Questionnaire

Part II

**Information provided by the Government of the Republic of Moldova
to the Questionnaire of the European Commission**

CHAPTER 18:

STATISTICS

May 2022

The *acquis* in statistics consists almost exclusively of legislation, which is directly applicable in the Member States, such as European Parliament and Council Regulations and Commission Decisions or Regulations. Furthermore, there is a wide range of methodological handbooks and manuals in the various statistical domains such as agriculture, economic and monetary policy, demographic and social statistics and research which, although non-biding, are relevant for statistical production. International agreements provide a further base for the statistical production.

The Statistical Requirements Compendium constitutes a comprehensive list of all EU legislation, with which Member States must comply in the field of statistics. The 2021 version of the Compendium[1] will constitute the basis on which to build the replies to this part of the questionnaire.

Furthermore, the amended Regulation 223/2009 on European Statistics contains further provisions for the National Statistical Institute, regarding for example professional independence and its coordinating role in the statistical system as well as towards administrative data providers. The European Statistics Annual Work Programme 2022 and the European Statistical Programme 2021-27 (Regulation (EU) 2021/690) as part of the Single Market Programme constitute a valuable source to verify the way in which the EU *acquis* develops.

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[1] The Compendium is updated annually, 2022 version to be released in May.

1. Statistics might be collected by other institutional actors than the National Statistical Institute. In order to provide an overall picture of the system of official statistics, please give a description of the institutional arrangements concerning data collection, production and dissemination of official statistics in Moldova. This should include a listing of the specific responsibilities of the various actors. How is the coordination of the main producers of statistical data (Statistical office, Central Bank, Ministry of Finance, other national authorities (ONAs) carried out?

Official statistics play an important role in supporting effective governance. The key role is to provide users with reliable, accurate and timely information that is necessary to inform, develop and monitor economic, social and environmental policies, is required for business use and feeds into scientific research. Official statistics allow comparison across countries and are essential for evidence-based policy-making and in identifying the most vulnerable categories of people, the least developed geographical regions and sectors in order to redirect resources, to improve the quality of health and education, social wellbeing and economic development.

The organization and functioning of the system of official statistics is regulated by the **Law No.93/2017 on Official Statistics**[2] **(LOS)**. The LOS, which is built on the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics (FPOS) and the European Statistics Code of Practice (ESCoP), outlines the legal, institutional and programmatic framework for the production and dissemination of official statistics and the organization of the national system of official statistics. This Law is partially transposing the provisions of Regulation 223/2009 on European Statistics.

According to Art. 6 of the LOS, the **National Statistical System** (NSS) consists of the following actors:

- the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) in its role as the central statistical authority, is the main producer of official statistics and the NSS coordinator;
- the National Bank of Moldova (NBM);
- other producers of official statistics (OPOS), the list of which is to be approved by the NBS based on a regulation approved by the Government.

According to the LOS (Art.13, para. (1), (2), (4)), the producers of official statistics have the legal right to obtain and collect the data necessary for the production of official statistics from natural and legal persons and to decide on the appropriate data collection methods and data sources, including administrative data sources (Art.14 and 16). Producers of official statistics collect, process, systematize, centralize, analyze, assess and disseminate statistical information according to the fundamental principles of official statistics (Art.4 para.(2), Art.24) .

According to the LOS (Art.11) official statistics should be produced according to the **multiannual and annual programmes** of statistical work approved by the Government. The main strategic objectives and directions for the development of official statistics, for a period of at least 3 years are envisaged in the multiannual programme of statistical work, which according to the national legislation[3] would include a long term Strategy for development of the NSS, a mid-term programme on its implementation and annual action plans. The last Strategy for the development of the NSS covered the period 2016-2020.

Currently, a new **Strategy for the development of the NSS up to 2030** is under development in a participatory manner and with UN support. The new Strategy will also incorporate updates based on a recent assessment of the NSS and its compliance with the principles laid down in the *European Statistics Code of Practice, ESCoP* (regarding the institutional environment, statistical processes, statistical products). This process provides an update of the Global Assessment (GA) of the NSS that was carried out in partnership among Eurostat (the Statistical Office of the European Union), the Statistical Office of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), in cooperation with the National Bureau of Statistics of the Republic of Moldova in 2017-2018[4].

The new NSS Strategy will create the necessary conditions for long-term, planning and strategic allocation of human, financial, technical and technological resources, and provide the relevant institutional and legislative framework for strengthening and modernizing the NSS. The Strategy will be complemented with a **mid-term statistical Program for 2022-2026**, which will include a plan of actions and a budget which is also currently under development

According to Art.11 of the LOS, the **Annual Statistical Work Programme (ASWP)** is the basic instrument whereby the central statistical authority and the other producers of official statistics produce official statistical information. The purpose of the ASWP is to provide users (such as ministries, other central authorities, local public authorities, academic institutions and research, media, civil society, international organizations) with the necessary statistical information and it is developed in consultation with major stakeholders and is subject to the approval of the Government. The ASWP contains the list of statistical surveys and activities carried out by the NBS and other producers of official statistics, the list of works performed and information provided by other institutions (including the holders of administrative sources) for the purpose of production and dissemination

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[3] Government Decision No. 386/2020 on the planning, development, approval, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of public policy documents, available in Romanian at:
https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=121921&lang=ro
[4] The AGA Report is available at:
https://statistica.gov.md/public/files/despre/evaluare_opinii/externe/GA_Moldova_Final_Report_2019.pdf .
The findings and recommendations of the report, that are still relevant. were used when providing the information in Chapter 18 of the present questionnaire.

of official statistics, as well as the level of disaggregation, periodicity and timeframes.

The Annual Statistical Work Programme[5] lists the producers and providers of information for statistical purposes, and includes:

- **The National Bureau of Statistics** is responsible for the production and dissemination of statistics in the following domains: population, labour and labour cost, culture, income and consumption statistics, macroeconomic, international trade in goods, prices, business, agriculture, energy, transport, tourism, science and innovation, other sectoral, and multi-domain statistics, etc.;

- **The National Bank of Moldova** is responsible for compiling and dissemination of statistics related to: (i) the financial and monetary sectors (monetary and financial indicators); (ii) the external sector (balance of payments, international investment position, external debt statistics, international reserves, foreign direct investment, international trade in services, exchange rates) ; (iii) supervisory data (key performance indicators of banks, bank balance sheets, etc.).

- **The Ministry of Finance** is responsible for compiling and disseminating statistics related to: government finance statistics (such as general and central government operations, general and central government gross debt), etc., and coordinating subordinated institutions:

- **The State Tax Service** - a data provider on income and value added taxes, etc.;

- **The Customs Service** - responsible for collecting, compilation and reporting data on customs declarations.

- **The National Commission for Financial Markets** is responsible for the production and provision of statistics related to the stock market (share price index) and the data of insurance companies;

- **The Ministry of Environment** is responsible for collecting and disseminating data related to the national ecological fund, biodiversity and managing subordinate institutions:

  - **The Environmental Agency,** which provides statistics on waste and waste management, as well as on emissions in the air by mobile sources;

  - **The Agency "Waters of Moldova"**, responsible for water statistics;

  - **The "Moldsilva" Agency**, providing forestry statistics;

  - **The Inspectorate for Environmental Protection,** responsible for collecting atmospheric air protection data.

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[5] The current annual programme for statistical works was approved through the Government Decision No 441/2021 regarding the approval of the Statistical Works Program for the year 2022, available at: https://statistica.gov.md/public/files/despre/legi_hotariri/PLS/PLS_2022.pdf

- **The National Agency for Public Health** under the Ministry of Health, and other public health institutions, are responsible for collection, compilation and dissemination of statistics related to public health and mortality;
- **The Ministry of Internal Affairs** manages subordinated institutions:
  - **The Information Technology Service**, responsible for collecting data on registered crimes, perpetrators and victims of crimes;
  - **The Bureau for Migration and Asylum**, responsible for collecting data on registered imigration flows, asylum seekers, repatriates, etc.;
  - **The General Inspectorate of Border Police**, responsible for collecting data on border crossings used for producing tourism and migration statistics;
  - **The General Inspectorate of Police, National Patrol Inspectorate** - responsible for collecting data on road security and number of accidents;
  - **The General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations**, responsible for collecting data on emergencies and fires;
- **The Ministry of Justice** and its subordinated institutions (Agency for Court Administration, National Administration of Penitentiaries) are responsible for judiciary-related data;
- **The Ministry of Education and Research** is responsible for information on doctoral students and data on sport activities;
- **The Ministry of Labour and Social Protection** is responsible for social protection of children statistics. The Ministry also coordinates data collection efforts of the following subordinated institutions:
  - **The National Employment Agency** collects information on registered unemployment;
  - **The National Council for Disability and Work Ability Assessment** collects data on disability;
  - **The National Social Assistance Agency**, responsible for data on social assistance statistics;
- **The Ministry of Infrastructure and Regional Development** oversees the following subordinated institutions:
  - **The National Road Transport Agency**, responsible for data on transport statistics;
  - **The Civil Aviation Authority**, responsible for data in the field of civil aviation;
- **The Ministry of Culture** is responsible for collecting data on libraries and cultural institutions;
- **The Public Services Agency** is responsible for data on vital events, internal and international legal migration, as well as data on registration of legal entities, vehicles, buildings;

- **The National Regulatory Agency for Electronic Communications and Information Technology** is responsible for electronic and postal communications;
- **The Agency for Land Relations and Cadastre** is responsible for land cadastre information and national spatial data infrastructure;
- **The National Social Insurance House** is responsible for production and provision of data on social insurance, the number of beneficiaries of social benefits and the value of social benefits;
- **The National Medical Insurance Company** is responsible for data on mandatory medical insurance expenditures;
- **The State Agency on Intellectual Property** is responsible for data on intellectual property.
- **The Agency for Medicines and Medical Devices** is responsible for production and submission of data on regulation and supervision in the field of medicine and pharmaceutical activity.

More details about the statistical activity of the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) and the National Bank of Moldova (NBM) that are clearly stated in the LOS as producers of official statistics are presented below.

The National Bureau of Statistics is the central statistical authority and the main producer of official statistics in the country. According to the LOS (Article 7), the NBS:

- is an institutionally and professionally independent administrative authority,
- was established by the Government for the coordination of the national statistical system and the development and production of official statistics;
- is the main producer of national official statistics,
- shall decide on statistical methods, standards and procedures, and on the content and timing of publishing the statistical information,
- is responsible for coordinating the activities on the development and production of official statistics within the national statistical system,
- shall define and implement, in its field of activity, the regulatory and institutional framework necessary to fulfill the tasks of official statistics,
- shall launch continuous vocational training programmes for its own employees and other producers of official statistics through specialized institutions,
- issue, within its competence, regulatory acts related to the production of statistical information,
- shall implement the concepts of quality management in the national statistical system,

- shall facilitate the dialogue between producers and users of official statistics on the need for statistics for the development, monitoring and assessment of national, regional and local development policies.

In accordance with Article 6[6] of the LOS, within the national statistical system, the **National Bank of Moldova** shall develop, produce and disseminate official statistics in its area of competence according to the Law No. 548/1995 on the National Bank of Moldova[7], in line with the fundamental principles of official statistics provided for by this law.

Article 72 of the Law on the NBM authorizes the NBM to collect the primary statistical information necessary for the implementation of its objectives and duties, from the competent authorities of the state, banks and from other legal entities and individuals. Article 43 and 47 authorizes NBM to collect data necessary for carrying out its tasks. These data can also be used for production of statistics that are under the responsibility of the NBM.

The Law on the National Bank of Moldova, Art. 5 stipulates that the NBM is responsible for compiling the Balance of Payments (BOP), International Investment Position (IIP) and the External Debt (ED) statistics of the Republic of Moldova. Art. 8 specifies that "The National Bank shall periodically inform the public on statistical information, including with regard to monetary supply, crediting, balance of payments and the state of the foreign exchange market". Art. 69 states that "The National Bank publishes on an annual basis the state's BOP" and "The National Bank shall make public the statistics of the BOP, IIP and ED of the Republic of Moldova: a) provisional data – quarterly, within 3 months from the end of the operating quarter; b) final data – annually, within 9 months from the end of the operating year".

The data on the International Accounts (IA - BOP, IIP, ED) are disseminated quarterly, the Monetary and financial statistics (MF) and Interest Rates (IR) data are disseminated monthly by the NBM interactive database[8] as a service to the public and via other channels to national and international institutions.

Additionally, the NBM is publishing on the web quarterly Analytical comments and Statistical Bulletins[9] on the evolution of IA and Yearbook IA[10] of the Republic of Moldova (in Romanian and English), as well as press releases and detailed

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[6] Law No. 93/2017 on Official Statistics, available in English at:
https://statistica.gov.md/public/files/despre/legi_hotariri/Law_on_official_statistics__2017.pdf
[7] Law No. 548/1995 on National Bank of Moldova, available in English at:
https://www.bnm.md/en/content/law-national-bank-moldova-no548-xiii-july-21-1995
[8] https://www.bnm.md/bdi/?lang=en
[9] https://www.bnm.md/en/search?partitions%5B0%5D=677&post_types%5B677%5D%5B0%5D=2237
[10] https://www.bnm.md/en/search?partitions%5b0%5d=674&post_types%5b674%5d%5b0%5d=923

methodology and informational data sources[11], presentations[12] and researches on the IA domains of the special interest of the users.

Article 72 of the Law on the National Bank of Moldova states that "The National Bank shall contribute to the harmonization of the rules and practices governing the collection, processing and distribution of statistical data within its fields of competence."

According to Article 6 of the LOS, the list of all **other producers of official statistics (OPOS)** needs to be approved and maintained by the NBS, based on a regulation recently approved by the Government, which is currently in the process of implementation. . Thus, the identification, approval and updating of the list of other producers of official statistics is one of the main tasks of the NBS for strengthening the NSS. The above-mentioned Regulation foresees a phased approach to the designation of OPOS which involves certification of compliance by the institutions with the FPOS and ESCoP. The certification will be carried out based on a request to be submitted by a potential OPOS (from the list of the institutions that are currently included in the ASWP), providing details on statistics produced and disseminated by the institution, as well as the compliance with the FPOS and ESCoP.

There is a close collaboration in the field of statistics between the NBS and other public institutions. Besides the annual programmes of statistical work, as the main tool for NSS coordination, appropriate **formal arrangements** exist to promote data sharing and coordination among agencies that contribute to the production and use of official statistics. Thus, the NBS signed cooperation agreements, memorandums and protocols on the exchange of information with institutions responsible for the production of statistics, other institutions (holders of administrative registers) that provide data from administrative data sources for statistical purposes, as well as other partners in the field of the use of statistics and provision of support to the NSS. Such agreements have been signed between NBS and: the National Bank of Moldova, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Environment, Public Services Agency, State Tax Service, Agency for Land Relations and Cadastre, People's Advocate and Council for Preventing and Eliminating Discrimination and Ensuring Equality[13], Electronic Governance Agency, Information Technology and Cyber Security Service, universities (Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova, Moldova State University, Technical University of Moldova), etc.

As it regards the cooperation with the owners of administrative data (registers), NBS signed agreements on data exchange with institutions aimed at reusing and processing their data for the purpose of official statistics, in the framework of

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[11] https://www.bnm.md/en/content/international-accounts-methodological-standards-and-data-sources
[12] https://www.bnm.md/ro/content/prezentari-despre-statistica-conturilor-internationale
[13] The Memorandum of Understanding between People's Advocate and Council for Preventing and Eliminating Discrimination and Ensuring Equality and the NBS regarding the cooperation to strengthen the collection, dissemination and analysis of data in the field of human rights.

which data transmission is ensured via MConnect, the Governmental interoperability platform[14], and ensured that both parties adhered by measures protecting personal data and statistical confidentiality as outlined by the NBS. Generally, such cooperation may be described as successful from the perspective of data delivery to NBS, but still a certain set of challenges related to coordination are to be overcome as it regards the full operationalisation of interoperability; better communication and cooperation with such institutions are still to be enhanced and strengthened in order to enable the needed access (at individual level) to administrative data sources.

Inter-institutional working groups represent another way of coordinating activities among the institutions. Such working groups (WG) pertain to:

- development of the new Strategy for the development of the NSS up to 2030 (with representatives from the partner institutions within the NSS and other national institutions, as well as from international organizations);
- streamlining core inflation indices, calculated by the NBS by excluding certain components from CPI (the WG with the representatives from the NBM);
- aligning statistics for social protection with the ESSPROS methodology (with representatives from 29 relevant authorities);
- collecting environment statistics (with representatives from the Ministry of Environment and the institutions under this Ministry);
- collecting agricultural statistics (with representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry);
- integrating statistics with spatial data (with the representatives of Agency of Land Relations and Cadastre);
- assessing statistics on justice (with the representatives from the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Prosecutors Office, and other relevant public institutions).

