

THREE –YEAR STATE STATISTICAL WORK PROGRAM  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA  
FOR 2007-2009

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## INTRODUCTION

This program has been developed according to the requirement of part 5 of the Article 11 of the RA “Law on State Statistics” and defines the directions of state statistical activity for 2007-2009 by economic, demographic, social and environmental fields of statistics.

The three-year statistical work program of the Republic of Armenia for 2007-2009 (hereinafter three-year program) includes statistical information necessary for observation of the economic, demographic, social and environmental situation of the country, taking into account restrictions of the available resources, burden on statistical information providers and cost- effectiveness.

According to the RA “Law on State Statistics” directions and measures of activity foreseen by the three-year program take into consideration the comparability of country indicators with international statistical standards, ensure the possible stable periodicity to reveal long-term trends and proportion of resources foreseen for state statistics on annual basis.

The implementation and financing of the three-year program is conditioned and depended upon the RA annual state budget.

## PART 1. GENERAL STRATEGY

The adopted strategy of state statistics is guided by the implementation of main tasks defined by the Article 4 of the RA “Law on State Statistics” and based on 10 Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics adopted by the 47 session of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (15 April 1992) and by the United Nation Statistical Commission (14 April 1994 ), as well as in addition to those principles on 15 principles defined by the European Statistics Code of Practice adopted by the Statistical Program Committee on 24 February 2005 and on statistics international criteria and standards developed based on them.

According to the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, statistics should ensure impartiality (independence), equal access to use information, professional standards, efficiency, accountability and transparency, confidentiality of primary (private) data, etc. to meet requirements of state institutions, international organizations, public, and business during the program work.

To ensure the main tasks and fundamental principles of state statistics, it is foreseen, in particular:

- a) to continue the processes of institutional reforms of statistics, pursuing the implementation of relevant legislative changes regulating statistical relations in the context of keeping of internationally adopted principles,
- b) to continue and enlarge the international cooperation of the National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia with a purpose to ensure a continuous improvement of statistical methodology, its harmonization and unification with international standards, as well as the international comparability of statistical indicators,
- c) to continue the work of introduction and application of internationally adopted standards on data dissemination (in particular Special Data Dissemination Standard developed by the International Monetary Fund) with a purpose to ensure statistical

- data quality and transparency that supposes uninterrupted operation of the Website of the National Statistical Service of RA and regular updating of information contents and quality, as well as methodological data,
- d) in parallel with the development of statistical methodology to continue the work of review of contents and composition of indicators reflected in the actually acting statistical observation documents and unification of statistical observation documents, at the same time aiming at minimizing of the possible negative impacts on information quality, completeness and reliability,
  - e) to complete and update (minimum annually) the business register database (on legal persons and individual entrepreneurs ) and as a consequence to have a gradual transition to the introduction and use of sample methods of information collection,
  - f) to continue the work of development and introduction of national classifications related to the part of complete system of classification and coding of technical and economic, and social information (including common classification of territorial units for statistics, classification of individual consumption by purposes, classification of statistical units, etc.), as well as work of improvement of classifications already introduced and applied in the state statistics (taking into account the fact of nationalization of foreseen main changes on classification of economic activities and classification of products by activity),
  - g) to pass to the complete application of information collection mechanism through administrative registers, taking into account the implementation of relevant work defined by the annual statistical work program,
  - h) to improve and enlarge the composition and contents of indicators needed for the maintenance of territorial statistics in parallel with introduction and maintenance of local (community) administrative registers (including passports of communities),
  - i) to continue the work on completion of gender statistics,
  - j) to pass to the information electronic collection through the introduction and application of information technologies to ensure the timeliness of indicators preparation
  - k) to enlarge the composition, contents and thematic coverage of statistical publications (bulletins, handbooks, etc. ), also to extend the dissemination possibilities by the application of information technologies to meet the needs of statistical information users more complete and efficient,
  - l) to improve the mechanism of summary information receiving through the official Website of the National Statistical Service of RA for the users of statistical information.

## PART 2. PROGRAMS OF MEASURES GUARANTEEING THE DEVELOPMENT OF FUNCTIONAL SPHERES

The sphere of statistics is characterized by the need of permanent improvement of the methodology that is conditioned on one hand by data reliability, timeliness, sound methodology of receiving of information and increasing demands on compliance with international criteria, and on the other hand by the non-dissemination of initial (private) data of all the types.

