evaluation

197. The initial results of the census 2004 gave a total of 3.38 million, including persons living abroad for more than 1 year that were not removed from the final population figure. Thorough verification of the data was conducted during almost one year, using in particular the population register. During this evaluation in Chisinau, it was estimated that 70,000 people were not enumerated, based on the comparison with NBS population estimates from the previous census of 1989 and comparison with lists of medical doctors. About 230,000 people were added as not being covered by the census. The final population figure was close to the estimated population based on census 1989, 3.6 million.

### ASSESSMENT

*No statistical estimation of the coverage was made, as the NBS did not carry out a Post Enumeration Survey (PES). According to the EU regulation on Population and Housing Censuses, a quality report should be transmitted, in particular on the accuracy of the census results. Therefore, NBS should plan to conduct a PES for the next census in order to produce a reliable of the census coverage.*

## Lessons learned from the 2004 population and housing census

198. Among the lessons learned from the 2004 population census, closer cooperation with local authorities is recommended. Local authorities (municipalities, community /villages administration) are willing to better play a more active role. The recent agriculture census 2011 is considered as a good experience by NBS in that regard.

199. An objective evaluation of the coverage of the census is needed. NBS intends to carry out a PES, if financial and human resources are available. NBS will need technical assistance on the methodology.

200. The obligation to respond to the census and related fee should be provided by the law.

201. There is discussion about the inclusion of the ID number of individuals (contained in the Register of Population). The Censuses Division is against, as it might create a risk of non acceptance by the population to participate in the census. However, the Demographic Statistics Unit is favourable as a way of evaluating the quality of the Population Register by individual matching.

## Use of the census for master sampling file

202. For the moment, there is no master sample frame for the household surveys. Households are sampled based on the same list of electricity users. From the next census, it is expected to build a mater sample frame.

203. If sample frame is to be built with the next Population census, it would need anyway to be regularly updated, but NBS has no methodology so far to do it. Higher cooperation with other statistical offices would be needed.

## Dissemination and Analysis

204. No dissemination has been yet prepared for the next census.

## Gender perspective

205. Population and housing censuses are important sources for national level reliable gender statistics. Since they provide data on small geographical subdivisions, censuses may be of great utility for planning and development, and, in particular, for gender mainstreaming. They provide official count and gather information on demographic and social characteristics of a population, like age, sex, place of usual residence, education and training, employment and occupation, economic status, disability, migration, structure of the household etc.

206. Results from the 2004 census were systematically presented with a breakdown by sex.

207. No specific publication on gender issues was published from the census 2004, and the publication "Women and Men in Moldova" already mentioned does not present any data from the census.

### ASSESSMENT

*All results of the last census of 2004 were presented with a breakdown by sex. However, despite the wealth of information related to gender statistics, the census was apparently not used to develop gender analysis.*

*Gender perspective should be taken into consideration since the inception of the project of next population census. Useful reference can be found in the handbook "Developing Gender Statistics" published by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe as well as in a coming handbook by UNFPA on Gender Analysis of Census Data.*

## **Demographic Projections**

208. Several institutions, such as the National Commission for Population and Development and the Academy of Science, deplore the absence of official national demographic projections. The Commission considers that international projections of the United Nations or Eurostat are not reflecting the reality, maybe because they include Transnistria. The need for accurate demographic projections is stressed as necessary for the economic and social development of the country. In particular, the issues of low fertility and emigration, with consequences on population decrease have significant impact on the future of the country. Despite some specific policy measures, demographic issues are still not a priority of political action in Moldova.

209. The Commission considers that the only state institution that should develop projection is NBS. NBS is willing to elaborate such projections but highlights its lack of capacities, resources and training. The Academy of Science of Moldova is also capable of calculating demographic projections. Indeed, a few years ago, a staff of the Academy of Science followed a course on projection given by the Vienna Institute of Demography, and could produce some projections in 2009. Projections were published and presented to the Commission of Population and Development, but were not updated since then. The horizon for projection needed by the Commission is at least 2020, in accordance with the National Strategy for 2020. At regional level, a horizon of projection of 5 years would be sufficient. Projections should be regularly updated to take into consideration new trends, for example of migration.

