

# Twinning Project

Contract: GE 16 ENI ST 06 18

## Strengthening the Capacity of the Georgian Statistical System

### Component 4: “Strengthening Social Statistics”

#### Sub-component 4.1: “Labour Force Methodologies and Indicators”

## MISSION REPORT

### Activity 4.1.A: “Reviewing and drafting of final questionnaire”

Mission carried out by  
Sven Egmosé, Statistics Denmark

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## 1. General comments

This mission report was prepared within the EU Twinning Project "Strengthening the Capacity of Georgian Statistical System". This was the first mission within the sub-component Sub-component 4.1: "Strengthening Social Statistics" and was mainly devoted to presentations and discussions of the current situation regarding the questionnaire for the Labour Force Survey and to outline a work plan for the activities to come.

The purpose of the mission was to:

- Discuss how to improve Labour Force Survey (LFS) methodologies and indicators in Georgia focusing on examining the new draft questionnaire to be used for the Labour Force Survey from January next year.

The consultant would like to express his gratitude to all officials and individuals met for the kind support and valuable information which he received during the stay in Georgia and which highly facilitated the work of the consultant. The consultant also wants to thank Mr. Kieran Walsh from the ILO, for attending the whole afternoon of the missions third day via a Skype connection. Mr. Kieran Walsh gave valuable input to the draft questionnaire that Geostat provided before the mission.

The views and observations stated in this report are those of the consultant and do not necessarily correspond to the views of the European Union, Geostat, Statistics Denmark, or other statistical institutions involved in the implementation of the project.

## 2. Assessment and results

The mission started with a presentation from Geostat of the LFS survey in Georgia. Since 2007 the LFS is conducted as its own survey. Up till 2017 the LFS was a part of a more general social survey. The sample design for the LFS is to divide Georgia into enumeration areas and then draw households in these areas. In every household in the sample every person 15 years or older is interviewed by interviewers coming to the household.

The interviews are performed using pen and paper (PAPI).

From next year the plan is to introduce a new questionnaire in order to be able to delimit employment in Georgia according to the ILO resolution from 2013. In the EU countries this ILO resolution will be the basis for the LFS from 2021.

The intention is that the new questionnaire shall be able to cope with both the old and the new definition of employment in the same questionnaire. The main difference between the two definitions is that agricultural work for own consumption was regarded as employment according to the old definition. According to the new definition such an activity is not regarded as employment.

The consultant strongly supports to try to cover both the new and the old definition of employment in the new questionnaire. On the main issues it will give an opportunity to make a bridge between the old and the new LFS. It will also give the opportunity to describe the activity of agricultural production for own consumption in the future, and this activity is very important in Georgia.

Geostat has a plan to run two parallel LFS's in the first two quarters of 2020. One with the new questionnaire and one with the old questionnaire, and to conduct both of the surveys full scale.

This approach is recommended by ILO in order to be able to, very detailed, pinpoint the differences between the LFS with the old and with the new questionnaire.

This is of course very costly, and during the mission it was discussed if it is necessary to conduct a survey with the old questionnaire, or it would be sufficient to conduct the LFS with the new questionnaire which as good as possible delimit employment according to the old definition. It is a decision for Geostat to make if there is a need for such precision in pinpointing and explaining the differences between the old LFS and the new LFS that a LFS with the old questionnaire is needed in the first two quarters of 2020. Alternatively Geostat might decide that it is sufficient to only conduct the LFS with the new questionnaire. This will have the consequence that the users of the statistics will have to accept that Geostat not in all details will be able to explain the differences between the old and the new LFS.

The main focus of the mission was to discuss the draft of the new LFS questionnaire. This draft was sent to both ILO and Statistics Denmark beforehand which was very useful as it gave us the opportunity to examine the draft before the mission.

The overall impression is that the questionnaire is good and covers all important items. The rather lively discussion during the mission was therefore on possibilities to make the questionnaire simpler and easier to use for the interviewers and for the respondents.

