

THREE –YEAR STATE STATISTICAL WORK PROGRAM
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA
FOR 2013-2015

INTRODUCTION

The given 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 2013-2015 by economic, demographic, social and environmental fields of statistics.

The three-year statistical work program of the Republic of Armenia for 2013-2015 (hereinafter three-year program) includes the directions of activity for formation of 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 the 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 measures and directions of the activity foreseen by the given three-year program are also based on strategic directions defined by the three-year programs of previous years aimed at ensuring their continuity.

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, on quality declaration of the European statistical system of European Commission and Eurostat (2002), on requirements of the IMF’s Special Data Dissemination Standard (2007), on Armenia Country report on the observance of standards and codes on data quality assessment (2009), as well as on results of assessment of the national system of official statistics of the Republic of Armenia by European Union experts (Eurostat, EFTA and UNECE) (2008), on the provisions of the “Legal Framework for European Statistics - the Law on Statistics” approved by the European Parliament and the Council Regulation (2010) No 223/2009 dated 11 March 2009 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. It is needed, that users consider the National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia as an organization radically differing from certain policy-oriented state institutions. It is necessary to have guarantees avoiding the involvement of the official statistics in the existing conflicts of administrative and similar interests.

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

- 1) 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,
- 2) 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,
- 3) 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,
 - 4) 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, as well as to reduce the burden on statistical information providers,
 - 5) 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,
 - 6) 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 , as well as work of improvement of classifications already introduced and applied in the state statistics,
 - 7) 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,
 - 8) 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),
 - 9) to continue the work on completion of gender statistics,
 - 10) to pass to the information electronic collection through the introduction and application of information technologies to ensure the timeliness of indicators preparation as well as to increase the work efficiency,
 - 11) to increase the confidence of statistical information by improving the relevant legal framework of statistics and data dissemination, studying in depth the users' needs and requirements, to promote a wide use of statistical information, including, when decision-making, implementing monitoring and assessments,
 - 12) to continue the production of statistical publications (bulletins, handbooks, etc.) consisting of statistical information characterizing economic, demographic, social and environmental situation of the country, as well as sectoral and regional peculiarities, as well as to improve their composition, contents and thematic coverage of statistical publications to fully meet the needs of statistical information users,
 - 13) to improve the mechanism of receiving summary information from 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 2013-2015 within the framework of the following main measure programs:

SECTION 2.1. REAL SECTOR

2.1.1. National Accounts

- 1) 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” until the complete introduction of the new methodology of “System of National Accounts -2008”.
- 2) Implementation of work on introduction of the new methodology of “System of National Accounts -2008”, in particular by priority order, evaluation of the impact of methodological change and data reviews on the absolute volume and dynamics of gross domestic product,
- 3) Maintenance of statistics of value added (by production approach) of financial and non-financial organizations by sub-sectors.
- 4) Compilation of the production account of Gross Domestic Product according to the “Armenian Classification of Types of Economic Activities”.
- 5) Improvement of the estimation methodology of sizes and calculations of the “non-observed economy” by applying the “Tabular approach” principle of Eurostat.
- 6) Implementation of work on the compilation of “input-output” tables.

- 7) Improvement of the estimation methodology on financial intermediation services indirectly measured.
- 8) Maintenance and improvement of statistics on national wealth components.
- 9) Improvement of the estimation methodology on the consumption of fixed assets in national accounts.

2.1.2. Industry

- 1) Maintenance of industry statistics according to the Armenian Classification of Types of Economic Activities and Classification of Products by Types of Activity.
- 2) Continued improvement of data collection and processing methodology of industry statistics according to the international criteria and standards.
- 3) Use of evaluation tools and improvement of their methodology by non-observed (underreported) separate types of products to ensure the completeness of the registration field.
- 4) Implementation of necessary methodological and organizational work to compile the energy balance.

2.1.3. Agriculture

- 1) Maintenance of agriculture statistics according to the Armenian Classification of Types of Economic Activities and Classification of Products by Types of Activity.
- 2) Continued improvement of methodology of agriculture statistics data collection and processing according to the international standards.
- 3) Improvement of sample observation tool of agriculture statistics aimed at deepening of detailed indicators.
- 4) Improvement of adjustment tools of volumes of plant growing and cattle breeding output production, taking into account their peculiarities to increase the quality of assessment of yield capacity, productivity, losses and other indicators.

