

Forwarding Armenian Statistics Through Twinning

AM09/ENP-PCA/TP/04

MISSION REPORT

on

Quality management

A4.2 Metadata follow-up

Mission carried out by
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Armenia, 5-14 September 2012

Final version

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Other materials produced during or as a result of the mission

Annex A4.2.5 Power Point presentation on ARMSTATBANK.AM
Annex A4.2.6 Leaflet on ARMSTATBANK.AM

List of Abbreviations

MS Member State
NSSRA National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia
QWG Working Group on Quality

1. General comments

This report was prepared as the result of a mission to the National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia. The mission was follow up to the activities done in April 2012 by Annegrete Wulff and Jesper Ellemose Jensen during activity A4.1. The report from this mission is available from www.dst.dk/armenia. The purpose of activity A4.1 and A4.2 was to set to work www.armstatbank.am, a statistical output database based on the PX-Web software.

The MS Experts would like to express their warm thanks to all officials and individuals met for the kind support and valuable information, which was received during the stay in Armenia, and which highly facilitated the work. The successful opening of www.armstatbank.am was realized on Friday 14 September 2012. In international terms this is an impressive achievement by the NSSRA and has only been possible because of strong management support and a very dedicated effort from the staff of the IT - and – the disseminations division.

The views and observations stated in this report are those of the MS Experts, and do not necessarily correspond to the views of Statistics Denmark, but represents our best professional opinion.

2. Actions and results

During the mission the experts undertook the following actions:

- Meeting with RTA and BC Component Leader: overview of actions done since previous activity and agreement on the work programme for the stay
- Provided additional training in how best to produce PX-files using PX-Edit software
- Presentation to Dissemination and Statistical Subject matter units on Metadata standards in relation to armstatbank.am tables
- Assisted the NSSRA in making quality checks to the already produced files
- Assisted the NSSRA in adapting PX-Web software as the basis for armstatbank.am
- Helped organize a presentation of www.armstatbank.am for the press meeting on Friday 14 September including the production of a presentation leaflet
- Participated in the press meeting

Below some of the activities are described in greater detail.

Training

Training in PC-AXIS / PX-Edit and PX-Web was initiated during activity A4.1 in April 2012 (report is available from www.dst.dk/armenia). As agreed in April the NSSRA produced a number of files over the summer months. Statistics Denmark commented on these files by mail. Some issues still needed clarification as the full set of skills comes mainly through practical work and on the job training, so during the A4.2 mission much time was spent on practical work together with the staff of the dissemination and IT units.

Installation of PX-Web

PX-Web was first installed in April and then a newer dot.net version was installed during a brief visit in July. The new version is easy to work with and most of the settings can be changed from the administration interface. However, some settings are still only available in configuration files (mainly cascading style sheets). The NSSRA has made a huge effort to translate the user interface of PX-web into Armenian. As users start using www.armstatbank.am some of the texts in the user interface can be adjusted.

The installed version of PX-Web is the 2012 version which is the first dot.Net version supporting graphs – this version is formally still under development and the NSSRA is therefore recommended to upgrade the installation when a finalized version becomes available from Statistics Sweden.

The colours of the graph module can easily be changed. At the launch of ARMSTATBANK.AM, colours were chosen for their discriminative power. There is currently no design guide for armstat.am that can be used as guide. It would be recommendable to develop such a guide.

Press conference

A press conference was conducted on Friday 14 September 2012. At the event the president of the NSSRA, Mr Mnatsakanyan declared the ARMSTATBANK.AM for open. Director Lars Thygesen from Statistics Denmark made a general presentation on the value of output databases and the role they have in a modern national statistical institute. (Copies of the slides showing the presentation used during the press conference is included in this report as Annex A4.2.4). The press conference was later shown on Armenian national TV. Director Lars Thygesen was interviewed by Armenian TV. (<http://www.1tv.am/en/1347635112> Go to 6.17 minutes from start)

Leaflet

For the press conference a leaflet (see Annex 5) was produced introducing ARMSTATBANK.AM. A version of the leaflet was made in English and one in Armenian language. After the press conference these leaflets are to be used as promotional material.

