Georgia

Joint Meeting of the Steering Groups of the ESCAP Committee on Statistics

It is my pleasure to address you on behalf of the National Statistics Office of Georgia and highlight the remarkable progress made by Geostat in the field of economic, social, and population-related statistics.

First and foremost, I would like to empathize that this year the Parliament of Georgia adopted the new “Law on Official Statistics of Georgia which is in force from August 30, 2023.

It is worth noting that the newly adopted law is fully in line with the Generic Law on Official Statistics (GLOS) and the European Statistics Code of Practice. This law reflects the strong commitment of Geostat to aligning our practices with international standards and contributes to the long-term objective of providing timely, internationally comparable, and reliable statistical data.

It is worth to mentioned that, from this year Geostat become Paperless Office in data collection, that means – from 2023 Geostat does not use any paper questionnaire for any kind of survey.

The new method significantly reduced the burden on the respondents, reduced the time for data processing and improved the quality of statistical information.

Furthermore, significant steps were undertaking by Geostat for further enhancement and development of economic statistics. In 2019, a new methodology - the System of National Accounts (SNA 2008) was introduced by Geostat with the invaluable support of international experts. The process included transition to the new System of National Accounts (SNA 2008), and calculation of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and a number of macroeconomic indicators, in accordance with the new methodology.

Among the achievements of Geostat with regard to international comparability particular mention must be made to the development and publishing by Geostat the Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices (HICP). In 2022 Geostat started publication of the HICP, after a 2-year work conducted together with Statistics Denmark and the EU twinning project.

On behalf of Geostat, I am delighted to highlight our accomplishments in Social Statistics as well. Particularly, adopting new standards set by the International Labour Organization (ILO) for Labor Force Statistics. In December 2020, Geostat published data on unemployment and employment based on these new standards. The new standard involves in the reclassification of the self-employed persons and the calculation of additional indicators of the labour force.

Between 2020 and 2021, Geostat implemented Georgia’s first-ever Time Use Survey with the financial and technical support of UN Women. The survey collected data about the time spent by the population on various activities, including paid and unpaid work, domestic work, childcare, studies, leisure, travel, socialization and etc. These data were crucial for generating statistically reliable and internationally comparable time use data in Georgia, improving gender statistics, estimating indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and informing policy focused on gender mainstreaming.

It should be noted that with the financial and technical support of UNwomen, the "Survey on Violence Against Women" was conducted by Geostat. The purpose of the survey was to collect the information about women and men aged 15-69 on the following issues: household economic status and work-related aspects, health, spouse/partner and non-partner violence, violence-related injuries, impact of violence and help-seeking behaviors, sexual harassment, stalking, social norms and beliefs etc.
Moreover, the production of high-quality statistics based on users’ needs is the top priority for Geostat. Our major objective is to disseminate data in such forms that simplifies their use and improves planning and decision-making process at any level. In this regard, a number of thematic portals related to economic and population statistics were developed by Geostat. The portals are available at our website.

Lastly, with regards to Population Statistics, it is noteworthy to state that currently Geostat is actively engaged in preparatory work of the General Population Census 2024.

The General Population Census 2024, scheduled to take place from November 14 to December 19, 2024. The Census will provide detailed information about the population's size, composition, and various social, economic, and demographic characteristics. This data is essential for understanding the demographic situation, socio-economic priorities, and monitoring UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) indicators.

To optimize resources, the Agricultural Census alongside the Population Census in 2024 will be conducted by Geosat, allowing us to collect information about agricultural activities of households.

In conclusion, Geostat remains committed to advancing innovation and excellence in the field of statistics. We encourage further developments and look forward to continued collaboration with our international partners, including the UN ESCAP.

Thank you for your attention.