A special role in the official statistics system is played by the **National Council for Statistics**, that according to the LOS (Art. 9) is established by the Government for the purpose of strategic development and promotion of official statistics[15]. The Council consists of 11 members and operates under the regulation and the membership approved by the Government, with the General Director of NBS acting as its chairman. Setting up the Council for Statistics enables a more direct involvement of data producers and users and their participation in building the contents of the official statistics system. The Council represents a professional

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[14] Law No.42/2018 on data exchange and interoperability, available in Romanian at:
https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=129134&lang=ro and Government Decision No.211/2019 on the Interoperability Platform (MConnect), available in Romanian at:
https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=113642&lang=ro
[15] Government Decision No.244/2018 on the National Council for Statistics, available in Romanian at:
https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=102201&lang=ro

advisory body primarily dealing with strategic issues, in particular setting strategic priorities and making recommendations. Such issues pertain to the development and improvement of official statistics, the approval of the draft official statistics development strategy and statistical work programmes, monitoring the implementation of statistical work programmes and the strategic planning, and assessing compliance with the principles of official statistics and consulting on the identified problems.

The National Bureau of Statistics, as the NSS coordinator, in cooperation with the National Bank of Moldova, the Ministry of Finance and the National Commision for Financial Market closely cooperate in the framework of the **Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS),** part of the IMF data standards initiative aimed at enhancing member countries' data transparency and promoting the development of sound statistical systems. The Republic of Moldova subscribed to the SDDS in May 2006.

2. Please describe the organisational structure and staffing levels of the National Statistical Institute.

The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) is the central statistical authority of the country. It is an institutionally and professionally independent administrative authority, established by the Government for the coordination of the National Statistical System (NSS), the development and production of official statistics.

The structure and regulation of organization and functioning of the NBS is approved by the Government through the Government Decision No. 935/2018 regarding the organization and functioning of the National Bureau of Statistics.[16]

The NBS is managed by a General Director, appointed by the Government under the terms of the Law 93/2017 on official statistics, through an open competition, for a term of five years. According to Art. 8 of the Law, the position of the General Director, cannot be held by the same person for more than two terms. According to the Government Decision No. 935/2018, the General Director is assisted in his activity by 3 Deputy General Directors and the Director's Office.

The NBS consists of the central office (NBS Headquarter) and territorial statistical offices.

The NBS Headquarter (HQ) is presently organized in 18 internal units at the level of general divisions, divisions, sections and services:

- Office of the Director General

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[16] the Government Decision No. 935 of 24.09.2018 regarding the organization and functioning of the National Bureau of Statistics is accessible in Romanian at
https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=119152&lang=ro

- Statistical Coordination and International Cooperation Division
- Internal Audit and Quality Management Section
- General Division for Macroeconomic Statistics
- General Division for Business Statistics
- Agriculture and Environment Statistics Division
- General Division for Data Collection from Legal Units
- General Division for Social Statistics and Demography
- Censuses Division
- Dissemination and Communication Division
- Statistical Methods Division
- Data Collection in Households Section
- Financial Management Division
- Juridical and Human Resources Section
- Document Management Service
- General Division for Informational Technologies
- Training in Official Statistics Section
- Polygraph Service Division

General divisions and divisions, in their turn, are composed of sections and services in their subordination. The NBS has in its subordination territorial statistical subdivisions, whose structure is approved by the General Director of the NBS. Currently, the NBS has in its structure four Regional Statistical Centers (RSC), consisting of 35 decentralized territorial statistical units, without juridical personality:

- Mun. Chisinau Regional Center for Statistics;
- North Regional Center for Statistics;
- Center Regional Center for Statistics;
- South Regional Center for Statistics.

The NBS organigram is presented in annex 18.1.

The NBS (HQ and RSCs) comprises 705 positions, of which 489 are for civil servants, while 216 positions are for technical support staff, of which 16 belong to the General Division for Informational Technologies of the HQ. Less than 25% (242) of all positions are located in the HQ and more than 75% (463) in RSCs (out of 463 positions; 201 people are staff involved in household surveys - interviewers and supervisors (full-time positions).

As of 31 March 2022, only 591 positions (83.8%) were filled, of which 529 were held by women (89.5%) and 62 by men (10.5%); 182 persons were in the HQ and 409 in the RSCs. 475 (80.4%) of NBS staff have higher education, and 116 (19.6%) hold secondary education degrees.

It is to be mentioned that apart from the production and dissemination of official statistics, according to the provisions of the Accounting Law No. 113/2007,[17] the NBS is authorized to collect, verify, and summarize the financial (book-keeping) reports presented by business entities (with the exception of public institutions). This task was transferred from the Ministry of Finance (MoF) to the NBS in 1997. The financial reports are designed and approved by the MoF and it is clearly stated that the information is collected for administrative purposes, according to the Accounting Law and this activity does not refer to statistical one, and is not regulated by the Law on Official Statistics.

Data in financial reports are collected by the RSOs, and verified, and summarized by the General Division for Data Collection from Legal Units. The NBS staff also supervises and provides advice to entities on the preparation and presentation of mandatory financial statements. After processing, the NBS provides information from financial reports to all categories of users.

The turnover rate of NBS staff in 2021 was 7.4% and the average age of the NBS staff was 48.6 years.

See also section 4.1.7 on statistical education in the statistical system.

3. Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 on European Statistics strengthened the provisions on the professional independence, coordinating role of the statistical institutes in the statistical system and access to administrative data among other things. In this context, please describe how the governance of the statistical system is ensured, in particular how the professional independence and the coordinating role of the head of the National Statistical Institute are provided for.

Provisions on professional independence

The central statistical authority of the country - the **National Bureau of Statistics (NBS)** - is an institutionally and professionally independent administrative authority, established by the Government[18] for the coordination of the National Statistical System (NSS) and the development and production of official statistics (Art.7). NBS independently decides on statistical methods, standards and procedures as well as on the content of publishing and disseminating statistical information. Any interference in the activity of the NBS is prohibited by law. [19]

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[17] Accounting Law No. 113/2007, available in Romanian at:
https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=110399&lang=ro
[18] Government Decision No. 935/2018 on the organization and functioning of the National Bureau of Statistics, available in Romanian at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=109113&lang=ro
[19] The extent to which the NBS is compliant with the principle of professional independence was assessed in detail by reference to the individual indicators for the principles set down in the European Statistics Code of Practice (ESCoP) in the Global Assessment (AGA). The AGA was carried out in partnership among Eurostat (the Statistical Office of the European Union), the Statistical Office of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), in cooperation with the National

The provision of professional independence of the NBS is very well specified in the Law on official Statistics No. 93/2017 (LOS), which was drawn up to be in line with the Generic Law on official Statistics that was adopted by the Conference of European Statisticians in April 2016. Article 7, para. 1 of the LOS states that the central statistical authority is established as *"an institutionally and professionally independent administrative authority".* The LOS recognises the NBS as the main producer of official statistics in Moldova and as having responsibility for the coordination of the NSS. To reinforce the independence of the NBS, Article 7, para. 11 states that it *"shall be independent of any legal or natural person when exercising its functions and powers",* while Article 7, para. 12, states that any interference, as well as hindering in any way, shall *"involve liability under the legislation".*

The NBS and other producers of official statistics, of which only the National Bank of Moldova (NBM) is formally recognised under the LOS at present, are required to produce and disseminate official statistics *"according to the fundamental principles of statistics"* (Article 4, para. 2). One of the fundamental principles, which are defined in Article 5, include professional independence, which is defined in line with international guidelines.

The independence of the NBS from political and other external interference in developing, producing and disseminating statistics is clearly specified in the LOS. Art. 7 (para. 11 and 12) states that the central statistical authority shall be independent of any legal or natural person when exercising its functions and powers; the interference in its activity, as well as the hindering in any way of their activity, shall involve liability under the legislation.

The NBS is organized and managed by the director general (DG) and his senior managers (Deputies of the DG) in such a way as to ensure that statistics are developed, produced, and disseminated in an independent manner. Government Decision No. 935/2018 regarding the organization and functioning of the National Bureau of Statistics[20] sets down the duties of the DG in some detail, especially related to functions of directing the work of the NBS and managing staff and financial resources.

According to the Government Decision No. 935/2018, the NBS DG approves statistical methods, standards and procedures, and ensures their implementation.

Article 8 of the new LOS contains detailed provisions on the appointment of the DG of the NBS. These include:

- The specification of the term of office - five years, renewable once;

Bureau of Statistics (NBS) of the Republic of Moldova in the period 2017-2018; The AGA results have been used in the description of the situation in the questionnaire.

[20]   Government Decision no. 935 of 24.09.2018 is accessible at
https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=119152&lang=ro

- The appointment process shall be by way of an open competition the details of which will be decided by Government Decree;
- The candidate requirements: candidates must have a relevant academic qualification and have at least 5 years of experience in the field of statistics and at least 3 years of managerial experience;
- Reasons for the early termination of the incumbency.

The coordination within the National Statistical System (NSS)

In accordance with Art.7 of the LOS, the NBS as the central statistical authority is the main producer of official statistics and is responsible for coordinating the activities on the development and production of official statistics within the NSS. The chapter V of the LOS "Coordination of the national statistical system" stipulates that producers of official statistics shall be obliged to deliver free of charge, at the request of the central statistical authority, the statistical information available in order to include it in the time series or statistical publications. Article 7 of the same law lists the tasks of the NBS, which include but are not limited to:

- Coordinating the activities on the development and production of official statistics within the NSS (task (2));
- Issuing, within its competence, regulatory acts related to the production of statistical information (task (4));
- Launching continuous vocational training programmes for NBS employees and other producers of official statistics (task (6));
- Implementing the concepts of quality management in the NSS (task (7)).

Formal agreements exist between the NBS, the NBM, and other public institutions in order to collect and compile statistics and to promote data sharing.

Article 10 of the LOS describes the coordination procedures among official statistical bodies through a number of tools and instruments, such as the:

- provision of methodological assistance;
- coordinated dissemination of official statistics, including transmission of data to international organizations;
- the right to engage administrative authorities, other legal entities and natural persons in addressing issues related to statistical methodology;
- the obligation of other producers of official statistics to coordinate methodology with the NBS;
- the obligation for other producers of official statistics to deliver free of charge statistical information to the NBS.

Furthermore, Article 11 of the LOS specifies that the annual statistical work programme (ASWP) shall be the basic instrument by which the NBS and other producers of official statistics produce official statistical information. The ASWP contains not only the surveys and other works undertaken by the NBS but also the

statistical works performed by other producers of official statistics, as well as the list of information provided by the holders of administrative sources for the purpose of production and dissemination of official statistics.

The **Annual Statistical Work Programmes** are published on the NBS website following approval by the Government. The annual statistical work programme provides information on all statistical outputs produced by the NBS as well as on information provided by public authorities and other bodies to the NBS for the production of official statistics. For the statistical outputs, the information provided includes: the scope of the survey, the type of survey, the frequency of data collection, the number of respondents, and the publication of results deadline.

The statistical releases are published on the NBS website, according to a pre-announced Release calendar[21], which is published at the end of the current year for the following year. The NBS publishes the release calendar by the means of dissemination of statistics (for press-releases, statistical publications and Statistical databank), as well as the reports on the implementation of the annual and multiannual programmes, and annual reports on its activities.

All statistical releases bear the NBS logo. The timing and content of releases are decided solely by the NBS. Political involvement is not allowed in the dissemination of results or in any events relating to statistics (e.g. press conferences) organized by the NBS. Under the provisions of the LOS (Article 8, paragraph 12) the DG and his deputies must disengage from any political activity during their tenure.

The NBS is able to comment publicly on statistical issues, including criticisms and misuses of statistics. There is no policy as such, instead appropriate actions are taken on a case by case basis.

Article 8 of LOS also contains provisions relating to the appointment and removal of the Deputy DGs. These provisions include candidate requirements, which are quite similar to those set down for the DG. However, no term of office is specified.

The coordination elements of the NSS and the coordinating role for the NBS are therefore well-regulated and provide very strong legal grounds for coordination. Additional details on statistical coordination within the NSS are provided in point 1 of this chapter.

Provisions on the access to administrative data for statistical purposes

The Law No. 93/2017 on official statistics explicitly defines the NBS mandate on data collection. The existence in the regulatory framework of extensive and well-defined tools for the national statistical authority is a fundamental and mandatory principle for the efficient performance of statistical work. This process implies extensive interaction with households, businesses, central and local public

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[21] The Release calendar is available at: https://statistica.gov.md//pageview.php?l=en&id=6899&idc=213

authorities and the general public. For this reason, Articles 15 and 16 of the LOS refer to the obligations of respondents or holders of administrative sources to provide producers of official statistics, free of charge, with reliable and complete information ensuring the necessary access to data pertinent to the legal scope of official statistics in the manner requested by the central statistical authority. Article 16, paragraph 2, provides for access to administrative data for statistical purposes as follows: "The owners of administrative data sources, other legal entities managing databases on natural and legal persons shall present, free of charge, to the central statistical authority aggregated and individual data, including metadata related to them. The special confidentiality provisions from other laws cannot be invoked in this case, except the cases when that legislation excludes explicitly the use of data for statistical purposes." This is a very comprehensive provision that is in accordance with international best practice. It is of particular note that access is allowed not only to administrative data held by public authorities but also to databases on natural and legal persons held by other legal entities. Furthermore, the above provision makes it clear that other legislation cannot be used to impede access for statistical purposes unless such access is specifically excluded.

The NBS **has access** to important administrative **data sources on businesses**, as those provided by the Public Services Agency from the State Register of Legal Units, State Tax Service on income and value added taxes (at the individual level), as well as access to the financial (accounting)statements, collected by the NBS.

Notwithstanding the statistical legislation, the NBS is still experiencing difficulty in getting actual **access to individual data** on **natural persons** held by some holders of administrative data sources (e.g. General Inspectorate of the Border Police, private companies - holders of personal data). The main obstacle in operationalising the legal provisions are references to the legislation on the protection of personal data. The position of the National Center for Personal Data Protection of the Republic of Moldova (NCPDP) is that granting access to such data would be in breach of data protection legislation, because Law no. 133/2011 on personal data protection. The NCPDP indicates that when statistical purposes are pursued, only anonymised data may be processed. However, receiving only anonymised data would affect the quality of statistics produced by NBS, which needs access to individual data from various relevant administrative data sources to integrate, merge, compile and compare them in order to produce official statistics. For more details on access to administrative data for the purpose of official statistics by area, please see Section 4.3.

In exercising its data collection mandate, NBS faces some challenges proved by the existing dispute with some holders of state and private registers on the use of their information resources. Additional details on the access of the NBS and of other producers of official statistics to administrative data are provided in the answer to question 4 (see section 4.1.1) of the present Chapter of the questionnaire.

4. Please describe the compliance of the statistical system of Moldova with the requirements as stated in the latest version of the Compendium, also taking into account the European Statistics Code of Practice, especially as concerns:

a) Statistical infrastructure, including the legislation on official statistics (incorporating ongoing activities to improve alignment with EU law)

Conducting statistical surveys and collecting data from administrative data sources: legal aspect

The current situation

Law No. 93/2017 on official statistics[22] (LOS) provides a very strong legal mandate to the producers of official statistics, including the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) for data collection, both through the conduct of direct statistical surveys and the accessing of administrative data for statistical purposes. Under the LOS (Article 15), the NBS can mandate responses to statistical surveys and impose fines for failure to respond, or for providing inaccurate data, in accordance with Article 330 of Contravention Code No. 218/2008[23]. As a result, the NBS can widen its access to administrative data for statistical purposes and obtain information and metadata on the quality of the data in order to enhance the quality of statistics, decrease the response burden and other costs, and finally, improve the efficiency of statistical production.

Article 13 of the LOS provides a comprehensive mandate to the NBS, NBM and other producers of official statistics, to collect data necessary for statistical production. In particular, the producers of official statistics are entitled to obtain data from natural and legal persons using whatever means of collection (e.g. through paper questionnaires, internet, telephone, etc.) that it deems appropriate. The NBS is also allowed to employ statistical agents (e.g. interviewers and enumerators) to collect data.

Article 16 of the LOS covers access to administrative data for statistical purposes. Article 16, para. 2, provides for access as follows: "The owners of administrative data sources, other legal entities managing databases on natural and legal persons shall present, free of charge, to the central statistical authority aggregated and individual data, including metadata related to them. The special confidentiality provisions from other laws cannot be invoked in this case, except the cases when that legislation excludes explicitly the use of data for statistical purposes." This is a very comprehensive provision that is in accordance with international best practice. It is of particular note that access is allowed not only to administrative data held by public authorities but also to databases on natural and legal persons held by other public or private entities. Furthermore, the above provision makes it clear that other legislation

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[22] Law 93/2017 on official statistics is available in English at:
https://statistica.gov.md/public/files/despre/legi_hotariri/Law_on_official_statistics__2017.pdf
[23] Contravention Code No. 218/2008, available in Romanian at:
https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=131058&lang=ro#

cannot be used to impede access for statistical purposes unless such access is specifically excluded.

The NBS **has access** to a series of administrative **data on businesses** (**at the individual level**), as those provided by the State Tax Service on income and value added taxes.

According to the provisions of the Accounting Law No. 113/2007,[24] the NBS is authorized to collect, verify, and summarize the financial (book-keeping) reports presented by business entities. The financial reports are designed and approved by the MoF and it is clearly stated that the information is collected for administrative purposes, according to the Accounting Law and this activity does not refer to statistical one and is not regulated by the Law on Official Statistics.

