

EU-ARMENIA TWINNING PROJECT

Activity 2.10

Demographic Statistics - IT capacity



Yerevan, 16-18 May 2017





The mission in context

For the general agenda of transforming the production of statistics in Armenia **from paper to administrative data sources**, NSSRA needs an overview of the technical challenges with the **wider use of administrative data sources**.

The outcome from this mission on IT capacity will also be a sound basis to serve as input to the upcoming World Bank project, with a clear description of actual IT needs.

This mission on IT capacity is held within the component on Demographic Statistics, but the outcome and the recommendations can be used horizontally in NSSRA because it covers general challenges for the whole organization.



Purpose and expected output of 2.10

Purpose

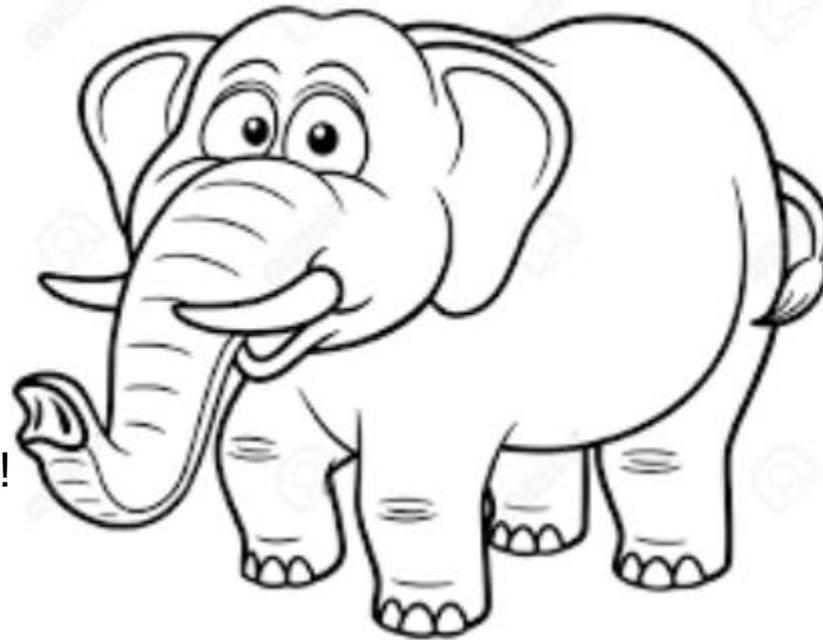
- Recommendations provided on how to improve IT capacity, security and back-up systems.
- An overview of the technical challenges with the wider use of administrative data sources.
- Input on IT needs provided (as basis for the upcoming World Bank project)

Expected output

- Mission report on assessment of current status on IT capacity, and recommendations on how to deal with the technical challenges that come with the wider use of administrative data sources.
- Provision of a check list with vital IT related issues that NSSRA will need to improve in the future