5) Implementation of preparatory work on Agricultural Census with the support of experts of European Union Twinning project “Forwarding Armenian Statistics through Twinning” and of US Department of Agriculture according to the RA Law “On Agricultural Census” and guidelines of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization.

2.1.4. Construction

- 1) Maintenance of construction statistics according to the Armenian Classification of Types of Economic Activities and Classification of Products by Types of Activity.
- 2) Improvement of the methodology on main construction indicators and ensuring its comparability according to the international criteria and standards.
- 3) Improvement of statistical observations mechanisms to ensure the completeness and to increase the reliability of construction volumes to assess non- observed volumes.

2.1.5. Transport and Communications

- 1) Maintenance of transport and communications statistics according to the Armenian Classification of Types of Economic Activities and Classification of Products by Types of 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 Types of Economic Activities and Classification of Products by Types of Activity.
- 2) Improvement of the methodology of trade and other services statistics and ensuring its comparability according to the international criteria and standards.
- 3) Use of evaluation tools and improvement of their methodology of the non-observed (underreported) field of the trade and other services sphere according to the international standards.

2.1.7. Prices and price indexes

- 1) Implementation of preparatory work on introduction of Harmonized Consumer Price Index calculated in the European Union countries in the Republic of Armenia to bring the calculation methodology of the consumer price index into compliance with the European Union standards and to harmonize with the requirements defined by the European Union legislation. Stipulated by that, further improvement of calculation methodology of consumer price index, review and extension of the composition and structure of observed goods-services, recalculation of weights of goods-services included in the basket.
- 2) Continued improvement of estimation methodology of industry and agricultural products, external trade prices, goods transportation tariffs, enlargement of the observation field, review of the sampling of observed industrial organizations and farms, organization of the prices survey according to the international standards and classifications.
- 3) Continuation of participation in the work of the international global comparisons program on calculation of GDP and national currency PPP by indicators of 2011 and publication of final results. Implementation of preparatory work to participate in the next stage of International Global Comparisons Program.

2.1.8. Labor market

- 1) Improvement of information collection and summarizing methods and tools on employment and salary.

- 2) Enlargement of the frame of the data application of administrative registers.
- 3) In parallel with the regular review and improvement of the main indicators of labour market defined by International Labor Organization and European Commission and provisions of the System of National Accounts with a purpose of their harmonization the regular review and improvement of composition and contents of state statistical reports, survey questionnaires and covered indicators to ensure their compliance.
- 4) Maintenance of labor market statistics according to the following international classifications (International Standard Classification of Occupations, International Classification of Status in Employment and Classification of Types of Economic Activities).
- 5) Improvement of statistics on working hours, earning structure, labor cost to introduce the calculation of labor cost index, as well as improvement of statistics on labor migration, professional training, working conditions, vacancies.
- 6) Implementation of preparatory work on introduction of “Decent work indicators” developed by the International Labor Organization.
- 7) Improvement of labor force sample surveys in households and small trade organizations aimed at deepening of detailed indicators.

2.1.9 Business register

1. Ensuring the completeness of the business register database on legal units and individual entrepreneurs based on databases maintained by administrative registers (in particular State Register of Legal Units of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia, State Revenue Committee under the RA Government, etc) and regular updating of indicators covered by them according to internationally standards.
2. Continued improvement of the software of business register base aimed at the extension of the application of sample observation mechanisms of the state statistics.
3. Improvement of tools of the processing of information collected from direct and indirect sources to increase the quality of indicators available in the business register base.

SECTION 2.2. TAX, BUDGETARY AND FINACIAL SECTORS

- 1) Maintenance and improvement of state finance statistics (consolidated, state, communities and their elements) according to the internationally adopted and applied methodologies (including the maintenance of statistics according to the classification of

the manual on “ Government Finance Statistics -2001” jointly with relevant authority 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) Implementation of work on introduction of the “Financial account” statistics according to the principles of the “System of National Accounts -2008”.