It is foreseen to implement the further development of statistics for 2007-2009 within the framework of the following main measure programs:

## SECTION 2.1. REAL SECTOR

### 2.1.1. National Accounts

- 1) The maintenance and improvement of the system of national accounts of Armenia for the whole economy, as well as by structural sectors according to the international methodology of the “System of National Accounts -93” and “European System of Accounts - 95”.
- 2) Improvement of the calculation methodology on gross domestic product and other macro-economic indicators, as well as on grouping format of activity types defined by the “European System of Accounts- 95”.
- 3) Maintenance of statistics of value added (by production approach) of financial and non-financial organizations by sub-sectors.
- 4) Maintenance and improvement of statistics on national wealth components.
- 5) Complete introduction of Armenian classification of economic activities into national accounts.
- 6) Improvement of the estimation methodology of sizes and calculations of the “non-observed economy”.
- 7) Introduction of the “input-output” principle into the system of national accounts.

### 2.1.2. Industry

- 1) Maintenance of industry statistics according to the Armenian classification of products by activity.
- 2) Continued improvement of data collection and processing methodology of industry statistics.
- 3) Improvement of methodology of estimation of non-observed (underreported) field by separate types of products.
- 4) Use of results of household surveys and other sample surveys to ensure the completeness of registration field.

### 2.1.3. Agriculture

- 1) Maintenance of agriculture statistics according to the Armenian classification of economic activities and classification of products by activity.
- 2) Regular updating of sample observation field of agriculture statistics to increase the representativeness of agriculture indicators.
- 3) Increasing the completeness and reliability of statistical data through the improvement of sample observation methods.
- 4) Regular improvement of methodology of agriculture statistics data collection and processing.
- 5) Improvement of adjustment tools of volumes crop and cattle products production, taking into account their peculiarities.

6) Conduction of agricultural census in the Republic of Armenia for 2007-2009 that will enable to update and enlarge the agriculture statistical database and create preconditions for formation, introduction and maintenance of the farm register.

#### 2.1.4. Construction

- 1) Maintenance of construction statistics according to the Armenian classification of economic activities and classification of products by activity.
- 2) Continued improvement of calculation methodology of construction main indicators.
- 3) Continued improvement of statistical observations mechanisms to ensure the completeness and to increase the reliability of construction volumes.
- 4) Formation of the register and updating of registration network to ensure the completeness of construction statistics information bases.

#### 2.1.5. Transport and Communications

- 1) Maintenance of transport and communications statistics according to the Armenian classification of economic activities and classification of products by activity.
- 2) Improvement of estimation methodology of non-observed (underreported) field on main indicators of road transport (passengers and goods transportation, passengers and goods turnover) according to criteria defined by international methodology.
- 3) Continued improvement of transport and communications statistics methodology and ensuring its comparability with existing international standards.

#### 2.1.6. Trade and other services

- 1) Maintenance of trade and services statistics according to the Armenian classification of economic activities and classification of products by activity.
- 2) Regular conduction of statistical observations to ensure the completeness and to increase the reliability of retail trade turnover.
- 3) Improvement of estimation methodology of non-observed (underreported) field in trade and services.

#### 2.1.7. Prices and price indexes

- 1) Further improvement of consumer price indexes calculation methodology, review and extension of the composition and structure of observed goods-services, in particular the inclusion of price indexes in Ararat marz into the summary index calculations of the Republic of Armenia.
- 2) Improvement of estimation methodology of industry, agriculture production, external trade prices, goods transportation tariffs and other services price indexes, enlargement of the observation field, samples review, continuation of the process of introduction of international criteria and classifications in price observations.

- 3) Continuation of participation in work of the new stage (by 2008-2009 basic data) of international comparisons program on calculation of GDP and PPP implemented within the framework of CIS countries. The observation of about 1400 items of consumer goods (services), investment goods, construction components prices (jointly with the relevant authorized body implemented administrative statistics), as well as observation of prices of non-market services according to the international comparisons program.

#### 2.1.8. Labor market

- 1) Improvement of information collection methods and tools on labor market.
- 2) Regular review and improvement of composition of indicators and contents characterizing labor market based on definitions, standards, principles and concepts defined by the international methodology.
- 3) Maintenance of labor market statistics according to the international standard classification of employment status, continued completion and updating of labor statistics information base, improvement of regional statistics on labor.