In that respect the consultant underlined that it should be considered what is 'need to have' and what is 'nice to have'. And what is 'need to have' is up to Geostat to decide. International organizations like the ILO makes recommendations for a rather comprehensive description of the labour market, but it is up to Geostat to decide how comprehensive a description is needed of the labour market in Georgia.

But there is no doubt that a description of employment and unemployment according to the new definitions is needed. Therefore the discussion concentrated on the first part of the questionnaire with questions related to employment and to activity in agriculture.

The first question of the draft is the most important question, and it was lively discussed. The question in the draft is theoretical correct. But the fact is that it is very difficult to understand. Therefore it was discussed how to make it easier to understand in order to be able to capture all kinds of employment. A proposal was made to split the question into more questions, but other possibilities to explain what the intention of the question is and to make it clear to the interviewer and the respondent should also be considered.

The organization of the first parts of the questionnaire was also discussed.

In the draft Geostat start with some questions on employment, but if the respondent is employed or not are not determined before the interviewer has gone through both part A and B.

As an alternative it was proposed to take the questions to determine employment or not in the very start of the questionnaire, and then ask about activity in agriculture after that.

As another alternative it was proposed to take the questions on activity in agriculture up front, and then ask on employment in other sectors after that.

In favor of the last proposal is that around 60 percent of the Georgian households have activities in agriculture. This fact makes it natural to handle this part in the start, and persons who are not engaged in activities in agriculture will only have to answer to one question and from there skip to questions on other forms of employment.

Another important issue which was discussed was the main job. It might not be straightforward to decide what the main job is, so it has to be explained very profound and clear to the respondent what we consider to be a job. For respondents who have activities in agriculture it might be strange that this is not considered to be a job.

Therefore much effort has to be given to this in order to ensure that when we talk about job we only mean job according to the new definition of employment, i.e. not activities on own use production in agriculture.

We also went through the rest of the questionnaire and there were some remarks and comments on a number of questions.

One very important focus point was the route through the questionnaire. The LFS questionnaire is by nature very complicated and some respondent would have to skip some questions and other respondents would have to skip other questions. It is not easy to keep the overview. And this is in specific an issue with PAPI interviews. The interviewer gets no help from a computer to navigate in the questionnaire, so therefore it is very important to help the interviewer by making it very clear when to skip questions and where to go. That is something to consider how it is possible to help the interviewer with this.

But also in other aspects it is important to help and support the interviewer. It is very important to give very profound instructions to the interviewers – not only according to the route in the questionnaire – but also on the different concepts he/she shall ask the respondent about. This help and support can be in the form of courses for interviewers or in the form of instructions and explanations in the questionnaire. The best will be to do both.

### 3. Conclusions and follow up

- Geostat must consider benefits and costs and decide if they will conduct two parallel LFS surveys in the first 2 quarters of 2020.
- 3 options for organizing the first part of the new questionnaire are available. Geostat must decide which of the options to choose, or which parts of the different options to choose, and then work out a final draft of the new questionnaire.
- The first and most important question in the draft questionnaire is correctly formulated but it turns out that this question is very difficult to understand. In order to make this question easier to understand a proposal to split up the question was presented. Geostat decides if they want to split up this first question or they prefer other ways to make the question easier to understand.
- It is recommended to focus on explaining what is meant by a job, i.e. that an activity in own use agricultural production is not a job, before starting ask questions on the main job.
- It is recommended to devote resources to make the route through the questionnaire very clear for the interviewers. It might be by using colours or signs or something else, but it is very important to help the interviewer to follow the route, and this is in particular important as the interviewer is not assisted by computer.
- It is recommended to make intensive courses for the interviewer on the routes and on specific concepts they shall ask about when using the questionnaire, and to extend the questionnaire with explanations of some of the most important concepts.

