



International Technical Advisory Board for the Republic of Moldova

30 March 2021

Scope: Provide international high-level technical advice to the National Bureau of Statistics of the Republic of Moldova in the development and implementation of the Informational System "Population and Migration Statistics" (Statistical Population Register).

Context: To support national statistical system in contribution to tracking the SDGs and revision of population and migration estimates using administrative data, and, in longer-term in transition towards a register-based census NBS and UNFPA Moldova, with the financial support of [India-UN Development Partnership Fund](#), are to conceptualise and develop the informational system "Population and Migration Statistics". This informational system will gather and consume/use data from available administrative registers available in the Republic of Moldova, based on an initial assessment undertaken by NBS aimed at evaluation of the feasibility of using the given admin data for statistical purposes.

The informational system on "Population and Migration Statistics" aims to enable NBS as the main producers of official statistics and as the coordinator of the national statistical system in providing reliable, accurate, relevant, and timely data and internationally comparable demographic statistics, including internal and international migration, annual usual resident population estimates by age, sex, and territorial profile.

The informational system on "Population and Migration Statistics" should become a cornerstone for the preparation of the upcoming Population and Housing Census, preliminary scheduled in 2023 (within the 2020 Global Round) providing opportunities and functionalities for the potential use of certain administrative data sources for different purpose during census preparation or data processing. In the long-term, the informational system on "Population and Migration Statistics" will support NBS in transitioning from traditional census to combined and afterwards to the register-based census and, in combination with the Business Register and the Statistical Dwelling Register, would support more efficient production of data in different statistical areas via a multi-register-based system.

In the period of February - March 2021, UNFPA organized a series of knowledge-sharing sessions for NBS staff with the participation of the statisticians of the National Statistical Institutes (NSIs) from the EU countries on development of statistical registers or the use of administrative data sources for the production of demographic statistics and conducting of the population censuses. These sessions were organized as part of south-south cooperation and, on a weekly basis, NBS had the opportunity to meet and discuss with professionals from different NSIs to familiarise with their good practices on building a statistical population register or database or on using other registers for statistical purposes, challenges overcome, lessons learned. A total of 5 knowledge-sharing sessions were organized with participation of NSIs from Spain, Estonia, Netherlands, Slovenia, and Finland. All the knowledge gained, information gathered have been used to finalize the concept paper of the future Information System on "Population and Migration Statistics".

As NBS is moving forward in establishing the mentioned above informational system, UNFPA is convening its International Technical Advisory Board (ITAB) of prominent experts in the area of statistics, census, population register and administrative data, to provide an international perspective on NBS vision and pathway towards a register-based statistical production.

The ITAB meeting is aimed at:

1. Informing the ITAB members and national counterparts on the inception experience available, current status and pathway towards building the multi-register-based information system for production of statistical data on population, migration Census-related and other social sectors. In particular, NBS will present the Concept and Terms of Reference of the informational system on population and migration statistics and
2. Providing of feedback from the ITAB members who are expected to make recommendations given their international experience in this area and in alignment with UNECE and EU principles and practices on using administrative data for official statistics and Census, as well as raising the awareness of NBS and its national partners (holders of public registers and administrative data, e-governance and personal data protection authorities) on the importance and role of SDAs within the modern statistical process and national statistical systems, multi-lateral benefits and advantages for data providers (from different sectors) and data consumers (in particular NSIs) and the overall impact on the proper and timely informing of the society (either policy-makers, development partners, international community, or general public).

UNFPA will share in advance with ITAB members the concept and technical specifications of the informational system on "Population and Migration Statistics" to provide expert review on the documents from the perspective of their compliance with the international recommendations and coverage of minimum requirements to establish a statistical population register based on international practices and experience.

Format: online via Zoom platform with simultaneous English/Romanian interpretation.

Participants: 20 participants, including up to 5 international experts on statistics, census, admin data and statistical population register; NBS management and technical staff, national counterparts (tentatively Electronic Governance Agency, Public Service Agency, Border Police, National Centre for Personal Data Protection, State Chancellery) and development partners engaged in the development and implementation of the informational system on "Population and Migration Statistics".

Moderator: Eduard Mihalas, Programme Analyst on Population and Development, UNFPA Moldova

AGENDA

14:00 - 14.15	<p><i>Building stronger data systems in the time of data revolution and pandemic: a top-down vision</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Nigina Abaszada, UNFPA Moldova Representative• Mr. Oleg Cara, General Director of the National Bureau of Statistics• H.E. Rahul Shrivastava, Ambassador of India to the Republic of Moldova, with residence in Bucharest• Ms. Caroline Tissot, Director of Cooperation, Swiss Cooperation Office Moldova
---------------	---

Session I: Induction session

Objective: To help ITAB members understand NBS previous experience and challenges in using admin data. During the session, NBS will present its experience in using electricity consumption data to estimate 2014 census under-coverage, civil registration data for production of vital statistics, border crossing data to estimate international migration and challenges that it faces in accessing data from other data holders.

14:15 - 14:40	<p>Presentation: An overview on NBS experience in using administrative data for population and migration statistics.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Natalia Bargan, Head of Population and Migration Department, National Bureau of Statistics
<p>Session II: Vision for a statistical population register in Moldova</p> <p>Objective: Presentation of the concept of the Information System on "Population and Migration Statistics" and collect feedback from ITAB members based on experience in other countries</p>	
14:40 - 15:00	<p>Presentation: The concept of the informational system on "Population and Migration Statistics"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Aurelia Spataru, Deputy General Director, National Bureau of Statistics
15:00 - 15:50	<p>Panel discussion with ITAB members and national participants on the presented concept by NBS</p> <p>Q&A discussion between the participants</p>
15:50 - 16.00	<p>Mobility break</p>
<p>Session III: Technical approach for the informational system on population and migration</p> <p>Objective: Presentation of the technical specifications for the informational system on "Population and Migration Statistics" and identify key elements in building such an IT system</p>	
16.00 - 16.20	<p>Presentation: Technical Specification of the informational system on "Population and Migration Statistics"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Ion Amarfii, National Consultant on the development of the technical specifications document
16.20 - 17.20	<p>Panel discussion with ITAB members on the proposed technical specifications</p> <p>Q&A discussion between the participants</p>
17.20 - 17.30	<p>Next steps towards a statistical population register in Moldova to track the population-related developments within the SDGs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Nigina Abaszade, UNFPA Moldova Representative • Mr. Oleg Cara, General Director NBS