### SECTION 2.2. TAX, BUDGETARY AND FINACIAL SECTORS

- 1) Maintenance and improvement of state finance statistics (consolidated, state, communities and obligatory social insurance budgets and their elements ) according to the internationally adopted and applied methodologies (including financial results of organizations under state supervision into the RA consolidated budget jointly with relevant authorized body implementing administrative statistics),
- 2) Maintenance and improvement of state debt statistics of the Republic of Armenia.
- 3) Maintenance and improvement of statistics of financial intermediation sector (including also financial intermediation of non-banking sector jointly with the relevant authorized body implementing administrative statistics),
- 4) Introduction and Maintenance of the “Financial account” statistics according to the principles of the “European System of Accounts - 95” and in this context the review of the composition and contents of financial and economic indicators collected from non- financial organizations and their harmonization with the internationally adopted and applied methodologies.

### SECTION 2.3. EXTERNAL SECTOR

- 1) Compilation of balance of payments and international investment position of the Republic of Armenia according to the methodology of International Monetary Fund.
- 2) Continued improvement of external debt statistics of the Republic of Armenia (by the republic, sectors of economy, period of repayment and separate tools) according to the internationally adopted and applied methodologies.

- 3) Improvement of the registration field of foreign (including foreign direct investments) investments and estimation methodology of indicators.
- 4) Maintenance and improvement of external trade statistics of goods and services.
- 5) Taking into account proposals of international organizations, implementation of work on compilation of tourism satellite account jointly with the relevant authorized body implementing administrative statistics and in this context conduction of sample surveys to compile main tables of the satellite account.

## SECTION 2.4. SOCIAL AND DEMOGRAPHIC SECTOR

### 2.4.1. Social sphere

- 1) Formation of administrative registers and improvement of administrative statistics to complete statistical registration of education, health, culture, sport and other social and demographic spheres (including statistics on secondary, higher and post-graduate education, training processes).
- 2) Improvement of housing and public utilities sphere statistics.

### 2.4.2. Nature protection

- 1) Taking into consideration social and economic, regional development and bioactivity peculiarities, maintenance of regional information bases, improvement of administrative registers related to the given sphere.
- 2) Improvement of the registration system of nature protection investments and expenditures.
- 3) Formation of estimation indicators on impact of environment factors on population health and information base.
- 4) Continuation of the work on introduction of environmental satellite accounts.
- 5) Introduction of geographical informational system in publications on the environment situation.

### 2.4.3. Households survey

- 1) Regular conduction of households sample surveys and improvement of methodology.
- 2) Provision of representative sampling of household surveys to complete and update main indicators characterizing poverty and living standards of population that will enable to calculate and publish these indicators by marz breakdown as well.
- 3) Provision of continuation of maintenance and improvement of poverty material and non-material indicators (education, health, access to drinking water and housing conditions) for monitoring of poverty reduction strategy program.
- 4) Poverty deep assessment through the special modules (module questionnaires) during the households sample surveys.

#### 2.4.4. Food security

1) According to the methodology applied by United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization and European Commission the continued improvement of indicators system characterizing the food security situation (food availability, access and consummation) and based on them the regular compilation of national food balance.

#### 2.4.5. Demography

1) Development of complex measures for the preparation of the next population census for 2011 to ensure the implementation of the part 1 of the Article 4 of the RA "Law on Population Census".

2) Compliance of demographic indicators informational system with the internationally adopted standards to present the demographic situation of the republic more comprehensive, in particular,

- a) improvement of work on development of acts on population natural movement indicators (birth, death, marriage, divorce).
- b) development of alternative modes for the registration (assessment) of population migration.

3) Provision of complete indicators on population sex and age composition by marzes of the Republic of Armenia.

### PART 3. MANAGEMENT OF INFORMATION RESOURCES AND INTRODUCTION OF TECHNOLOGIES

Development of information technologies within the System of the National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia will be implemented within the framework of the concept of development of common statistical information system of the National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia.

- 1) Provision of continued work on updating of the local computer network of units of the National Statistical Service of RA, equipment of units with computers, software and modem connection, creation of the corporative network.
- 2) Continued work on updating of the NSS RA`s Web page <http://docs.armstat.am/nsdp> (<http://docs.armstat.info/nsdp>) of the official Website [www.armstat.am](http://www.armstat.am), as well as intranet site for internal use, creating preconditions for the operation of electronic site (extranet) of transmission of information between the structural and separate units of the NSS RA.
- 3) Creation of corporative data and metadata warehouses that will include the whole list of published statistical indicators as permanent data.