Further development of the ARMSTATBANK.AM

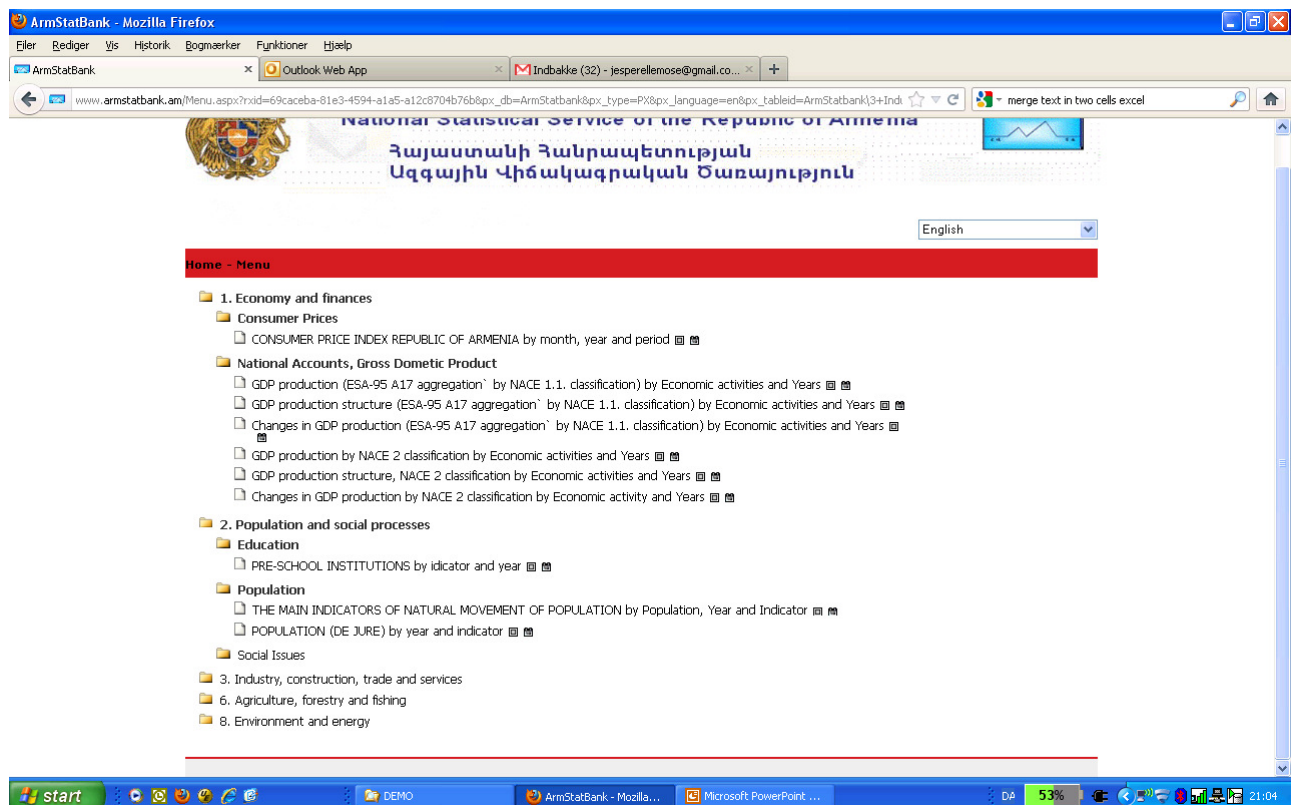
The NSSRA is committed to further extending the ARMSTATBANK.AM so that it in the long run will contain all statistical data produced by the NSSRA.

Practical comments on PX files in ARMSTATBANK.AM

Below there is a series of practical comments to the contents of www.armstatbank.am. These comments are general and were given during the process of preparing files for the opening of www.armstatbank.am.

Avoid the use of uppercase letters

In the screen dump below some tables have titles in uppercase and others are written as normal texts. It gives a confusing impression if the use of capital and non capital letters is not consequent. Capital letters are best avoided.



Indicator is not a suitable name for a variable

Referring to the screen dump above a number of variables are named “*indicator*”. This confuses users as they may think the same variable is used both in population statistics and in national accounts. In the example from population statistics – a more descriptive name of variable could be *urbanisation*.

POPULATION (DE JURE) by year and indicator

Information Footnotes

Mark your selections and choose between table on screen and file format. Marking tip
For variables marked * you need to select at least one value

year *	indicator *
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
Total 41 Selected 0	Total 5 Selected 0
1897 ¹ 1926 ¹ 1939 ¹ 1940 1945 1950	Total Population, as of the beginning of the year, thsd.persons Urban Population, as of the beginning of the year, thsd.persons Rural Population, as of the beginning of the year, thsd.persons Urban Population in percents to total Rural Population in percents to total
Search <input type="text"/> <input type="button" value="→"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Beginning of row	Search <input type="text"/> <input type="button" value="→"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Beginning of row

Be careful of empty values

A time value should NOT be included in the table if no data is available. In the example below there is no data available for any of the values on the variable. So a new value to the time dimension should not be added before data is available. Seeing the value 2011 on the time dimension users will think that data is available and that there is an error in the table.