SECTION 2.3. EXTERNAL SECTOR

1. Compilation of the article” Goods and Services” of the current account of balance of payments of the Republic of Armenia according to the methodology of International Monetary Fund.
2. Implementation of work on introduction of the new methodology of International Monetary Fund (manual on Balance of Payments 6) for the compilation of the article” Goods and Services” of the current account of balance of payments of the Republic of Armenia .
3. Support to compile the balance of payments, international investment position and external debt statistics according to the internationally adopted and applied methodologies (including, the classifications of the manuals on “ Balance of Payments 6” and on “External Debt Statistics” jointly with the relevant authority implementing administrative statistics).
4. Collection of external debt indicators according to the classification of international services of the International Monetary Fund.
5. Improvement of the registration field of foreign investments and estimation of indicators according to the internationally adopted and applied methodologies (including, jointly with the relevant authority implementing administrative statistics).
6. Maintenance of external trade statistics of goods, introduction of international classification of goods (according to the manual on “Foreign Trade Statistics of Goods. Concepts and Definitions, 2010”) and ensuring the appropriate transition (keys) to the current classification (according to the list of goods of external economic activities of Commonwealth of Independent States).
7. Implementation of preparatory work on compilation of tourism satellite account (tourism satellite account is a system of indicators foreseen for the presentation of more detailed information on tourism sphere).

SECTION 2.4. SOCIAL AND DEMOGRAPHIC SECTOR

2.4.1. Social sphere

2.4.1.1 Education and science

- 1) Methodological support to improve the formation of administrative registers and administrative recording with a purpose to complete the statistical registration of education sphere (including, maintenance of statistics on preschool, preliminary, secondary, higher and post-graduate education, training processes).
- 2) Methodological support to improve the formation of administrative registers and administrative recording with a purpose to complete the statistical registration of scientific and research activity sphere.
- 3) Continued improvement of statistics methodology on education and science spheres under international methodological developments.

2.4.1.2 Health

- 1) Methodological support to improve the administrative registers and administrative recording with a purpose to complete the statistical registration of health sphere.
- 2) Continued improvement of statistics methodology on health sphere under international methodological developments.

2.4.1.3 Social security

- 1) Methodological support to improve the formation of administrative registers and administrative recording with a purpose to complete the statistical registration of social security sphere.
- 2) Improvement of statistics on pension and social security spheres based on the peculiarities of new information systems (information sources) formed as a result of RA legislative changes in this spheres.

2.4.1.4 Other social spheres

- 1) Methodological support to improve the formation of administrative registers and administrative recording with a purpose to complete the statistical registration of culture, sport and other social spheres.
- 2) Improvement of housing and public utilities sphere statistics.

2.4.1. 5 Households surveys

- 1) Regular conduction of households sample surveys and improvement of methodology.
- 2) Provision of representative sampling of household surveys by regions to complete and update main indicators characterizing poverty and social situation that will enable to calculate and publish these indicators by Yerevan city and by marzes as well.
- 3) Provision of continued maintenance and improvement of poverty material and non-material indicators (education, health, access to drinking water and housing conditions) of the monitoring of Sustainable Development Program.
- 4) Poverty deep assessment through the special modules (module questionnaires) during the households sample surveys (including studying the possibility to collect data on social exclusions, intergenerational transmission of poverty, access to information and telecommunication technologies at individual level).

2.4.1.6 Food security

According to the methodology recommended by the UN FAO and European Commission the continuous improvement of indicators system characterizing the food security situation (food availability, access and consummation) and based on them the regular compilation of the national food balance.

2.4.2. Demography

1. As a result of Population Census conducted from 12-21 October, 2011 according to the RA law “On Population Census” and RA Government Resolution No 301-N dated 26 March 2009 “On Conduction of the 2011 Armenia Population Census, 2010 Pilot Census and creation of state, Yerevan city and marz commissions for the conduction of 2011 Armenia Population Census” to implement the following in the defined terms:

- 1) Implementation of preparatory work on derivation of defined output tables and software.
 - 2) Publication and dissemination of aggregated data.
2. Updating of demographic indicators informational system, as well as harmonizing with the internationally adopted standards to present the comprehensive demographic situation of the republic, in particular:
 - 1) Change of the calculation base of the population number of communities of the Republic of Armenia based on the results of the 2011 Armenia Population Census.
 - 2) Implementation of preparatory work on studying possibilities to automate the formation (receiving) of statistical data included in the acts of birth, death, marriage, divorce on population natural movement indicators and processing procedures and their introduction.
 - 3) In parallel with the completion of population state register to be prepared for the testing and application of information on migration received from the register base.

2.4.3 Environment statistics

1. Taking into consideration social and economic, regional development and life activity peculiarities, completion and maintenance of regional information bases, support to improve relevant administrative registers related.
2. Implementation of work on creation and management of unified nature protection information bases of the republic according to the creation of the European Environmental unified information system.
3. Implementation of work on the creation and conduction of statistical information bases according to the projects on river basin management and development.
4. Implementation of preparatory work on introduction of environmental satellite sub-accounts.
5. Definition of estimation indicators of negative impact of environment factors on population health, their inclusion in administrative register and formation of relevant information base.
6. Enlargement of publications on the environmental situation, introduction of geographical information system in them.

