

Global assessment of the system of official statistics in the Republic of Moldova

Final version, May 2007

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Executive summary

1. The purpose of this report is to assess the statistical system of Moldova in relation to the European Statistical System, to help in preparing a strategy to fill the possible gaps with a list of priority areas.

2. The report consists of three parts. Part 1 is an *institutional* assessment: the statistical system of Moldova is assessed against the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics. Part 2 is a *statistical* assessment: the statistical system of Moldova is assessed against EU requirements. Part 3 is about the strategy the Moldovan Bureau of Statistics could follow to achieve full compliance with the Fundamental Principles and the EU statistical requirements. This part is largely based on the discussions that took place during the international conference of 3-4 May 2007 in Chisinau.

3. An assessment of the statistical system of Moldova against the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics leads to the following conclusions:

- The general user-producer dialogue. *The Moldovan Council for Statistics seems to be an appropriate instrument for formal consultation of the main national stakeholders. The Council is neither too large nor too small and its composition looks balanced. However, at the moment it is not yet operational.*
- Dissemination and measuring user satisfaction. *Recent NBS activities are useful with a view on exploring users' needs and improving dissemination mechanisms. The NBS recognizes that their website must be improved and that it should in the future contain more readily accessible information.*
- Impartiality. *The NBS fully adheres to the principle of impartiality.*
- Political pressure. *The NBS is free from political pressure regarding its statistical work.*
- Equal access to statistical information. *The NBS sends its newly released data by e-mail to the key users, including news agencies. It tries to establish good relations with the media. Its library is public. Simple requests for data are met free of charge.*
- Professional standards. *Due to the limited number of staff of the NBS and the production pressure it is under, many issues get insufficient attention. Only some basic analytical work is being done. Staff does not participate in (international) conferences at a regular basis. Statistical methods are not systematically documented and users - so far- have no easy access to meta-data. Methodological improvements in the area of sampling have been made after the establishment of a Sampling section. In principle, decisions about survey design, survey methods and techniques are made on the basis of professional considerations, but poor infrastructural conditions (e.g. lack of reliable, computerized registrations, poor communications and data-exchange systems) sometimes lead to 'second-best' solutions. There is little training and re-training of professional and other staff going on, due to lack of resources. Statistical quality management is an issue for the senior management of the NBS, but in view of circumstances that were earlier mentioned, the possibilities are limited.*
- Accountability. *As mentioned before, meta-data are an under-developed area at the NBS. Although the management realizes that this is an issue, resources so far have been insufficient to develop a solid meta-data system, including ways to bring meta-data to the attention of the users. Comments about the quality of statistics are not explicitly published.*
- Prevention of misuse of statistics. *The NBS does not have a systematic policy in this regard.*

- **Cost-effectiveness.** *The NBS is handicapped by the lack of reliable, computerized administrative registers in Moldova. In addition, the NBS does not always have easy access to those registers. However, there is an ongoing dialogue with partner institutions, in particular the Ministry for Information Development, to improve this situation. In view of the national conditions in Moldova, the NBS is making an effort to combine administrative data and statistical data where this is feasible. Internal procedures for data editing, aggregation, and analysis may be further improved, in particular data quality control at the local and regional level. The possibilities to achieve improvements in this regard also depend on investments in IT. The reporting burden will become more of an issue. Therefore, the NBS should move further towards sampling and away from exhaustive surveys. The NBS is under-staffed and under-funded. It is necessary to strengthen the staff at the central level, but re-allocation of resources within the statistical system is difficult.*
- **Confidentiality of individual data.** *The NBS fully adheres to this principle, but faces some technical problems in confidentiality protection.*
- **Legislation.** *The Moldovan Statistical Law and other statistical legislation meet all the criteria of the FPOS. The way respondents are informed about the purpose of data collections needs some improvement.*
- **National coordination of statistical work.** *The Council for Statistics may play an important role in better coordinating statistical work by government bodies in Moldova. It should again be noted that the Council for Statistics is not yet operational. A key partner in the coordination process seems to be the Ministry for Information Development, which is responsible for several important administrative registrations. The quality and accessibility of these registrations is decisive for their usefulness for statistical purposes. It is not clear what instruments and procedures are used to influence the Ministry to move in the desired directions. It is also unclear to what extent the NBS is seen as the statistical 'bureau of standards' by other ministries who have statistical activities or have a say in administrative systems (Education, Health, Agriculture, Ecology and others). In some cases the role of the NBS is only seen as advisory.*
- **Use of international standards.** *The NBS does its best to follow international standards. In many respects progress has been made. Nevertheless, there are still a few 'old' classifications in use. A serious handicap of the NBS is that staff does not participate much in international meetings, where best practices are discussed. In addition, the staff has only limited access to Internet, where also many good practices can be found. This is partly due to IT limitations, but partly also to the fact that most of the staff has difficulties reading English documents.*
- **International statistical cooperation.** *The NBS has received a considerable amount of technical assistance over the years and is open for more. Much of the technical assistance received has been instrumental in improving the statistical system.*

4. In part 2, the following categories of compliance have been distinguished:

Category 1 - Moldova complies fully or nearly fully with EU requirements

Category 2 - Moldova is well under way to compliance with EU requirements, but there are either methodological problems, or quality improvements are necessary, or additional data collection is required

Category 3 - Moldova does not yet comply with EU requirements and has to fundamentally review its methodology and/or to expand its data collection considerably

It is important to note that the assessments are 'global'. In some cases, only a Eurostat subject matter specialist could make a final judgment. In addition, putting a module in a certain category is necessarily always arbitrary; in case of doubt, the lower category was chosen.

5. An assessment of the statistical system of Moldova against EU requirements leads to the following conclusions.

The following statistical domains are in **Category 1**.

Theme 32 Labor market; *Moldova meets the EU requirements.*

Module 52101 Government finance; *The Ministry of Finance can supply all or nearly all of the required data. Therefore, Moldova is in full compliance with EU requirements for this module.*

Module 52201 Statistics on public deficit and debt; *The Ministry of Finance can supply all or nearly all of the required data. Therefore, Moldova is in full compliance with EU requirements for this module.*

Module 52301 Monetary and financial indicators; *The data must be supplied by the Ministry of Finance and by the National Bank of Moldova. Most of the information is available.*

Module 34100 Culture statistics; *It would seem that Moldova, perhaps with some minor adaptations of their data collection system, could in principle meet all or most of the EU requirements.*

Module 37101 Social protection statistics; *The impression is that Moldova, in principle, should be able to submit most of the required information.*

Module 54100 Quarterly balance of payments; *Despite some minor problems, the National Bank of Moldova collects all the information. Therefore, Moldova is in compliance with EU requirements for this module.*

Module 54300 Foreign Direct Investments; *Despite some minor problems, the National Bank of Moldova and the NBS jointly collect all the information. Therefore, Moldova is in compliance with EU requirements for this module.*

Module 11102 Statistical Classifications and

Module 11600 Classifications for trade in goods statistics; *It seems that the NBS uses the most important EU classifications (NACE, CPA, Prodcop, CN), even though there may be some implementation problems left. Therefore, Moldova meets the requirements in this regard.*

Module 44510 Production Statistics of Enterprises (Prodcop); *Moldova probably largely meets the data requirements.*

Module 61103-4 Land use and remote sensing; *With some extra effort, Moldova could probably comply with the requirements.*

Module 64103 Crop production statistics; *With maybe a few exceptions, Moldova can probably meet the requirements.*

Module 65103 Livestock and meat; *A first impression is that, possibly with some exceptions, Moldova can meet most of the requirements.*

Module 65203 Milk and dairy products statistics; *Moldova can probably meet the requirements.*

Module 69102 Fishery statistics; *Moldova probably largely meets the data requirements.*

Module 68104 Forestry statistics; *Based on the data provided by Moldsilva, Moldova probably could meet the requirements.*

Theme 53 International trade in goods; *Moldova can probably supply most if not all of the data.*

Module 48100 Transport Information System; *With some effort, Moldova should be able to supply most of the data.*

Module 48300 Transport of goods by road; *Moldova can probably supply most of the required data, although a few variables may not be available.*

Module 48800 Transport safety; *Moldova can probably meet the data requirements.*

Module 50102 Tourism statistics; *Moldova will be able to supply a large part of the data.*

The following domains are in **Category 2**.

Module 32200 Earnings and labor costs; *On the basis of various data sources, with considerable effort, Moldova will probably be able to produce the required labor cost survey tables. It is doubtful if Moldova can produce the Quarterly Labor Cost Indices and the structure of earnings tables.*

Module 32300 Time use and reconciliation of work and family life; *Compliance depends on the possibilities of the NBS to execute a time-use survey. A time-use survey is included in the Technical Assistance Programme for 2005-2006.*

Theme 31 Population; *It seems that Moldova is able to meet all or most of the data requirements. The NBS follows the methodological recommendations of the UN, which are largely in line with the EU methodological standards. It is not clear how reliable migration data are, since quite some Moldavians work abroad on a temporary basis. In 2004, a Population Census was conducted, so therefore it is not likely that another Census will be held in 2010. Module 31202 of the SRC deals with population projections. The NBS does not make such projections, but wants to start work in this area as soon as resources permit. Module 31300 of the SRC is about Migration and Asylum. Council Regulation 311/76/EEC specifies the requirements for the compilation of statistics on foreign workers. Five tables are required, 4 annual, 1 monthly. Moldova does not meet these requirements.*

Module 72501 Urban statistics; *Moldova can meet some, but not all the requirements.*

Module 73201 Innovation statistics; *Moldova partly complies with EU requirements.*

Module 33100 Education statistics; *Apart from problems with application of the ISCED, Moldova should be able to fill out the annual education statistics questionnaire reasonably completely and probably parts of the finance questionnaire.*

Module 35100 Public Health; *In broad terms, Moldova should be able to comply with most of the data requirements. The health interview survey would have to be done annually to comply with the requirements of this particular module.*

Module 35200 Health and safety at work; *Moldova can probably only partly, but not fully comply with EU data requirements.*

Module 36100 Household Budget Surveys; *On the basis of the HBS, Moldova should be able to partially comply with the data requirements.*

Module 36301 Income, Poverty and Social Exclusion and
Module 36401 Community Statistics on Income and Living Conditions; *The HBS and other sources about household income and living conditions produce not enough data for Moldova to fully comply with EU requirements. It is estimated that about half of the Laeken indicators can be produced.*

Theme 40 Annual economic accounts; *The problems of NBS Moldova to comply with EU standards are described in the relevant paragraphs of this report.*

Module 73101 R&D Statistics; *Although the NBS has some experience with R&D statistics, the data collection is not annual. Not all of the required information is collected. Patent statistics are not available.*

Module 40200 National Accounts; aggregates; *Within the constraints mentioned elsewhere in this report, a rough estimate would be that the NBS – in some cases with data obtained from the National Bank and the Ministry of Finance - might be able to more or less fill out two thirds of the totality of the above-mentioned tables with a reasonable degree of quality.*

Module 40401 Accounts of Institutional sectors; *Within the constraints mentioned elsewhere in this report, the NBS can probably fill out the annual questionnaire more or less adequately, but not the quarterly questionnaire.*

Module 54400 International trade in services; *Considering the difficulties mentioned elsewhere in this report, Moldova only partly meets the requirements.*

Module 72102 Regional accounts; *Moldova does not yet fully comply with the requirements.*

Module 55101 Harmonized Consumer Price Index; *At the moment, the NBS cannot fully meet the data requirements.*

Module 55201 Spatial Price Comparison; *With some exceptions, Moldova can probably largely meet the data requirements.*

Module 44101 Periodic structural business statistics; *In principle, Moldova can possibly meet the data requirements to a large extent, but probably not in every detail. Data about insurance companies, credit institutions and pension funds may be weaker than data for the other sectors.*

Module 44402 Short-term statistics of enterprises (STS); *In view of the description of activities of the NBS and the problems encountered therewith, as well as the considerable amount of detail covered by this module, it is likely that Moldova can meet (a substantial) part of the data requirements.*

Module 45102 Structural statistics of energy; *Probably Moldova can meet most, but not all, of the data requirements.*

Module 45202 Short-term statistics of energy; *Moldova will probably only be able to meet part of the data requirements*

Module 45402 Energy prices; *Moldova does probably not meet all the data requirements.*

Module 63101 Agricultural accounts and prices; *On the basis of the data collections in agriculture, Moldova should to a large extent be able to meet the requirements.*

Module 71200 Waste and recycling statistics; *Moldova can probably only meet part of the requirements.*

Module 71301 Statistics on water, air pollution and climate change (Kyoto protocol); *Moldova can probably meet the requirements only partially. Most of the data will have to be produced by the Ministry of Ecology.*

Module 71501 Integrated environmental reporting; *Moldova partially meets the data requirements.*

Module 48400 Rail transport; *Moldova can probably provide some, but not all of the data.*

Module 48500 Sea and inland waterways transport; *Transport by inland waterways is relatively unimportant in Moldova, but most of the data can probably be provided, with the exception of information by types of goods.*

Module 48600 Air transport; *Not all the required data are readily available. Moldova can probably supply most of the data if the national aviation authority and the airports cooperate.*

Module 49102 Statistics on the information society; *Moldova can probably supply part of the enterprise data and some of the financial and household data.*

The following domains are in **Category 3**.

Module 32100 Employment and unemployment; *Moldova does not produce vacancy statistics, nor does it have statistics about strikes. It was noted in this regard that strikes do not exist in Moldova, officially.*

Module 33200 Vocational training and lifelong learning; *Moldova does not comply with the data requirements.*

Module 37202 Development of a database on market policy measures; *Moldova does not comply with the requirements.*

Module 40500 Supply/use and input/output tables; *With reference to paragraphs elsewhere in this report, it must be assumed that the NBS would be able to fill out most of the above tables more or less adequately, with the important exception, however, of the input/output tables and the PPP questionnaire.*

Theme 41 Quarterly accounts; *Within the constraints mentioned elsewhere in this report, a rough estimate would be that the NBS might be able to more or less fill out half of the totality of the above-mentioned tables with a reasonable degree of completeness and quality, so less than was the case for the annual questionnaires.*

Theme 42 Financial accounts; *The NBS cannot comply with the data requirements.*

Module 43100 Monitoring own resources Gross National Product (GNI)
and

Module 43200 Monitoring own resources Value Added Tax (VAT); *Moldova does not yet meet the requirements under this module.*

Module 54600 Foreign affiliates statistics (outward); *Although this may not be a major issue for Moldova at the moment, data are not collected.*

Module 44201 Development of structural business statistics; *Moldova will not be able to meet many of the data requirements.*

Module 62103 Agricultural structure; *Only an in-depth analysis by a specialist in EU agricultural surveys can make a detailed assessment of the degree of compliance of Moldova. A first impression would be, however, that Moldova can only fully comply on the basis of an agricultural census. A pilot census will be held in 2007 (with FAO assistance). A special division for the agricultural census will be created.*

Module 66200 Food safety statistics; *Moldova can not yet meet the requirements.*

Module 71401 Environmental accounts and environmental expenditure statistics; *Environmental accounting is a relatively new area of work. Moldova can probably not supply the data, nor does it have the necessary expertise in environmental accounting.*

Introduction

From the Terms of Reference

The strengthening of political and economic relations between EU and Moldova, in particular due to the recent development of the European Neighborhood Policy (ENP) of the EU, is leading to increased requirements for high quality statistics that are comparable with those of the EU. The Economic Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy paper (EGPRSP), one element of which is statistics, has been developed and authorized for realization in the Republic of Moldova. Concerning statistics in the program the necessity is underlined for improvement in compiling of statistical indices and revising methodologies for data collection and processing in line with international standards, especially those of the European Union.