The NBS uses financial statements: 1) to update the business register and other databases; 2) to crosscheck data from the financial reports for producing business statistics; 3) for calibration and extrapolation; 4) to produce business statistics, especially for small and medium enterprises.

These administrative data collected exclusively for statistical purposes are not used for the validation or correction of the individual financial reports as this would be in breach of the principle of statistical confidentiality. The NBS takes appropriate steps, including the adoption of internal procedures and policies, to differentiate its task to produce and disseminate official statistics according to the LOS in the public mind from the task to collect financial reports, so that there is no misconception about its treatment of statistical confidentiality.

However, the NBS is still experiencing difficulty in getting actual **access to personal individual data** held by some holders of administrative data sources (e.g. General Inspectorate of the Border Police, private companies - holders of personal data). The main obstacle in operationalising the legal provisions are references to the legislation on the protection of personal data.

The NBS also developed and approved a Plan of activities for extending access to data from administrative sources for statistical purposes, including the preparation of amendments to relevant legislation. Thus, in order to address the issue of legal access to data, the NBS developed draft amendments to Law 93/2017 on official statistics, Law 133/2011 on personal data protection, and other legal acts in related fields in order to streamline the activity of official statistics. The draft should be presented to interested institutions and for public consultation in the 2nd quarter 2022.

One of the important shortages regarding the access to primary data is that statistical surveys and administrative data do not cover the population and entities from the left side of the river Nistru and municipality Bender, as this territory is

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[24] Accounting Law No. 113/2007, available in Romanian at:
https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=98782&lang=ro

not under control of Moldovan authorities (except some specially mentioned cases).

Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

While the necessary statistical legislation is in place, the NBS is still experiencing difficulty in getting access to individual data on natural persons held by some holders of administrative registers and private data holders (such as data holders of personal data on individuals - the suppliers of natural gas, electricity, telephone services operators, internet providers). For instance, it is crucial to get access to personal data for the production of official statistics in different socio-economic areas (education, wages, migration, entrepreneurship, economic activity, etc). Accordingly, there is a critical need to remove the remaining barriers to gaining full access to individual data on natural persons for statistical purposes.

Given that NBS access to data is restricted by invoking individuals' personal data protection, NBS needs capacity building and proper technical and organizational means for personal data protection. At the same time, it is necessary to intensify the dialogue with the NCPDP and holders of administrative registers.

Confidentiality and data safety

The current situation

The legal basis for the protection of statistical confidentiality is formulated in Law No. 93/2017 on official statistics, including several articles dealing with statistical confidentiality, protection and access of data as well as dissemination of statistical information. The law strictly prohibits the disclosure of confidential statistical information.

The NBS, as the central statistical authority, has many procedures and systems in place to ensure that the principle of statistical confidentiality is respected in practice, such as:

- Mapping of informational flows at the National Bureau of Statistics;
- Development of the classification of processed information;
- Enforcement of the data security policy of the National Bureau of Statistics including the development of the necessary standard operating procedures for its implementation;

Statistical confidentiality is addressed in the LOS. Article 18 states that "data collected, processed and stored for the production of statistical information are confidential if they don't allow the direct or indirect identification of the respondents". The law also stipulates that:

- Confidential data shall be used exclusively for the purpose of producing official statistical information in accordance with the law, unless the statistical unit has expressly consented to its use for any other purpose.
- Confidential data held by the central statistical authority may not be delivered to natural or legal persons.
- The central statistical authority may deliver to other producers of official statistics individual data on statistical units under the following conditions:
- a) data are used exclusively for the purpose of producing official statistics;
- b) data do not allow the identification of natural or legal persons.
- Confidential data cannot serve as evidence in court.

In order to exclude the disclosure risk, the draft Guidelines on Statistical Disclosure Control (SDC) were developed with the technical assistance of the EU Delegation and are based on the Handbook on Statistical Disclosure Control, developed by the Network of Excellence in the European Statistical System in the field of Statistical Disclosure Control25. These guidelines aim to provide technical guidance on statistical disclosure control for NBS staff on how to approach the problem of balancing data dissemination with respondent confidentiality. NBS is to combine statistical disclosure control with other tools (administrative, legal, IT) in order to define a proper data dissemination strategy based on a risk management approach.

The LOS also outlines legislation under which the NBS may grant access to individual data for scientific research purposes, as stated in Article 20. The NBS approved Order No.51/2021 on the Regulation on access to individual data for scientific purposes[26] in accordance with Commission Regulation (EU) No 557/2013 of 17 June 2013 which implements Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council on European Statistics as pertaining to access to confidential data for scientific purposes and repeals Commission Regulation (EC) No 831/2002. The NBS Regulation lays down the conditions under which the National Bureau of Statistics may grant access to individual data for scientific research purposes.

It is stated in Article 19 that employees of official statistics producers, including temporary employees, shall not have the right to use individual data for purposes other than statistical ones, and shall sign, upon employment, a confidentiality statement under their own responsibility. In the statement signed by staff, the employees are bound by the confidentiality of data and their use for statistical purposes only. Otherwise, they will be sanctioned according to the legislation in force.

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[25] https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/cros/content/handbook-sdc_en
[26] The NBS Order No.51/2021 on the approval of the Regulation on access to individual data for scientific purposes, as well as other relevant documents are available at:
https://statistica.gov.md/pageview.php?l=en&idc=636

Articles 23 and 24 of the LOS state that statistical information cannot be disseminated to users if it refers to one to three statistical units, except in cases where it is necessary to inform the society about issues of major importance and the annual statistical work programme makes provisions for its dissemination.

The NBS guarantees confidentiality of individual data and non-admission of its disclosure is ensured and protected by law (Article 19 of the LOS) as it pertains to statistical questionnaires.

An information security system is in place. Data are stored in a safe, physical area. Only authorized personnel have access to this protected area. Additionally, the access to the databases is restricted. Other authorized staff than IT personnel may have access and read or extract the data from the databases but are not entitled to change the data.

The NBS has a Policy in place for ensuring the protection of personal data, including elements of guaranteeing confidentiality in the IT systems. In addition,a draft "Guidelines on confidentiality and data protection, including statistical disclosure control", including statistical disclosure control are also developed. The aim of these guidelines is setting out a privacy organizational model that includes the behavioral principles and indicates the measures necessary to ensure that business processes involving personal data processing and dissemination of statistics are managed in such a way as to intercept and promptly govern any situations of risk for the privacy of the interested parties and, in any case, ensure timely and constant compliance with the national and European regulations of reference.

Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

The NBS plan to enhance protection based on the developed regulations and SOPs, including to:

- Finalize, approve and implement the guidelines on confidentiality and data protection, including statistical disclosure control.
- Put in place appropriate data protection procedures (administrative, IT, etc.) and activities, such as:
  - Clean table, remote working and E-mail policy
  - Password policy, Security incidents policy
  - Cybernetic security, Data protection impact policy
  - Data retention policy (back-up, storage, deletion)
  - Training of staff
  - Enhanced access control in the perimeter of security, video surveillance and alarm system, fire protection system, etc.

Quality management

The current situation

Law 93/2017 on official statistics provides a solid legislative basis to ensure the production and dissemination of high-quality statistics. Article 7 of the LOS states that "The central statistical authority shall implement the concepts of quality management in the national statistical system". Such an element provides a link to the European Statistical System (ESS) approach and the rationale to anchor the NBS Quality management (QM) framework to the European one. In the LOS, Articles 21-22 state that the NBS is committed to continuous assessment and improvement of the quality of official statistics, including collaborating with the academic environment to assess and improve statistical methodology. Furthermore, the mission of the NBS is to set goals related to quality. The NBS is committed to quality and is developing a quality management system in line with European quality standards for statistics.

A quality policy of the National Bureau of Statistics was approved by the NBS on 29 June 2017. It is publicly available on the NBS website.[27] Currently, the NBS applies specific procedures at different stages of statistical data flow to ensure the quality of its statistical processes and products. Procedures and quality checks are in place across statistical domains, e.g. data coherence and comparability over time are analyzed and reconciled across different statistics. For household surveys, an assigned supervisor controls interviewers' work to ensure quality. The production systems include modules for data validation at different stages of the production process (data entry, processing, and tabulation). The NBS publishes some quality indicators, such as the non-response rate and confidence intervals that help users to assess accuracy and reliability of statistics compiled using sample surveys (LFS, HBS, SBS, etc.).

While comprehensive quality reports are not prepared for all surveys, the NBS developed and regularly updates metadata documentation for its statistical processes widely compliant with the Euro-SDMX-Metadata Standard (ESMS).[28]

Metadata are regularly updated once a year, in February. Such a standard is already partly compliant with the most recent European standard, representing a subset of concepts of the ESS Single Integrated Metadata Standard (SIMS). Following European best practices, NBS started to develop quality reports in SIMS standard (including for Labour Force Survey, PRODMOLD and Social Protection Statistics), where more quality indicators are provided. The above-mentioned structures do not include a full description of the statistical processes. For such a purpose, the Generic Statistical Business Process (GSBPM) is more suitable and envisaged to be applied.

The NBS monitors timeliness and punctuality based on release dates and a comparison with the release calendar. During the preparation of the annual

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[27] The quality policy of the National Bureau of Statistics is available on the NBS Website, at
https://statistica.gov.md/pageview.php?l=en&idc=541
[28] Reference metadata are available at: https://statistica.gov.md/pageview.php?l=en&idc=430&

statistical work programme, timelines of statistical releases are being discussed with the parties participating in the elaboration of ASWP.

The NBS collects feedback on the relevance and other quality criteria by carrying out a data user satisfaction survey every four to five years, the last one was carried out in 2021 (see section 4.1.5 below for more details). However, its implementation depends on the availability of external financing. Survey results are publicly available on the NBS website (see also section 4.1.5 below).

These high-level quality commitment statements will need to be followed by a more detailed overall approach to quality management, which is not yet in place.

In 2017/18, the Eurostat assessed the National Statistical System of the Republic of Moldova within the framework of the Eurostat funded project "Assessment of the statistical systems and selected statistical areas of the enlargement and ENP countries" (e.g. vital statistics, Structural Business Survey, Household Budget Survey, and the application of the ESCoP). As a result of the above-mentioned assessment, the NBS drafted a strategy for the introduction of Quality Management with the technical assistance of the EU Delegation. This document is aimed at presenting a strategy for the introduction of a Quality Management Framework (QMF). The final report of the Global Assessment 2019 also contains a set of useful recommendations for the implementation of a QM system. It also presents a roadmap (action plan) for the fulfillment of the QMF implementation, scheduled over a time span of three years.

This roadmap includes activities related to:

- elaboration of quality reports according to the SIMS[29] standard,
- documentation of the statistical processes according to the GSBPM[30] standard,
- evaluation mechanism as fundamental part of the Quality Management Framework,
- development of Quality Guidelines for the producers and users of official statistics.

The elaboration of the Quality Guidelines for the NBS is ongoing and directly references the European Statistics Code of Practice, on Eurostat Quality Definitions and on the ESS Quality Assurance Framework (2019) for best practices on data quality management[31].

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[29] Single integrated metadata structure v 2.0 (SIMS v2.0) and its underlying reporting structures the ESS quality and reference metadata reporting standards ESMS 2.0 and ESQRS 2.0:
https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/64157/4373903/SIMS-2-0-Revised-standards-November-2015-ESSC-final.pdf
[30] Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM), (Version 5.1, January 2019):
https://statswiki.unece.org/display/GSBPM/GSBPM+v5.1
[31] Eurostat, 2019. Quality Assurance Framework of the European Statistical Systems, Version 2.0, Luxembourg:
https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/64157/4392716/ESS-QAF-V1-2final.pdf/bbf5970c-1adf-46c8-afc3-58ce177a0646

The main objective of the Quality Guidelines is to inscribe in a comprehensive document the main principles and practices guiding NBS in ensuring and continuously improving the quality of its statistical production. These Quality Guidelines contain good practices for planning, executing and assessing the quality of statistical products and processes. They also link existing guidelines to the official standards for process mapping and quality reporting: the SIMS and the GSBPM.

NBS will gradually implement SIMS, the complete repository of metadata, which facilitates producing user- or producer-oriented quality reports, depending on needs. During 2022, NBS plans to prepare quality reports using the SIMS format for 15 statistical surveys. Such a structure also contains standard quality indicators relevant for quality assessment. This informative base will be integrated with the description of statistical processes following the GSBPM (two surveys - LFS and PRODMOLD - were already mapped according to the GSBPM). This approach will also facilitate the first-level assessment of documentation associated with data quality.

Next steps involve developing an IT metadata system that would support storing and re-using the GSBPM and SIMS metadata.

Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

The main obstacle in implementing the QM in compliance with European requirements is the lack of qualified applicants.

The main priorities for the development and implementation of a quality management system, include:

- Developing quality guidelines that enable systematic quality assessment and reporting in line with the European quality standards throughout the NBS;
- Development of an overall quality policy and move towards implementing an overall quality management system with realistic objectives, including the allocation of the necessary human resources and training of personnel, which aim at ensuring in a systematic way the quality of its statistical processes and outputs;
- Collecting appropriate information to monitor the quality of administrative data sources;
- Adopting appropriate quality management and assurance procedures by other producers of official statistics, once they are properly defined, and tailor the quality approach to their systems and realities.

Information and communication technology (ICT) infrastructure

The current situation

Overview

The General Division of Information Technologies (GDIT) of the NBS is responsible for ICT related activities in the NBS. These activities are regulated by the technical concept of the Automated Information System (AIS) approved by the Government Decision No. 856 of 21.09.2010[32].

ICT activities at the NBS follows the e-government agenda and encourages the use of a common technological infrastructure by the public administration to optimize costs and to reduce burden on both users and state service providers (as stated in the Governmental Decision no 710/2011 amended[33]). One of the main activities included in the e-government agenda is to migrate information systems of public administrations, including the NBS, into *MCloud*, Moldova's proprietary cloud system that offers ICT infrastructures and services to governmental authorities. In this system, public entities have their own virtual infrastructure that can exchange information with other administrations, using the *MConnect* Moldova's own interoperability platform.

The NBS is currently working on the modernisation of its ICT infrastructure, by reducing the use of paper questionnaires and extending electronic methods of data collection - Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) and extending Computer Assisted Web Interviewing (CAWI). Also, with EU assistance, the NBS is developing a metadata driven statistical management system based on structural and referential metadata systems.

Software infrastructure

The NBS is currently using the following software systems:

- Microsoft Office for creating and editing documents and spreadsheets;
- Visual Studio.Net with C# programming language for the development of computer applications;
- Oracle suite for database systems;
- CSPro and Survey Solutions packages for CAPI data entry applications in household surveys (LFS and HBS);
- The "raportare.gov.md", a CAWI reporting web-based platform maintained by the governmental Tax Service for electronic reporting of business entities;
- STATA, SPSS, and R for statistical data processing;
- PC-Axis platform for the dissemination of statistical data.

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[32] https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=103302&lang=ro
[33] https://www.legis.md/cautare/rezultate/56782

Hardware infrastructure

The hardware infrastructure of the NBS is composed of about six hundred personal computers placed both in the HQs and NBS Regional Offices. The infrastructure also includes ninety-five servers:

- Thirty-nine servers are in the NBS HQ data center, 22 of which are virtual and 17 are physical;
- Twenty servers are located in MCloud;
- Thirty-six servers are located in regional offices, with the main purposes to support VPN connections.

Backup system

Backup system is performed manually. The backup of the servers located in MCloud is carried out automatically and incrementally.

Security

Network security is ensured by equipment intended exclusively for this sector, ForteGate firewalls and an antivirus protection system. The NBS data transportation network is interconnected by switches and routers. Currently, the NBS developed and updated a set of information security documentation to meet high level data protection requirements, including the protection of personal data - a key NBS Policy that is under implementation.

The NBS has a security room to secure users easy access to microdata for scientific purposes, in line with the NBS Regulation on access to individual data for scientific purposes, approved by NBS Order No.51/2021(see p. 4.1.5. below).

Major obstacles to be solved and next steps

The main obstacles related to the further modernisation of the ICT infrastructure at the NBS are mainly linked to the lack of qualified personnel and insufficient financial resources. The main priorities to modernize the ICT infrastructure are:

- Comprehensive evaluation of the Information System of the NBS and development of an updated ICT Concept (on building an Integrated Statistical Information System);
- Gradual implementation of the Integrated Statistical Information System based on the updated ICT Concept and tools, including:
  • Further renovating ICT hardware at the NBS HQ and at Regional Offices, with special focus on ensuring integrity of the ICT system, data protection and data security;
  • Further development of new methods of data collection (CAPI, CAWI, CATI), and access to administrative data for statistical purposes and to new data sources;

- Further development of the metadata driven statistical management system, and migration from Oracle to an open-source database system;
- Continuous training and acquisition of new ICT knowledge and skills;
  - Implementation of projects promoted by the Electronic Governance Center according to the Development Strategy of the information society "Digital Moldova 2020";
  - Revision of the human resource policy and procedures related to the ICT activities at the NBS to recruit new qualified staff and retain the current employers.