Home - Menu - Selection - Presentation - Table

Edit and Calculate Save As Table - Layout 1

MAIN INDICATORS OF CONSTRUCTION by field, indicator and year

	2008
Armenia, GY	
Commissioning of fixed assets at current prices, mln. AMD	-
Volume of constructions (at current prices, mln. AMD)	-
Volume of constructions of urban construction and assembly (at current prices, mln. AMD)	-
Total stock of dwellings put in stock, (sq. metres total stock)	-
Total stock of dwellings put in stock (resources for state budgetary, metres total stock)	-
Total stock of dwellings put in stock (resources for humanitarian aid, metres total stock)	-
Total stock of dwellings put in stock (resources for President's Armenian Fund, metres total stock)	-
Total stock of dwellings put in stock (resources for UN funds, metres total stock)	-
Total stock of dwellings put in stock (resources for funds of foreigner refugee countries, metres total stock)	-
Total stock of dwellings put in stock (resources for organizations funds, metres total stock)	-
Total stock of dwellings put in stock (resources for donors' funds, metres total stock)	-

Information

Creation date
20120710 12:37

Displaying
16

Matrix
Data

Avoid decimals if they are not needed or directly meaning less

In the example below – the number of Armenian films is shoved. But this is clearly an integer value and should be shown as such. You can not have 3.23 movie or movie theatres.

Home - Menu - Selection - Presentation - Table

Edit and Calculate Save As Table - Layout 1

PRODUCTION OF MOVIES by Indicators and Years

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Finished movies, unit	22,0	11,0	21,0	20,0	17,0	23,0	19,0	30,0	40,0	39,0	30,0	37,0
Finished animation	2,0	0,0	3,0	3,0	4,0	3,0	3,0	5,0	4,0	5,0	4,0	5,0

Information

Unit
unit and mln. AMD

Creation date
20120710 05:55

3. Conclusions and recommendations

Updating

It is extremely important that all actors at the NSSRA realise that as soon as a table / statistics has been included in www.armstatbank.am it should also be updated according to the release calendar. The reputation and credibility of the NSSRA will be harmed if the newest and most relevant data can not be found on the internet. It is a general experience among NSI's that there is no going back from internet publishing.

Recommendations

In bullet points the following recommendations can be given:

- Make a clear link from the website of NSSRA to www.armstatbank.am
- Continue to produce PX files – state a clear goal of number of PX files that must be ready and available at the end of 2012, for example 40 tables by mid-December
- Design larger tables with several dimensions. This gives the user better possibilities selecting according to his needs. Smaller tables suitable for publications can then be created from these large tables.
- Decide when all subject areas must be represented in www.amstatbank.am
- Decide that amstatbank.am must be updated whenever a regular statistics is updated
- Create procedures to ensure that the link between tables and quality declarations are always current and correct
- Use the produced leaflet as promotional material when ever possible
- Consider making another leaflet that describes in more detail how the armstat.am works
- Ensure that proper backup procedures are in place
- Participate in the international PC-Axis meeting so that the NSSRA can influence the future development of the software used

4. Actions before next activity

As this was the second and last activity related to presentation of data on the internet as part of component A there are no further activities related A4.1 and A4.2 to be undertaken in the twinning project by the experts or the NSSRA.

However the NSSRA has now only started the process of shifting their publishing from paper to electronic media. So plans for developing www.armstatbank.am must be developed and implemented.

Annex 1. Terms of Reference

EU Twinning Project

Forwarding Armenian Statistics Through Twinning AM09/ENP-PCA/TP/04

DRAFT Terms of Reference (A4.2); 5-14 September 2012

<i>Component A</i>	<i>Quality Management</i>
Component B	Business Register, Structural Business Survey, and Respondent Burden
Component C	Improvement of the Exhaustiveness of GDP
Component D	Agricultural Census
Component E	Harmonized Consumer Price Index
Component F	ICT Society

Activity A4.2 Training of staff (2)

1. Purpose of activity

The activity is a continuation of A4.1 where the installation of PX Web / PC Axis dissemination software and the integrated database was initiated. During activity A4.2 these processes will be continued.

