

TWINNING CONTRACT

AM/14/ENP/ST/15

Strengthening of the National Statistical System of Armenia – Phase II



STUDY VISIT REPORT

on

Demographic Statistics

Activity 2.6: Study visit

Study visit to Statistics Lithuania

6-9 December 2016

Final version



Table of contents

1. General comments	3
2. Lessons Learned	3
3. Conclusions and recommendations.....	7
Annex 1. Programme	8
Annex 2. Persons met.....	12

List of Abbreviations

EU	European Union
NSI	National Statistical Institute (e.g. NSSRA)
NSS	National Statistical System (of official statistics)
NSSRA	National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia

1. General comments

This study visit report was prepared within the Twinning Project " Strengthening of the National Statistical System of Armenia – Phase II " and organised under component 2, activity 2.6.

The purpose of the study visit was to gain knowledge on the Lithuanian experience and the practical application related to demographic statistics, and to draft description on how this knowledge can be used in NSSRA.

The staff of NSSRA would like to express their thanks to all officials and individuals met for the kind support and valuable information which they received during the stay in Lithuania and which highly facilitated the work.

This views and observations stated in this report are those of the participating staff of NSSRA and do not necessarily correspond to the views of EU, NSSRA or Statistics Lithuania.

2. Lessons Learned

During the study visit to Statistics Lithuania (SL) the discussions on the main functions and specifics of producing demographic and migration statistics were organized in the following directions.

- Short review of the system of official statistics in Lithuania
- Statistical registration of population and specific characteristics
- Production of fertility and mortality statistics
- Migration statistics, production of international migration data
- Use of population register in formation of official statistics in Lithuania
- Dissemination of natural movement and migration data through GIS measures,
- Asylum seekers, refugees, visa issuance, temporary residence permits and/or deprivation of citizenship statistics in Lithuania
- Specific characteristics of 2011 census conducted in Lithuania and the census to be conducted in 2021

On 6 December, *the first day of the study visit* the Deputy Director General of SL Ms Aldona Gibaite-Kudzmiene made a welcome speech and presented the official statistical system of Lithuania, its structure and legislation, mission, strategy - aimed at study and satisfaction of the main needs of its users and respondents, statistical works program and coordination, institutions participating in implementation of EU statistical program and their obligations. Ms Gibaite-Kudzmiene presented the strategy on collection and dissemination of statistical data, agreements with producers of official statistics, creation of statistical portal and its accessibility, cooperation with researchers.

Ms Dalia Ambrozaitiene, the Deputy Director General of SL and Coordinator of Social and Demographic Works made a welcome speech too, and Inga Masiulaitytė presented the program of the study visit, the staff of the division and their responsibilities, gave an overview of legal basis of performed works, surveys on natural movement and migration, comparable statistical series,

development of methodology, data management system and production process, data treatment and acquisition of output results.

The Chief Specialist of Demographic and Migration Statistics Division Ms Vilma Malinauskienė introduced a report on population statistics, as well as sources of data used for statistical registration of the number of resident population and its separate characteristics, estimation methods, classification and statistical processing, data used from the population register, production of output indicators and metadata. Ms Vilma presented statistical information on the number of resident population of Lithuania, gender and age composition, movement of separate characteristics, as well as population projection implemented by Eurostat. (EUROPOP 2013).

The Chief Specialist of Demographic and Migration Statistics Division Ms Liuda Kasparavicienė presented a report on the principles and definitions of producing data on fertility statistics, data sources, national and international legislation, classifications and data flow procedures for statistical processing, building indicators and methodology, as well as pilot projects for receiving data from other administrative sources aimed at improving the methodology and further use of these projects, produced key indicators and their dissemination. Afterwards, Ms Kasparavicienė presented the principles and definitions of producing statistical data on mortality and stillbirth, data sources, applied national and international legislation, classifications and data flow procedures for statistical processing, as well as building indicators and methodology, quality assessment, produced key indicators and their dissemination.