Dissemination

The current situation

Dissemination and access to official statistical information ensures the fulfillment of the mission of statistics – to provide objective, reliable and timely statistical data to all categories of users, for decision-making process, research, prognosis and general information of the society.

The dissemination of official statistics is aligned with the UN Fundamental Principles of the Official Statistics and with the European Statistics Code of Practice.

Law No. 93/2017 on Official Statistics[34] sets out confidentiality objectives in terms of the technical and organizational measures for disseminating individual statistics. The conditions under which the NBS can grant access to individual data for scientific research projects are stipulated in the Regulation on access to individual data for scientific purposes, approved by NBS Order No.51/2021[35], in accordance with Commission Regulation (EU) No. 557/2013 of 17 June 2013.

NBS disseminates statistics in an *impartial* manner, as requested by Law 93/2017. Information foreseen in the Annual Program of Statistical Works is disseminated free of charge under equal access conditions. Dissemination of statistical data (press releases, publications, and updating of the Statistical databank - the main dissemination channels of the statistical information) is carried out according to the Release calendar[36], which is publicly available and all users have equal access to the statistical products at the same time. Statistical data are released in a timely and punctual manner. The statistical data are disseminated according to the advance release calendar at 10.00 (in most of the cases monthly news-releases) and

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[34] The Law No.93/2017 on Official Statistics is available at:
https://statistica.gov.md/public/files/despre/legi_hotariri/Law_on_official_statistics__2017.pdf
[35] The Regulation on access to individual data for scientific purposes is available at:
https://statistica.gov.md/public/files/Prodduse_si_servicii/Solicitare_date_individuale/Eng_Regulation%20on%20access%20to%20individual%20data.pdf
[36] The Release calendar is available at: https://statistica.gov.md//pageview.php?l=en&id=6899&idc=213

14.00 o'clock (quarterly and yearly news-releases). All changes to the calendar are preannounced to the users.

NBS is currently developing a Revision Policy in accordance with the European Statistics Code of Practice and the European Statistical System guidelines on revision policy for PEEIs, 2013 edition[37]. According to the Revision Policy, all regular revisions, including those of methodologies, will be publicly announced in advance.

The NBS periodically conducts surveys on users' opinion[38] related to the level of satisfaction with statistical information produced and disseminated by NBS to monitor the *relevance* and value of existing statistics in meeting user needs, to evaluate the usefulness of statistical methodologies and to determine the extent to which this information meets the needs of different categories of users. NBS carried out the latest survey in 2021 (an online survey on user satisfaction with NBS products and services) and will conduct a public opinion poll on data users' satisfaction with official statistics in 2022 (to be carried out by an external company). The 2021 survey results[39] showed that overall, the users are satisfied with the products and services delivered by NBS: over 80% of respondents show confidence in the statistical data disseminated in NBS products and services. Compared to previous surveys, NBS has also improved its products and services. The NBS Statistical databank, which is one of the most important dissemination tools, contains detailed disaggregated data (more than 1200 tables, over 5 million data points), and granular gender and regional statistics. There are new user-friendly statistical products, such as interactive API based platforms (www.genderpulse.md) infographics, maps, thematic analytical reports, quizzes, etc. developed for all types of users. Also the content of statistical publications was improved in order to facilitate user access to statistical data and metadata, and is now available in Excel format and press-releases, thus taking over EU best practices.

The NBS strives to present official statistics in a *clear* and *accessible* way, on an impartial basis and with supporting metadata. NBS has approved Reference metadata and statistical methodologies for statistical surveys, indicators and domains which are available and publicly disseminated on the official website[40].. The structure of Reference metadata is described according to European SDMX Metadata Structure. Also, metadata according to IMF Special Data Dissemination Standard metadata[41] are described and available on the website.

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[37] ESS guidelines on revision policy is available at:
https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/3859598/5935517/KS-RA-13-016-EN.PDF
[38] Surveys on users' opinion are available at: https://statistica.gov.md/pageview.php?l=en&idc=399&id=2740
[39] The 2021 user survey results are available at:
https://statistica.gov.md//pageview.php?l=en&id=7288&idc=399
[40] Reference metadata are available at: https://statistica.gov.md/pageview.php?l=en&idc=430&
[41] IMF SDDS metadata is available at: https://dsbb.imf.org/sdds/country/MDA/category

The basic dissemination products and services of the NBS are disseminated through the official website of the NBS: https://statistica.gov.md.

Specific products and dissemination tools include:

- Statistical databank: http://statbank.statistica.md;
- Statistical publications: National Bureau of Statistics // Publications (gov.md);
- Press releases: National Bureau of Statistics // Press releases (gov.md);
- Infographics: National Bureau of Statistics // Data visualisation (gov.md);
- Gender Pulse platform: https://genderpulse.md;
- Population and Housing Census Platform 2014: http://recensamant.statistica.md;
- Interactive applications (CPI calculator, Life expectancy calculator, Viewing financial statements, etc.):National Bureau of Statistics (gov.md) ;
- Statistical data requests: National Bureau of Statistics // Feedback (gov.md);
- Requests for access to microdata: National Bureau of Statistics // Request for access to microdata (gov.md);
- Social networks (Facebook, Twitter, Youtube, Telegram): National Bureau of Statistics (gov.md);
- Green line (phone line).

Geographic coverage: official statistics are presented without the data on population and entities from the left side of the river Nistru and municipality Bender, except specially mentioned cases, when data are presented in total for the country.

The NBS provides support and help to its users, particularly through its website. In the last 2 years, the website recorded about 2 million-page views annually and around 300 thousand users. Also, since 2010, all users are enabled to create their own tables, save their queries and download data in various data formats using the Statistical databank (based on PX-Web software) with free access, without registration. At the end of 2020, the Republic of Moldova ranked 19th in the world and 3rd in the Eastern Europe by coverage and openness of official statistical data[42]. These results were made public by Open Data Watch - Open Data Inventory (ODIN), which beginning with 2015, annually, assesses the coverage and openness of official statistics around the world. The ODIN assesses data from statistical offices' websites for 65 representative indicators in 22 data categories. According to the assessment, the following subject-areas fulfill most ODIN coverage/openness criteria: Population and vital statistics, Reproductive health, Labor, International trade, Pollution, Price indexes, Balance of payments, Money and banking.

Although an overwhelming 70% of users answered in the online 2021 survey on user satisfaction that they are satisfied or very satisfied with the NBS website, a new and a more modern website is under development. The new website (to be

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[42] The assessment is available at:
https://odin.opendatawatch.com/Report/countryProfileUpdated/MDA?year=2020

launched in 2022) will be compliant with mobile devices, will feature improved search functions, and will also follow the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1, thus making the content more accessible to a wider range of people, including those with disabilities.

Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant and next steps

Given that NBS access to data is often restricted by invoking individuals' personal data protection, NBS needs capacity building and proper technical and organizational means for personal data protection. At the same time, it is necessary to intensify the dialogue between the national authority for personal data protection and holders of information resources. An improved adequacy of human resources can also contribute to a better enforcement of statistical literacy.

Planned activities:

- Finalize, approve and implement the Revision policy.
- Update and improve dissemination and communication policies.
- Develop and publish metadata for all statistical processes and products.
- Promote the effective use of official statistics by policy makers, business interests, and the public at large through the development of appropriate strategies.
- Launching the new website.
- Continue to carry out regular user satisfaction surveys.

International cooperation

The current situation

Article 28 of the LOS provides the legal basis for **international cooperation** activities of the NBS and assigns the responsibility of representing official statistics of the Republic of Moldova at the international level to the DG of the NBS. The NBS and other producers of official statistics shall actively participate in international programmes on promoting and developing norms and standards in order to ensure the comparability of the national statistics on the international level. Sharing experience, data and publications, as well as having the right to launch joint statistical projects and concluding agreements with National Institutes of Statistics and similar public authorities from other countries and international organisations are envisaged under the LOS provisions providing hence a strong legal basis to the NBS and APSO for international cooperation activities.

NBS cooperation activities are undertaken through the Statistical Coordination and International Cooperation Division, consisting of five staff members and subordinated to the DG.

In the last few decades, NBS, as well as its national counterparts, have benefited from a number of **technical assistance** and **supply projects** implemented in

cooperation with international organizations and with the financial support from the development partners including: European Union, United Nations Economic Commision for Europe (UNECE), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), International Monetary Fund (IMF), UN-India Development Fund, International Labour Organisation (ILO), International Organisation for Migration (IOM), Swiss Development and Cooperation Agency (SDC), European Free Trade Association (EFTA), Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), former Great Britain and North Ireland Department for International Development (DFID) , German Corporation for International Cooperation (GIZ), etc. The development projects were aimed at strengthening the NSS through the implementation of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and international standards in different areas of official statistics, as well as the gradual implementation of the European Statistics Code of Practice and harmonization with the EU legislation in the field.

Bilateral cooperation agreements in the field of official statistics were signed and implemented with the Governments of Norway, Romania and Sweden, as well as with National Statistical Offices of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Belarus, Bulgaria, Georgia, Kyrgyz Republic, Russian Federation, and the Republic of Ukraine. These were mainly aimed at exchange of experience and good practice among the homologues institutions.

The objectives and the priorities being addressed within the framework of the technical assistance and development projects have resulted from the **international commitments** related to the field of statistics, including the obligations of the country as part of UN membership, or a signatory of the European Union-Republic of Moldova Association Agreement and other thematic conventions and treaties. Also, the cooperation and development assistance in the field of statistics was aimed at responding to the needs for data and statistics required for the evidence-based development, monitoring and evaluation of the national strategies and sectoral policies as well measuring their impact on the targeted population and the disadvantaged groups.

Global assessments of the National Statistical System[43], regularly performed by the Eurostat assessment teams, or independent expert **sector reviews** for specific statistical areas, commissioned by the NBS and undertaken periodically with the support of development partners, represent those means for monitoring the progress in the field of official statistics, or serving as tools for the evaluation of the conformity of the national statistics with the international standards and requirements. The recommendations resulting from such assessments are used for the coordinated intervention and measures aimed at further improvement of NSS.

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[43] Available in English at https://statistica.gov.md/pageview.php?l=en&idc=399&id=2739

In accordance with the Government Decision No. 377/2018[44] on the Regulation of the institutional framework and the mechanism for coordination and management of external assistance, the NBS, as the central authority in the field of official statistics and coordinator of the NSS, is also chairing the activity of the **Sectoral Council for External Assistance** (SCEA) in the field of official statistics. The Council is aimed at sectoral programming and monitoring of external assistance projects and programs for the development of official statistics.

At the global level, the NBS professionals participate and share their own expertise or national good practices with the international community of experts in statistics participating at different **thematic fora and expert groups**. A few examples of such membership would include: participation of the Republic of Moldova in the UN/UNSD task forces on data integration for disaggregated statistics on international migration, on data and indicators set on international migration, UNECE task force on assessing the quality of administrative sources for use in censuses, Washington Group on Disability Statistics, Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDG), UNSD expert group on gender statistics, UNSD Task Team on Non-Discrimination & Equality (Praia Group on Governance Statistics), etc.

Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

Given the increasing demand for reliable, timely and granular statistics, a lot of initiatives, supported by the donors and development partners, are implemented in the fields which would directly or indirectly address data issues. Some of them, not being coordinated with NBS, might negatively impact or cause deficiencies at the level of official statistics.

Statistical education in the statistical system

The current situation

Training in the NBS is recognised as important in the development of staff and is implemented internally, externally and through on-the-job training. The NBS encourages staff to attend courses and seminars, to carry out research, to present papers at domestic and international conferences.

Within a recently implemented EU funded project, the NBS surveyed staff in order to identify training needs.

Internal training (inside the NBS) is conducted on a regular basis and by request. Trainings on different topics related to soft skills (such as project management, training of trainers, IT tools (Excel, Oracle), strategic planning, communication, etc.) and specialized training in some statistical domains such as external trade statistics, National Accounts and living conditions statistics, and other topics were organized periodically, in particular in the framework of technical assistance projects. These

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[44] Available in Romanian at https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=117564&lang=ro

training courses were also open to staff from other public organizations and ministries. For the purposes of internal training, the NBS has created a platform for e-learning; however, due to a lack of funding, the platform is not yet functioning.

External training is mainly provided through the attendance of international seminars, training courses, workshops, and conferences. Participants in such training have to prepare reports on the knowledge acquired which are shared through the intranet of the NBS.

The staff training level depends both on the pre-service training, and on the intensity, quality and relevance of the in-service training. Training, including self-training and ongoing training provided by the employer, requires that staff are allocated time to dedicate to training. NBS has a critical human resource constraint, with its staff already overstretched and under high pressure to cope with continuously increasing tasks. NBS mainly uses ad-hoc training opportunities, and to a much lesser extent programmed training opportunities. As a result of its last re-organisation, NBS have a Training section (with up to 4 persons) which could not be fully staffed during the last 3 years. The unfavorable ratio of ad-hoc to programmed training results in non-uniform and discontinuous training opportunities, available to a limited number of employees, which affects the relevance, topicality and sustainability of the previous trainings. The sustainability of the acquired skills also depends on their use in the work process – for instance, if the ICT systems of NBS lag behind the methodological, technical and technological trends, many of the acquired skills remain a mere theory with no opportunity to use them in practice. Hence, the acquired knowledge and skills are quickly forgotten.

Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

There is a need to strengthen the NBS capacities for delivering continuous training on statistics.

Future challenges for training are related to a very small budget available for training from the state budget (roughly 2% of the general budget, which is very often used also for other purposes), the lack of a training center for the NBS and an operational e-learning platform (also due to a lack of funds) as well as the partly un-recognised need to train staff continuously.

b) Classifications and registers

Classifications

The current situation

Harmonization of national classifications with the standard international classifications represents the primary commitment of the official statistics. This is

concurrently one of the prerequisites for ensuring the comparability of the official statistics results with other countries. The following national classifications, fully or partially harmonized with the EU and international requirements, are used for the production and dissemination of the official statistics[45] (see also annex 18.2):

- **Classification of activities,** as the main economic classification used in both the official statistics, and in some administrative registers, economic and social policy and science and research, has been regulated by the law. The Classification of Activities in the Economy of Moldova (**CAEM-2**), developed and compliant with the NACE Rev. 2 approved through EU Regulation No. 1893/2006 and was implemented in the Moldovan statistical system in 2014.
- **Statistical Classification of Products (goods and services) of the Republic of Moldova (CSPM Rev.2),** developed and based on the CPA 2008, approved by the Decision of the NBS Board no. 6 of October 7, 2014 and starting to be applied on January 1, 2015.
- **Nomenclature of industrial products and services of the Republic of Moldova (PRODMOLD)** is developed based on Prodcom, list 2013 approved by the Decision of the NBS Board No. 3/8 of November 7, 2013 and starting to be applied on January 1, 2014.
- The exported and imported goods are classified according to the **Combined Nomenclature of Goods**, which is in line with Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding Systems (HS-2017) and EU Combined Nomenclature (CN-2017). The Combined Nomenclature of Goods was approved by the law of the Republic of Moldova No. 275/2018, being implemented from January 1, 2020. The first six digits of the codes of goods in the Combined Nomenclature of goods correspond fully with the Harmonized System (HS-2017), 6-digit code plus the 7 and 8 digits shall correspond to the Combined Nomenclature of the European Union, the 9-figure shows national details of the goods.
- **Standard International Trade Classification** (SITC Rev. 4) is used for production of international trade in goods statistics.
- **The Nomenclature of Countries and Territories** that is currently applied (from 2005), is the one used for the European Community's external trade in goods statistics in its relations with both Member States and third countries (*Geonomenclature -2010*), with subsequent updates.
- **Classification of Household Expenditure** (CHE) is used to compile the Consumer Price Index (CPI). Section A "Individual consumption expenditure by destination" (divisions 1-12) of the CHE is harmonized at the 5-digits category level with the European Classification of Individual Consumption by Destination (ECOICOP 2013).

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[45] Classifications are available on the NBS website: https://statistica.gov.md/pageview.php?l=ro&idc=385

- **Household Income Classification** of the Republic of Moldova is based on the Canberra Group Handbook on Household Income Statistics recommendations.
- **Classification of Occupation in the Republic of Moldova (CORM 006-2021)**, approved by the Order of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection No. 11/2021 is harmonized with the respective international standard ISCO-08 (ILO) and with the European Classification of Skills, Competences, Qualifications and Occupations (ESCO).
- **Classification of Status in Employment** is fully aligned with the International Classification of Status in Employment (ILO, ICSE-93) and is used for the production and dissemination of labour force statistics.
- **Classification of educational programs in the Republic of Moldova** is harmonized with the respective international standard ISCED-2011.
- **Nomenclature of territorial statistical units of the Republic of Moldova (NUTS),** was developed in accordance with the provisions of Regulation (EC) No. 1059/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council of May 26, 2003 on the establishment of a common nomenclature of territorial units for statistics, was approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Moldova No. 570/2017 and started to be applied from January 1, 2018.
- **Classification of Diseases** was approved via Order of the Ministry of Health No. 381 from August 24, 1995. The classification is in line with the International Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, 10th revision, approved by the World Health Organization during the 43rd General Assembly (May 1990); and enforced since January 1, 1996.