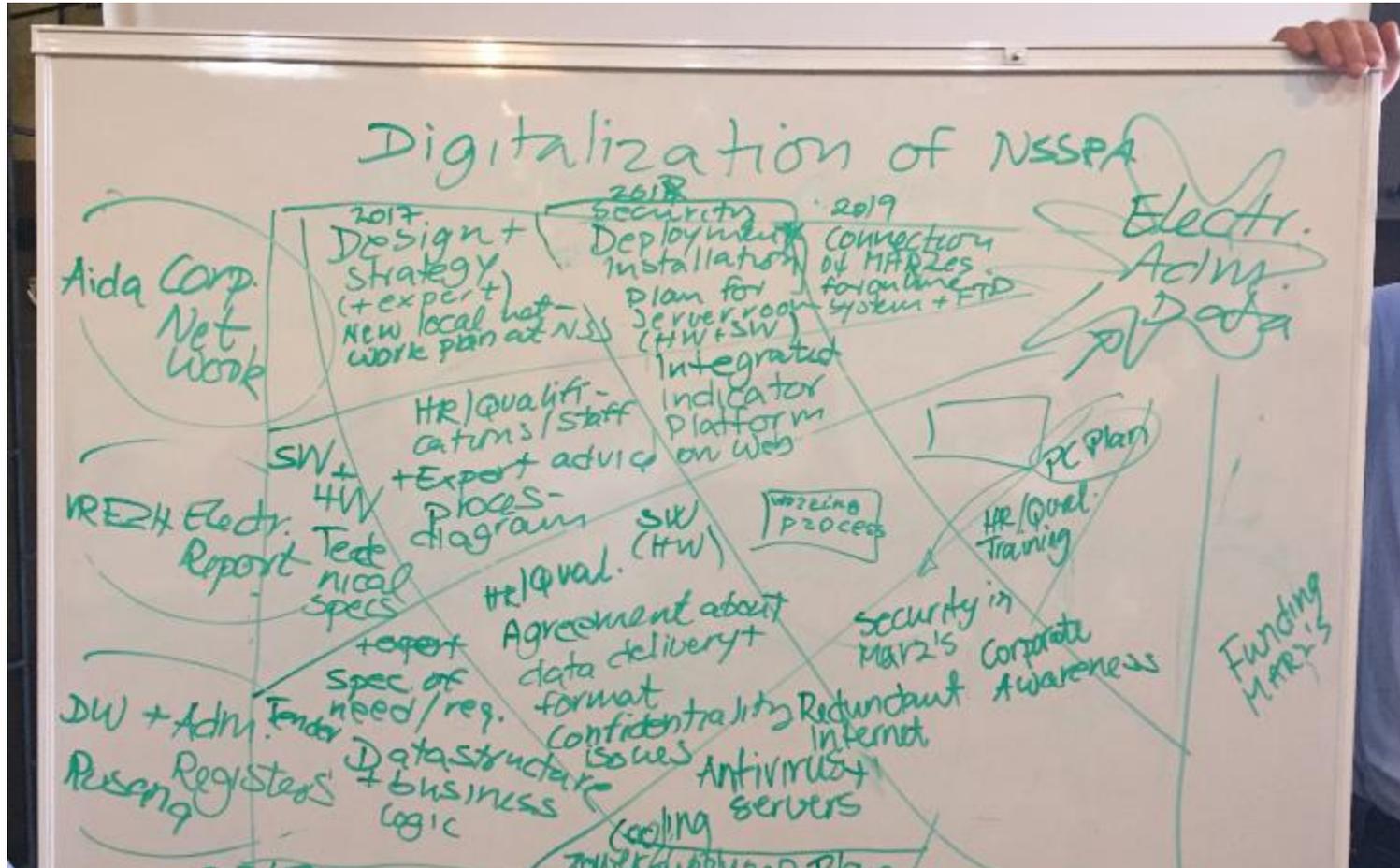
But first, a riddle: How do you eat an elephant?



In smaller pieces!