The Head of Demographic and Migration Statistics Division Ms Inga Masiulaitytė presented classifications describing fertility and mortality, peculiar traits of producing data and warehouses, as well as the structure of documents (Specification of statistical survey) describing the ways of storing personal data and relevant procedures.

SL had invited the Chief Specialist in the Register of Causes of Death Vilė Šiušienė from the Institute of Hygiene of the Health Information Center. The registration of causes of death has been implemented by this institute since 2010. The specialist presented the legal basis for statistical processing of causes of death, methodology, functions of digital coding and their verification with statistical data, procedures of summary data acquisition and publication.

On 7 December, **the second day of the study visit** the discussions mainly covered the topic of migration statistics in Lithuania. The Deputy Head of Demographic and Migration Statistics Division Ms Danguolė Svidlerienė presented a report on the key indicators of migration and international protection, international migration survey, legal regulations, applied methodology, administrative data sources, definitions and classifications, user framework of migration data, quality assurance for migration data, statistical processing and production of indicators, dissemination format and publication of indicators in official statistical portal.

The Head of Demographic and Migration Statistics Division Ms Inga Masiulaitytė presented a report on estimations of international migration statistics of Lithuania, as well as a survey conducted to assess undeclared emigration and return migration flows in Lithuania, intercensal estimates, estimation procedures, long-term data warehouse, survey results, estimation method of returned migrants.

The Chief Specialist of Demographic and Migration Statistics Division Ms Liucija Palciauskienė presented a report on the aim of internal migration survey, legal regulations and data sources, definitions, calculation of indicators, draft methodology developed on the basis of revised regulations, and conclusions.

The invited Specialist from Migration Department of the Lithuanian Ministry of Interior Ms Violeta Skripkina presented a report on Foreigner Register created in 2010, statistical surveys on asylum seekers and refugees, temporary residence permits, acquisition or deprivation of Lithuanian citizenship and visa issuance, acquisition of migration statistical data coherent with EU standards, their sources and functions in regard with methodology and registration procedures.

On 8 December, the **third day of the study visit** the discussions mainly referred to the use of data from population register in functions of producing official statistics conducted by the Chief Specialist of Demographic and Migration Statistics Division Vaiva Lelkaitė. She presented the document describing the procedures of using data from the population register approved by the resolution of SL General Director (for internal use), as well as European and national legislation for data acquisition, the list of available data, data treatment procedures, data received from other administrative sources and registers, quality-related issues. Afterwards, the Head of Demographic and Migration Statistics Division Ms Inga Masiulaitytė presented the use of data from different administrative sources (population register, statistical business register, social insurance fund) with the aim of producing demographic and migration data while ensuring their completeness and relevance, timeliness and accuracy, comparability and consistency, accessibility and clarity, efficiency, non-excessive burden on respondents.

Afterwards Ms Vilma Malinauskienė, Ms Liuda Kasparavicienė, Ms Danguolė Svidlerienė, and Ms Liucija Palciauskienė made presentations respectively on quality indicators for population, fertility and mortality, international, internal migration statistics, specifying the working hours spent on and the implementation deadlines for main statistical functions, development of methodology, creation of initial data warehouses, production of statistical information, and data availability.

The Head of Demographic and Migration Statistics Division Ms Inga Masiulaitytė presented the official statistical portal for dissemination of demographic and migration data, and the possibility to provide one-entry-access to all national data and applied software. It contains relevant statistical data, press releases, publications, methodology and metadata, classifications, time series, electronic library,

GIS measures, and distant possibility to access confidential statistical data for research purposes. Lithuanian colleagues also presented the possibilities to get interactive indicators from the Official Statistics Portal by using GIS measures.

The Head of NSSRA Census and Demography Division Ms Karine Kuyumjyan presented changes made in 2017 Integrated Living Conditions Survey questionnaire and project calculations for 2015 statistical data estimation.

Ms Inga Masiulaitytė made corresponding clarifications and references to additional bibliography to be used in further estimations of the survey data.