In addition, for national needs, the following classifications are used:

- **Classification of administrative-territorial units (CATU)**, approved by the Decision of the Moldova-Standard Department no. 1398-ST of September 3, 2003.
- **The classification of the organizational-legal forms of the economic entities of the Republic of Moldova,** approved by Moldova-Standard Decision no. 1607-ST of November 9, 2004. Implemented from January 1, 2005.
- **Classification of property forms,** approved by the Decision of the Department of Standards, Metrology and Technical Surveillance no. 276-st of February 4, 1997.

There is also an international classification which is not adapted and approved at the national level, being partially used for the purpose of official statistics, namely the **Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (CIF)** - classification by type of disorders of body functions for *disability statistics.*

Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

Additional resources should be allocated to hire dedicated staff that are fully responsible for regular updates and the implementation of classifications, as well as provide consultations to the NSS partners and users.

Registers

The current situation

The **Statistical Business Register (SBR),** built and maintained by the NBS, serves as a basis for statistical surveys of entities. The SBR includes data both on legal units and local units. In addition to identification information (title, address, statistical ID and administrative ID for tax purpose, etc.), the statistical register contains economic information for each unit about its annual turnover and number of employees, as well as demographic information such as date of registration, liquidation, termination of business and reorganization. Data on local units include the same identification characteristics as legal units (title, address, statistical ID), except for administrative ID.

SBR are updated based on statistical and administrative data sources:

Statistical sources:

- Annual survey on earnings and labour force costs;
- Quarterly survey on earnings;
- Structural Business Survey (SBS);
- PRODCOM survey.

Administrative sources:

- State Register of Legal Units. The NBS receives data regarding the state registration of legal entities (enterprises and non-commercial organizations) and of individual entrepreneurs (except farms, that are registered by local authorities), online on a daily basis, from the Public Services Agency;
- Financial statements (accounting reports) collected and processed by the NBS;
- Tax declarations provided by the State Tax Service.

The SBR does not include the business units from the left side of the River Nistru and Bender municipality.

Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant:

- Information on local units in the SBR remains limited;
- Improving the statistical production on business demography;
- Lack of access to individual data regarding number of employees from the State Social Insurance Registers;
- Lack of enterprise groups in SBR;

- Improving the IT system regarding the management and administration of SBR.

c) Demographic and social statistics
Population

Demography, migration and projections

The current situation

Vital statistics. Data on births, deaths and marriages are being collected within the State Register of Population (SRP) by the civil registration offices subordinated to the Public Services Agency (PSA), while data on divorces are collected from both the PSA and the courts. Since 01.01.2015 data from the SRP has been provided to NBS in electronic format and at individual level. The data on live births, deaths, marriages and divorces are recorded according to the place of occurrence or registration of the events, while data for born alive also contain the place of residence (legal/documented residence) of the mother of born children by age.

Preliminary data on vital statistics, as well as the data on population natural increase (or natural change) and legally registered internal migration, are processed and disseminated by NBS quarterly by the date of event registration and by monthly distribution. The final data on vital statistics are released annually after the date of the event's occurrence within 3 months of the end of the reference year. Mortality tables are estimated annually, standard demographic indicators such as life expectancy, general and specific mortality and fertility rates, gross and net reproduction rates are calculated and disseminated on an annual basis.

Vital statistics is produced using the methodology harmonized with the UN Recommendations ("Principles and Recommendations for Civil Status Statistics - UN" (Rev.3 New York, 2014)). Data of deceased by causes of death are processed in accordance with the International Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems[46],10th revision. The main demographic indicators are published on an annual basis. Annual statistics on births and deaths were considered of acceptable quality and in line with international recommendations by the Eurostat Assessment Team within the *2019 Global Assessment of the Moldovan National Statistical System*[47]. International definitions for vital statistics, such as the definition of live births, are in accordance with the World Health Organisation (WHO) and European standards.

Population estimates are performed during the inter-census periods on the basis of the population census results and annual statistics related to natural movement and migration of the population. The census Annual population estimates, before 2014

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[46] https://icd.who.int/browse10/2019/en#/
[47] Global Assessment of the Moldovan National Statistical System, 2019, Eurostat, available at:
https://statistica.gov.md/pageview.php?l=en&idc=399&id=2739

were released on the basis of 1989 and 2004 censuses based on the de facto concept of the population, which differs from the internationally recommended "usual residence" concept and, thus, resulted in the overestimation of the population number.

The "usual residence" concept, in line with international recommendations, has been used in the processing and the release of the 2014 Population and Housing Census results, that shows and reflects the real population figure, as well as for the post-census annual usual resident population (URP) estimates being disseminated for the years 2014-2019 and onwards.

Another important methodological improvement in the annual population estimates, carried out with the support of United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), represents the use of administrative records on state border crossings of the individuals being provided by the General Inspectorate of Border Police (GIBP), instead of data on legal migration recorded in the SRP.

The annual estimates of the URP are based on the internationally agreed definition of the *place of usual residence* as applied in the Regulation (EC) No 763/2008 on population and housing censuses. The reference population is the population that in the last 12 months has lived (or usually spends its daily rest period) mainly on the territory of the Republic of Moldova regardless of temporary absences (for recreation, vacation, visits to relatives and friends, business, medical treatment, religious pilgrimages, etc.). The URP estimates do not include people living in the Administrative-Territorial Units on the left side of the Nistru River and Bender municipality. Data for the usual resident population are available and annually disseminated at the country level, by sex and age.

The above-mentioned improvements were meant to ensure a better compliance of the national population statistics with the Regulation (EU) No 1260/2013 on European demographic statistics.

Following the recommendations of the Eurostat Assessment Team, statistical series in other socio-economic fields of statistics that are linked to the population estimates (e.g. employment, income, National Accounts, etc.) have been revised where appropriate and updated time-series were disseminated.

Steps planned to further comply with the requirements

Additional administrative data sources which could be used to further improve the quality and timeliness of population statistics are to be assessed in order to get access to these data at individual record level, in particular through the governmental Interoperability Platform MConnect[48], while guaranteeing data security, with a view to developing a statistical population register. Amendments to the national legislation on civil registration (Law No.100/2001) are required to

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[48] https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=128349&lang=ro

enforce the registration of newborns at the earliest stages (up to 30 days instead of 3 months) in order to reduce the timespan between the reference period and the release of related statistics.

The estimation of the usual resident population at sub-national level is currently taking place, the results of which are to be published on the official website of the NBS.

Migration

Official statistical data on internal migration of the population are estimated and disseminated online for the period since 1993 and onwards on a quarterly and annual basis. Administrative source of data for internal migration is the PRA, which registers the changes of permanent residence (formally documented), including the residential mobility between the territorial units of the country, based on the voluntary declarations of individuals registered in the SRP and do not reflect the de facto situation. SRP provides data on changes of permanent residence in an aggregated format, by sex and age groups, being incomplete for earlier ages (not necessarily all the children having a recorded permanent residence), and the classification of the territorial units used within the PSA is not fully harmonized with the one used for statistical purposes. Because of these constraints the estimation of the factual population at sub-national level, by all required disaggregation dimensions, is troublesome.

Data on international migration of the population are currently compiled based on administrative data sources held by the following state institutions: Public Services Agency (PSA), General Inspectorate of Border Police (GIBP) and the Bureau for Migration and Asylum (BMA) of the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA), which share information with NBS under bilateral agreements on data exchange. Before 2019, the international migration was estimated on the basis of administrative records provided by the civil registration or migration related institutions, encompassing records on registration/de-registration of permanent residence in/out the Republic of Moldova based on the statements of persons filing applications for the change of residence (registered in a small proportion and not covering the undeclared migration). Because of that, the external migration data were considered as underestimated, and the population number produced using these estimates was overestimated. To overcome this situation, a more reliable source has been identified that would allow the best and most complete estimate of international migration and of the population count. Thus, for the period of 2014 and onwards the number of migrants (by emigrant and immigrant status) was estimated using the data, at individual level and in pseudonymized format, regarding the state border crossings of the individuals provided by the GIBP. Immigration and emigration status was assigned based on time spent in the country or abroad by the person in accordance with the international definition of usual residence, following the provisions of the Regulation (EU) No. 862/2007 on Community statistics in the field of migration and international protection and Regulations (EU) No. 351/2010 and Nr. 216/2010 which have been partially

applied in the national statistics on international migration. Time-series from 2014 onwards on international migration estimated on the basis of state border crossings and longer time-series for the legally documented emigration and immigration are disseminated on an annual basis.

Estimated international migration data are supplemented by data from the BMA, which provides data on foreign immigrants, including refugees, repatriates, asylum seekers and humanitarian workers, returnees and stateless persons. These data are disseminated on an annual basis by social-demographic characteristics of the immigrants.

Steps planned to further comply with the requirements

Migration statistics is to be further improved by extending the use of administrative data sources. The cooperation with the institutions responsible for monitoring of the migration flows should be enhanced in order to obtain reliable data from them. Solutions acceptable by all involved parties (including information systems and interoperability functionalities) will be sought for safe collection and secured processing of individual data on migration, with all relevant demographic and socio-economic characteristics, within the statistical surveys. This will allow to estimate the migration flows within and outside the country boundaries and produce high quality estimates of this phenomenon to ensure compliance with EU standards.

Projections

At present, population projections are not officially compiled due to lack of trained and available staff who would have the necessary skills to carry out such work.

Despite the availability of the last 2014 Population and Housing Census results, which provided data on age and gender structure as one of the preconditions for production of population projections, as well as the availability of some historical data on international migration, there is still a need to develop a methodology in line with EU standards and to identify trained and dedicated staff to produce them.

Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant:

- State Register of Population (as the basic source for vital, migration and population statistics) held by PSA has certain limitations, as it relies on documented movements of the individuals on external migration as well as movements within the country. As Moldova is a country with a high proportion of emigration, the incompleteness of such information is a serious impediment for the reliability of the register, for many fields of statistics and for the population statistics at sub-national level in particular.
- A modern Information System dedicated to population and migration statistics for a more efficient use and processing of data from a variety of administrative sources, which would allow the interoperability with other state and private registers, for the purpose of official statistics is needed;

- There is need for additional highly trained human resources that would ensure full compliance with EU standards and international good practices in the field of population and migration statistics;
- Inconsistency in the national legal framework related to holders of administrative and private data should be addressed, in order to increase the NBS's access to personal data that in turn would allow the alignment with the provisions of EU and international regulations in the field of statistics;
- Address reluctance of public institutions holding administrative sources and of private data holders to share data for the scope of official statistics as envisaged by the Law on official statistics.

Population Census, Asylum and Managed Migration statistics

Population Census

The current situation

Since the independence of the Republic of Moldova two censuses were conducted: one Population Census in 2004 and one Population and Housing Census (PHC) in 2014. The last census was conducted using a traditional method of data collection (face-to-face interviews conducted by trained enumerators) using the PAPI method, pursuant to the Law no. 90/2012[49] on the census of the population and housing in the Republic of Moldova in 2014 and was conceptually harmonized with the Regulation (EC) No 763/2008 on population and housing censuses. As the *Conference of European Statisticians Recommendations for the 2010 Censuses of Population and Housing* are used as the general framework for the European Union programme for the population and housing censuses, all recommended core topics were included in the 2014 PHC programme to ensure the international comparability of census results.

The main census results were released in March 2017 with the support of UNFPA and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). In order to communicate and disseminate the Census results, a wide communication and dissemination campaign was performed during 2017. To address the goal of the communication strategy the following activities were undertaken: 1) the 2014 census data were disseminated through Census Releases[50], developed and released by thematics, each containing a number of key tables on the topic addressed accompanied by interpretation and analysis. A combination of comparisons with earlier censuses, analysis against other related variables, graphs and thematic maps were also provided; 2) Small Area Population Statistics through a Data Visualization app[51]; 3) a certain number of census tables are currently released

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[49] Law No. 90/2012 on Population and Housing Census in 2014, available in Romanian at
https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=12224&lang=ro
[50] https://statistica.gov.md/pageview.php?l=ro&idc=479
[51] https://recensamant.statistica.md/en

through the NBS website as time series, that go back to 1959 census, while others go back to the 2004 census; 4) interviews[52], events with experts and media[53]; 5) meetings with local authorities.

The next Population and Housing Census (PHC) is planned to be conducted in 2024, jointly with the Agricultural Census. The PHC will use new (electronic) data collection techniques, namely CAPI and CAWI methods and will be carried out in accordance with the Law *on the census of the population and housing,* the draft of which is at present under public consultation and coordination with the Government institutions concerned, and other institutions and organisations. The draft law transposes the main concepts and definitions of the Regulation (EC) No 763/2008.

Similarly to the previous census, the forthcoming one will be harmonized with the Recommendations for the 2020 Censuses of Population and Housing, jointly elaboratedby UNECE/Eurostat, with respect to the methodology, including concepts and definitions, contents of the questionnaires (core topics) and main classifications (ISCED 2011, M49 standard - standard Country or Area Codes for Statistical Use, the Classification of Occupations in the Republic of Moldova (CORM 006-14) which is harmonized with the International Standard Classification of Occupations ISCO-08 etc.).

The census units to be enumerated include individuals, households, dwellings and buildings.

The content of census questionnaires will be discussed and consulted at meetings to be held with census data users (state institutions, universities, academia, non-governmental organizations, media, ombudsman, national councils and associations of minorities, including those representing roma population and representatives of international organizations) to meet the requirements of users, as much as possible.

For the census purpose the following tools and materials are under development:

- the communication and publicity strategy
- the human resources strategy
- the census methodology
- the census questionnaires.

The census pilot is planned to be carried out in 2023.

For a better compliance with other census-related EU requirements, the following steps should be taken:

[52]https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qJhW-e3zPNA&list=PLOmdEjIN0SFYHk5HzU82NZOXRQQ-28nEh&ab_channel=BiroulNa%C8%9BionaldeStatistic%C4%83
[53] https://statistica.gov.md/newsview.php?l=ro&id=5574&idc=30

- implementation of the GIS framework in the national statistics to enable the dissemination of selected topics of the 2024 population and housing census geocoded to a 1 km2 grid according to the Regulation (EU) 2018/1799;
- adoption of the modalities and structure of the quality reports according to the Regulation (EU) 2017/881 on population and housing censuses, as regards the modalities and structure of the quality reports and the technical format for data transmission, etc.

Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant:

- Fill in the financial gap for census preparation and conduct. Timely funding is key for proper preparation activities and carrying out such a comprehensive activity as the Population and Housing Census.
- The urgent adoption of the draft law on the population and housing census is critical for a proper conduct of the next population census.

Asylum and Managed Migration statistics

Description of the current situation

The main source of data on residence permits or integration of migrants is the Bureau for Migration and Asylum (BMA), as a subordinated structure of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, which publishes related statistics in the framework of Extended Migration Profile[54], developed with the support of IOM and with participation and contribution of NBS, as a member of the interinstitutional working group.

Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant:

- Cooperation with the BMA as the main source of data on managed migration should be enhanced in order to get access to relevant data through the interoperability platform MConnect for the purpose of official statistics;
- Amendment of the national regulatory framework in the field of migration and asylum is required for full alignment with the provisions of the Regulation (EC) no. 862/2007 on Community statistics on migration and international protection.

Labour and labour cost

Employment and unemployment

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[54] Extended Migration Profile developed by the Bureau of Migration and Asylum http://bma.gov.md/en/node/101341, and approved through the Government DEcision No. 634/2012, available in Romanian at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=128910&lang=ro

Labour force survey

The current situation

In the last quarter of 1998, the Labour force survey (LFS) was carried out for the first time in the Republic of Moldova as a pilot survey, which continued throughout 2019 for the purpose of the validation of the method used. Starting with 1st quarter 2000, LFS was implemented as a continuous survey with quarterly and annual dissemination of results. Sample size included 8 208 dwellings, distributed in 114 Primary sampling units (PSU),2-(2)-2 rotation scheme being applied.

The survey methodology was developed with EU countries technical assistance within the EU TACIS Programme and with ILO Department of Statistics assistance, in line with:

- the Resolution concerning statistics of the economically active population, employment, unemployment and underemployment of 13th ICLS (ILO, 1982);
- the Council Regulation (EC) No 577/98 of 9 March 1998 on the organisation of a labour force sample survey in the Community.

The applied definition of the labour force, according to international standards, is based on the current participation of the individual in the labour market (labour supply).

Within the LFS, conducted by PAPI based on face-to-face or proxy-interview, data on the main characteristics of the labour market are collected, such as: labour force, employment, unemployment, inactivity, status in employment, by economic activity, occupation, work program, and other variables related to the labour market; as well as important socio-demographic characteristics. Confidentiality and protection of collected personal data are ensured through the whole statistical process.

As in the case of other statistical data collections, the Labour force survey does not cover the territory on the left side of the Nistru River and Bender municipality. The observation units of the survey include persons aged 15 years and over who are members of the selected dwellings/households and have their usual residence in the country or those who are absent longer than 6 months but keep connection with their households.