Actions needed for moving forward:

Action	Deadline	Responsible person
Geostat works out a final draft of the new questionnaire and send it to Mr. Kieran Walsh (ILO) and Mr. Sven Egmose (Statistics Denmark) for comments	4 <sup>th</sup> of October 2019	Mr. Vasil Tsakadze and Mrs. Irma Gvilava
Mr. Kieran Walsh and Mr. Sven Egmose send their comments to this final draft to Geostat.	14 <sup>th</sup> of October 2019	Mr. Kieran Walsh Mr. Sven Egmose



Based on these comments and Geostat's judgement on which comments to take in and which to leave out, Geostat works out the final new LFS questionnaire to be used from January 2020.		Mr. Vasil Tsakadze and Mrs. Irma Gvilava
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## Annex 1. Terms of Reference

**EU Twinning Project GE 16 ENI ST 06 18**

**September 23<sup>rd</sup> – September 26<sup>th</sup> 2019**

### **Component 4: Strengthening Social Statistics**

#### **Sub-component 4.1: Labour Force Methodologies and Indicators**

##### **Mandatory results and benchmarks for sub-component 4.1**

- Improved Labour Force methodologies and indicators

##### **Indicators of Achievement (baseline and targets):**

- Availability of current LFS questionnaire
  - **Baseline:** 2019 – LFS methodology (Questionnaire) is outdated
  - **Target:** End of 2020 – Methodology updated and changes ready for implementation in collection instrument according to ILO methodology
- Availability of systematic approach to missing data and non-response at data collection stage
  - **Baseline:** 2019 – No systematic approach to missing data
  - **Target:** March 2020 – Imputation methodologies (handling of missing data) introduced
- Number of staff with knowledge on imputation methods
  - **Baseline:** 2019 – n/a
  - **Target:** March 2021 – 3 staff members trained
- Availability of experimentally calculated seasonal adjusted data on LFS
  - **Baseline:** 2019 – Seasonally adjusted data is NOT available
  - **Target:** December 2020 – Experimental calculation of Seasonally adjusted data prepared

#### **Activity 4.1.A: Reviewing and drafting of final questionnaire**

##### **1. Purpose of the activity**

- Assessment on current situation of LFS and challenges
- Presentation and review draft of LFS questionnaire
- Preparation of final draft of questionnaire for full-scale pilot Survey
- Draft Activity plan for pilot survey
- Discussing the work plan for the coming work on the component 4.1.C

##### **2. Expected output of the activity**

- Current status of LFS assessed
- Draft of LFS questionnaire presented and reviewed
- Pilot questionnaires, full-scale pilot survey finalized
- Draft activity plan for pilot survey agreed
- Work plan for the coming work on component 4.1.agreed
- Mission report written
- ToR for next mission is prepared



## Annex 2. Persons met

### **Geostat**

Mr. Paata Shavishvili, Deputy Executive director

Ms. Mariam Kavelashvili, Deputy Head of Strategic Planning, Coordination and Communication Department

Mr. Vasil Tsakadze, Head of Social Statistics Department

Mrs. Irma Gvilava, Head of Labour Statistics Division

Mr. Irakli Guguchia, Senior Specialist

Mr. Tsotne Balakhashvili, Senior Specialist of Labour Statistics Division

Mrs. Nestan Pantsulaia, Senior Specialist of Labour Statistics Division

Mr. Zezva Sanikidze, Senior Specialist of Labour Statistics Division

Ms. Nino Kulatamishvili, Senior Specialist of Labour Statistics Division

Ms. Lili Chedia, Senior Specialist of Labour Statistics Division

Mr. Tamaz Berbichashvili, Senior Specialist of Labour Statistics Division

Ms. Irma Khosidhvili, Senior Specialist of Labour Statistics Division

Ms. Tea Ghonghadze, Senior Specialist of Labour Statistics Division

### **RTA Twinning Team**

Mr. Steen Bielefeldt Pedersen, Resident Twinning Advisor

Ms. Eka Lobzanidze, Resident Twinning Adviser Assistant

### **International Labour Organisation (ILO)**

Mr. Kieran Walsh, Senior Statistician