On 9 December, ***the fourth day of the study visit*** the deputy head of the Census and Organization of Surveys Ms Milda Šlickute-Šeštokiene made a presentation on the Census conducted in Lithuania in 2011, particularly issues relating to natural movement of population and migration statistics, received data, and methodology. She also presented the handbook published on the results of the census and the data placed in the Official Portal. After that Ms Inga Masiulaitytė presented the functions carried out for the review of the number of population, indicators of natural and migration movement.

The works were carried out based on methods developed with joint discussions between the Methodology Division, IT Division and Migration Statistics Division. Moreover, fertility indicators were re-estimated based on analysis.

The Deputy Head of the SL Census and Organization of Surveys Ms Milda Šlickute-Šeštokiene made another presentation on the planned work for the next Census in 2021, particularly conduction of the Census completely based on registers conditioned by the following circumstances: a/ need to reduce respondents' burden, b/improvement of the quality of data, c/ continuous budget cuts, d/ users' need to receive detailed statistical information e/ users' need to get faster and more flexible results. Ms Milda made a historical review on the changes in census procedures, legal regulations, studied administrative sources and registers, the ones selected for 2021 Census, the main tasks, the variables not to be covered in the program, as well as constrains and difficulties of this method. To pilot the new tool kit they have planned to conduct a pilot census every year starting from 2018 before conducting the real census.

During the study visit all the presentations were accompanied by questions and answers, comparisons of approaches in both countries, additional clarifications and comments.

At the end of the study visit Ms Inga Masiulaitytė made a concluding speech on behalf of SL presenting the results, and addressing the tasks to be implemented and expected activities. Particularly it was agreed to provide clarifications on the draft classification document describing RA migration data and variables of data base before the next expert mission.

Ms Karine Kuyumjyan thanked the Lithuanian colleagues on behalf of the NSSRA for organizing the study visit, pointing out that it was productive from professional and thematic aspects.

The draft program for the next expert mission was discussed too. The Head of the NSSRA Census and Demography division recommended to include an IT specialist in the next mission expecting that he/she would provide consultancy in the course of statistical processing of the data base on migration flows received from an administrative source.

3. Conclusions and recommendations

The participation of the representatives of the NSSRA gave them a possibility to get acquainted with the SL best practices on demographic and migration statistics, developments in statistical surveys relating to the number of population, natural movement and migration with use of data from population register and other administrative sources, and to discuss their possible application in the NSSRA practices. The meetings gave them a chance to get acquainted with procedures and specifics for acquisition, treatment, classification and dissemination of statistical data on demography and migration.

For continuous improvement of the work of NSSRA Census and Demography Division the functions carried out for the survey conducted to assess migration, undeclared emigration and return migration flows, intercensal estimates were very important too.

During the study visit all the presentations made by the Lithuanian experts were instructive and very important for the Armenian delegation from professional aspect. The Lithuanian experience of full-scale use of administrative registers as well as quality management was instructive too.

The study visit was successful and very productive.

The study visit was funded within the EU Twinning project “Strengthening of the National Statistical System of Armenia – Phase II”.

Annex 1. Programme**1st Day, 6 December, 2016**

09:00 – 09:10	Welcome and introduction
09:10 – 10:45	Official statistical system in Lithuania Organization of the process of statistical surveys of demographic and migration statistics
10:45 – 11:00	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:00 – 12:30	Population statistics in Lithuania. Estimation of different groups of population <i>(data source, methodology, specification, classification, coding, automatic processing construction of variables, outputs, metadata and etc.).</i> Discussions
12:30 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00 – 15:00	Fertility statistics in Lithuania <i>(data source, methodology, specification, classification, editing, coding, automatic processing, construction of variables, outputs, metadata and etc.)</i>
15:00 – 15:15	<i>Coffee break</i>
15:15 – 16:45	Mortality and causes of deaths statistics in Lithuania <i>(legal basis, data source, methodology, specification, classification, editing, coding, automatic processing, construction of variables, outputs, metadata and etc.)</i>
16:45 – 17:00	Discussions