Time series are available starting with 2000, but two major revisions took place: in 2006 and in 2019, which led to breaks in the time series.

Since 2006 onwards a new sampling frame based on the 2004 census, a new rotation scheme (2-(1)-1-(8)-2), and improved questionnaires have been implemented. Other minor methodological changes took place between 2006 and 2018, such as improving the content of the questionnaires, reducing the sample size (according to the AGA-2013 recommendations), etc.

The same sampling frame is used for both LFS and the Household Budget Survey - as two basic continuous surveys, but also for other periodical thematic household surveys, with the participation of a common network of 150 interviewers and 51 supervisors.

Moreover, in 2019, a few methodological changes were made in LFS including the following:

- LFS is carried out according to a new sample frame of households (7620 dwellings per quarter), based on the 2014 census and new rotation scheme (2-(2)-2);
- LFS results are estimated according to the number of usually resident population;
- "Employment" definition applied for time-series starting with 2019 is in line with the latest international standard (19th International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS), 2013[55]). Persons „producing agricultural products mainly for their own consumption use" are no longer included in „employment".

The following classifications are used for coding and processing of collected data:

- Classification of Activities in the Economy of Moldova (CAEM-2), harmonized with NACE rev.2;
- Classification of Occupation in the Republic of Moldova (CORM 006-2021), harmonized with the respective international standard ISCO-08 (ILO) and with the European Classification of Skills, Competences, Qualifications and Occupations (ESCO);
- International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED 2011). The grouping of data according to the level of educational attainment is done considering: a) - level of educational attainment and b) the correspondence between the levels of education (established according to the national legislation[56]) and the levels of education defined according to the ISCED 2011;
- International Classification of Status in Employment (ILO, ICSE-93).

Data are disseminated on a quarterly and annual basis. The disseminated data are disaggregated by demographic characteristics (sex, age group, areas of residence, level of education, marital status) and economic characteristics (economic activity, occupational groups, status in employment, forms of ownership, actual duration of the working week, type of production unit, nature of the job etc.).

In the 20 years since the Labour force survey was implemented, a number of ad-hoc modules to LFS on specific topics have been carried-out, including:

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[55] https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---stat/documents/publication/wcms_220535.pdf
[56] Education Code no. 124/2014, available in Romanian at:
https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=130514&lang=ro

- Work organization and working time arrangements (2007, according to Commission Regulation (EC) No 247/2003 of 10 February 2003);
- Labour migration (2008 and 2012, according to ILO recommendations);
- Entry of young people into the labour market (2009, according to Commission Regulation (EC) No 207/2008 of 5 March 2008);
- Child labour (2009, according to ILO recommendations);
- Reconciliation between work and family life (2010, according to Commission Regulation (EC) No 20/2009 of 13 January 2009);
- Transition from school to work (2013, 2015, according to ILO recommendations);
- Volunteer work (2015);
- Transition from work to retirement (2017, according to Commission Regulation (EC) No 249/2011 of 14 March 2011).

Besides these, additional data to assess the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the labour market situation have been collected quarterly in 2020-2021.

Related to the LFS quality assurance and management, the following efforts have been undertaken:

- Reference Metadata in Euro SDMX Metadata Structure (ESMS format) were developed (with UNDP support) for LFS and disseminated on the NBS website, being updated on an annual basis;
- Under subscription to the IMF Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS), Metadata "Labour Market – Employment" and "Labour Market – Unemployment" are developed for the Republic of Moldova, and made available on the IMF web page;
- In 2020, LFS metadata according to the ESS quality reporting standard "Single Integrated Metadata Structure (SIMS)" were developed (with the support of the EU Delegation to the Republic of Moldova);
- LFS statistical processes were documented according to "Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM, v. 5.1) (with the support of the EU Delegation to the Republic of Moldova).

The Labour force survey is partially compliant with the EU standards: not all variables, required by EU Statistical Requirements Compendium (Regulations (EU) 2019/1700 of 10 October 2019 and Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2240 of 16 December 2019) are yet collected.

Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant:

- An in-depth sectoral review (assessment) of the Labour force survey is required, which would reveal clear recommendations for further harmonization with the new Regulations (EU) 2019/1700 of 10 October 2019 and Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2240 of 16 December 2019 (focusing on the list of variables which are missing and

are to be collected according to the new EU Regulations on labour force survey);

- Methodological improvements of the survey toolkit are required, including the methodology and questionnaires for the basic LFS and for its thematic modules for statistical measurement of specific forms of work, according to the 19th ICLS Resolution, 2013 (own-use production of goods and of services, Volunteer work);
- The available information system needs modernization in order to adopt/implement the modern data collection methods (CAPI, CAWI, CATI) in the LFS;
- Insufficient capacities, skills and abilities to fulfill the current requirements for data processing, including the use of administrative registers for the purpose of labour force statistics;
- Because of the high non-response rate which negatively affects data quality a continuing work on data quality enhancement is required;
- LFS personnel (statisticians in the headquarter, as well as the support staff dealing with field work) requires capacity building, while the network of interviewers and supervisors needs a functional reorganization and an operational review;
- Implementation of a new sampling frame for the household surveys requires additional funds and human resources for the first year of implementation, collaboration with holders of administrative and private data, as well as communication with the final data users regarding the revision measures caused by the change of the sample.

Job vacancy statistics

The current situation

The definition of job vacancy and the coverage of the survey are in line with EU regulations on job vacancy statistics (Regulation (EC) 453/2008 on quarterly statistics on Community job vacancies and implementing Regulation (EC) 19/2009).

The data on the number of job vacancies and job vacancy rate are disseminated annually, on the NBS website in the Statistical databank. The data are disaggregated by economic activity, according to Classification of Economic Activity in Moldova (CAEM-2), harmonized with NACE rev.2.

Between 2014 and 2020, data were collected through a dedicated survey *Mobility of Employees and Jobs.* For 2014-2017 data included units with 4 and more employees and all budgetary institutions, regardless of the number of employees, for 2018-2020 the data coverage was expanded to include units with 1 and more employees.

Starting with 2021, job vacancy statistics are collected through the *Annual survey on earnings and labour force costs,* which is a sample survey observing legal entities with 1 and more employees and all the economic activities according to CAEM. The data are collected by e-reporting, or can be submitted on paper at the regional statistical offices.

Following the periodical consultations with the main users on their information needs and in the context of reducing the burden on respondents, the annual collection period was established, instead of quarterly, as required by the EU regulations.

Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

To be fully compliant with the EU Regulations on job vacancies statistics there is a need to increase the frequency of data collection, from annual to quarterly, which would require a change in data collection tools.

Earnings and labour costs

The current situation

Statistics on the earnings and labour costs are produced on the basis of three different sources: (i) The quarterly survey of earnings; (ii) The annual survey on earnings and labour force costs; and (iii) Distribution of employees by earning size in September. The surveys cover all economic activities and the data are collected by the main and secondary activities of the unit.

Since 2013, the data are disaggregated by economic activity, according to the Classification of Economic Activities in Moldova (CAEM-2), harmonized with NACE rev.2 (instead of the classification harmonized with NACE ver.1. used until 2013).

The methodologies of the three surveys were developed considering:

- ILO resolutions on earnings and labour cost statistics (11 and 12 ICLS resolutions);
- Council Regulation (EC) No 530/1999 concerning structural statistics on earnings and on labour costs;
- Commission Regulation (EC) No 1737/2005, amending Regulation (EC) No 1726/1999 as regards the definition and transmission of information on labour costs;
- Council Regulation (EC) No 1165/98, concerning short-term statistics;
- Commission Regulation (EC) No 1503/2006, implementing and amending Council Regulation (EC) No 1165/98 concerning short-term statistics as regards definitions of variables, list of variables and frequency of data compilation.

The reference metadata (in ESMS format) on wage and labour cost are published on NBS website.

The *Quarterly survey on earnings* collects data on earnings, number of employees and working hours.

The survey is conducted by sample and includes economic and social units/entities with four and more employees, as well as all institutions from the budgetary sector regardless of number of employees. Till 2010, the survey included economic and social units with 20 and more employees and all budgetary institutions regardless of number of employees.

The data are collected by e-reporting, or can be submitted on paper at regional statistical offices. The collected indicators are mostly harmonized with Council Regulation (EC) No 1165/98 concerning short-term statistics.

From 2011 to 2016, the survey was conducted on a monthly basis, and quarterly data collection started in 2017.

The data on average gross monthly earnings and the indices of number of employees are disseminated quarterly by economic activity at CAEM division level on the NBS website. Data and metadata on earnings disseminated quarterly within theThe IMF Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) on quarterly Data and metadata on earnings disseminated within the are available also on the IMF website.

The *annual survey on earnings and labour force costs* collects data on:

- number of employees (in full time, in part time and in full time equivalent);
- worked time and non-worked paid time (in full time and in part time);
- job vacancies;
- wages and salaries, including amounts calculated for the worked time, bonuses and allowances not paid in each pay period, payments for days not worked and payments in kind;
- other labour costs by main components (employers' actual social contributions, employers' imputed social contributions, vocational training costs, other costs);
- subsidies received by the employer.

The data on number of employees and earnings are collected by sex. The data are disaggregated by economic activity (at CAEM division level), sex, forms of ownership and by rayons.

The survey is conducted by sample and includes units with one or more employees. The data are collected by e-reporting, or can be submitted on paper at regional statistical offices.

The collected indicators are mostly harmonized with Council Regulation (EC) No 530/1999 concerning structural statistics on earnings and on labour costs and No 1737/2005 concerning structural statistics on earnings and on labour costs.

NBS computes the *Annual Gender Pay Gap* using the data collected through *Annual survey on earnings and labour force costs*. The gender pay gap is computed based on average monthly earnings, not on hourly, as defined in the international definition.

The survey *Distribution of employees by earning size in September* collects data on the number of employees by earning size. It includes only employees who worked the whole month of September and were employed full time. The survey is conducted by sample and includes economic and social units with 4 and more employees and all institutions from the budgetary sector regardless of number of employees. The data are collected by e-reporting, or can be submitted on paper at regional statistical offices.

At present, the NBS is getting access to administrative data on earnings and labour costs at individual level. Administrative data on income and other taxes, as well as data from the Register of employees (which is under development), are being held by the State Tax Service, and access to them would reduce the response burden and costs related to running an additional survey.

The NBS does not currently produce data on *structural statistics on earnings* and quarterly *labour cost indexes*, but the latter would be possible to compile based on data held by administrative sources when access is granted.

Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

- An in-depth assessment of the *Survey on earnings and labour force cost* and the *Quarterly survey of earnings* is needed to identify the missing variables and differences with EU Regulations.
- Conducting a separate survey to collect data on *Structural statistics on earnings* would significantly increase the response burden on respondents. Therefore, it is relevant to look into the possibility of producing these data from administrative sources when NBS access to them is granted for the purpose of official statistics.
- *Labour costs indexes* (LCI) could be compiled based on data from administrative sources once NBS is granted access to them for the purpose of official statistics.

Education and training

Education

The current situation

Statistical surveys in the field of formal education conducted by the NBS are exhaustive, covering all educational institutions, regardless of the form of property, and all the levels of education, from ISCED 0 to ISCED 6 (early education, general primary and secondary education, secondary technical professional, post-secondary technical professional, higher). They are conducted on an annual basis, with reference to the beginning of the academic year (except for early education and doctoral studies), on paper.

Data are collected on: number of institutions; number of children/ pupils /students and graduates, by age and sex, language of education, educational fields; teachers by level of education, age and sex.

Data on newly admitted students and mobile students in the university are not collected. Some education indicators, such as survival rate, are not compiled.

The state register formed by the Education Management Information System[57] (hereinafter - EMIS), is owned by the Ministry of Education and Research and technically managed by the Center for Information and Communication Technologies in Education. The purpose of EMIS is to provide the Ministry of Education and Research, other central government authorities, local government authorities and educational institutions with up-to-date data on the education system for the development and implementation of education policies, monitoring and evaluation of their impact. Thus, when made fully functional, EMIS should become the administrative source to be used for production of official reliable statistics regarding the education system. While comparing NBS data collected from the education institutions and data available in EMIS, NBS found data discrepancies for certain education levels (a few of them are functional within the information system) revealing data differences mostly caused by the differences in definitions used of some variables. Nevertheless, the transition to the use of this administrative register for education statistics production should be preceded by a thorough analysis of EMIS data (including at microdata level), development of the methodological documentation and all this is conditioned by the complete functionality of the EMIS and a tight cooperation between NBS and the Ministry's staff.

The national legal framework which is used for the purpose of education statistics include: the Education Code No. 152/2014[58]; Nomenclature of professional training fields, trades/ professions, approved by the Government Decision No. 425/2015[59]; Nomenclature of professional training fields, specialties and qualifications, approved by the Government Decision No. 853/2015[60]; Nomenclature of professional training fields and specialties, approved by the

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[57] The Concept of the Education Management Information System was approved by the Government Decision no. 601/2020, available in Romanian at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=122778&lang=ro
[58] https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=130514&lang=ro
[59] Government Decision nor. 425/2015 available in Romanian at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=126741&lang=ro
[60] https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=126742&lang=ro

Government Decision No. 482/2017[61]; Nomenclature of Scientific Specialties, approved by the Government Decision No. 199/2013[62]. The above-mentioned nomenclatures are adjusted to ISCED-F 2013, while the *Nomenclature of Scientific Specialties* is not yet harmonized.

International legal framework applied to the education statistics comprises: UNESCO Methodology (Instruction Manual for the Survey of Formal Education); ISCED International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED 2011); ISCED Fields of Education and Training (ISCED-F 2013).

The Education Statistics mostly comply with UNESCO and EU international standards. The NBS currently applies the 2011 ISCED Classification for formal education. There are differences from the classification used by the Ministry of Education and Research, especially in relation to vocational education programs. The terms and titles of the programmes regarding ISCED levels 4 and 5 in the Education Code do not fully comply with the ISCED 2011, which affect the quality and comparability of compiled and published data. In order to meet the international requirements and criteria there is a need to make certain adjustments in the description of the national educational programs (in particular "Post-secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary technical and vocational training programs included levels 4 and 5" program) and to make a clear correspondence with the ISCED 2011 definitions and criteria. A new National Classification of Education Programs would be helpful in this respect.

Education statistics are disseminated via press releases, Statistical databank, Statistical Yearbook and a dedicated statistical publication, as well as shared with Eurostat and UNESCO.

Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

The Education Code needs to be amended to adopt a new classification of certain national education programs that would be aligned with the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED 2011).

Expenditure on education

Statistical data on the expenditures of the educational institutions are estimated by NBS based on the information provided by the Ministry of Finance, using the standard UNESCO questionnaire: "Educational expenditure (ISCED 0-8)". The primary data used to fill in the questionnaire comes from the national budget data (in accordance with the IMF Economic Classification, elaborated according to the standards of Government Finance Statistics (GFS) 2001) and directly from the educational institutions with financial autonomy (for higher education, from 2019 and for technical vocational education). Data provided by the Ministry of Finance are structured according to different criteria and requirements than those provided

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[61] https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=121862&lang=ro
[62] https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=3456&lang=ro

by the UNESCO questionnaire and methodology (actual expenditure on education by source of funding and destination by educational levels, current expenditures by categories and capital expenditures, by educational levels).

Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

In addition to data on education expenditure by type of institutions provided by the Ministry of Finance, there is a need for data by ISCED level, as well as for data on expenditure for teachers.

Vocational training and lifelong learning statistics

Vocational Training

The current situation

Statistics on continuing vocational training (CVT) in enterprises are collected through the annual sample survey in enterprises "Continuing vocational training of employees", which covers units with 10 and more employees and includes all economic activities according to CAEM (from A to S).

The survey is carried out since 2014 onwards, on an annual basis, and data are collected either on paper or by e-reporting (CAWI). The data are representative by enterprise size (10-49, 50-249 and 250+ employees) and at the section level of Classification of Economic Activity in Moldova (CAEM-2), harmonized with NACE rev.2.

The survey's methodology was developed considering the provision of the Regulation (EC) No. 1552/2005 on statistics relating to vocational training in enterprises, but only quantitative data are collected regarding:

- number of course participants (employees), of whom internal and external, by sex;
- number of participants at other forms of vocational training, by sex;
- number of employees, by sex;
- number of hours, by each kind of CVT;
- the enterprise costs of CVT.
- The collected data allow the compiling of the Rate of participation for employees from all enterprises and Global rate of participation for employees from all enterprises to continuing vocational training courses, by economic activities and sex.
- The results of the survey are disseminated on an annual basis in the NBS Statistical databank
- The survey is partially harmonized with the EU Regulations on CVT, in particular those regarding the definitions used for collecting data.

Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

The available statistical survey needs to be revised to comply with all data requirements from the Regulation (EC) No. 1552/2005.

Life-long learning

The current situation

Data on life-long learning are collected in the framework of the Labour force survey and include:

- participation rate of youth and adults in formal and non-formal education and training in the last four weeks (before the interview);
- level of educational attainment;
- adult educational attainment;
- youth educational attainment;
- early leavers from education and training;
- young people neither in employment nor in education and training (NEET).