2. Expected output of the activity

The expected output of the activity is:

- PX-Web running on a server at NSSRA;
- Testing procedures implemented;
- Finishing and quality securing of 25 data files;
- Introduction material;
- Time plan for producing data files for the remaining statistics;
- Recommendations for plan / procedures for updating already produced files
- Outlining the necessary technical (NSSRA internal) documentation;
- Presentation of PC Axis to the public during a separate press event.

Before the mission (preferably before the end of August) the NSSRA is request to install PX-Web on an external server that can be seen by the experts. Translate as much as possible of the user interface of PX-Web into the Armenian language.

To help adapt PX-Web to the requirements of the NSSRA a guide / design manual for tables and graphs preferably both for printed publications and the NSSRA web site.

3. Project Participants

Mr Stepan Mnatsakanyan, President of NSSRA (*BC Component Leader*)

Ms Anahit Safyan, Head of International Statistical Cooperation Division

Ms Annegrete Wulff, Head of Dissemination Division, Statistics Denmark

Mr Jesper Ellemose Jensen, Senior Advisor, International Consulting, Statistics Denmark

Other NSSRA staff members taking part in the activity

Mr Gagik Ananyan, Member of State Council on Statistics

Mr Vanush Davtyan, Responsible for IT, Member of State Council on Statistics

Ms Narine Musheghyan, Head of Dissemination Division

Mr Vladimir Oboyantsev, Head of IT Department

4. Meeting Programme for MS Experts 5-14th September 2012

Ms Wulff will work 5-7th + 10th + 14th September.

Mr Jensen will work 10-14th September – in addition some work on adapting PX-Web to NSSRA requirements will be done by remote in the period 5-7th September

Time	Place	Event	Purpose / detail
Wednesday, 5 Sept. Morning	Congress Hotel	Meeting with RTA	To discuss the programme of the week
Afternoon	NSSRA	Meeting with BC Component Leader and Ex- perts	To be updated on the current status, and to confirm the plans of the week.
Thursday, 6 Sept. – Thursday, 13 Sept.	NSSRA	Meetings with IT responsible and staff	Installation of PX Web / PC Axis Testing / stress testing Completion of 25 data files Production of external documentation Production of internal documentation Detailed script for the press event Time plan for completing the data files
Friday, 14 Sept. Morning	EUD	Press event – introduction of PC Axis	To introduce PC Axis to Armenian users of statistical information
Afternoon	NSSRA	Debriefing with BC Project Lead- er	Conclusions, decisions and recommendations. Consequences for the next mission and im- plied work programme for BC Experts

Annex 3. Persons met

Mr. Stepan Mnatsakanyan, President of NSSRA (*BC Component Leader*)
Ms Anahit Safyan, Head of International Statistical Cooperation Division
Mr Stepan Mnatsakanyan, President of NSSRA (*BC Component Leader*)
Ms Anahit Safyan, Head of International Statistical Cooperation Division
Mr Vanush Davtyan, Responsible for IT, Member of State Council on Statistics
Ms Narine Musheghyan, Head of Dissemination Division
Mr Vladimir Oboyantsev, Head of IT Department
Ms Aida Martirosyan , Head of Information Technologies Development Division
Ms Ruzanna Petrosyan, Head of Data Base Development and Programming Division

Annex 4. Press release



Press Release

Yerevan

September 2012

EU project makes statistics easily accessible on the internet

On 14 September 2012, the National Statistical Service (NSSRA) and the EU project “Forwarding Armenian Statistics Through Twinning” will introduce the new database ARM-STATBANK.AM to the public.

ARMSTATBANK.AM will allow all users of statistical information to download statistical data in their preferred formats. The technology is the very user-friendly PX-Web, developed by Statistics Sweden, and used by more than 40 national statistical institutes and international organizations worldwide.

ARMSTATBANK.AM allows you to select the tables and the indicators in which you are interested through a very simple procedure:

Select the relevant statistics ...and the variables and values ..and get data in desired format

	2010	2011
Domestic product (gross, market prices)	100.0	100.0
Taxes on products (minus subsidies)	11.2	10.9
Gross value added (basic prices)	88.8	89.1

ARMSTATBANK.AM gives you fast and easy access to statistical information, and allows you to download data in MS Excel, xml or other formats, as well as to create graphs and tables designed according to your needs. A live demonstration of ARMSTATBANK.AM will be given as part of the introduction to the public.

The 2-year EU Twinning Project “Forwarding Armenian Statistics Through Twinning” focuses on harmonizing a range of Armenian statistics with European Union standards.

Press meeting:

Time 10:30; 14 September 2012 (registration starting from 10:00)

Location 3, Government House, 6th floor in the meeting room of NSS RA