- 4) Continued work to ensure the information security and uninterrupted activity of the common statistical information system of the National Statistical Service of RA, guaranteeing the statistical confidentiality and anonymity of data.
- 5) Formation of the system of receiving of statistical data through electronic documents from statistical information providers, bodies implementing administrative statistics and marz Agencies of the National Statistical Service of RA and interactive contact system with statistical information users.

#### PART 4.INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL COOPERATION

1) In the field of statistics the cooperation will include the exchange information and experience exchange, as well as with a purpose to build capacities their dissemination for further use of statistical data. The scope of implementation of statistical cooperation is enough wide, ranging from informal contacts in international working groups and meetings to comprehensive programs to improve statistics. The main goals of corporation are:

- a) Increased and better use of improved statistical data in key areas to provide the basis for policy, planning, decision – making and monitoring of economic, social, environmental and demographic development, as well as in the sphere of investments.
- b) Increased statistical capacity and capabilities to produce statistical data in priority areas, as well as to publish them.
- c) To ensure the ability to sustain and develop systems and capabilities in long term programs.

2. The main tasks of the National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia within the international cooperation are:

- a) to increase the quality of statistical products according to the information modern requirements.
- b) to increase the data relevance and reliability, taking into account the users needs and studying the methodology applied in the international practice.
- c) to ensure the coherence of statistical standards and rules with international standards and rules.
- d) to ensure international comparability of data.
- e) to increase the confidence to statistical information by forming of relevant legal field of statistics, improving data dissemination, introducing to users the role of statistics in the liberal economic system and support to wide use of statistical information, when decision making, monitoring and evaluation implementing in any area.
- f) to increase and ensure the image of official statistics in external world.

3. The National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia foresees to continue the active participation in the work (measures) towards the improvement, unification and harmonization of statistical methodology and practice within international cooperation, and ensuring of comparability of indicators officially published by national statistical services of other countries on social and economic development, and population living standards of

their countries. By contents and subject this most important and multilateral activity will be implemented in the following main directions:

1) Participation in the activity of international organizations:

a) United Nations:

- UNSD,
- UNECE and UNECE CES,
- UNDP,
- UNFPA,
- UNICEF,
- UNESCO,
- UNESCAP,
- UNFAO,
- other specialized bodies,

b) IMF,

c) WB,

d) Eurostat,

e) OECD,

f) ILO,

g) ISI, etc.

2) Development and implementation of cooperation projects with foreign experts' participation with a purpose to solve important problems towards the reforms of state statistics system at the funds of national and regional technical assistance programs of international organizations.

3) Bilateral and multilateral cooperation with national statistical services of foreign countries within the framework of statistical activity on modern issues.

4) Development of traditional links and cooperation with statistical offices of CIS countries by participating in the activity of CIS interstate statistical committee.

4. The following statistics areas are the cooperation priorities of the National Statistical Service of RA:

- economic statistics,
- trade(commercial) statistics,
- social and demographic statistics,
- poverty statistics,
- environment statistics,
- regional statistics,
- data dissemination ,
- information and communication technologies.

5. The National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia will continue its activity towards the integration into European Statistical System within the framework of national program for implementation of Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) signed between the European Union and Republic of Armenia.

6. The National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia will participate in the EU-Armenia Action Plan on statistics within the European Neighborhood Policy that in particular will include:

Adoption of statistical methods fully compatible with European standards and advance the modernization of the National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia

- Elaborate and implement a short and medium term development strategy for harmonisation with European standards in the relevant statistical areas, based on a global assessment of the Armenian statistical system by EU experts;
- Improve the quality and coverage of the business register;
- Prepare and implement an agricultural census according to FAO guidelines.

#### PART 5. STAFF TRAINING

The staff training of the National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia will be continued for 2007-2009 that would be implemented by participation in the training courses, seminars and workshops organized by the international organizations, national statistical services, as well as processes of training and attestation implemented with a purpose to continuous improvement of professional knowledge and working skills and determination of conformity with the occupied position of the civil servants of staff of the National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia.

#### PART 6. FINANCING OF STATISTICAL SPHERE

The financing of the implementation of the above mentioned and other measures for 2007-2009 is envisaged to implement through the following main modes (sources).

- a) Funds of the state budget of the Republic of Armenia (including funds provided by non- taxpayers) for the implementation of work foreseen by the annual state statistical work program.
- b) Funds provided from the state budget of the Republic of Armenia, as well as funds provided by non- taxpayers for the additional work implemented over the annual state statistical work program.