A priority will be the development of reliable information on the sustainable economic, social, and environmental development of the country and, especially, of the data necessary to monitor the implementation of EGPRSP objectives and the indicators included in the IMF General System and Special System of Data Dissemination. To this end statistical work will efficiently combine surveys and administrative data.

Within the framework of rendering technical help in the field of statistics actions have been carried out earlier in the field of development of the new Law about Statistics and the Statistics Development Program. As a result of these actions the Moldova Parliament on December 9, 2004 has accepted the new Law on Statistics. This law stipulates the necessity for the further harmonization of the Moldavian Statistics with European standards and especially the requirements of the European Statistical System (ESS).

A program of development of statistics for the period of 2004-2006 has at the same time been developed. The basic provisions of the program have been included in the EGPRSP. In the Program priorities are established and the areas of statistics which require development are determined. Actions stipulated in the program promote the purposes of development of the statistical system as a whole and meet the requirements of realization of actions of the EGPRSP.

2. Project objectives

To carry out in Moldova an assessment of the statistical system in relation to the European Statistical System and prepare a strategy how to fill the possible gaps with a list of priority areas.

3 Targets to be achieved by the consultant

- a. An objective description of the institutional and technical capacities of the Moldavian statistical system;
- b. An assessment of the overall conformity of Moldavian statistics with European standards;
- c. A description of the present state of affairs in the different statistical domains in relation to European standards;
- d. To provide a strategy with proposals on how to reach the European standards in various areas with a clear list of priorities and activities;
- e. Presenting information to national and international stakeholders on the results of the assessment supported.

4 Specific activities

- a. During a first mission to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) the expert will meet with the top management of the NBS Moldova and with the responsible people of domains covered by the assessment, visit regional statistical bodies, other institutions playing an important role in statistical work: Ministry of Economy and Trade, National Bank, Ministry of Finance, etc. and make contacts with important users. A first draft report will be prepared;
- b. Descriptions of statistical domains and the degree of harmonization with the ESS methodologies and standards will be drawn up;
- c. During a second mission the draft report will be revised, added and coordinated with the Moldova NBS top management on the final version. A first draft of additions to strategy of development of statistics will be designed;
- d. In a third mission the draft of proposals to the statistics development strategy will be completed and coordinated with the different internal stakeholders in a workshop.

Structure of the report

This report consists of two main parts.

In Part 1, a global assessment is made of the general statistical infrastructure of Moldova, particularly the position, status and organization of the NBS.

In Part 2 the various domains of statistics will be assessed, against the background of EU requirements and standards. For reasons of convenience, the structure of Part 2 follows the organization structure of the NBS.

In Part 3, some suggestions are made for strategies to be followed in order to meet the requirements of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and the statistical requirements of the EU in the future.

Part 1 General issues

1A Compliance of the Moldovan statistical system with the FPOS

The so-called Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics (FPOS) were first adopted by the Economic Commission for Europe during its 47th session, Geneva, 15 April 1992, and subsequently endorsed by the United Nations Statistical Commission (after some minor amendments) in 1994. These 10 Principles are now a universally agreed framework for the mission of national statistical offices and indeed also for the statistical work of official international organizations.

After quoting the official text of each of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, a brief explanation of the essence of each Principle will be given. In addition, the principles will be made more operational by raising some questions about them. The answers to those questions should indicate whether and to what extent a principle is adhered to in a given National Statistical Institute, in this case the National Bureau of Statistics of Moldova.

The question may be raised whether this approach ultimately produces real indications whether or not a statistical system is 'good'. A statistical system that scores high against the FPOS, it may be argued, may have high ethical and professional standards, but is there any guarantee that it produces good, relevant, timely statistics? There is no simple answer to that question. However, adherence to the FPOS is generally seen as a *prerequisite* for the development of a good statistical system.

Principle 1

Relevance, impartiality and equal access

'Official statistics provide an indispensable element in the information system of a society, serving the government, the economy and the public with data about the economic, demographic, social and environmental situation. To this end, official statistics that meet the test of practical utility are to be compiled and made available on an impartial basis by official statistical agencies to honor citizens' entitlement to public information'.

Principle 1 means that official statistics should be relevant for society, compiled in an impartial manner, be free from political interference and be accessible for everyone under equal conditions. The key point is, of course: to what extent do the users think that the activities (data collections, and ultimately outputs) of statistical systems are relevant for them? It is extremely difficult to express this aspect of 'user satisfaction' in terms of one

or a few a simple indicators. The problem is that there are many different categories of users. Therefore, a more general question that could be asked is:

How developed are mechanisms to ensure that statistical work programs are relevant for the various user groups?

In many countries, there is a national advisory board for statistics. In addition there are, however, many other possible mechanisms to foster the relations between users and producers of official statistics: regular consultations with key users, technical advisory groups, seminars for groups of users, focus groups etc. The basic question is: are national statistical offices making a real effort to find out what their users need and to adapt their statistical programs accordingly? And how flexible are they in practice when it comes to tackling 'new' subject matter areas such as the services sector, the environment, the 'information technology sector' and 'the global economy', including phenomena such as foreign direct investment and measurement of the activities of multinationals companies.

The case of Moldova

Moldova has a consultative Council for Statistics, which, according to the Law, must 'develop and promote official statistics, and assure an objective, transparent, and scientific character of the methodologies, indicators and classifications used in the statistical activity'. It shall examine the draft programs of statistical work and national statistical standards.

The Council consists of:

- 1. Three representatives of the NBS*
- 2. One representative of the Moldovan Academy of Science*
- 3. One representative of the National Bank of Moldova*
- 4. Five representatives of specialized bodies of the central public authorities*
- 5. One representative of the specialized higher education*
- 6. One representative of the trade unions*
- 7. One representative of the mass-media*
- 8. One representative of the employers' organizations*
- 9. One representative of the business sector*

The Council is chaired by the Vice Prime Minister. The NBS provides the secretariat.

Comments: the Moldovan Council for Statistics seems to be an appropriate instrument for formal consultation of the main national stakeholders. The Council is neither too large nor too small and its composition looks balanced. However, the Council is not yet operational.

Another, more specific question regarding 'user satisfaction' is:

How well developed are mechanisms to assess user satisfaction with statistical products and their dissemination?

Apart from statistical programs, which often describe what statistical offices are doing or are planning to do in terms of the subject matter areas to be covered, the content and coverage of data collections, and sometimes the methodology to be used and the timing and expected quality of statistical results, there are also the actual statistical outputs to consider and how the users appreciate these: news releases, printed publications of

various kinds, data in electronic formats, including data bases etc. In other words: do statistical offices have a well developed dissemination system? Are the statistical products what the users want in terms of quality, timeliness, price, distribution modes? Are uses/sales of statistical products increasing or declining? Is there any real, systematic marketing effort?

The case of Moldova

Since 2004, contacts with the users have been intensified. Now there exists a users' database, which started off with 200 names and has grown to 700 at present. From time to time, users are asked to express their opinion, through questionnaires that are enclosed in publications. Some direct marketing efforts are made, on the basis of the Business Register. The NBS occasionally participates with a stand in exhibitions. The catalogue of publications was first published in 1994. In 2005, a large print run was produced, financed by Norway. Press releases are published regularly. They are being sent to news agencies (by e-mail). Relations with the mass media are good. Many articles for the media are written by the subject matter specialists. It is considered desirable to recruit a person with journalistic experience to improve the style of such articles and of the press releases.

Comments:

All these activities are useful with a view on exploring users' needs and improving dissemination vehicles. The NBS recognizes, however, that their website must be improved and that it should in the future contain more readily accessible information.

As to the element of impartiality, which is also part of Principle 1, the question is:

How well do national statistical offices adhere to their obligation of impartiality?

This may sound relatively simple, but in fact there are rather complex issues at stake. Some very prudent official statisticians believe that even undertaking a survey at the special request of a government department may affect the impartiality of a national statistical office, especially if this department (usually paying for the extra work to be done) wants to have a say in the methodology of the survey. However, most statisticians tend to interpret 'impartiality' more specifically as: avoiding taking any partisan view in the choice of definitions or methodology, and, most particularly, avoiding a partisan stand as to the release of statistics and commentary on the numbers. Most national statistical offices have a strong tradition of avoiding making any non-statistical comments on their numbers. As a general principle, statistical offices should avoid making any comments referring to the success or failure of government policy, even if the numbers may seem obvious in revealing this.

The case of Moldova

NBS Moldova follows these principles.

As far as the issue of 'political interference with statistics' is concerned, the question to ask is:

How well are statistical offices shielded from political intervention as to the content and the release of statistical results?

Some of the most common forms of undesirable political intervention are:

- Pressure to change definitions in order to obtain statistics which put government policies in a better light
- Tampering with the release of key statistical numbers, in order to select a moment for release which is politically favorable or least damaging
- Leaking to the media of ‘favorable’ statistics by politicians before the data are made available for everyone
- Pressure to release identifiable micro-data to policy researchers in the case of statistical collections intended for and financed by specific clients (e.g. ministries)

Apart from the first category (for which it is hard to formulate general rules of good practice), the highest risk of political interference with statistics occurs at the stage when numbers are (about to be) released. To avoid tampering with releases of fresh statistical numbers, many countries have now adopted a system of announcing release calendars for key statistics well (a month or even a year) in advance. Avoiding leaks may prove to be more difficult. There is the custom in many countries to give ministers a head start as to fresh key statistics by supplying them with the numbers some time before these are officially released. This may be anything from an hour to several days and the list of recipients of these ‘pre-releases’ may be quite extended. There is general agreement among statisticians, however, that it is commendable to restrict both the list and the time lap as much as possible.

The case of Moldova

Both the NBS and some stakeholders have assured that direct political pressure on statistics is never exerted in Moldova. The NBS has started issuing a release calendar (in the framework of the SDDS agreement with IMF). Pre-release of data to ministries is highly restricted.

As to ‘equal access’ the question is:

How well is the principle of ‘equal access under equal conditions’ adhered to?

Apart from the political considerations under the previous point, there is also the general principle of safeguarding that all users are treated equally. Some aspects of this equality are not trivial. Obviously, for some numbers a head start of minutes, for one user over another, may generate a considerable (financial) advantage. Therefore, statistical offices have to find ways to give all users access to fresh numbers at virtually exactly the same moment. Apart from recently developed possibilities of simultaneous electronic distribution (e.g. by e-mailing statistical releases to the media), some countries are using a system of ‘lock-ups’ for the release of certain sensitive numbers. Another aspect of equality is that, in principle, all users should pay equal prices for the same statistical products and that the number of ‘privileged users’ who get the data free of charge (government agencies, members of parliament) should be restricted as much as possible.

A slightly distinct point, which is not covered by the principle of 'equal access' as such, but which is nevertheless essential, is the notion that official statistics are (intended as) a public good, which should in principle be freely available for all citizens. Most NSIs put this notion into practice through various means. First of all, as mentioned before, building up good relations with the media is important to serve the general public with basic statistical information. Secondly, it is a generally accepted practice that NSIs make arrangements that the most important statistics are freely accessible in their own libraries and in university and public libraries. Thirdly, most NSIs will give free information over the telephone (including follow-up by sending free copies of tables etc. by mail) or by electronic channels, such as the Internet.

The case of Moldova

The NBS sends its newly released data by e-mail to the key users, including news agencies. As mentioned before, it tries to establish good relations with the media. Its library is public. Simple requests for data are met free of charge. Perhaps the number of 'privileged users', who get data free of charge, should be reduced.

Principle 2

Professionalism

'To retain trust in official statistics, the statistical agencies need to decide according to strictly professional considerations, including scientific principles and professional ethics, on the methods and procedures for the collection, processing, storage and presentation of statistical data.'

Principle 2 means that official statistics should be compiled by using professional methods and also that statistical results should be presented to the users in a professional manner.

The number of university graduates and their percentage share in the total staff of a national statistical institute is one indication of its 'methodological potential'. Another is the number of research and methodology papers that is being produced and published in respected scientific journals. The importance of analysis and research for methodological progress and for increased efficiency and effectiveness of statistical operations is widely recognized. The United Nations Handbook of Statistical Organization underlines the significance of research and analysis for various reasons, including discovering lacks and inconsistencies.

Some general questions that may be asked to assess (the focus on) professionalism in national statistical offices are:

How well is professionalism systematically promoted and shared by such mechanisms as analytical work, circulating and publishing methodological papers, and organizing lectures and conferences?

Are statistical methods well documented and are methodological improvements made on the basis of scientific criteria?

Are decisions about survey design, survey methods and techniques etc. made on the basis of strictly professional considerations?

Is training and re-training of professional and other staff a real policy issue for the organization and is enough effort (e.g. in a percentage of the overall budget) spent on training?

Is statistical quality management a real policy issue and are real and systematic efforts (including the promotion of well documented quality management guidelines) made to enhance the quality of statistics?

The case of Moldova

Due to the limited number of staff of the NBS and the production pressure it is under, some of these issues seem to get insufficient attention.

Only some basic analytical work is being done, although sometimes detailed analysis is performed at the request of government departments. The staff has not enough time to write research papers, and do not participate in conferences at a regular basis, let alone international meetings. Access to the Internet should be further improved.

Statistical methods are not systematically documented and users - so far- have no easy access to meta-data. Methodological improvements in the area of sampling have been made after the establishment of a Sampling section.

In principle, decisions about survey design, survey methods and techniques are made on the basis of professional considerations, but poor infrastructural conditions (e.g. lack of reliable, computerized registrations, poor communications and data-exchange systems) sometimes lead to 'second-best' solutions.

There is little training and re-training of professional and other staff going on, due to lack of resources.