To complement the regular statistics on life-long learning resulted from LFS, special modules to this survey were carried out on subjects concerning education matters:

- Entry of young people into the labour market (conducted in 2009, according to the Commission Regulation (EC) No 207/2008 adopting the specifications of the 2009 ad hoc module on the entry of young people into the labour market) and
- Transition from school to work (conducted in 2013 and 2015, according to ILO recommendations).

Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant:

- An in-depth sectoral assessment review of the Labour force survey is needed to identify gaps and come up with concrete recommendations for its further harmonization according to the new Regulations (EU) 2019/1700 and Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2240, in particular focusing on the list of variables related to life-long learning that are currently missing and could be collected.
- The *Adult Education Survey (AES)* has not yet been conducted in the Republic of Moldova as a separate survey.
- In order to conduct the *Adult Education Survey,* all organizational and methodological measures need to be undertaken (capacity building, training of staff, development of the statistical methodology, toolkit, data

collection method and processing tools) required to meet the EU requirements.

Health

Public health

The current situation

The official statistics on public health is mainly produced on the basis of aggregated data from administrative sources which are provided to the NBS monthly or annually according to the Annual Statistical Work Program. In addition, NBS contributes to the health related statistics with data estimated on the basis of the continuous household surveys, namely the Household Budget Survey and the Labour Force Survey.

Public health

The collection and processing of *public health statistics*, including data on health care resources, medical care provided to the population, population morbidity, immunization and the causes of deaths, are performed by the National Agency for Public Health (NAPH)[63], which has an institutional mandate on the management of the national database of health statistics. Also, data on the National Health Accounts (SHA) are compiled by the NAPH using the SHA 2011 methodology, which is currently under revision with support from the WHO.

In 2021, the NPHA carried out the second National Household Survey on Risk Factor Assessment for Noncommunicable Diseases (STEPS). The STEPS survey is a WHO standardized initiative for the collection, analysis and dissemination of data in different countries on the spread of major risk factors for noncommunicable diseases in order to gather evidence for the development of noncommunicable diseases prevention and control policies and strategies. This is acheived by gathering data about: (i) behavioral risk factors; (ii) physical measurements such as height, weight, blood pressure and pulse; and (iii) biochemical measurements such as the content of glucose and lipids in the blood.

Other specialized Public Health Institutions are providing data on pharmacies and specific diseases used to compile the indicators of population morbidity.

NBS complements data collection in the field of public health through collecting certain indicators according to the Minimum European Health Module. Thus, the data on household expenditures on health (monthly averages per capita), self-perceived health and chronic morbidity are regularly collected within the

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[63] Government Decision no.1090/2017 on the organization and functioning of the NAPH, available in Romanian at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=129690&lang=ro

Household Budget Survey. The data on activity limitations measured according to the Global Activity Limitation Indicator are not collected.

Also, since 2008, NBS carried out five rounds of the household survey on "Population access to health services"[64], as a module to HBS. The last survey was conducted in 2021, in partnership with the Ministry of Health and with technical assistance from the World Bank. The survey identified the factors which have an impact on the health of the population, consumption of medical services and medicines, and population categories deprived of certain healthcare services. Moreover, it provides the possibility of highlighting the link between the health status of the population and certain demographic factors (gender, age, etc.).

Disability statistics

At the national level, the National Council for Disability and Work Ability Assessment (NCDWAA) has the responsibility to collect and process data on people being granted disability status. The Council is providing the following information as part of the official health statistics:

- Statistical report on determining the degree of disability and ability to work (for adult population);
- Statistical report on determining the degree of disability (for children).

The prevalence of disability is estimated by the NBS based on administrative data about beneficiaries of pensions and disability state social allowances, only for persons holding a certificate of disability.

Since 2017, based on the LFS data, indicators related to the activity rate, employment and unemployment rate for persons with disabilities are estimated and disseminated by NBS. Also, data about the living conditions of households with persons with disabilities are collected within the HBS statistical survey. It is worth mentioning that the concept for disabled persons used in household surveys refers to persons holding a formal certificate which confirms that the disability was recognised by the NCDWAA.

In 2014, for the first time within the Population and Housing Census, data according to the *minimum set of disability questions recommended by the Washington Group w*ere collected.

In addition, recently the national legislation was approved[65] on development of the Information System on "Determination of disability and work capacity" aimed at keeping administrative records and monitoring the processes for determining disability and work capacity, as well as ensuring interoperability with other information systems. When becoming fully functional, this administrative register,

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[64] https://statistica.gov.md/public/files/publicatii_electronice/acces_servicii_sanatate/Acces_servicii_sanatate_2016.pdf

[65] Government Decision no. 50/2022 on approval of the Concept of the Information System on "Determination of disability and work capacity" and the Regulation on the organization and functioning of the system, available in Romanian at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=129952&lang=ro

held by the NCDWAA, should become a unified source of information for disability statistics.

Health Expenditures

The Ministry of Finance provides information on health expenditures in the national public budget.

Classifications

For the production of the health statistics the following classifications are used:

- International Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems of World Health Organization, 10th revision - for *morbidity and mortality statistics;*
- Classification of Administrative Territorial Units of the Republic of Moldova;
- Classification of Property Forms in the Republic of Moldova;
- *For disability statistics* the classification by type of disorders of body functions from the Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (CIF) is partially applied, the coding according to this Classification has not been implemented at the national level so far.

Statistical population

The statistical surveys in health area cover all medical-sanitary institutions: hospitals (republican, regional, municipal, district, departmental, private), emergency health assistance institutions (stations, substations), primary health care institutions, individual ambulatory enterprises, medical assistance within educational institutions and enterprises, from urban and rural areas. In the field of disability, all the territorial structures of the NCDWAA are included.

Geographical coverage

Statistical surveys in the health area (as in the case of other statistical surveys) do not cover the medical institutions located on the left side of the Nistru River and in Bender municipality. The disseminated information on persons recognized with disability includes persons from the districts on the left side of the Nistru River and municipality Bender who addressed to the NCDWAA to recognize the disability.

Time coverage: Time series for health statistics are available since 1995, while for disability statistics since 2000. The comparability over time of some indicators is limited due to breaks and changes in methodology, as follows:

- Since 2003, the age applied to the definition of what is considered a child was expanded from 14 years of age to 17 years 11 months and 29 days old;

- Since 2008, adults recognized with disability have been referred to persons aged 18 and over, instead of the age of 16 and over previously;
- Since 2018, the relative indicators related to the number of population are calculated based on the number of usual resident population. The time series for 2014 onwards disseminated by NBS have been revised correspondingly.

Timeliness: Health statistics are disseminated on a quarterly and annual basis in several statistical products such as press releases (including on dedicated topics), statistical publications, NBS Statistical databank.

The quality of the public health statistics depends on the accuracy of the administrative data sources. The quality of released official statistical data is ensured through consistency and integrity checks so that output quality standard is reached. Also, Reference Metadata in Euro SDMX Metadata Structure (ESMS format) on health statistics is available on the NBS website.

Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant:

- The lack of publicly available metadata and methodologies for the data being collected in the administrative data sources in the field of health;
- The capacities of the NPHA should be strengthened related to the development and maintenance of an integrated Health Care Information System, which would enable the improvement of the quality, availability of data and closer compliance with the fundamental principles of official statistics.
- NPHA and other eligible holders of administrative data sources would need methodological support on passing the procedures for certification as producers of official statistics in the field of health.
- Further work is required and national capacities need to be strengthened to fill in some data gaps to comply with the EU legislation and international standards (such as the Commision Regulation (EU) 2018/255 on implementing Regulation (EC) No 1338/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards statistics based on the European Health Interview Survey (EHIS), EU-SILC and ad hoc module on employment of disabled people for the labour force sample survey provided for by Council Regulation (EC) No 577/98, Washington Group Minimum Question Set on Disability Statistics, etc.).

Health and safety at work

Accidents at work

The current situation

At present, NBS collects data on *Accidents at work* from *all economic and social units/entities* where the accidents at work took place through the annual survey in

enterprise dedicated to this topic. The list of units where the accidents took place are provided by the State Labour Inspectorate. Until 2015, data included only economic units with 20 and more employees, and all budgetary institutions regardless of the number of employees. Each unit is required to report the accidents at work to the State Labour Inspectorate at the moment the accident took place.

The following data are collected in the framework of the *Accidents at work* survey:

- number of victims of work accidents, including fatal, by sex;
- number of fatal work accidents by sex;
- number of days of temporary incapacity of work lost due to accidents at work;
- the costs related to accidents at work;
- distribution of work-related injuries by circumstances and causes.

The definition of an accident at work is applied as stipulated in the Government Decision no.1361/2005[66] for the approval of the Regulation on the investigation of accidents at work.

Data disseminated by the NBS on an annual basis are desaggregated by economic activity (according to CAEM-2, harmonized with NACE rev.2), by sex and by territorial units.

The list of collected variables and the definitions still need to be harmonized with international and EU requirements.

The Labour Force Survey *module on accidents at work and other work-related health problems* was not carried-out.

NBS does not disseminate statistics on occupational diseases. At the national level according to the Government Decision No. 1282/2016 the investigation of suspected cases of occupational diseases (intoxications), the registration and reporting of data on confirmed occupational diseases is done in the Register of persons with occupational diseases (intoxications) by the NPHA.

Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

- The State Labour Inspectorate, which is supposed to keep evidence on the occupational accidents identified and investigated by labor inspectors in the field, is lacking capacities to compile statistics on accidents at work and its staff would need a better familiarization with the international and EU requirements on this field of statistics.
- Further analysis of occupational diseases statistics needed to assess the: (i) compliance of national definitions and classifications used with EU standards and (ii) availability of data to be provided according to the Regulation (EC) No 1338/2008 of the European Parliament and of the

Council of 16 December 2008 on Community statistics on public health and health and safety at work.

Income and consumption

Household budget surveys and harmonized European time use surveys

Household budget surveys

The current situation

Household Budget Survey (HBS) represents the main source of data on population incomes, expenditures, consumption, living conditions, living standards indicators (household ownership of consumer durables, type of heating used in dwellings etc.) - all available by demographic, social, economic and other characteristics of household members. In addition, the HBS provides necessary information to determine weights used in the calculation of the Consumer Price Index (CPI), and data required to assess the final consumption in the National Accounts System and to measure poverty and social exclusion.

Since the 1954 first survey, major revisions have taken place in the methodology of HBS. Thus, a new stratified multifunctional sampling frame, designed on the basis of the 2004 census, and improved HBS questionnaires have been applied since 2006 onwards until 2018. The sample is two-staged, stratified, with communes as the Primary Sampling Unit (PSU) and households as a secondary unit, sampled randomly within each PSU. The same sampling frame is used for both LFS and the HBS - as two basic continuous surveys, but also for other periodical thematic household surveys, with the participation of a common network of 150 interviewers and 51 supervisors.

Starting with 2019, HBS is carried out according to a new sampling frame of households (sample size for a monthly survey represents 1051 dwellings; geographic criteria, the area of residence and the size of localities were used for sample stratification), based on the 2014 census, a number of changes in the questionnaires were made, and HBS results are extended to the number of usually resident population.

The HBS is conducted on a sample of dwellings and, respectively, households from urban and rural areas that are randomly selected on the territory of the country, except for areas on the left side of Nistru River and the Bender municipality. The survey covers all persons within the selected households, including persons temporarily absent or absent for long periods, but who keep connection with their households and participate integrally or partially in the budget of the household to which they belong.

Data are collected by face-to-face or proxy-interviews at the home of the respondents. Two types of forms are applied, the basic questionnaire and the

household diary which is filled in directly by the household members. The data collection mode is paper and pencil.

Time series are available starting with 2006. The comparable time series covers the 2019-2021 years.

Data are collected on a monthly basis and disseminated on an annual basis. The disseminated data are disaggregated by areas of residence, statistical regions, type of household, age group of household head, education level of the household head, sex of the household head, social-economic status of the household, quintiles, and deciles. If data at disaggregated level contains confidential information, its dissemination is not performed and data is aggregated at the minimum available level that ensures the protection of data confidentiality.

The following classifications are used for coding and processing of HBS collected data:

- Household Expenditure Classification of the Republic of Moldova harmonized with the European Classification of Individual Consumption by Purpose (COICOP 2013) at the category level (5 digits);
- Household Income Classification of the Republic of Moldova, based on the Canberra Group Handbook on Household Income Statistics recommendations;
- Classification of Activities in Moldova Economy (CAEM-2), harmonized with NACE rev.2;
- Classification of Occupation in the Republic of Moldova (CORM 006-2021), harmonized with the respective international standard ISCO-08 (ILO) and with the European Classification of Skills, Competences, Qualifications and Occupations (ESCO).;
- International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED 2011). The grouping of data according to the level of educational attainment is done considering: a) - level of educational attainment and b) the correspondence between the levels of education (established according to the national legislation) and the levels of education defined according to the ISCED 2011;
- International Classification of Status in Employment (ILO, ICSE-93).

In the last decade, a number of ad-hoc modules were added to HBS on specific topics, including:

- Five rounds of the household survey on "Population access to health services"[67], as a module to HBS, the last survey being conducted in 2021, in partnership with the Ministry of Health and with technical assistance from the World Bank;

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[67]https://statistica.gov.md/public/files/publicatii_electronice/acces_servicii_sanatate/Acces_servicii_sanatate_2016.pdf

- Ad-hoc module on the "Impact of Covid-19 pandemic on households" (2020, with the support of UNDP[68] and the World Bank);
- Ad-hoc module on "Social Exclusion"[69] (2009, with the support of UNDP and UN Women).

Routine revisions to the HBS data are not applied: data are final when being disseminated for the first time. The major revision of the disseminated HBS data took place starting with 2019, the HBS results for 2014-2018 years were revised, using the estimates of usual resident population, estimated (for the first time by the NBS) based on the results of the 2014 Population and Housing Census. This revision has had an impact on all HBS results. The revised data were disseminated on the NBS website.

According to the Quality Policy, the National Bureau of Statistics is committed to continuous assessment and improvement of the quality of official statistics, in particular household budget survey statistics. Reference Metadata in Euro SDMX Metadata Structure (ESMS format) were developed for HBS and disseminated on the NBS website, being updated on an annual basis.

The HBS methodology with some exceptions corresponds to the recommendations stipulated in the EUROSTAT manual[70] "*Family budget questionnaire in the EU: methodology and recommendations for harmonization*". Existing differences in certain methodological approaches are justified and relate to the national needs and specificity, such as a different method for estimating the cost of housing, treatment of income in kind, and treatment of income which is common for the household members.

The NBS plans to introduce the CAPI (using tablets), CAWI and CATI methods to facilitate data collection for HBS. Also, future plans include taking advantage of available administrative records to increase quality, efficiency and reduced response burden.

Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant:

- The available information system needs modernization in order to implement new data collection methods (CAPI, CAWI, CATI) in the HBS;
- Insufficient capacities, skills and abilities to fulfill the current requirements for data processing, including the use of administrative registers for the purpose of income statistics;
- Because of the high non-response rate which negatively affects data quality a continuing work on data quality enhancement is required;

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[68]https://www.md.undp.org/content/moldova/ro/home/library/inclusive_growth/influen_a-pandemiei-covid19-asupra-gospodriilor-casnice-in-repub.html
[69] https://statistica.gov.md/pageview.php?l=en&id=2898&idc=350
[70] https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-manuals-and-guidelines/-/ks-bf-03-003

- HBS personnel (statisticians in the headquarter, as well as the support staff dealing with field work) requires capacity building, while the network of interviewers and supervisors needs a functional reorganization and an operational review;
- Implementation of a new sampling frame for the household surveys requires additional funds and human resources at the stage of implementation, a tight collaboration with holders of administrative and private data, as well as communication with the final data users regarding the revision measures caused by the change of the sample.

Harmonized European time use surveys

The current situation

A Time use survey (TUS) was conducted in the Republic of Moldova one time, in 2011-2012[71], with the support of UN Women and UNDP.

The main objective of the survey was to provide reliable information on how people spend their time: what types of activities are performed, how much time is spent for all these activities, as well as the context in which they are performed (where, when, with whom and for what purpose). TUS was also conceived as an important source of data required for assessing and addressing gender equality issues.

The survey methodology was developed using the Harmonised European Time Use Surveys (HETUS), 2008, guidelines (Eurostat, HETUS 2010, round 2). Also, the coding list according to HETUS was applied for the classification of human activities.

Survey population (coverage): included the resident population of the country aged 10 years old and over, living in private dwellings/ households.

Sample size: 15600 households were selected for the survey, out of which 10642 accepted to participate in the survey, registering a response rate of 68,2%.

Sample stages:

- Selection of the Primary Sampling Units (PSU).
- Selection of the households. Every household was assigned a *reporting day* and its *reporting week.*
- Self-weighted selection of (only) *one* household member. The criterion of the "closest birthday after reporting day" to the day appointed for filling the Diary was used for selection.

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[71] Time use survey in the Republic of Moldova was carried out according to the National Program on Ensuring Gender Equality 2010-2015, with the support of the UN in Moldova.