### **ASSESSMENT**

*There is no national population projection elaborated neither by the NBS nor by other national institutions. Even if there is no requirement regarding population projection in the EU statistical requirements compendium, there is an obvious demand for it and the NBS is the institution having the best skills and sustainable organisation to take the responsibility for it.*

*However, several recommendations can be made in that matter:*

*- international projections (UN and Eurostat) should be considered first. They have the advantage of being elaborated by high-level specialists and following a common methodology for all countries. It is recommended to engage discussion with the UN Population Division and Eurostat to know what are the sources and assumptions used. This will help to understand how they are elaborated and their possible limitations.*

*- NBS should build capacity in the area of demographic projection by reinforcing the Demographic Statistics Unit by at least one person and organising appropriate training. Technical assistance could be sought from Eurostat or demographic institutions, such as the National Institute for Demographic Studies (INED) in France.*

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## ANNEX

### EXPERT MISSION AGENDA

**Assignment:** In-depth assessment of the POPULATION statistical field<sup>50</sup> of the Republic of Moldova and its adherence to the EU Statistical Requirements Compendium

**Expert:** Jean-Michel Durr, Brazil (National of France)

**Dates:** 5-9 September 2011

**Location:** Chisinau, 106 Grenoble St., 8th floor, 802 office

**Main objective:** to perform the in-depth assessments of POPULATION statistical area (including Demography, Census, Projections, Migration and asylum), constituent parts of DEMOGRAPHIC and SOCIAL STATISTICS of Moldova, in line with the EU Statistical Requirements Compendium

**Expected result:** national stakeholders will be provided with the comprehensive assessment report, as well as recommendations, which are expected to highlight the difficulties and deficiencies which hamper the successful evolution of the concerned statistical fields, practical actions and measures necessary to further approximate to EU standards on Demography and Social Statistics.

**Scope of work:**

To conduct an in-depth assessment of the Population Statistics of Moldova towards its compliance with EU requirements in the respective fields from the point of view of relevant legal basis (legal acts and documents relevant for the production of the statistics in the particular area), data providers/sources and producers, data use, data requirements, methodologies applied, comparability and cooperation. To develop a list of priority needs to further approximate to EU statistical standards and propose concrete solutions and follow-up activities to fill the identified gaps (based on results of point A).

Time	Activities	People involved	Contacts, location
<b>Monday, September 5, 2011</b>			
9.30.-10.00	Meeting with the NBS management	<b>Vitalie Valcov</b> , vice-director <b>Nina Cesnocova</b> , head of Demography statistics Unit <b>Aurelia Sprtaru</b> , Project Manager, UNDP	NBS, 106 Grenoble St., 3rd floor
10.00-10.45	Discussion of the working agenda and methodology	Staff of Demography statistics Unit	NBS, 106 Grenoble St., 6 <sup>th</sup> floor
11.00-12.00	<b>Statistical area: POPULATION (incl. Demography, Census, Projections, Migration and asylum)</b>  Basic information on the current status of the demographic statistics:  Familiarization with the process of collection, processing, storage, dissemination of data regarding the natural and migratory movement of population	<b>Nina Cesnocova</b>	NBS, 106 Grenoble St., 6 <sup>th</sup> floor, tel. 403110, 733777

<sup>50</sup> Domain 1 "Demographic and Social Statistics" in line with the EU Statistical Requirements Compendium, [http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY\\_OFFPUB/KS-RA-10-007-EN/EN/KS-RA-10-007-EN-EN.PDF](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_OFFPUB/KS-RA-10-007-EN/EN/KS-RA-10-007-EN-EN.PDF)