Statistical quality management is an issue for the senior management of the NBS, but in view of circumstances that were earlier mentioned, the possibilities are limited.

Principle 3

Accountability

'To facilitate a correct interpretation of the data, the statistical agencies are to present information according to scientific standards on the sources, methods and procedures of the statistics.'

Accountability means that statisticians should systematically and thoroughly explain to the users of statistics what the numbers exactly represent and what their quality is. To some extent this principle may seem trivial, but considering that the issue has long been (and still is) a topic for lively debate among statisticians, there are some non-trivial aspects as well. While it is obvious and generally accepted that NSIs should inform the users in some way what the numbers are about, it is not always obvious how to do this in the best possible manner.

In terms of meta-data (information about the data, i.e. definition of the population covered, definition of the variables, description of the data sources used, description of survey methodology, etc.), there is broad agreement that it is essential for the users of statistics to have access to as complete a set of meta-data as possible. Therefore, national statistical offices should ensure that full descriptions of the complete methodology for all their collections are documented and kept up-to-date. This does not imply, obviously, that all statistical publications must contain a full set of meta-data, because that would be both impractical and user-unfriendly. Statistical databases, however, should preferably contain all the meta-data in some user-friendly form, because it would be a burden for the users to have to consult separate publications to see what the data are worth.

The key question to be asked with regard to meta-data is:

How well does a statistical office provide the users with information about what the data really mean and about the methodology used to collect and process them?

Another issue, which is closely related to the issue of meta-data, is how statistical offices inform the users about the quality of the data they produce. Proper meta-data may tell a lot about the quality of statistics (at least for ‘professional’ users), but they do not necessarily give the full picture. Therefore, explicit statements about the quality of statistics are an additional aspect of principle 3. Quality in particular concerns such aspects as sampling and non-sampling error, any biases the data may have, information about non-response and its treatment, about imputations etc. So the question is:

How well developed and applied is the presentation of the quality of statistics?

The case of Moldova

As mentioned before, meta-data are an under-developed area at the NBS. Although the management realizes that this is an issue, resources so far have been insufficient to develop a solid meta-data system, including ways to bring meta-data to the attention of the users. Comments about the quality of statistics are not explicitly published.

Principle 4

Prevention of misuse

‘The statistical agencies are entitled to comment on erroneous interpretation and misuse of statistics.’

Principle 4 means that statisticians ought to react to any wrongful use of statistics that they perceive. Although the official wording of the Principle is ‘entitled’, the general understanding of the Principle is that statistical agencies indeed have a duty to comment.

There are of course many different ways to define ‘erroneous interpretation’ and ‘misuse’ and not all forms of these are equally bad or harmful. Moreover: many instances of misuse will escape the attention of statistical offices. Many users know ‘how to lie with statistics’, but this need not always be a concern for statistical offices. However, there are some kinds of misuse where corrective actions may be required: in particular misuse by government agencies and misuse by the media. For both categories of misuse, it is commendable for statistical offices to undertake immediate corrective actions in whatever way. Some NSIs regularly write ‘letters to the editor’ when mistakes are being made. It is difficult to prescribe a standard recipe for these situations, but the general question that may be asked is:

How well and systematically do statistical offices educate their key users in order to promote proper use of statistics and to prevent misuse?

The case of Moldova

<i>The NBS does not have a systematic policy in this regard.</i>
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Principle 5

Cost-effectiveness

‘Data for statistical purposes may be drawn from all types of sources, be they statistical surveys or administrative records. Statistical agencies are to choose the sources with regard to quality, timeliness, costs and the burden on respondents.’

Principle 5 means that statistical offices must try to be as cost-effective as possible by making the best choice of sources and methods, aiming at improved timeliness and also data quality, at spending tax-money as efficiently as possible and at reducing the response burden.

To a large extent, possibilities to achieve cost-effectiveness depend on national circumstances. In countries where there are good administrative registers which are available for statistical use as well, the need to have censuses or indeed traditional sample surveys will be less than in countries where such registers do not exist, are of poor quality or are not put at the disposal of the statisticians. One of the clearest examples of how the national administrative infrastructure affects statistical expenditure very directly is the population census. Whereas in countries which do not have a population register, very costly periodic population censuses remain necessary, other countries nowadays produce very much the same statistics that were previously collected through a census by using registers and some additional sample surveys, at a mere fraction of the cost.

In terms of data input, making the best possible, balanced choice of data-sources, given national circumstances, should therefore be an important issue for all statistical offices. The general question to be asked is:

How well considered is the ‘data sources mix’ that is used by statistical offices and is achieving the best possible mix (also taking cost-effectiveness into account) a subject of systematic improvement effort?

In the different phases of data throughput (the data editing process, aggregation, analysis etc.), there are also many possibilities to increase timeliness, efficiency and/or to improve data quality. There are organizational issues to be considered, as well as methodological and technological aspects and many of these issues and aspects are inter-related. For example: introducing macro-editing instead of the more traditional micro-editing approach is only possible when statisticians are well-trained in this approach and can make use of advanced information technology. It is impossible to give general guidelines. The key question, however, is:

How effective and efficient is the data throughput in statistical offices, in terms of organization, methodology and technology?

And an additional question is:

Is improving timeliness an issue of serious and systematic effort?

The reporting burden generated by statistical offices is another aspect of their cost-effectiveness, because data collection, apart from the spending of taxpayers’ money, also implies costs for data providers. Therefore, reducing the response burden, in particular for data providers from the private sector, is nowadays an issue of concern in many countries. There are many different techniques to reduce the response burden, some of them fairly simple, others more ‘high-tech’. Comparison of the level of response burden generated by different statistical offices is very difficult, because the response burden depends on a lot of factors, many of which are related to very specific national conditions and requirements. It is possible, however, to compare the overall development (upwards or downwards) of the response burden, as well as the general attitude of statistical offices with respect to the issue. A general question that could be asked is therefore:

How successful has a statistical office been in systematically reducing the response burden it imposes on data providers?

Cost-effectiveness is obviously also a matter of organization, management and ‘corporate culture’. It is very difficult to measure the ‘productivity’ of statistical workers and even more so to compare ‘productivity’ between different statistical offices. Some indicators for comparison may be: the number of official statisticians per 10.000 inhabitants and the government statistics budget per head of the population.

The following question may be asked:

How cost-effective is a national statistical system (in terms of relative cost indicators such as statisticians per 10.000 inhabitants and the government statistics budget per head of the population)?

The case of Moldova

The following points may be made with regard to the NBS.

*1. The NBS is handicapped by the lack of good and computerized administrative registers in Moldova.
2. However, there is an ongoing dialogue with partner institutions, in particular the Ministry for Information Development, to improve this situation.*

3. In view of the national conditions in Moldova, the NBS is making an effort to combine administrative data and statistical data where this is feasible.

4. Internal procedures for data editing, aggregation, and analysis may be further improved. In particular, two issues deserve attention:

- Data quality control at the local and regional level

- Integration of the statistical divisions and the general IT division

Obviously, the possibilities to achieve improvements in this regard also depend on investments in IT.

5. Timeliness has never been a problem in the former Soviet Union, because of the high degree of discipline of the respondents. However, it may become an issue when more and more economic agents become active. The 'bookkeeping reports' system is currently an important disciplining instrument.

6. Similarly, the reporting burden has never been a serious issue in the former Soviet Union, but it will become an issue as the market economy moves ahead. How long will economic agents accept the burdensome system of detailed 'bookkeeping reports'?

7. In this regard, a general recommendation for the NBS would be to move further towards sampling and away from exhaustive surveys.

8. Although it is very difficult to compare countries in this regard, the impression is that the NBS is indeed under-staffed and under-funded. The appropriate staffing for a national statistical office of a country with the size and economic and social complexity of Moldova would be 400-500. In this regard it should be noted that staffing requirements are often higher in countries where the statistical system is regionally decentralized.

Principle 6

Confidentiality

'Individual data collected by statistical agencies for statistical compilation, whether they refer to natural or legal persons, are to be strictly confidential and used exclusively for statistical purposes'.

Again, this seems to be a very simple principle, but some of its ramifications are complex. Various questions may be raised about the concepts 'individual' and 'confidential'. The interpretation of the concepts may also vary from country to country. However, one should first of all consider what the true meaning of the principle is: self-interest of statistical offices. The simple reason why statistical offices must adhere to confidentiality of individual data is that it is the only way to safeguard the trust of the respondents. Respondents must be certain that the information they give is used for statistical purposes only and that they therefore have no interest to supply anything but true data.

One may look at the issues from various angles. At the general policy level one may take into account what the law says. In many countries there is legislation about the protection of the privacy of citizens. This often includes provisions for statistics as well and these provisions may be strict or less strict. Likewise, the confidentiality of individual business data is often safeguarded legally, either in a general statistics law or in separate

legislation. However, in this respect there may be some more or less essential differences between countries, in particular as far as the legal possibilities for exchange of company data between various government agencies are concerned. At a practical level, most statistical offices have some official policy, or at least an accepted practice about how to prevent disclosure of individual data in disseminating their statistical products. For printed publications, the rules are (in practice) often relatively simple, such as (in particular in the case of business statistics) suppressing cells in tables which contain information about just a few (e.g. three or less) individual entities.

Some general questions are:

How well developed and practiced are the rules to prevent disclosure of individual data in printed publications?

How well developed are techniques and systems to make statistical files available for research purposes, while preventing disclosure in the best possible manner?

Another issue regarding confidentiality is the prevention of non-statistical use of statistical data and guaranteeing administrative immunity of respondent groups. This is a rather complex problem area. When the draft of a Regulation for Community statistics (better known as the 'European Statistical Law') was discussed by the member states of the European Union, prolonged debates took place about the definition of and wording around such concepts as 'statistical data', 'use for statistical purposes' and 'non-statistical use'. Yet another issue related to the confidence of citizens in the national statistical office concerns the perception of the public that databases and networks within these offices are in practice secure against external intrusions (by 'hacking' or otherwise).

The case of Moldova

In general, the NBS adheres completely to the confidentiality principle. One comment that could be made, however, is that data from the 'bookkeeping reports' are shared with the Ministry of Finance and other public authorities. It should be noted, however, that the bookkeeping reports are –strictly speaking- administrative reports, and are not ruled by statistical legislation. Although the reports are currently a very important source of basic statistical data, some doubt may be raised as to their reliability; it is known that some enterprises have dual bookkeeping systems.

The NBS – so far- does not produce micro-data sets for research purposes.

Principle 7

Legislation

'The laws, regulations and measures under which the statistical systems operate are to be made public.'

Principle 7 means that the position of statistical offices, including their rights and obligations should be codified in proper, publicly available legislation, in order to show

to the public what it may expect from the national statistical system. It is impossible to set out very specific rules for statistical legislation. Much depends on the legal culture and traditions in countries. Many countries have a formal 'general statistics law', but in others the statistical legislation may be scattered over a series of specific laws and various other government documents. Neither situation, however, is a guarantee that official statistics are in good shape, because it is useful to note here, that laws obviously cannot solve all problems. Nevertheless, it is suggested that statistical legislation and/or other legislation which is also relevant for official statistics, should cover all or most of the following basic points:

- The general position of the national statistical office/system (including points such as who decides on the work program, who decides on methodological issues, how are data collected, what are the relations between the national statistical office -if any- and other government agencies doing statistical work, what are the relations between the statistical system and the government/parliament etc.)
- The position of the head of the national statistical office/system (including points such as who appoints and dismisses, to whom does the 'national statistician' report and about what, does he/she have any specific responsibilities etc.)
- Basic rules of data collection and confidentiality (voluntary and statutory data collection, any penalties for non-compliance with compulsory data collections, general and specific confidentiality rules)

In view of this, the question to be asked about statistical legislation may be:

How good is the statistical legislation in a country, in terms of clearly setting out the mission and the competences of statistical agencies, legal obligations to provide information for statistical purposes and the protection of confidentiality of individual data?

In addition, some implementation aspects of statistical are to be taken into account. In particular, it is generally considered to be sensible and decent when respondents are properly informed about the legitimate basis for statistical data collections and other activities of statistical agencies, for instance by briefing them explicitly about the statutory or non-statutory nature of data collections.

The question to be answered is:

How well developed are the policies and practices of dealing with respondents, in terms of ensuring that they are fully informed of their rights and duties with regard to statistical data collection?

The case of Moldova

The legislative framework regulating statistical activities in the Republic of Moldova includes:

- *The law on official statistics no. 412-XV, from December 9, 2004*
- *The law on the National Bank of the Republic of Moldova from July 21, 1995*
- *The Customs Code of the Republic of Moldova from July 20, 2000*

- The Tourism law from February 11, 2000
- The Telecommunications law from July 7, 1995

These documents describe the competence of the National Bureau for Statistics, and of other public bodies with statistical tasks (The National Bank of the Republic of Moldova, the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, the Ministry of Finance, the Custom Service etc.). According to the Law on official statistics, the National Bureau for Statistics is authorized to manage and to coordinate the entire statistical system of the country. According to the same law statistics are based on the Fundamental Principles of the Official Statistics.

The Moldovan Statistical Law and other statistical legislation meet all the criteria of the FPOS. The way respondents are informed about the purpose of data collections needs some improvement.

Principle 8

National coordination

'Coordination among statistical agencies within countries is essential to achieve consistency and efficiency in the statistical system.'

Principle 8 means that in order to prevent inefficiency, undue response burden and the compilation of incomparable statistics, effective mechanisms for national coordination of statistics should be in place.

Statistical coordination has two main aspects: coordination of programs (in particular as to data collections) and coordination of statistical concepts. Coordination of programs aims at achieving efficiency (avoiding duplication of efforts) and at reducing the response burden (avoiding that the same information is collected several times). Coordination of standards (in particular definitions and classifications) also has efficiency and response burden effects, but is primarily aiming at compilation of comparable statistics. In this latter respect it is important that the national statistical office is recognized as the 'bureau of standards', standards which are respected and followed by all other agencies which may be active in official statistics.

Obviously, coordination is easier to achieve in countries which have a centralized statistical system than in countries where official statistics are highly or relatively decentralized. Nevertheless, coordination mechanisms in countries with decentralized systems may be well developed and successful, while coordination in countries with a centralized system does not always function perfectly.

The key question about national coordination is:

How well developed are national statistical coordination mechanisms and to what extent do they produce the envisaged results?

The case of Moldova

Coordination between different producers of statistics in Moldova is not well developed. The Council for Statistics may play an important role in better coordinating statistical work by government bodies in Moldova. A key partner in the coordination process seems to be the Ministry for Information Development, which is responsible for several important administrative registrations. The quality and accessibility of these registrations is decisive for their usefulness for statistical purposes. It is not clear what instruments and procedures are used to influence the Ministry to move in the desired directions. It is also unclear to what extent the NBS is seen as the statistical 'bureau of standards' by other ministries who have statistical activities or have a say in administrative systems (Education, Health, Agriculture, Ecology and others).