PART 3

MANAGEMENT OF INFORMATION RESOURCES AND INTRODUCTION OF TECHNOLOGIES

Development of information technologies in 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 official Website www.armstat.am , as well as intranet for internal use, enlargement of data warehouse of statistical indicators, provision statistical data users with the larger volumes of information, development of interactive contact system for respondents and users, including the work on presentation of statistical electronic reports to the NSS RA (with the RA Government support)..
- 3) Continuation of development and updating work within the framework of the “Armeniainfo” project, in particular enlargement of Armenia Millennium Development Goals indicators and main statistical databases at www.armdevinfo.am website.
- 4) Continued improvement of software applied for the work of statistical observation, introduction and operation of new software.
- 5) Creation of operative statistical databases, organization of micro, macro and metadata bases, as well as creation of corporative data warehouse that will include the whole list of published statistical indicators, updating of local bases created based on the state statistical reports.
- 6) Implementation of work on introduction of PS-AXIS software to update the tools of statistical indicators maintenance, processing and dissemination.
- 7) Implementation of work on introduction of the “Demetra Plus” software applied for the seasonal adjustments, when statistical data processing.
- 8) 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.

PART 4. INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL COOPERATION

1. In the field of statistics the international cooperation, being one of the United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics covers the exchange of information and experience, as well as with a purpose to build capacity 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 cooperation are:

- 1) 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.
- 2) Increased statistical capacity and capabilities to produce statistical data in priority key areas of international cooperation, as well as to publish them.
- 3) Ensuring the long term programs to support and extend systems and capacity capabilities.

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

- 1) To increase the quality of statistical products according to the information modern requirements.
- 2) To increase the data relevance, taking into account the users' needs .
- 3) To increase the data reliability, studying the methodology applied in the international practice.
- 4) To ensure the coherence of statistical standards and rules with international standards and rules.
- 5) To ensure the data international comparability.
- 6) To increase and ensure the image of official statistics in the external world.
- 7) To develop and introduce the principals of professional ethics.

3. The National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia within the framework of international cooperation foresees to continue the active participation in the work towards the improvement, unification and harmonization of statistical methodology and practice, and ensuring comparability of indicators officially published by national statistical services on social and economic development, and population living standards of their countries. By contents and types this the 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 CES, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNESCO, UNESCAP, UNFAO, and other specialized bodies,

b) IMF,

c) The 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 cooperation with national statistical services of foreign countries within the framework of statistical activity on modern issues.

4) Development of traditional relations 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:

- Strengthening statistical capacity,
- quality management,
- economic statistics,
- business statistics,

- social and demographic and labor market statistics,
- poverty statistics,
- gender statistics,
- environment statistics,
- energy statistics,
- development indicators,
- international comparisons program,
- 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 of implementation of the 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.

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.

7. The National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia will continue the activity towards the institutional strengthening, formation and further improvement of statistical system in compliance with the European Union standards, approximation to the European Union regulations, harmonization with the European Union legislation and standards.

8. The National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia will participate in the process of negotiations of the EU – Armenia Association Agreement on statistics.

PART 5. STAFF TRAINING

The training policy of the National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia is based on the training programs oriented to staff needs and requirements, and aimed at the exchange of knowledge, skills, experience and information.

The National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia will be continue the staff training covering the employees from structural as well as separate units. The participation in the training courses, seminars and workshops organized by the international organizations, national statistical services will be continued as well.

Guided by the requirements of the RA Law ‘On Civil Service” the processes of training and attestation implemented with a purpose to continuously improve the professional knowledge and working skills and determine the conformity with the titles of civil servants of the staff of the National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia will be continued.

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PART 6. FINANCING OF STATISTICAL SPHERE

The financing of the implementation of the above mentioned and other measures for 2013-2015 is envisaged to implement through the following main ways (sources).

1. State budget funds of the Republic of Armenia (including funds provided by non-taxpayers) to implement work foreseen by the annual state statistical work programs.
2. State budget funds of the Republic of Armenia, as well as funds provided by non-taxpayers for the additional work implemented over the annual state statistical work programs.