	Usage of administrative sources aiming to improve the demographic statistics Collaboration with international organizations (UNFPA, OIM, UNDP) in the field of demographic statistics: obtained results and unsolved/pending issues		
12.00-14.00	Lunch break		
14.00-15.00	Continuation. Transition to electronic exchange of information with the Ministry of Information Technologies and Communications (MoITC) regarding registration of new-born, deaths, marriages, divorces. Analysis of data produced by MoITC.	<b>NBS Staff of Demography statistics Unit</b>	NBS, 106 Grenoble St., 6 <sup>th</sup> floor
15.15-16.30	<b>Statistical area: POPULATION, sub-area Demography</b> Meeting at National Center for Health Management/NCHM: Existing infrastructure of the system of population registration and natural population movement statistics	<b>Petru Crudu</b> , Vice-head, Health Statistics & Monitoring Division, NCHM <b>NBS Staff of Demography statistics Unit</b>	National Center for Health Management, 3 Cozmescu St., <a href="http://www.cnms.md/">www.cnms.md/</a> , tel. 280473 Crudu
<b>Tuesday, September 6, 2011</b>			
10.00-12.00	<b>Statistical area: POPULATION, sub-areas: Demography, Migration and asylum</b> Working session in the framework of MoITC "State Information Resources Center "Registru", which is managing the majority of registers (including Population register) in the country	Representatives of the MoITC: Stefan Caraus, Iurie Golus, Anatolii Gherescu, Violeta Donuta <b>NBS: N.Cesnocova, E. Galușca</b>	State Enterprise "Registru", 42 A.Puskin st Tel.: 25-70-70 <a href="http://www.registru.md">www.registru.md</a>
12.00-14.00	Lunch break		
14.00-17.00	<b>Statistical area: POPULATION, sub-areas: Demography, Migration and asylum</b> Working meeting at the Population Registration Office, Chisinau	Representative of Population Registration Service <b>NBS: N.Cesnocova, E.Galușca</b>	<b>Civil Status Service Chisinau, 37, Dacia st Tel. 76 64 78</b>
<b>Wednesday, September 7, 2011</b>			
10.00-11.30	<b>Statistical area: POPULATION, sub-area: Migration and asylum</b> Working meeting at International Organisation for Migration	N.Cesnocova E.Galușca	IOM-Moldova, 36/1, Ciuflea str., tel: + 373 22 23-29-40; + 373 22 23-29-41 <a href="http://www.iom.md/">www.iom.md/</a>
12.00-14.00	Lunch break		
14.00-17.00	Discussions with the Academy of Science	<b>NBS N.Cesnocova, E.Galuca Academy of Sciences of Moldova</b>	<b>ASM, 1 Stefan cel Mare ave. Tel.27 42 82</b>



		Olga Gagauz, Olga Penina	
<b>Thursday, September 8, 2011</b>			
9.30 - 11.30	<b>Statistical area: POPULATION, sub-area: Census</b> Discussion on census.	<b>Valentina Nicolai</b> , Population census Unit	NBS, 106 Grenoble St.,
12.00-14.00	Lunch break		
14.00-15.00	<b>Statistical area: POPULATION, sub-area: Projections</b> Meeting at Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family (MoLSPF), Demographic Policy Division  Activity and data related concerns of the National Population Commission (projects in particular)	<b>MoLSPF:</b> Rotaru Larisa, Head of Division  Valcov Liuba, Crețu Aliona  <b>NBS staff:</b> N.Cesnocova, E.Galuca	MoLSPF, 1 Vasile Alecsandri str., <a href="http://mmps.gov.md/md/">http://mmps.gov.md/md/</a> Tel: 26-93-64 Tel: 26-93-65; 26-93-66
15.30-16.30	<b>Statistical area: POPULATION, all sub-areas</b> Meeting at UNFPA	<b>Boris Gilca</b> , Programme Coordinator	UNFPA, 31 August, 131 street, <a href="http://unfpa.md/">http://unfpa.md/</a>
<b>Friday, September 9, 2011</b>			
9.30-11.00	Conclusion on the mission results Detailed Action Plan and update on timelines and dates of outputs' delivery	<b>NBS Staff</b> of Demography statistics Unit	NBS, 106 Grenoble St., 6 <sup>th</sup> floor, tel. 403110, 733777
11.00-13.00	Meeting with IT Department	Oleg Cruglea , Chief of IT Dept and Alexander Socolov, Deputy chief	NBS, 106 Grenoble St., 3rd floor
11.00-12.00	Debrief for the NBS management on the mission preliminary findings and recommendations	V. Valcov, N. Cesnocova, A. Spirtaru	NBS, 106 Grenoble St., 3rd floor

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