Principle 9

International coordination

'The use by statistical agencies in each country of international concepts, classifications and methods promotes the consistency and efficiency of statistical systems at all official levels.'

Principle 9 basically means that statistical offices should as much as possible adhere to international statistical standards and best practices, not only in order to produce internationally comparable statistics, but also in order to enhance efficiency of statistical operations and the overall quality of statistics.

There are two different aspects to international statistical coordination. First of all, it is important that national statistical systems follow international definitions and classifications, in order to achieve cross-country comparability of statistics. This poses considerable problems in practice. International statistical definitions and classifications are by definition the result of a complex process of compromising. The compromise may be such that some countries can better live with it than others. In particular, developing countries may have difficulties to apply the standards fully, because the process of developing the standards is usually dominated by the more advanced countries. Also, some 'blocks' of countries (e.g. the European Union) may wish to have their own specific standards, which sometimes are slightly different from the world (UN) standards. Therefore, there is general international agreement that international coordination in this respect should be 'flexible', in the sense that countries or groups of countries are entitled to diverge from the world standards, as long as they ensure that the linkage between their standards and the world standards is straightforward and transparent.

The second aspect of international coordination is that countries should benefit as much as possible from methodological, organizational and other practical developments elsewhere. This form of coordination is aiming at improving efficiency and enhancing the quality of statistical products and operations.

The question to be asked with respect to this principle is:

How well does a statistical system adhere to agreed international standards and does it contribute to the best of its abilities to the further development and promulgation of best statistical practices?

The case of Moldova

The NBS does it very best to follow international standards. In many respects progress has been made to achieve this. Nevertheless, there are still quite a few 'old' classifications in use. A serious handicap of the NBS is that staff does not participate much in international meetings, where best practices are discussed. This is a serious setback; having access to written documentation is not enough to keep abreast of new developments. In addition, the usefulness of staff's access to Internet, where also many good practices can be found, is limited by the fact that many of them have an insufficient understanding of English.

Principle 10

International statistical cooperation

'Bilateral and multilateral cooperation in statistics contributes to the improvement of official statistics in all countries.'

Principle 10 means that international cooperation is a prerequisite to enhance the overall, worldwide quality of official statistics. Therefore, national statistical agencies should regard it as part of their core activities to assist other countries to the best of their abilities. Apart from international meetings of statisticians, where (the improvement of) statistical standards is discussed, there is quite a lot of other international statistical cooperation going on. International organizations are trying to promote the use of standards and best practices by issuing handbooks and guidelines in many languages. Some of them also organize and finance technical cooperation programs for developing countries or countries in transition from a centrally planned economy to a market economy. There exists a considerable number of training institutions, in all continents, where statisticians are trained in statistical methods, techniques and practices. In addition, there is much bilateral cooperation going on between countries, sometimes financed from international funds, sometimes from national aid programs.

The efficiency and effectiveness of international technical cooperation in statistics, in terms of avoiding duplication and promoting a systematic, goal-oriented approach, is also a topic of continuous discussion between national statistical agencies and international organizations.

The question to be asked with regard to this principle is:

How actively is a statistical agency involved in international technical assistance?

The case of Moldova

The NBS of Moldova has received a considerable amount of technical assistance over the years and is open for more. Much of the technical assistance that has already been provided has been instrumental in improving the statistical system. However, it should be mentioned that sustainable implementation of acquired knowledge is often difficult.

Part 2 Assessment by statistical domains

Per domain, this report discusses the following issues:

- Summary of work done by the NBS of Moldova
- Summary of the existing EU legislation and/or agreements
- Short description of EU data requirements
- Brief (and provisional) assessment of the extent to which Moldova meets EU requirements

In the Executive Summary, the level of compliance of Moldova with EU requirements has been grouped as follows:

Category 1 - Moldova complies fully or nearly fully with EU requirements

Category 2 – Moldova is under way to compliance with EU requirements, but there are either methodological problems, or quality improvements are necessary, or additional data collection is required

Category 3 – Moldova does not yet comply with EU requirements and has to review its methodology fundamentally and/or to expand its data collection considerably

For EU data requirement and legislation/agreements, reference is made to the EU Statistical Requirements Compendium, 2006 Edition (ISSN 1683-464X), and hereafter to be called SRC.

In principle, only legislation that specifically involves *data requirements* is taken into account, unless legislation requires specific activities -other than data collection- from NSIs (such as in the area of Classifications or the Business Register).

Details about Regulations, Directives and other documents are as a rule not given, because that would make this report unnecessarily heavy. In some domains there are many Regulations in force, and more recent ones are often just updates or extensions of earlier ones. For all details about specific legislation, reference is made to website eur-lex.europa.eu/. For statistical legislation, use the search term 'statistics'.

For reasons of convenience, the domains are in principle treated according to the organization structure of NBS Moldova, not according to the structure of the SRC. This approach is problematic in a few areas, e.g. the area of 'business statistics', because 'business statistics' are spread over three divisions of the NBS. SRC Module 44101 Periodic structural business statistics is discussed under the Division of Statistical Infrastructure and Financial reports, although some of the required data are collected by other divisions. Short-term and Prodcom statistics, however, are discussed under the

Division for Industry, Energy and Construction Statistics, because this Division collects most of the relevant data.

In assessing the compliance potential of Moldova, the element of timeliness has *not* been considered.

Division for population statistics

Section for labor force statistics

Theme 32 Labor market

Summary of work done by NBS Moldova

Labor force statistics are based on statistical and administrative sources. The statistical sources are the Labor Force Survey (LFS) and statistical reports of economic and social units. These ensure the collection and processing of data that cover the main areas of labor force statistics, including indices for the characterization of different aspects of the labor market. The LFS is executed according to the recommendations of the International Labor Office (ILO), with a quarterly periodicity and continuous data collection from a representative sample at the national level. Starting in 2004, a complementary survey was launched about 'Young people on the labor market', as a module of the LFS. Administrative sources are used in labor force statistic to obtain information on specific phenomena, such as registered unemployment. For 2007 the module 'Work organization and working time arrangements' is prepared.

The Labor Force Survey has been held since 1998. It is a continuous survey, but data are published on a quarterly basis. The methodology follows ILO standards. The two-stage sample (8.208 households) is based on the electoral register. First, 114 local units were selected, where the interviewers handle 24 households per month, so 72 per quarter. This resulted in 8.208 households nationally. Over the years, the number of questions per interview has increased from 52 to 90. Until 2006 the sample size was 8208 addresses. The rotation scheme applied was 2-2-2, i.e. the household is included in the survey for 2 quarters consecutively, for the next 2 quarters they are temporarily excluded, then included again in the survey for 2 more quarters, after which they are definitely excluded from the survey. Starting with 2006, a different sampling system was introduced, based on the 2004 population census and electricity consumer lists. The sample size is 12.000 addresses per quarter. Another rotation scheme is applied: 1-1-(1)-1-(8)-1-1. The present sample size and rotation scheme allows the calculation of monthly estimators.

Summary of EU data requirements

These statistics comprise short-term as well as structural statistics about the situation of the labor market in the EU, in monetary and non-monetary terms and also in terms of time-use.

[*] *Moldova meets the EU requirements.*

Module 32100 Employment and unemployment

Summary of EU data requirements

This module refers to:

- The Labor Force Survey
- Unemployment estimates (based on quarterly data from national accounts with breakdowns from the LFS)
- Harmonized unemployment rates (estimated monthly from LFS unemployment data and trends derived from monthly registers)
- Job vacancy statistics (quarterly and annual)
- Strike statistics (annual)

Data requirements are basically as follows:

- Annual vacancy data (with regional and occupational breakdowns)
- Quarterly vacancy data by economic activity
- Annual Labor Force Survey
- Quarterly Labor Force Survey
- Annual statistics on industrial disputes
- Monthly unemployment statistics

Compliance of Moldova

[***] *Moldova does not produce vacancy statistics, nor does it have statistics about strikes. It was noted in this regard that strikes do not exist in Moldova, officially.*

Module 32200 Earnings and labor costs

Summary of work done by NBS Moldova

The system of statistical reports by enterprises covers all branches and sectors of activity, and makes it possible to solve the basic problems of salary statistics and related statistics within a complete concept. The system produces both short-term and more detailed annual data. The section for wage statistics collects its data from enterprises, monthly and annually. All economic entities with more than 20 employees are surveyed, which

amounts to 6.000 units. The questionnaire is about number of employees, hours worked, salaries and total labor cost. Quarterly, all enterprises which have less than 20 employees are also surveyed.

Summary of existing EU legislation and data requirements

This module refers to:

- Multi-annual, annual and short term statistics on earnings and labor costs and indicators on labor taxation

Data requirements may be summarized as follows:

- Labor cost survey tables (national, by size class and by region)
- Quarterly Labor Costs Indices
- Quarterly Labor Cost Index – Weights
- Structure of earnings (reporting units)
- Structure of earnings (employees)

Compliance of Moldova

*[**] On the basis of various data sources, with considerable effort, Moldova will probably be able to produce the required labor cost survey tables. It is doubtful if Moldova can produce the Quarterly labor Cost Indices and the structure of earnings tables.*

Module 32300 Time use and reconciliation of work and family life

Summary of work done by NBS Moldova

Moldova has not executed a time use survey so far.

Summary of EU data requirements

There is no legal basis, but an agreement.

The data required are collected every five years.

Compliance of Moldova

*[**] This depends on the possibilities of the NBS to execute a time-use survey. A time-use survey, however, is included in the Technical Assistance Programme for 2005-2006, approved by Government Decision.*

Service for demographic statistics

Theme 31 Population

Summary of work done by NBS Moldova

Demographic statistics are based on two sources: data from the population census and administrative data about vital events and migration for the years between the censuses. Administrative data are collected by 4 questionnaires directed at the civil registration offices (birth, death, marriages and divorces). Information on migration is received from the Ministry of Information Development and the National Bureau for Migration.

The population census of 2004 covered the *de jure* population, as well as the persons with foreign citizenship or without any citizenship, who had their residence in the territory of the Republic of Moldova. The census was realized according to the Decision of the Republic of Moldova no. 230 from 9th of March 2004 and it covered all the regions of the country, except Eastern regions (in these regions the census was executed in the period of 11-18 November 2004).

Existing problems:

- The main demographic data base has not been updated since 1989, due to lack of equipment and software. All demographic calculations are done manually. Demographic forecasting is so far not done.
- Compatibility of migration data, obtained from different sources. The cooperation between various government departments and offices must be improved.
- The State Register of Population kept by the Ministry of Information Development is incomplete; people without national ID document and children from 3-16 years old are not registered.
- Difficulties measuring real external labor migration, because a large part of movements is not registered.
- For various reasons, but mainly migration, there are serious discrepancies between census data and current demographic estimates.

Summary of EU data requirements

Census data, demographic projections and migration are among the key issues mentioned under Theme 31. SRC Module 31101 (Demography and census) mentions the existence of Joint ECE/Eurostat Recommendations for the 2010 Censuses of Population and Housing. It also lists specific data requirements, about 35 'rapid questionnaires' and tables, all of them annual. The methodology is described in 'Definition and Methods of Collecting Demographic Statistics in the European Community Countries' (2004).

Compliance of Moldova

*[**]It seems that Moldova is able to meet all or most of the data requirements. The NBS follows the methodological recommendations of the UN, which are largely in line with the EU methodological standards. It is not clear how reliable migration data are, since quite some Moldavians work abroad on a temporary basis. In 2004, a Population Census was conducted, so therefore it is not likely that another Census will be held in 2010.*

Module 31202 of the SRC deals with population projections. The NBS does not make such projections, but wants to start work in this area as soon as resources permit.

Module 31300 of the SRC is about Migration and Asylum. Council Regulation 311/76/EEC specifies the requirements for the compilation of statistics on foreign workers. Five tables are required, 4 annual, 1 monthly. Moldova does not meet these requirements.

Note:

The EU also collects regional demographic and migration data. Moldova can meet the data requirements.

Module 72501 Urban statistics

Summary of work done by NBS Moldova

No specific work has been done on this topic, but some data are available from various sources.

Summary of EU data requirements

The legal basis is Council Regulation 2081/93/EEC.

The data requirements are: 300 variables to measure the quality of life in cities.

Compliance by Moldova

*[**] Moldova cannot meet all the requirements.*

Division for social statistics

Section for social statistics

Preliminary note: in addition to its other tasks, the section also produces Justice Statistics.

Together with the Ministry of Justice work on improvement of the registration system of penal, civil and administrative cases examined by Courts of Justice has started.

Existing problems:

- The necessity for improvement of administrative sources, lack of a flexible data base and timely actualization of registration, and activity of the entities
- Lack of specified information on the definitive convicted persons due to an insufficient mechanism of primary data processing.

At the present time, the EU does not have any legislation or data requirements in this area, but SRC Module 38400 (Crime statistics) suggests that there may be plans to start statistical work in this field.

Theme 33 Education

Summary of work done by NBS Moldova

Recently, a main activity in this field has been oriented towards the implementation of statistical surveys covering all educational institutions. Information is obtained through statistical reports collected at the beginning of each school year for each education level according to the Law on Education. Starting with the school year 2004/05 revised questionnaires on the activity of day schools, gymnasiums, lyceums, and secondary vocational education institutions have been introduced. For primary and secondary education, NBS collects information from private schools only. Information about other schools is received from the Ministry of Education; data are processed by the NBS. For other types of education, the data are collected by NBS itself, from colleges, professional schools and universities.

The National Classification of Education is not yet harmonized with ISCED. To enhance international comparability, drafting of a National Classification of Education has started, based on the ISCED. However, the current questionnaires are not yet based on ISCED.

Existing problems:

- Lack of methodology and relevant information for the calculation of some indicators on educational statistics, disaggregated by levels of education (teaching staff, financing and providing of educational services)

Module 33100 Education statistics

Summary of EU data requirements

This module includes the annual collection of data from administrative sources on initial education and training systems (formal or regular education). ISCED 97 is used. Breakdowns include level of education, sex, age, mode (full-time, part-time), type of institution, field of education, nationality, sources of funding and nature of expenditure.

Two sets of questionnaires are used:

- Annual education statistics
- Annual education statistics – finance

Compliance of Moldova

[**] *Apart from problems with application of the ISCED, Moldova should be able to fill out the annual education statistics questionnaire reasonably completely and probably parts of the finance questionnaire. (The latter information, however, is not produced by the Section for Social statistics.)*

Module 33200 Vocational training and lifelong learning

Summary of work done by NBS Moldova

Special questionnaires (of the Section for Labor Force statistics) about training activities, labor protection and labor mobility have been developed, but not yet implemented.