Workshop with IT 17 May 2017



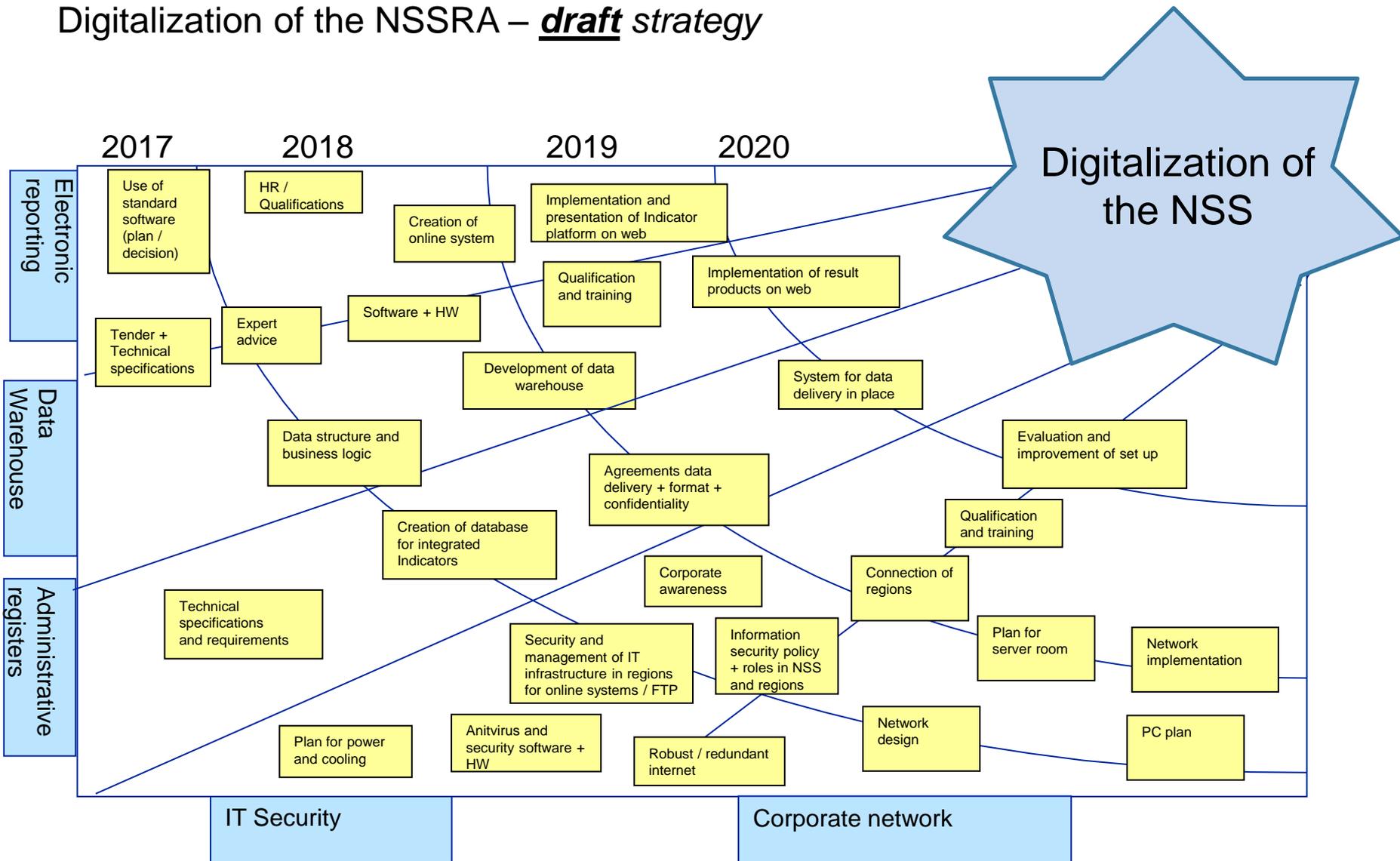
- A. A wider use of administrative data
- B. From paper to administrative data sources



The purpose of an IT strategy

- What are the preconditions and foundations needed at NSSRA for obtaining the goal of a wider use of administrative data and the goal of reducing paper.
- To support the goals and corporate strategy of NSSRA

Digitalization of the NSSRA – ***draft*** strategy





Recommendations

- Continue the initiated work on a new IT strategy and make sure to revise it once a year
- Ensure link between corporate strategy and IT strategy
- Specific IT related recommendations:
 - Infrastructure (network, power, cooling, server room etc)
 - Information security policy and IT security (e.g. *no statistical data and company related mails in private mailboxes*)
 - Standard software and when possible: use open source based software for statistical purpose and data processing
 - Robust multi-user databases (also open source when possible) for data (e.g. Mysql)
 - Centralized storage / file share for company documents and data (i.e. no data on distributed pc's)
- An inventory and check list with recommendations in detail will be an integrated part of the mission report



Recommendations – software (1)

- There is generally a need for more skills in using software for analyzing and processing of data within the statistical subject matter divisions.

The subject matter divisions would benefit from becoming more self supporting and independent from the staff of the IT-division in terms of assistance on basic calculations and tabulations.



Recommendations – software (2)

- NSSRA is recommended to consider a standard software for statistics analysis and production to be introduced in all units.
The decision on the software must be taken by the top management of NSSRA and approved by the State Council on Statistics.
- A common software throughout the organization will open up for an easier exchange of staff skills, knowledge sharing, internal training courses, staff rotation etc.
This could eventually make NSSRA less dependent on different external funding projects.
- NSSRA is encouraged to explore the possibilities of open source software, which to a high degree will comply with the needs of the statistical production. At the moment open source software (like e.g. "R") is considered as state-of-the-art by many NSI's.



Way forward...

- Continue the initiated work on a new IT strategy
- Make a clear plan for coordination of external donor fundings **and** use the new IT strategy as guideline for needs and investments regarding digitalization
- Make action plans on basis of the inventory and recommendations in mission report
- Easy pickings and tasks that require no funding should be carried out as soon as possible (e.g. write information security policy, freshing up of server room)