2nd Day, 7 December, 2016

09:00 – 10:30	<p>Migration statistics in Lithuania</p> <p>International migration statistics in Lithuania</p> <p><i>(data source, methodology, specification, classification, editing, coding, automatic processing, construction of variables, outputs, metadata and etc.)</i></p>
10:30 – 10:45	<i>Coffee break</i>
10:45 – 11:15	<p>Estimation of undeclared emigration and return migration flows in Lithuania</p> <p><i>(data source and methodology)</i></p>
11:15 – 12:30	<p>Internal migration statistics in Lithuania</p> <p><i>(data source, methodology, specification, classification, editing, coding, automatic processing, construction of variables, outputs, metadata and etc.)</i></p>
12:00 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00 – 15:00	<p>Asylum seekers and refugees statistics in Lithuania</p> <p><i>(data source, methodology and outputs) (Meeting with Migration department)</i></p>
15:00 – 15:15	<i>Coffee break</i>
15:15 – 16:00	<p>Visas, temporary residential permits to reside, acquisition and loss of citizenship statistics in Lithuania</p> <p><i>(data source, methodology and outputs) (Meeting with Migration department)</i></p>
16:15 – 17:00	Discussions

3^d Day, 8 December, 2016

09:00 – 10:30	Usage of Population Registers' data for the Official Statistics in Statistics Lithuania Usage and quality of other administrative data sources Quality indicators of demographic and migration statistics Discussions
10:30 – 10:45	<i>Coffee break</i>
10:45 – 12:30	Data dissemination on demographic and migration statistics Interactive representation of demographic and migration statistical indicators by GIS measures on the Official Statistics Portal
12:30 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00 – 15:00	Consultations on updated Migration module in questionnaire of the Integrated Living Conditions of Survey and on the technical specification for producing international migration statistics of NSSRA
15:00 – 15:15	<i>Coffee break</i>
15:15 – 17:00	Consultations on updated Migration module in questionnaire of the Integrated Living Conditions of Survey and on the technical specification for producing international migration statistics of NSSRA (continue)

4th Day, 9 December, 2016

09:00 – 10:30	<p>Population Census 2011 in Lithuania. Topics related with vital and migration statistics</p> <p>Using the Population Census 2011 results for revision the number of live births and emigrants</p>
10:30 – 10:45	<i>Coffee break</i>
10:45 – 12:30	<p>Population Census 2021 (plans)</p> <p>Redesigning the estimation of population statistics after the 2021 census in Lithuania</p> <p>Discussions</p>
12:30 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00 – 15:30	Consultations and decisions for next activities

Annex 2. Persons met

Participants of NSSRA:

Ms. Karine KUYUMJYAN, Head, Population Census and Demography Division of NSSRA

Ms. Anna TOKHATYAN, Chief Specialist, Population Census and Demography Division of NSSRA

Ms. Susanna AZATYAN, Second category Specialist, Population Census and Demography Division of NSSRA

Participants of Statistics Lithuania:

Ms Aldona GIBAITE-KUDZMIENE, Deputy Director General of SL

Ms Dalia AMBROZAITIENE, Deputy Director General of SL and Coordinator of Social and Demographic Works

Ms Inga MASIULAITYTĖ, Head of Demographic and Migration Statistics Division

Ms Danguolė SVIDLERIENĖ, Deputy Head of Demographic and Migration Statistics Division

Ms Liuda KASPARAVICIENĖ, Chief Specialist of Demographic and Migration Statistics Division

Ms Vilma MALINAUSKIENĖ, Chief Specialist of Demographic and Migration Statistics Division

Ms Vaiva LELKAITĖ, Specialist of Demographic and Migration Statistics Division

Ms Milda ŠLICKUTE-ŠEŠTOKIENE, Deputy Head of the SL Census and Organization of Surveys

Ms Liucija PALCIAUSKIENĖ, Chief Specialist of Demographic and Migration Statistics Division

Vilė ŠIUŠIENĖ, Chief Specialist of the Register of Causes of Death, Institute of Hygiene of the Health Information Center

Ms Violeta SKRIPKINA, Specialist in Migration Department, Lithuanian Ministry of Interior