Summary of EU data requirements

This concerns an enterprise survey on continuing vocational training financed by enterprises and organized through external and internal courses as well as on training measures beyond these courses.

The data collection takes place every five years; the next time in 2010.

Compliance of Moldova

[***] *Moldova does not comply with the data requirements.*

Note:

The EU also collects regional data on educational attainment. It is not entirely clear to what extent Moldova can meet the data requirements.

Module 73101 R&D Statistics

Summary of work done by NBS Moldova

Jointly with the Ministry of Economy and Commerce and the Supreme Council for Science and Technological Development the indices about research and development activities in Moldova have been improved. The methodology follows the recommendations of OECD's Frascati manual.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Culture statistical indices on the activity of libraries have been improved, following UNESCO methodological recommendations. Part of the library statistics contains possible material for 'R&D-related statistics'.

Summary of EU data requirements

Data requirements are:

- Annual R&D statistics (general)
- Bi-annual Statistics in high tech industries and knowledge based services
- Annual Human Resources in science and technology
- Annual Patent Statistics
- Annual Benchmarking indicators

Compliance of Moldova

*[**] Although the NBS has some experience with R&D statistics, the data collection is not annual. Not all of the required information is collected. Patent statistics are not available.*

Note:

The EU also collects regional R&D statistics. It is unclear to what extent Moldova can meet the requirements.

Module 73201 Innovation statistics

Summary of work done by NBS Moldova

Annual surveys about innovation are held (Implementation and Use of Inventions and Proposals for Rationalization).

Summary of EU data requirements

The data requirements are:

- Community Innovation Survey (every two years)
- Community Innovation Survey (candidate countries; every four years)
- Community Innovation Survey, light version
- R&D in accordance with the Frascati Manual and draft Commission Regulation Statistics on Science and Technology

Compliance of Moldova

*[**] Moldova partly complies with EU requirements.*

Module 34100 Culture statistics

Summary of work done by NBS Moldova

For Culture and Sport there are a few NBS questionnaires to museums, theaters, cinemas and sports clubs. In addition, information is received from the Moldovan Agency of Sports and from the Union of Publishers about books published. Also, some information about mass media is collected. For Culture, a publication is foreseen every three years; the first one will appear in 2006.

Summary of EU data requirements

There are two Regulations in force, and the Eurostat Leadership Group on cultural statistics has agreed on a common approach. There are no explicit data requirements as yet.

Compliance of Moldova

[] It would seem that Moldova, with some adaptations of their data collection system, could in principle meet all or most of the EU requirements.*

Theme 35 Health and safety

Module 35100 Public Health

Summary of work done by NBS Moldova

Information for health statistics is received from the Ministry of Health. However, NBS has also done its own health survey, following the EU model. The first one was in 2005 (publication: Health in the Republic of Moldova), the next one will be in 2008.

Summary of EU data requirements

A Parliament and Council Decision is in force and there are some agreements on a common approach to health statistics.

The data requirements are (all annual):

- Causes of death
- European occupation diseases statistics
- Health care
- Health morbidity
- Health resources
- Health interview survey

Compliance of Moldova

*[**] In broad terms, Moldova should be able to comply with most of the data requirements. The health interview survey would have to be done annually to comply with the requirements of this particular module.*

Module 35200 Health and safety at work

Summary of work done by NBS Moldova

Some information is collected in the Labor Force Survey.

Summary of EU data requirements

Data requirements are: an annual questionnaire ‘European statistics on accidents at work’.

Compliance of Moldova

<i>[**] Moldova can probably not fully comply with EU data requirements.</i>
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Note:

The EU also collects regional health infrastructure statistics (numbers of doctors, dentists, hospital beds, causes of death). It is not clear to what extent Moldova can meet the requirements.

Service for standards of living statistics

Module 36100 Household Budget Surveys

Summary of work done by NBS Moldova

The Section for Living Standards is responsible for the Household Budget Survey (HBS). It was adapted to world standards in 1997, with help of the World Bank. The classification of expenditure follows COICOP. The income part follows EU standards. The sample has been changed from a panel model to a form of rotation. Before 2005 the size of the panel was 6.200. In 2005 a few changes were made. The data are collected by the NBS network of interviewers, who also work for the Labor Force Survey. For the HBS sample design, the country was divided into three ‘zones’: Chisinau, rural and (other) urban. In Chisinau, there are separate strata for ‘rich’ and ‘other’. Since 2005, the sample size is 9.000 households, half of which remain in the sample for 4 years, while the other half is replaced after two years. The response rate in Chisinau is about 40% (nationally it is about 70%); there is no substitution for non-response. There are two questionnaires: one for general characteristics of households, while the other is the diary. Food products must be recorded for two weeks, other products for one month. Information about income in kind and services received in kind is not collected. Each interviewer (there are 150 of them, plus 50 supervisors) takes care of 4 households in villages, 6 in towns and 10 in Chisinau. From 2006, NBS is responsible for poverty analysis and reporting for Moldova.

Summary of EU data requirements

The ‘legal basis’ is a Gentlemen’s agreement. The questionnaire is annual.

Compliance of Moldova

<i>[**] On the basis of the HBS, Moldova should be able to partially comply with the data requirements.</i>

Module 36301 Income, Poverty and Social Exclusion and
Module 36401 Community Statistics on Income and Living Conditions

Summary of EU data requirements

The 'legal basis' for Module 36301 is an agreement.
For Module 36401 (SILC) 10 legal instruments are in force. SILC is carried out in 27 countries (EU plus Norway and Iceland).

The data requirements are:

- Annual questionnaire on Income, poverty and social exclusion – Laeken indicators on monetary poverty
- Annual statistics on Income and Living Conditions

Compliance of Moldova

*[**] The HBS and other sources about household income and living conditions produce not enough data for Moldova to fully comply with EU requirements. It is estimated that about half of the Laeken indicators can be produced.*

Theme 37 Social protection

The purpose of the EU is to build a database about social protection expenditure, receipts and social benefits classified by functions: sickness/health care, disability, old age, survivors, family/children, unemployment, housing, social exclusion and others. The database is about *individual* households and persons.

Module 37101 Social protection statistics

Summary of work done by NBS Moldova

Some of the required data are being collected by the HBS. Other information about social protection (old age pensions, disability pensions, unemployment benefits, children allowances, housing subsidies etc.) is available from the 'National House of Social Insurance'.

Summary of EU data requirements

At present, there is no legal basis for this data collection. A Regulation, however, is under discussion.

The data requirements are (all annual):

- Cross-sectional household register
- Cross-sectional household data

- Cross-sectional personal data
- Cross-sectional personal register
- Longitudinal household register
- Longitudinal household data
- Longitudinal personal register
- Intermediate quality report
- Final quality report

Compliance by Moldova

[] The impression is that Moldova, in principle, should be able to submit most of the required information.*

Module 37202 Development of a database on market policy measures

This is about annual data on expenditure and participants of the different employability measures.

Summary of work done by NBS Moldova

NBS does not specifically collect data about this issue so far. Possibly some data are available at the Ministry of Health and Social Protection or one of its agencies.

Summary of EU data requirements

There is no legal basis for this module, except an agreement.

The data requirements are: annual labor market statistics. This regards statistics about the numbers of beneficiaries of different employability programs, as well as the outlays for such programs.

Compliance of Moldova

*[***] Moldova does not comply with the requirements.*

NOTE:

The EU also collects regional labor market statistics, including anonymized personal data. It is not clear to what extent Moldova can meet the requirements.

Division for macroeconomic statistics

Section for national accounts and macroeconomic synthesis

Theme 40 Annual economic accounts

Summary of work done by NBS Moldova

The SNA93 is fully applied and nearly all the accounts are being compiled, with the exception of financial accounts. Annually, a supply/use table (40 by 40 industries) is compiled. Quarterly accounts are being compiled on the basis of the production method. For the calculation of GDP the expenditure method is also used. Accounts are compiled in current prices, plus on the basis of last year's prices and in prices of 2000 as base year (which will shortly be moved to 2005). Adjustments for the informal sector are made on the basis of the OECD recommendations. The non-observed economy is supposed to be about 30% of GDP. A start has been made with compilation of financial accounts.

Data sources used for national accounting are:

1. The state budget (Ministry of Finance)
2. Data from the Central Bank and from commercial banks
3. A so-called '5 expenditures questionnaire', which is added to the 'bookkeeping reports'
4. The 'bookkeeping reports' themselves are also used (26.000 enterprises, covering 60% of GDP), but mainly for measuring fixed assets and stocks. It was noted that if the 'bookkeeping report' system becomes annual, the '5 expenditure questionnaire' approach will be endangered.
5. Labor force survey
6. Annual structural survey
7. Tax information
8. Agricultural surveys (agriculture represents 18-20% of GDP)

The implementation in Moldova of the SNA93 took place in 1995, with calculations in retrospect starting with 1993. Annually, the following accounts are compiled: goods and services production, consumption, primary and secondary use of income, capital account and 'rest of the world'. The calculation of GDP takes place quarterly and annually, using two methods: production (total and by sector) and consumption (seven aggregates). The calculations are performed in current and constant prices, and starting with 2005, also in constant prices with seasonal adjustments. The methodology of estimation of the non-observed economy, in accordance with international standards, is based on existent informational resources.

Annual elaboration of Supply and Use tables is in its final phase of implementation; they reflect the way in which the resources of the national economy are utilized, the interconnections between production and consumption, and the types of economic

activities. These tables help to calibrate GDP estimates through the three methods of calculation: production, consumption and income.

Existing problems are:

- Lack of knowledge on the methodology of elaboration of national accounts in accordance with the methodology of the European System of Accounts (ESA-1995)
- Lack of knowledge to elaborate financial accounts
- Lack of knowledge in the elaboration of fixed capital consumption in accordance with SNA requirements
- Lack of practice in the calibration of quarterly seasonally adjusted GDP data with the annual data

Compliance of Moldova

*[**] The problems of NBS Moldova to comply with EU standards were described in a previous paragraph.*

Module 40200 National Accounts; aggregates

Summary of work done by NBS Moldova

See introductory paragraph. It should be noted that the data requirements under this module not only concern the division for macroeconomic statistics, but indirectly also other work areas of the NBS, such as labor force statistics, external trade statistics and investment statistics.

Summary of EU data requirements

This module is about main annual aggregates of non-financial national accounts, annual data on value added, capital formation and labor input by industry, and household consumption by purpose.

The data requirements include (all annual, unless otherwise indicated):

- Gross capital formation
- Exports and imports of goods (fob) and services
- Disposable income
- Saving and net lending/borrowing
- Real disposable income
- Population and employment
- Employment and fulltime equivalents by industry
- Compensation of employees by industry
- Breakdown of gross value added
- Breakdown of employment by industry
- Breakdown of compensation of employees by industry

- Final consumption expenditure of households by purpose
- Final consumption of households by durability
- Breakdown of gross operating surplus by industry
- Simplified non-financial accounts by institutional sector
- Exports of goods (fob) and services by Member States of the EU/third countries
- Import of goods (fob) and services by Member States of the EU/third countries
- Quarterly final consumption expenditure of households
- Quarterly public financial statistics (general government expenditure)
- Fixed assets for total economy by branch and by product
- Gross value added at basic prices and gross domestic product at market prices
- GDP from the expenditure side
- GDP from the income side
- Final consumption

Compliance of Moldova

*[**] Within the constraints mentioned before, a rough estimate would be that the NBS – in some cases with data obtained from the National Bank and the Ministry of Finance - might be able to more or less fill out two thirds of the totality of the above-mentioned tables with a reasonable degree of quality.*

Module 40401 Accounts of Institutional sectors

Summary of work done by NBS Moldova

See introductory paragraph.

Summary of EU data requirements

The data requirements are:

- Annual national accounts by institutional sector
- Quarterly sector accounts

Compliance of Moldova

*[**] Within the constraints mentioned before, the NBS can probably fill out the annual questionnaire more or less adequately, but not the quarterly questionnaire.*

Module 40500 Supply/use and input/output tables

Summary of work done by NBS Moldova

See the introductory paragraph.

Summary of EU data requirements

The data requirements are:

- Annual tables by industry value added and in variables
- Annual table by industry capital formation
- Annual tables by industry labor input
- Annual final consumption expenditure of households by purpose
- Quarterly final consumption expenditure of households by purpose
- Annual supply table at basic prices
- Annual use table at purchasers' prices
- Five-yearly symmetric input/output table at basic prices
- Five-yearly symmetric input/output table at basic prices for domestic output
- Five-yearly symmetric input/output table at basic prices for imports
- Five-yearly cross classification of fixed assets by industry and by product
- Five-yearly cross classification of production account by industry and by sector
- Five-yearly cross classification of gross fixed capital formation by industry and by product
- Annual special questionnaire for calculating the Purchasing Power Parities and the GDP weights

Compliance of Moldova

[***] With reference to previous paragraphs, it may be assumed that the NBS would be able to fill out most of the above tables more or less adequately, with the important exception, however, of the input/output tables and the PPP questionnaire.

Theme 41 Quarterly accounts

The fact that the SRC treats the quarterly accounts as a separate theme and not as a module, demonstrates the importance the EU attaches to short-term economic statistics.

Summary of work done by NBS Moldova

See the introductory paragraph.

Summary of EU data requirements

The data requirements for this module are, with a different periodicity, to a very large extent the same as for the annual national accounts.

Compliance of Moldova

[***] Within the constraints mentioned before, a rough estimate would be that the NBS might be able to more or less fill out half of the totality of the above-mentioned tables with a reasonable degree of completeness and quality, so less than was the case for the annual questionnaires.

Theme 42 Financial accounts

Again, the fact that this is seen as a separate theme, and not just a module, demonstrates the importance the EU and in particular the European Central Bank, attaches to this domain of statistics. These accounts are important analytical tools for the Commission and for the ECB. The requirements not only relate to data, but also to meta-data in the form of manuals on sources and methods. In addition to annual data, quarterly financial accounts for the institutional sectors will be further developed.

Summary of work done by the NBS

Service for financial statistics

Among financial institutions the following surveys take place:

- Activities of commercial banks (16 commercial banks). Information collected is on the deposits of legal and natural persons, their credits, and the financial account of commercial banks
- Insurance companies (50 companies). Data collected are about the structure of payments of insurance premiums and the payment of insurance compensations.

Data on the income and expenditures of the national state budget are obtained quarterly from the Ministry of Finance.

Existing problems:

The information on the crediting activity (including leasing crediting) by other economic agents, except commercial banks, is missing.

Summary of EU data requirements

The data requirements are:

- Quarterly financial accounts by sector (transactions consolidated)
- Quarterly financial accounts by sector (transactions non-consolidated)
- Quarterly revaluation account (abstract – consolidated)
- Quarterly revaluation account (abstract – non-consolidated)
- Annual national financial accounts for the government sectors
- Quarterly national financial accounts statistics

Compliance of Moldova

[***] <i>The NBS cannot comply with these requirements.</i>

Module 43100 Monitoring own resources Gross National Product (GNI) and

Module 43200 Monitoring own resources Value Added Tax (VAT)

Summary of EU data requirements

There is a series of legal acts governing this important module. National accounts data (in particular GNI) play an important role in calculating contributions by the Member States to the EU budget. Also VAT-receipts are important. The GNI-based resource and the VAT-based resource jointly account for 80% of EU budget receipts. The data are carefully inspected by the EU. Countries have to submit a detailed description of the national accounts methodology.

Data requirements: annual GDP/GNI questionnaire, plus VAT-based calculations.

Compliance of Moldova

[***] Moldova does not yet meet the requirements under this module.

Theme 52 Money and finance

Summary of work done by NBS Moldova

See under Financial accounts.

Module 52101 Government finance

Summary of EU data requirements

Data requirements are (twice per year):

- Main aggregates of general government, including total revenue and expenditure
- Taxes and social contributions
- General government expenditure by COFOG-function and by type

Compliance by Moldova

[*] The Ministry of Finance can supply all or nearly all of the required data. Therefore, Moldova is in full compliance with EU requirements for this module.

Module 52201 Statistics on public deficit and debt

Summary of work done by NBS Moldova

See under Financial accounts.

Summary of EU data requirements

The data requirements are (twice per year): government deficit and debt statistics.

Compliance of Moldova

[] The Ministry of Finance can supply all or nearly all of the required data. Therefore, Moldova is in full compliance with EU requirements for this module.*

Module 52301 Monetary and financial indicators

Summary of work done by NBS Moldova

See under Financial accounts.

Summary of EU data requirements

This module concerns a range of indicators used for monetary policy, in particular by the national central banks and the European Central Bank.

Data requirements include:

- Money supply, loans and deposits (monthly)
- Long term indicators (daily, monthly, annual)
- Effective exchange rates (monthly)
- Exchange rates (daily)
- Exchange rates (monthly, quarterly, annual)
- International investment position (annual)
- Consolidated reserves (monthly)
- Retail interest rates (monthly)
- Main aggregates of General Government (annual)
- Taxes and social contribution (annual)
- Expenditure of General Government by function
- Short term public finance statistics (quarterly)
- Financial accounts for General Government (quarterly)
- General Government debt (quarterly)

Compliance of Moldova

[] The data must be supplied by the Ministry of Finance and by the National Bank of Moldova. Most of the information is available.*

Module 54100 Quarterly balance of payments

Summary of work done by NBS Moldova

The Balance of Payments is the responsibility of the National Bank of Moldova.

Summary of EU data requirements

Data requirements are:

- Quarterly Balance of Payments
- Quarterly Euro Indicators

Compliance of Moldova

<p><i>[*] Despite some minor problems, the National Bank of Moldova collects all the information. Therefore, Moldova is in compliance with EU requirements for this module.</i></p>

Module 54300 Foreign Direct Investments

Summary of work done by NBS Moldova

Information is collected both by NBS and by the National Bank of Moldova. See also elsewhere in this report.

Summary of EU data requirements

Data requirements are:

- Annual foreign direct investment positions
- Annual foreign affiliates statistics

Compliance of Moldova

<p><i>[*] Despite some minor problems, the National Bank of Moldova and the NBS jointly collect all the information. Therefore, Moldova is in compliance with EU requirements for this module.</i></p>
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Module 54400 International trade in services

Summary of work done by NBS Moldova

See under Division for External Trade and Services.

Summary of EU data requirements

Data requirements: annual International trade in services.

Compliance of Moldova

*[**] Considering the difficulties mentioned elsewhere in this report, Moldova only partly meets the requirements.*

Module 54600 Foreign affiliates statistics (outward)

Summary of work done by NBS Moldova

Moldova has not done any work in this area yet.

Summary of EU data requirements

Legislation is under discussion. The statistics are important for international trade negotiations. This module is about activities of establishments of Moldovan companies abroad. Data requirements are: Outward foreign affiliates' statistics broken down by sector and by geographical area.

Compliance of Moldova

*[***] Although this may not be a major issue for Moldova at the moment, data are not collected.*

Module 72102 Regional accounts

Summary of work done by NBS Moldova

Some experimental work is being done, but full regional accounts have not yet been compiled. GDP estimates by district have been made for 2000-2001, with technical assistance by Sweden. Now the aim is for regional accounting at the level of 38 regions and in the future for 5-6 'zones'.

Summary of EU data requirements

The data requirements include:

- Annual tables by region and industry
- Annual Household accounts by region

Compliance of Moldova

*[**] Moldova does not yet comply with the requirements.*

Section for price statistics

Theme 55 Prices

Summary of the work done by NBS Moldova

The *Consumer Price Index (CPI)* is calculated based on surveys of the prices of 1250 commodities and services, at 750 points located in 8 cities. Weights are derived from the Household Budget Survey. In the calculations of the CPI also the other elements of household consumption are included (except own consumption of goods and services produced by the household, expenditures in the form of taxes, penalties, interest paid on credits, and insurance premiums). The registration of prices and tariffs takes place twice per month for food products (four times for seasonal food products) and once a month for non-food commodities and services rendered to the population. Consumer price indexes are calculated using the Laspeyres method.

Technical descriptions for the software needed to calculate a HCPI are being developed. Calculations will start in 2007. The use of 'palms' for data collection is supposed to start in 2007. All price data will be collected 3 times per month.

Existing problems:

- Lack of software for input and processing of the primary data on prices and tariffs for commodities and services;
- Lack of software for CPI processing in accordance with EU standards;
- Adjustment of the samples of commodities and services according to the COICOP classification.

For *Industrial producer price statistics (IPPS)* the second version of the Classification of Activities of the Economy of the Republic of Moldova is used, harmonized with NACE rev. 1.1. However, this classification is only used for the calculation of the aggregated indexes at the activities level. For the collection of data and calculation of the individual price indexes at products level the nomenclature of products from the old system is still used. The surveys are performed with monthly frequency at country level. In the survey are involved 221 industrial enterprises. Price data are collected and individual indexes for 866 product-specifications are calculated. Further, through the method of successive aggregations using the Laspeyres formula aggregated indexes for types of activity separately and for the industry in total are calculated. The system of weights (the value of sales) used for the aggregation of the individual indexes is based on data from statistical surveys of industrial production (at the level of products) and of the data from the annual structural survey (at the level of economic activities) from the base year. This system is revised once every 5 years, as well as the nomenclature of businesses and products included in the survey. At the moment, weights of the year 2000 are used.

Existing problems:

- The necessity to implement the classification of industrial goods and services PRODMOLD, harmonized with PRODCOM;
- The necessity to implement some of the methods for updating of the data base for the calculation of the IPPI (the sample of enterprises, the list of products, the weights for the aggregations);
- The necessity to change the base year in the calculation of the IPPI.
- The need to develop new software for the calculation of the IPPI.

Module 55101 Harmonized Consumer Price Index

Summary of work done by NBS Moldova

See the Introductory paragraphs.

Summary of EU data requirements

The Harmonized Index of Consumer Prices (HICP) is a key indicator for the conduct of the monetary policy of the euro-zone by the ECB.

There are about fifteen legal acts in force.

The data requirements are:

- Annual Harmonized Consumer Price Indices –weights
- Annual Consumer Price Indices
- Monthly Consumer Price Indices
- Monthly Harmonized Consumer Price Indices

Compliance of Moldova

<i>[**] At the moment, the NBS cannot meet the data requirements.</i>

Module 55201 Spatial Price Comparison

This module is to do with PPPs. The information is necessary to obtain reliable volume and price level comparisons across countries for economic analysis and the allocation of Structural Funds as specified in Council Regulations 1260/99 and 1267/99. PPPs are in particular used for the management of the EU structural funds. Moldova has participated in the International Comparison Programme (ICP) since 1992, under the coordination of the statistical office of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

The basic data requirements are:

- Survey of Construction prices (every two years)
- Annual CPI data

- Survey of equipment goods prices (every two years)
- Survey of Food, Drinks and Tobacco Prices (every three years)
- Survey of Furniture and health prices (every three years)
- Survey of House and garden Prices (every three years)
- Survey of Personal Appearance Prices (every three years)
- Annual Survey of Rents
- Annual Survey of Salaries
- Annual Spatial Adjustment Factors
- Survey of Services Prices (every three years)
- Tips data (annual)
- Survey of Transport, Restaurants and Hotel Prices (every three years)
- VAT data (annual)
- GDP weights (annual)

Compliance of Moldova

*[**] With some exceptions, Moldova can probably largely meet the data requirements.*

Division for statistical infrastructure and financial reports

Section for structural statistics and the register of statistical units

Summary of the work done by NBS Moldova

There is an annual structural survey of all sectors, with the exception of agriculture and the financial sector. The annual structural surveys cover:

- A full survey of all units with limited liability status that have either more than 50 employees, or a turnover of more than 10 million Lei
- A full survey of units without limited liability status, which have a turnover of more than 1 million Lei
- A sample survey of all other registered units.

For 2006, the number of units surveyed was 9.600.

The Business Register system consists of two separate registers: RENIM and RENUŠ.

RENIM (Inter Administrative Register) is based on 3 sources:

1. The register of the 'Chamber of Registration', kept by the Ministry for Information Development.
 2. A register of non-commercial enterprises, kept by the Ministry of Justice.
 3. A register of public administrative organizations, kept by the Ministry of Finance.
- RENIM contains 135.000 legal units.

RENUŠ (Register of Statistical Units) is a *statistical* register and contains 47.000 active enterprises only. RENUŠ is the sampling frame for business statistics.

Section for financial reports

An important source for updating RENUŠ and for business statistics are the so-called 'bookkeeping reports' (also called: financial reports) that 35.000 (turnover of more than 1 million Lei) of these 47.000 enterprises have to submit to the NBS. Financial reports are compulsory for legal units and for physical persons who own a business with a turnover of more than 1 million Lei per year. Apart from financial data, the reports also contain non-financial information, such as information about main and auxiliary activities. The system has existed since 1998. Bookkeeping is based on official national accounting standards and the reports have to be submitted quarterly. The reports contain about 100 indicators. Discussion is ongoing to reduce the frequency of reporting from quarterly to annual.

Service for statistical classifications

Module 11102 Statistical Classifications and

Module 11600 Classifications for trade in goods statistics

Summary of work done by NBS Moldova

As to the development and implementation of classifications, the situation is as follows:

- ISIC has been implemented in 1999
- NACE has first been implemented in 2000
- NACE 1.1 was introduced in 2004
- CPA was introduced in 2000
- Prodcom was implemented in 2004
- For external trade, HS and CN are used

Summary of EU data requirements

The purpose of the 5 or so legal instruments in force is to facilitate the implementation of a harmonized set of classifications for the European Statistical system and promote its use. The web server Ramon contains all relevant metadata and classifications. There are no data requirements.

Compliance of Moldova

[*] It seems that the NBS uses the most important EU classifications (NACE, CPA, Prodcom, CN), even though there may be some implementation problems left. Therefore, Moldova meets the requirements in this regard.

Theme 44 Statistics on the economic activities of enterprises

This is clearly one of the most important areas of work of Eurostat. The data requirements are substantial. Annual, short-term and Prodcom statistics are part of the program.

Module 44101 Periodic structural business statistics

Summary of the work done by NBS Moldova

There is an annual structural survey of all sectors, with the exception of agriculture and the financial sector.

In addition, the Division for Industrial statistics also has an annual survey which covers all industrial enterprises, including 1900 which have industrial activities as secondary

activity. Questionnaires cover both financial and physical information. The financial information is mainly about turnover, the physical information is classified according to ProdMold, a national version of Prodcum.

The Section for Service statistics of the Division for External trade and Services statistics is responsible for Retail trade statistics and Services statistics. Retail trade statistics are in line with EU Regulations, but the difference is that EU statistics deal with trade as primary activity only, while Moldovan statistics cover all economic units. Statistics about paid services to households are a relatively new area.

For transport, communication, tourism and informatics, there is a range of surveys; 25 of them exhaustive, and 1 sample survey.

In road transport statistics, monthly and quarterly exhaustive surveys cover road transport enterprises. Annual survey covers *all* economic agents possessing road vehicles. Quarterly, about 2200 physical persons (owners of freight road vehicles) participate in the sample survey 'Freight road transportation'. Statistical surveys on transport include all transportation modes and collect information about transported goods and goods mileage by each transportation mode separately, as well as information about infrastructure and transportation equipment.

For tourism statistics the following sample surveys are conducted:

- capacity of collective tourist accommodation structures
- tourists received in collective accommodation structures
- activity of economic units (holders of licenses on tourism)

For Information Technology there is one annual exhaustive survey covering 3600 economic agents (legal persons), collecting variables on the number of PCs, networks and information about software used.

Communication statistics include information about fixed and mobile telephony as well as postal (mail) activity.

Summary of EU data requirements

Structural Business Statistics (SBS) contain annual detailed data, covering all business activities, broken down to the 4-digit level of NACE rev1. A large number of variables are required.

The data requirements (all annual) are:

- Horizontal module - preliminary data
- Horizontal module – final data
- Industry – preliminary data
- Industry – final data
- Distributive trades – preliminary data
- Distributive trade – final data

- Construction – preliminary data
- Construction – final data
- Insurance services
- Credit institutions
- Pension funds

Timeliness requirements are of course different for the preliminary and the final data.

Compliance of Moldova

*[**] In principle, Moldova can possibly meet the data requirements to a large extent, but probably not in every detail. Data about insurance companies, credit institutions and pension funds may be weaker than data for the other sectors.*

Module 44201 Development of structural business statistics

Summary of EU data requirements

This is a module that covers the expansion of business statistics with a variety of new topics, such as certain aspects of the demography of enterprises, statistics on foreign affiliates, advertising sale by the media, income from intellectual property rights, environmental protection expenditure, and many others. The legal basis is Council Regulation 58/97/EC concerning structural business statistics. The data requirements are very heavy. However, many of the questionnaires are experimental or in a pilot phase.

Compliance of Moldova

*[***] Moldova will not be able to meet many of the data requirements.*

Division for industry, energy and construction statistics

Section for industry and energy statistics

Module 44402 Short-term statistics of enterprises (STS)

Summary of work done by NBS Moldova

Apart from its other work, the industry section of the Division for Industry, Energy and Construction statistics is also responsible for PPIs.

There are monthly and annual enterprise surveys. The monthly survey (650-700 enterprises) covers big and medium-sized enterprises (more than 20 employees or a production value of more than 1 million Lei). Revision of the (cut-off) sample takes place every two years. The aim is to measure 80% of industrial production.

For investments, including the construction sector, the situation is as follows:

Statistical observation of investments in fixed capital is performed through statistical reports, submitted by all economic units that perform investment activities regardless of ownership type, organizational-legal form and the number of persons employed. The data on investments in fixed capital are presented by types of ownership, by sources of financing, by main types of economic activities and by region, broken down by objects with productive and non-productive use, the structure of reproduction of the investments in fixed capital, the unfinished construction of the productive and non-productive objects etc.

Statistical observation of construction activities is performed:

- Monthly through an exhaustive observation of legal persons, the main activity of which is the performance of construction;
- Quarterly through a sample survey of 100 construction organizations, for the registration of the prices in constructions.

Existing problems:

- The system of indexes on investment activity of the economic agents is not in accordance with the conditions of a market economy and with the norms of the EU;
- Lack of practice in the organization of sample surveys on the activity of small economic agents (especially of the small business sector).

Foreign investments statistics are based on a statistical survey of enterprises with the participation of foreign capital (about 1700 enterprises) that present information on their investments received in the financial reports (accounting), collected quarterly by the NBS.

Existing problems:

Lack of complete information on foreign investments, namely:

- a) Investments funds received from abroad by economic agents (except joint ventures and foreign joint ventures) in the form of: credits, loans, leasing and other financial investments;
- b) Investments funds placed abroad by the economic agents from the republic.

Investment and construction statistics cover the following activities and surveys:

- 1 monthly questionnaire for the construction sector (700 enterprises)
- 4 quarterly questionnaires, directed at respectively a. investments (by all economic actors, base on a detailed nomenclature of investment goods) b. own house construction c. prices in construction and d. investments by industrial enterprises
- 5 annual questionnaires, respectively for: a. construction companies b. investments (by all economic actors) c. 'the 'dwelling fund' d. construction of own houses and e. project development activities.

The bookkeeping reports are the main source for selection of enterprises. The quarterly report on investment is supposed to meet European standards. The quality of the statistics on construction prices, however, leaves much to be desired.

The industrial PPI is not based on ProdMold, partly because there is not enough staff to work out the necessary detailing necessary for price observations. Therefore an old nomenclature is used.

Summary of EU data requirements

The objective is to collect statistical data laid down in the Short-term Statistics Regulation 1165/98 (and later amendments), covering key indicators, including the production index, producers prices, new orders and turnover for industry, construction, trade and services.

The data requirements (some monthly, some quarterly) are very heavy and include a wide range of indicators.

Compliance of Moldova

[**] In view of the description of activities of the NBS and the problems encountered therewith, as well as the considerable amount of detail covered by this module, it is likely that Moldova can only meet part of the data requirements.

Module 44510 Production Statistics of Enterprises (Prodcom)

Summary of work done by NBS Moldova

During the period of 1996-2005 the following was implemented:

- The Classification of Activities in the Economy of the Republic of Moldova – version 1, harmonized with ISIC, and version 2, harmonized with NACE rev. 1.1;
- The Statistical Classification of Goods and Services, harmonized with the CPA.

The statistical surveys in industry rely on the functional principle, meaning that in surveys are included both the enterprises (juridical persons) with main industrial activities, and the secondary industrial units of the enterprises with main activities other than industrial, included in the exhaustive surveys. Nowadays, annually in the industrial field (2003) there were surveyed 4375 productive units, out of which with main industrial activities – 1865, and 1863 auxiliary production units of non-industrial enterprises.

In the year 2003 the Classification of industrial products and services PRODMOLD was developed, harmonized with PRODCOM, which has been used for big industrial enterprises included in the monthly statistical survey. In the year 2005 the process of implementation of the classification PRODMOLD has started at the enterprises that present annual statistical reports on production (including the small enterprises and those with secondary industrial activities). Monthly 650 big enterprises are surveyed, whereby the following indicators are collected: value of manufactured production in current and constant prices, the volume of production in physical units, and the number of personnel engaged in the activity. Quarterly the following additional indicators are collected: the value of sold production, the value of stocks of finished goods, and the cost of the clients' raw material, processed. The individual enterprises (natural persons) with main industrial activities (about 3400 units) are not included in regular statistical surveys. For this category of economic agents the estimation of the value of manufactured production is calculated on the basis of the number of individual enterprises, the production realized by a worker in a small private enterprise and the average number of workers of the individual enterprise.

Existing problems:

- The lack of a special methodological and practical assistance for the calculation of the industrial production index and of other indexes harmonized with the norms of the EU;
- The existence of some problems in the implementation of the new statistical indexes, classifications, of the new methods used in the calculation of indexes, the methods used in data collection;

Summary of EU data requirements

There are four legal instruments in force, of which Council Regulation 3924/91/EEC is the most important.

The data requirements are:

- Industry production annual survey
- Industry production quarterly survey
- Industry production monthly survey

Compliance of Moldova

<i>[*] Moldova probably largely meets the data requirements.</i>
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Note:

The EU also collects regional short-term business statistics (NUTS-2 level). It is unclear to what extent Moldova can meet the requirements.

Theme 45 Energy

Module 45102 Structural statistics of energy

Summary of work done by NBS Moldova

Energy statistics include:

- Annual statistics of gas distribution (less than 20 enterprises)
- Monthly statistics of electrical energy production and distribution of electricity, and production of thermal energy (included in industrial surveys)
- Energy balance

Over the last years, harmonization with EU standards in the elaboration of the Energy Balance has taken place: the system of indexes has been revised, the nomenclature of energy products, and the methodology of indexes calculation.

Existing problems: lack of reliable data on energy consumption of households and household farms. However, some data are supplied by energy companies.

Summary of EU data requirements

This is about annual, structural data; global energy balance sheets and balance sheets by source of energy.

The data requirements are:

- Electricity and heat statistics
- Gas statistics

- Oil statistics
- Solid fuel statistics of energy
- Renewable energy and waste statistics

Compliance of Moldova

<i>[**] Probably Moldova can meet most, but not all, of the data requirements.</i>
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Module 45202 Short-term statistics of energy

Summary of work done by NBS Moldova

See the introductory paragraph.

Summary of EU data requirements

There is no legal obligation for these statistics.

The data requirements (monthly) are:

- Electricity statistics
- Monthly oil and gas statistics
- Solid fuel statistics of energy

Compliance of Moldova

<i>[**] Moldova will probably only be able to meet part of the data requirements.</i>

Module 45402 Energy prices

Summary of work done by NBS Moldova

Data about industrial energy prices are collected, as well as price data about import/export of energy products.

Summary of EU data requirements

This is about the collection of data about energy prices, in particular electricity and gas prices, and taxation.

The legal basis is Council Directive 90/377/EEC.

Twice per year data are collected about:

- Electricity prices
- Gas prices

Compliance of Moldova

*[**] Moldova does probably not meet all the data requirements.*

Note:

The EU also collects regional statistics about energy consumption. It is unclear to what extent Moldova can meet the requirements.

Division for agriculture and environment statistics

Section for agriculture statistics

Summary of the work done by NBS Moldova

Data collection takes place in several different ways. Sovchoz and kolchoz farms have disappeared. There are now various legal forms of agricultural establishments. Big and medium-sized farms (there are about 1300 of those) are surveyed exhaustively. They receive 40-45 questionnaires per year; monthly, quarterly and annual, including a detailed financial questionnaire. The number of small (less than 10 hectares) and household farms (plots of land near houses) is more than a million. They account for 2/3 of the total agricultural production and can only be statistically measured through a sample survey. The current sample is 106 villages, in which a total of 117 interviewers collect the data. There are 4 questionnaires:

- Quarterly A-form for household farms (2.300)
- B-form (June) for (4.000) small farms
- C-form (December) for the same
- D-form, an annual profit and loss form

In addition, 6 different questionnaires to measure agricultural (input) prices are used. There is a plan for an agricultural census, but due to lack of resources it is uncertain when this will happen. This census would also be the basis for the design of a new sampling frame. Now the sample is drawn from village household books, which are maintained manually by local administrations. The household books are substantially updated every five years. There are plans to further computerize the household books, but there is a lack of hardware and IT-proficiency.

Theme 61 Land use and landscape

Module 61103-4 Land use and remote sensing

Summary of work done by NBS Moldova

No specific work is being done by the NBS, but it should be noted that Moldova has detailed cadastral data about land ownership (Agency of Land Relations and Cadastre).

Summary of EU data requirements

This module concerns the implementation of the LUCAS project (Land Use and Land Cover Area Surveys).

Data requirements: LUCAS survey.

Compliance of Moldova

[*] With some extra effort, Moldova could probably comply with the requirements.

Theme 62 Agricultural statistics

Agricultural statistics have always been one of the most important areas of work of the EU. The information is used to manage the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). With the enlargement by new countries, where agriculture is often an important sector, agricultural statistics have become even more important. There are a great number of legal instruments in force and the data requirements are very heavy and detailed.

Module 62103 Agricultural structure

Summary of work done by NBS Moldova

See the Introductory paragraph.

Summary of EU data requirements

The data requirements are:

- Eurofarm test data (irregular)
- Result of farm structure surveys

Compliance of Moldova

[***] Only an in-depth analysis by a specialist in EU agricultural surveys can make an assessment of the degree of compliance of Moldova. A first impression would be, however, that Moldova can only fully comply on the basis of an agricultural census. A pilot census will be held in 2007 (with FAO assistance). A special division for the agricultural census will be created.

Theme 63 Agricultural monetary statistics

Module 63101 Agricultural accounts and prices

Summary of work done by NBS Moldova

See the introductory paragraph. Agricultural input prices have been collected with World Bank assistance.

Summary of EU data requirements

The data requirements are:

- Annual economic accounts for agriculture
- Annual economic for agriculture – Agricultural Income Index
- Economic accounts for forestry
- Economic accounts for agriculture (unit values)
- Income of the agricultural households sector

- Agricultural Indices
- Agricultural Prices and Rent
- Annual absolute agricultural prices
- Monthly absolute agricultural prices
- Monthly agricultural indices

Compliance of Moldova

*[**] On the basis of the data collections in agriculture, Moldova should to a large extent be able to meet the requirements.*

Theme 64 Crop production
Module 64103 Crop production statistics

Summary of work done by NBS Moldova

See the introductory paragraph.

Summary of EU data requirements

The data requirements include (most of them annual, a few monthly):

- Crop early estimates (monthly)
- Fruit and Vegetable statistics (monthly)
- Cereal Production statistics
- Crop production statistics
- Dried Pulse Supply balance sheet
- Animal Feed Supply balance sheet
- Fruit and Vegetable Supply balance sheet
- Oilcakes supply balance sheet
- Oilseeds, Oils and fats Supply balance sheet
- Potatoes Supply balance sheet
- Rice Supply balance sheet
- Sugar Supply balance sheet
- Wine Supply balance sheet
- Fruit Tree Plantation survey (irregular)
- Viticulture survey

Compliance of Moldova

[] With maybe a few exceptions, Moldova can probably meet the requirements.*

Theme 65 Animal production
Module 65103 Livestock and meat

Summary of work done by NBS Moldova

See the introductory paragraph.

Summary of EU data requirements

The data requirements are:

- Gross indigenous production for cattle (twice per year)
- Gross indigenous production for pigs (quarterly)
- Gross indigenous production for sheep and goats (annual)
- Poultry statistics – Activity of hatcheries (monthly)
- Poultry statistics – Structure of hatcheries (annual)
- Livestock – Cattle regional breakdown (annual)
- Livestock – Cattle breakdown by herd size classes (every two years)
- Livestock – Pigs Regional breakdown (annual)
- Livestock – Pigs breakdown by herd size classes (every two years)
- Livestock – Sheep and Goats Regional breakdown by herd size classes (every two years)
- Livestock – Sheep and goats survey result (annual)
- Livestock – Sheep and goats regional breakdown (annual)
- Slaughtering (monthly)
- Egg supply balance sheet (annual)
- Meat supply balance sheet (annual)
- Poultry statistics – Trade of chicks (monthly)

Compliance of Moldova

<p>[*] A first impression is that, possibly with some exceptions, Moldova can meet most of the requirements.</p>
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Module 65203 Milk and dairy products statistics

Summary of work done by NBS Moldova

See the introductory paragraph.

Summary of EU data requirements

The data requirements are:

- Monthly animal production statistics of milk
- Annual animal production statistics of milk
- Monthly animal production – supply balance of milk
- Annual animal production – supply balance of milk

Compliance of Moldova

[*] *Moldova can probably meet the requirements.*

Theme 66 Agro-industry statistics
Module 66200 Food safety statistics

Summary of work done by NBS Moldova

The NBS has not done any work on statistics of organic agricultural production. However, the Ministry of Agriculture has set up a registration system for organic farmers. Some data are therefore available.

Summary of EU data requirements

The data requirements are:

- Number of registered organic operators (producers, transformers and importers) at the end of the year (annual)
- Organic crop area and organic production (annual)
- Organic livestock (annual)
- Production of organic products from animal origin (annual)
- Number of organic operators by economic activity

Compliance of Moldova

[***] *Moldova can not yet fully meet the requirements.*

Theme 69 Fisheries statistics
Module 69102 Fishery statistics

Summary of work done by NBS Moldova

Professional fishery is relatively unimportant in Moldova. Data on fishery in agricultural enterprises are collected, as well as on the activity of fishery households (annually). In addition, data are collected from the professional fishery enterprise 'Piscicola'.

Summary of EU data requirements

The most important data requirements are:

- Fishery capture statistics (annual)
- Fishery aquaculture statistics (annual)
- Fishery landings (monthly)

Compliance of Moldova

[*] *Moldova probably largely meets the data requirements.*

Note:

The EU also collects regional agricultural statistics. Moldova can probably meet the requirements.

Service for forestry and environmental statistics

Most of the basic information for environment statistics comes from others. Data about water and air quality e.g. come from the Ministry for Ecology and the State Ecological Inspectorate. In addition, about 7 questionnaires are sent to economic agents, including a questionnaire on water usage and a questionnaire on environmental costs. A better classification of waste is needed, as well as better measurement of environmental costs. The system of statistical indexes on the environment state and the actions of its protection reflects the state and use of the land, forests, water, air resources as well as the impact of economic activities and of other human activities on the environment and natural resources. The informational base is formed as a result of the collection both of statistical reports by the statistical bodies and of the data supplied by the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, the Forestry Agency 'Moldsilva', the State Ecological Inspectorate, the Hydro-Meteorological State Service, and others.

Existing problems:

- Adjustment to EU standards of the system of indexes in the area of environmental statistics
- Harmonization of the methodology with EU requirements on the determination of the environment protection expenditures.

Theme 68 Forestry statistics
Module 68104 Forestry statistics

Summary of work done by NBS Moldova

See the introductory paragraph.

Summary of EU data requirements

The data requirements are: annual forestry statistics.

Compliance by Moldova

<p>[*] Based on the data provided by Moldsilva, Moldova probably could meet the requirements.</p>

Theme 71 Environment statistics and indicators
Module 71200 Waste and recycling statistics

Summary of work done by NBS Moldova

See the introductory paragraph. Some waste data are collected from enterprises, based on an ECE classification of wastes.

Summary of EU data requirements

The data requirements are:

- Waste disposal – total quantities of waste treated – disposal (other than incineration)
- Waste generation by type of waste and economic activity
- Waste incineration
- Waste recovery (excluding energy recovery)
- Waste facilities (number and capacity of recovery and disposal operations)

Compliance of Moldova

<i>[**] Moldova can probably only meet part of the requirements.</i>
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Module 71301 Statistics on water, air pollution and climate change (Kyoto protocol)

Summary of work done by NBS Moldova

See the introductory paragraph. The government agency ‘Water of Moldova’ collects information about water quality. The NBS collects data about emissions from stationary sources. The Ministry of Ecology makes estimates on emissions from mobile sources on the basis of NBS data.

Summary of EU data requirements

There is no legal basis, but an agreement.

The data requirements are: Inland Water parameters (every two years).

Compliance of Moldova

<i>[**] Moldova can probably meet the requirements only partially. Most of the data will have to be produced by the Ministry of Ecology.</i>
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Module 71401 Environmental accounts and environmental expenditure statistics

Summary of work done by NBS Moldova

See the introductory paragraph. Some information about environmental expenditure is collected by the NBS.

Summary of EU data requirements

There is a joint Eurostat/OECD questionnaire on environmental accounts. This collection is voluntary.

Compliance of Moldova

[***] *Environmental accounting is a relatively new area of work. Moldova can probably not supply the data, nor does it have the necessary expertise in environmental accounting.*

Module 71501 Integrated environmental reporting

Summary of work done by NBS Moldova

See the introductory paragraph.

Summary of EU data requirements

The data requirements are:

- Environmental Integrated Reporting (annual)
- Regional environmental statistics (every two years)

Compliance of Moldova

[**] *Moldova partially meets the data requirements.*

Division for External trade and statistics of services

Section for foreign trade statistics

The statistical data on the external trade are collected, checked, and processed by the Customs Service in accordance with article 321 of the Customs Code of the Republic of Moldova and are presented to the National Bureau for Statistics for completion, finalization and publication in accordance with the articles 9, 10, 11, 19 and 21 of the law of the Republic of Moldova 'On official statistics'. Beginning with 1995 the complete transition to customs statistics was implemented. The Harmonized System was adopted.

External trade statistics are compiled according to the UN methodology. The territory considered in the external trade statistics of the Republic of Moldova refers to the economic territory of the country (the districts on the left bank of the Dnjestr river), which does, of course, not coincide with the geographical territory of the country. In order to solve the Transdnistria problem, a mirror study with Ukraine has been done.

Quarterly, for the analysis of the level and dynamics of external trade indexes of physical volume and indexes of the unit value on the exported and imported commodities are calculated. The calculation of indexes of the unit value and of the indexes of the physical volume are performed on the basis of the data obtained from the customs declarations, both for total exports (imports), and separately for every commodity, groups of commodities, in accordance with the Classification of commodities. In the commodities selected for the calculations (representative commodities) are included all the homogenous commodities for which information is available on the quantity and cost; they are presented both for the reporting period, and for the base period.

Statistics of external trade in services are relatively new. The creation and implementation of these statistics started in 2004. They are based on a system of statistical reports, collected from economic agents, who export or import services. The information is collected (quarterly and annually) by the territorial offices for statistics. On the basis of these reports generalized information is elaborated (quarterly, annually) on the volume of export and import of services of the republic, which serve as a basis for the Balance of Payments and the National Accounts. The information is presented generally, as well as broken down by partner-countries and types of services.

Existing problems: the necessity to improve the statistics of external trade in services in accordance with the Recommendations of the UN on the external trade with services, the European Commission, WTO, IMF, and OECD.

Theme 53 International trade in goods

Summary of EU data requirements

The data requirements are heavy and can be summarized as follows:

- Monthly statistics on import and export, intra and extra EU by commodity and country
- Annual statistics on import and export, intra and extra EU, broken down in various ways

Compliance of Moldova

<i>[*] Moldova can probably supply most if not all of the data.</i>

Note: International trade in services

Seen under Balance of Payment.

Section for service statistics

The section for service statistics deals with retail trade, paid services provided to households, and transport, communication and tourism.

Retail trade statistics are in line with EU Regulations, but the difference is that EU statistics deal with trade as primary activity only, while Moldovan statistics cover all economic units. For the improvement of the retail trade statistics in accordance with the National Accounts and European Standards requirements, the system of indexes and the existent methodological notions were revised. The statistical information on the volume of retail sales in the organized sector (about 60% of the total volume of sales) is collected monthly on the basis of statistical reports and in accordance with the Classification of Activities of the economy of the Republic of Moldova (CAERM). Statistical data by commodities and stocks in the retail trade network are collected quarterly and annually, on the basis of statistical reports and in accordance with the Classification of Products (Goods and Services) of the Republic of Moldova (CSPM), harmonized with the CPA. The statistical reports are collected through the territorial statistical bodies from all the economic agents that have retail trade activity. The volume of retail sales in the non-organized sector is calculated quarterly, on the basis of estimations, based on data obtained from the household budget survey. Calculations of the index of the physical volume of sales are performed using consumption price indexes.

Existing problems:

- The necessity to harmonize the system of indexes and statistical surveys in accordance to the norms of the EU;
- The necessity to improve the software used for data processing.

Note: Retail sales

For EU legislation and data requirements and compliance of Moldova, see under Business Statistics.

Theme 48 Transport

Summary of work done by NBS Moldova

Statistics of transportation are collected through statistical surveys for each means of transportation – railway, road, fluvial and air. Quarterly, monthly and annually transportation companies are surveyed, but also companies with another main activity, which have road means of transportation registered to their name. Natural persons who are registered (in the Register of vehicle owners) as owners of vehicles for the transportation of goods are surveyed in accordance with EUROSTAT Recommendations (Directive 1172/98/EC).

Existing problems:

- Necessity of improving the quality of the Register of the owners of vehicles;
- Problems in the determination of the mode of registration of passengers transported with private minivans engaged in urban traffic;
- Adjustment to the EU standards of the system of indexes from the railway, fluvial and air transportation;
- The present statistical surveys are not fully in accordance with EU standards.

Module 48100 Transport Information System

Summary of work done by NBS Moldova

See the introductory paragraph.

Summary of EU data requirements

No legal instruments, but an agreement.

The data requirements are:

- Annual Regional Transport Statistics
- Annual Common questionnaire on transport statistics

Compliance of Moldova

<p>[*] With some effort, Moldova should be able to supply most of the data.</p>

Module 48300 Transport of goods by road

Summary of work done by NBS Moldova

See the introductory paragraph.

Summary of EU data requirements

The data requirements include:

- Quarterly vehicle-related variables
- Quarterly journey-related variables
- Quarterly goods-related variables

Compliance of Moldova

<i>[*] Moldova can probably supply most of the required data, but a few variables may not be available.</i>

Module 48400 Rail transport

Summary of work done by NBS Moldova

See the introductory paragraph. The Moldovan Railways Company does not have the software to easily calculate the required data.

Summary of EU data requirements

The data requirements include:

- Annual goods, detailed
- Annual goods, simplified
- Annual passengers, detailed
- Annual passengers, simplified
- Quarterly goods
- Regional goods
- Rail transport Statistics, accidents

Compliance of Moldova

<i>[**] Moldova can probably produce some, but not all of the data.</i>

Module 48500 Sea and inland waterways transport

Summary of work done by NBS Moldova

See the introductory paragraph.

Summary of EU data requirements

The data requirements are quite heavy, but only those concerning ‘inland waterways’ are relevant for Moldova. Some of the data requirements in this regard are:

- National, transit and international traffic questionnaires, annual and quarterly, with different variables, such as statistics about tonnes per goods group, per country, loading and unloading etc.

Compliance by Moldova

*[**] Transport by inland waterways is relatively unimportant in Moldova, but most of the data can probably be provided, with the exception of information by types of goods.*

Module 48600 Air transport

Summary of work done by NBS Moldova

See the introductory paragraph.

Summary of EU data requirements

The data requirements are:

- Monthly, quarterly and annual flight stages database
- Monthly, quarterly and annual On flight origin and destination database
- Monthly, quarterly and annual airports database

Compliance by Moldova

*[**] Not all the required data are readily available. Moldova can probably supply most of the data if the national aviation authority and the airports cooperate.*

Module 48800 Transport safety

Summary of work done by NBS Moldova

See the introductory paragraph.

Summary of EU data requirements

The data requirements are: annual Community database of road traffic accidents.

Compliance of Moldova

[*] *Moldova can probably meet the data requirements.*

Note:

The EU also collects regional transport statistics, in particular data about infrastructure and traffic accidents. It is unclear to what extent Moldova can meet the requirements.

Theme 49 Information society

Module 49102 Statistics on the information society

Summary of work done by NBS Moldova

Data from administrative sources are collected on the postal activity, fixed and mobile telephony, telegraphy etc. In the area of information technology statistics are collected annually, through a survey of natural persons, who supply data on the number of computers, computer networks, Internet use etc., and data on expenditure, and purchase of services provided in the field of information technology.

Existing problems:

- Lack of data on persons that have access to the Internet at home.

Summary of EU data requirements

The data requirements are (all annual):

- Information society statistics - enterprise survey
- Information society statistics – financial survey
- Information society statistics – household survey

Compliance of Moldova

[**] *Moldova can probably supply part of the enterprise data and some of the financial and household data.*

Module 49202 Communication statistics

Summary of work done by NBS Moldova

See the introductory paragraph.

Summary of EU data requirements

The data requirements are:

- Annual Post and Courier Services
- Annual Telecommunication Services

Compliance by Moldova

<i>[*] Moldova can probably supply most of the data.</i>
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Theme 50 Tourism
Module 50102 Tourism statistics

Summary of work done by NBS Moldova

For tourism a quarterly statistical survey is held among the holders of tourism licenses about the number of visitors that used their services. The statistical surveys on the structures of collective tourist accommodation were initiated to ensure a higher degree of harmonization with EU requirements, the system of indexes being in accordance with the requirements of Directives 95/57/EC.

Existing problems:

- Lack of complete data on the tourists flow in the Republic of Moldova;
- Lack of analysis of the tourism market, in particular the tourist demand of the residents.

Summary of EU data requirements

The data requirements are:

- Tourism capacity – annual
- Tourism demand – annual
- Tourism demand – quarterly
- Tourism occupancy – annual
- Tourism occupancy – monthly

Compliance of Moldova

<i>[*] Moldova will be able to supply a large part of the data.</i>

Note:

The EU also collects regional tourism statistics. It is unclear to what extent Moldova can meet the requirements.

Part 3 Suggestions for strategies to be followed

Although accession of Moldova to the EU is not a short-term objective, the country seems to be determined to work hard towards meeting EU requirements, including statistical requirements. During the international statistical conference that took place in Chisinau 3-4 May 2007, participants made several concrete suggestions on the strategies that the NBS could follow to move further towards meeting the requirements of the Fundamental Principles of Statistics, the European Statistics Code of Practice, and the EU statistical requirements. With the adoption of the Code of Practice, Eurostat and the statistical authorities of the EU-Member States have committed themselves to an encompassing approach towards high quality statistics. It builds upon a common European Statistical System definition of quality in statistics and targets all relevant areas from the institutional environment, the statistical production processes to the ultimate output: European official statistics.

It was agreed that the NBS, in order to meet EU requirements, would need additional resources and that it should make this clear to the government of Moldova. Comparison with other countries has shown that in terms of statistical staff, Moldova is at the lower end of the spectrum. However, it was also recognized that the government would face similar requests from many other sectors of the public administration and might be reluctant to agree to spend more resources on statistics. Therefore, the NBS should also look into possibilities to increase its efficiency and effectiveness, including a review of its programme of surveys and its organizational structures. Some exhaustive surveys might be replaced by sample surveys. The regional structure of the NBS needs also to be reviewed, in order to improve the efficiency of data collection. This would, among other issues, require substantial investments in IT. The quality of the staff of the NBS needs upgrading through training activities and increased participation in international statistical fora. Improving the level of knowledge of English of staff members is an additional requirement for enhanced international contacts and access to documents on the Internet. The important role of analysis as an instrument to improve the quality of statistics was also stressed.

The creation of an integrated statistical database, and developing improved metadata-systems were also recommended. In order to test compliance with EU requirements in more detail, it was recommended that the NBS conducts a 'test run' of filling out all Eurostat questionnaires. In addition, conducting a self-assessment exercise as described in the European Statistics Code of Practice was recommended.

In addition to relying on national funds, it was also recommended that the NBS strive towards continued technical cooperation, including support provided by the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Initiative (ENPI), which enables various forms of assistance, among which twinning between the NBS and a National Statistical Office of one of the EU Member States.

In order to better meet the standards set by the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, some changes to the Statistical Law were recommended. In particular, a more clear definition of ‘official statistics’ is required, as well as stronger instruments to achieve better national coordination of official statistics. The Council for Statistics that was created by the current law needs to be activated as a first step towards better coordination. A special point of consideration in this regard is better access of the NBS to administrative registrations maintained by other government departments, and working towards better quality of such registrations for statistical purposes.

Systems for planning, coordination and quality management need to be improved. Part of this improvement process is increased transparency of methods and strategies, and perhaps most of all enhanced contacts between the NBS and the users and producers of statistics. It is important that the central role of the NBS in the statistical system of Moldova is better recognized. It is also crucial that the government and the general public develop increased trust in the official statistics produced by the Moldovan statistical system.

In working towards a higher degree of compliance with EU statistical requirements, different approaches towards prioritizing may be chosen. It was agreed that Moldova should first of all give priority to those EU requirements that also coincide with national priority needs. Instead of working towards improvements across the board, it was suggested that the NBS might focus on certain areas of statistics in order to achieve excellence in those selected areas. Specifically, the National accounts were mentioned, although it was recognized that also the 2010 Population Census and the Census of Agriculture were areas of work that necessarily had a high priority.