Data collection was undertaken during the period of June 1st, 2011 – May 31st, 2012; the fieldwork was *spread uniformly over 12 consecutive months*, thus ensuring continuous surveying during the year (365 days).

Collection method applied included: a) face to face interview b) independently filling in the Diary by the selected respondent.

Time dimensions: complete registration of all persons' activities starting with 04.00 until 04.00, next day (*24 hours day*). Registrations in the diary should have been done in fixed *10-minute* time slots.

Due to the limited, first of all, human and financial resources, but also from the considerations of not increasing respondents / interviewers / supervisors burden, the national Time use survey methodology was not fully compliant with all the requirements of the HETUS.

Methodological differences compared to HETUS:

- Sample: *Only one household member* was selected for TUS purpose (to fill in the Diary), while HETUS recommended to include in the sample *all members* of the household. Thus Limiting he analyzes of intra-household dependencies.
- Number of diary days: only *one diary day* was selected: either one weekday, or one weekend-day, while HETUS recommended *two diary days*, i.e. one weekday (Monday-Friday) and one weekend-day (Saturday or Sunday). Intrapersonal variation was not measured.
- (Survey forms) Individual questionnaires were filled-in for persons aged *15 years* and over, while HETUS recommended for persons aged *10 years* and over.
- (Survey forms) Weekly schedule of working time was not used, while HETUS recommended to use *Weekly schedule of working time* for persons aged 15 years and over which worked during the reference period/week.

Disaggregated data for about 100 activities were disseminated in a dedicated statistical publication[72], which contains tables with key indicators that describe the time spent by the residents of Moldova during the day, disaggregated by activities and the main socio-economic-demographic characteristics of the persons aged 10 years and older. Each activity is characterized by two indicators: *the rate of participation* in the activity and the *average length of participation* in the activity.

Also, general outcomes of *"Time use in Moldova"* survey were presented through the means of: *Information note "The use of time in Moldova, the main results of the time use survey"[73];* a series of 10 analytical notes[74] - with interpretation of

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[72] Available in Romanian at:
https://statistica.gov.md/public/files/publicatii_electronice/Utilizarea_timpului_RM/Utilizarea_timpului_RM.pdf
[73] Available in English at: https://statistica.gov.md/newsview.php?l=en&id=4055&idc=168
[74] Available in English at: https://statistica.gov.md/pageview.php?l=en&id=4446&idc=350

results for the use of policy-makers; a series of 10 info-graph[75]s - for a user-friendly graphical presentation of TUS results.

Decision has not been made yet when to conduct a next wave of Time use survey (according to Eurostat, HETUS 2020, round 3).

Income, social inclusion and living conditions

The current situation

In the Republic of Moldova, statistics on ***income and living conditions*** are at present based on the Household Budget Survey, which is a well-established survey that follows a sound methodology, in line for major aspects with the European guidelines. HBS is also used to provide information on living standards through household income and consumption data as well as non-monetary indicators covering education, health, employment, housing, asset ownership, and self-assessed living conditions.

The HBS is also the main source of information for poverty line assessment and measuring ***poverty*** in the country. It is used to set the national poverty line, for the official poverty measurement and as the main source of analyzing the impact of various socio-economic policies on poverty.

The official poverty measures use consumption/expenditure and an absolute poverty line, which is computed for a specific year as to capture the monetary value of a consumption basket deemed to provide minimum acceptable living conditions in the circumstances of the country. The calculation of the poverty line is revised over time (the latest recalculation was undertaken in 2019[76]) and its value is updated using the consumer price index.

The NBS publishes yearly poverty indicators. The disseminated data are disaggregated by areas of residence, statistical regions, type of household, age group of household head, education level of the household head, sex of the household head, soco-economic status of the household.

From 2014 onwards, the "Assessment of the Standard of Living" section of the HBS questionnaire was amended to include questions concerning the socio-economic situation of a household. This allows for measuring the level of ***material deprivation*** of a household. These questions were used in 2016 for the pilot calculation of multidimensional poverty.

Besides the official poverty line, a separate calculation of the ***subsistence minimum*** is undertaken. The subsistence minimum is estimated using a mix of normative standards and survey-based estimates generated from the HBS. Currently the subsistence minimum is computed twice a year, for large cities, other

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[75] Available in Romanian at: https://statistica.gov.md/pageview.php?l=ro&id=4448&idc=350
[76] https://statistica.gov.md/public/files/Metadate/alte/Metodologie_saracie.pdf

towns and rural areas and also for different categories of persons (based on age and sex).

Aiming at aligning to international standards in terms of analysis of social inequality and assessment of the impact of social policies on vulnerable groups among the population, in 2010, a set of indicators that allow the measurement of *social exclusion and cohesion* in Moldova and evaluation of the policies' impact on the quality of life of the population was developed within a partnership between UN, the Government of Moldova and the National Bureau of Statistics. The respective monitoring indicators[77] were grouped into 10 main dimensions of the quality of life of the population: poverty and inequality (14 indicators), housing and housing conditions of households (10 indicators); labor market (14 indicators); education (19 indicators); health (13 indicators); social protection (9 indicators); justice and security (8 indicators); culture, sports and leisure (4 indicators); participation in social life, governance, communication and access to information (10 indicators), environment (2 indicators). Data sources for these indicators include: Household Budget Survey and the ad-hoc Module on "*Social exclusion*" carried out for the first time in Moldova in the first quarter of 2009, as well as administrative data provided by various ministries (the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Economy, the Ministry of Education and Research, etc.).

To supplement the consumption poverty indicators already calculated in the country, in the last few years the NBS performed a series of activities related to the design and computation of a national measure of *non-monetary poverty* - the Multidimensional poverty index (MPI). This Index comprises a set of statistical indicators grouped by poverty dimensions identified as a result of public consultations with different groups of stakeholders in Moldova (from policy-makers to representatives of the most vulnerable groups of population). The set of selected indicators reflects the deprivations specific to Moldova´s context in areas related to health, education, living conditions and occupation. The measure of multidimensional poverty offers insights into the complexity, depth, and persistence of poverty in the country. The national MPI captures simultaneous deprivations which poor people face across a small set of high priority poverty-related indicators. Hence, the construction of the MPI will assist in providing data to monitor progress towards indicator 1.2.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals and also other poverty related indicators. The national MPI for Moldova is a joint product of the NBS, UNDP Moldova and Oxford Human Development Initiative (OPHI), with the support and input from relevant stakeholders.

Talking about the EU statistics on income and living conditions, being collected within the *EU-SILC* survey, the National Bureau of Statistics has not conducted such a survey so far. The EU-SILC survey is the main source for the compilation of structural indicators on social cohesion at EU level. Both cross-sectional and longitudinal data on income, living conditions, material deprivation and social

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[77] Available in English at: https://statistica.gov.md/pageview.php?l=en&id=2898&idc=350

exclusion are usually collected with SILC. It also covers various related EU living conditions and poverty policies.

SILC data can be collected from the field, but often, EU countries adopt a multi-sources data collection strategy based on the integration of survey data and administrative data to improve the data accuracy and reduce the under reporting on income components. The administrative registers, for instance, may be used to fill in the survey missing values, correct outliers, or unreliable values, and produce income variables. Whenever the administrative data source cannot provide useful information, imputation methodologies can be also applied.

Given the described features, taking also into account the current data collection based on the Household Budget Survey (HBS), the implementation of the EU-SILC survey requires thorough analysis regarding how the HBS and EU-SILC to be conducted in order not to increase the response burden and ensure an efficient use of limited resources. The overlapping of the topics addressed in both surveys is to be carefully analyzed. The implementation of the EU-SILK, being a challenging and resource-consuming exercise, would also require : new skills and abilities of the NBS personnel (regarding the SILC methodology, the use of administrative data sources for the purpose of household surveys, the imputation techniques, etc.) and access to administrative data sources (at individual level) which is still a challenge for NBS. The NBS aims to gradually align its living condition statistics to European standards in the coming years by adapting the SILC concepts, definitions and methodology to the national context of Moldova.

In the last quarter of 2021, several activities have been undertaken, with the technical assistance of the EU Delegation, were undertaken:

- Familiarization of the NBS staff with the experience, the international standards and the best practices of the EU countries in conducting the EU-SILC;
- Analysis of the possible scenarios for the gradual implementation of the EU-SILC survey at the national level;
- Development of the roadmap for adaptation of the EU-SILC concepts to the national context of Moldova.

Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant:

- Progress with the introduction of the EU-SILC will requireynergies with other household surveys, in particular the HBS;
- Given the fact that the EU-SILC survey has a rather specific and complex methodology, a separate team of statisticians would be dedicated and assigned responsibility for the implementation of the survey in Moldova;
- Identifying data users needs of EU-SILC data/indicators; informing them about differences between HBS and EU-SILC surveys;

- Insufficient capacities, skills and abilities to fulfill the current requirements for data processing, including the use of administrative registers for the purpose of poverty and social inclusion statistics;
- It is necessary to adjust national legislation on the monitoring of poverty and inequality, with the focus on improving the monitoring and evaluation of these phenomena.
- Before implementation of EU-SILC survey it is crucial and decisive to meet a set of pre-conditions:
  • to get access to administrative data on income and other relevant data, which can be used to create EU-SILC variables (for example SPR, Dwelling register, etc). Income register's data allows to improve the data accuracy and reduce the under-reporting of income data (especially in case of pensions and benefits);
  • to get access to contact information about the households as respondents of statistical surveys (from administrative registers or from mobile operators);
  • to develop modern data collection methods (CAPI, CAWI, CATI).

Quality of life

The current situation

NBS does not have an approved statistical concept for quality of life indicators and still does not conduct an EU-SILC survey (see section above for details).

Steps taken to comply with the requirements:

- study of quality of life methodology;
- improving multi-dimensional measures of quality of life;
- monitoring of international standards and recommendations of Eurostat.

Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant:

- implementing EU-SILC survey;
- lack of in-depth knowledge of the EU new Regulations;
- lack of financial and human resources;
- develop a scoreboard of indicators on the base of existing data;
- further develop the statistical coverage of quality of life.

Social protection

Social protection (ESSPROS)

The current situation

The official statistics related to social protection covers the main social insurance and social assistance benefits such as: pensions, state social allowances, monthly state allowances, indemnities for families with children. The corresponding statistical indicators refer to the number of beneficiaries and the monthly or unique average size of the benefits, and are available by main social-demographic characteristics, such as: age, sex, area of residence, district, disability degree, status of insurance, economic sector, etc.

Social protection statistics are mainly based on the administrative data on pensions and social benefits which are provided by the National Social Insurance House (NSIH). These data are generated from the Information System dedicated to social protection (forming the register of insured persons, including beneficiaries of social rights; establishing and paying pensions, allowances and other social benefits). Data are available: i) on a quarterly basis - at the beginning of the next quarter and ii) on an annual basis - the data related to the last quarter of the year coincide with the annual data.

Aggregated data are provided to NBS according to the Annual Statistical Work Program related to:

- the number of pensioners registered at the state social insurance bodies and the amount of pensions established monthly, the average size of the pension.
- the number of beneficiaries and the amount of (monthly) state social allowances and indemnities for families with children, the average size of allowance.

The following *classifications* are used for compiling of the social protection statistics:

- *Pensions*: are classified according to the Law No. 156/1998 regarding the public pension system and Law No. 1544/1993 on pension insurance for military and military personnel command and from the troops of the internal affairs bodies.
- *State social allowances and monthly state allowances* are classified according to the Law No. 499/1999 on state social allowances for certain categories of citizens and Law No. 121/2001 on the additional social protection of certain categories of the population.
- *Indemnities for families with children* are classified according to the Law No. 315/2016 on social benefits for children.
- Classification of the administrative-territorial units of the Republic of Moldova (CUATM).

The used statistical *definitions* are based on the provisions of the national legislation.

Statistical population: Data on social protection covers all decentralized territorial structures of the NSIH responsible for keeping records of the social benefits based

on the applications submitted by the citizens. The target population refers to all citizens of the Republic of Moldova beneficiaries of pensions, allowances and other social benefits financed from the public social insurance system, including pensioners whose pensions are transferred abroad according to bilateral agreements.

Geographical coverage: The statistical data cover only the territory on the right side of the Nistru River except for the data on social benefits granted for people living in some villages on the left side of the Nistru River, under the jurisdiction of the authorities on the right side.

Time coverage: Time series is available since 1995 (Statistical Yearbook) and 2003 (Statistical databank).

Timeliness: Data are disseminated by NBS quarterly, 20 days after the end of the reference quarter (T+20) annually, T+20 days for selected brief information and at T+215 days for extended information, according to the Release Calendar.

Social protection statistics are disseminated in several statistical products such as press releases, publications, Statistical databank and are available under Social statistics / Social protection on the NBS official web site.

The quality of the social protection statistics depends on the accuracy of the data received from NSIH. The quality of released official statistical data is ensured through consistency and integrity checks so that output quality standard is reached. For the data disseminated under the social protection statistics, NBS developed and is about to publish the Reference Metadata in Euro SDMX Metadata Structure (ESMS format).

Steps taken to comply with the requirements

The data on the social protection expenditures and receipts according to EU Regulation No 458/2007 on the European system of integrated social protection statistics (ESSPROS) is not yet compiled in the Republic of Moldova. NBS disseminates only the data on pension beneficiaries as part of the Module on Pension Beneficiaries required by the same Regulation.

However, the data on Pension Beneficiaries Module will be fully aligned when the Core System will be implemented in the Republic of Moldova.

Since February 2021, several activities were undertaken, with the technical assistance of EU Delegation, in order to initiate the gradual implementation of the ESSPROS methodology at the national level in line with the ESSPROS Manual as the reference document:

- Mapping of the national social protection system and identification of the main administrative data sources for the compilation of data according to the ESSPROS methodology;

- Familiarization of the NBS staff and other national institutions on ESSPROS methodology and developing the first list of national social protection schemes (around 34 social protection schemes);
- Establishing an intersectoral Working group on the implementation of the ESSPROS methodology at the national level (29 members representatives of relevant authorities);
- Development of an action plan and recommendations for the gradual implementation of the methodology;
- Analysis of the degree of compliance of administrative data sources of the National Social Insurance House, the National Medical Insurance Company, the Ministry of Finance, the National Employment Agency, the National Social Assistance Agency with ESSPROS requirements ESSPROS;
- Data compilation for 20 national social protection schemes and description of the qualitative information for 10 social protection schemes;
- Completion of the Annual Statistical Work Program with works and information to be provided annually by the administrative data sources.

Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant:

- The major challenge is related to the: (i) social protection system at the local level and data received from local budgets - because specific social benefits are granted depending on financial resources which leads to a variation of benefits and the need to regularly assess and identify their function; and (ii) aggregated data for some social benefits and the need to produce estimations;
- Approval of ESSPROS methodology at the national level in a participatory manner, through consultation of all the institutions required to contribute with data for the compilation of the social protection statistics according to ESSPROS, would make the process cumbersome.;
- Additional efforts and human resources would be required to produce estimates for social benefits that cover more than one function and to work with the data sources to further collect disaggregated data according to ESSPROS needs;
- Ensuring the full coverage of expenditures on social protection, including for scheme on non profit organizations, would be a challenge.
- Additional analytical skills are required for compiling and dissemination of the data on social protection statistics according to ESSPROS, including for the Core System and Module on Pension Beneficiaries.
- The full description of qualitative information for all identified social protection schemes and production of the quality report for ESSPROS data could take time and require external support.

Justice and crime

Safety and Crime

The current situation

Justice and crime statistics covers data on registered crimes, perpetrators and victims of crimes, including data on juvenile delinquency, convicted and detained persons, road accidents and data about the justice system (cases brought to the courts and legal professionals).

Generally, justice and crime statistics are based on aggregated data from administrative sources. Data are received by NBS monthly/annually according to the Annual Statistical Work Program for the purpose of producing the official statistics in the field.

Statistical populations observed:

Administrative data in the field of justice and crime statistics cover, by distinct data sets, all records of:

- the criminal bodies, which according to the criminal code (General Prosecutor's Office, Ministry of Internal Affairs, National Anticorruption Center, State Tax Service and Customs Service) have the right to prosecute;
- courts providing data on criminal, civil, administrative cases and data on persons convicted at first instance;
- penitentiary institutions and detainees;
- Ministry of Justice regarding the authorization of the representatives of the legal professions to operate in accordance with the legislation in force;
- authorities with the right to ascertain and apply sanctions according to the Contravention Code.

Nevertheless, NBS collects regularly data on detected contraventions through a dedicated annual statistical survey resulting in the following indicators:

- number of detected contraventions;
- number of adopted decisions;
- sanctions applied: warning, fine, confiscation, deprivation of some rights, community unpaid work, contravention arrest;
- amount of the applied and charged fines.

Crime statistics

At the national level, the Register of forensic and criminological information represents the specialized information resource which includes all systematized information of a criminal nature and which is formed on the basis of the Automated Integrated Information System for the record of crimes, criminal cases and persons

who have committed crimes. The Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) is the owner of the register and ensures the legal, organizational and financial conditions for its maintenance, thus ensuring at the state level the unique evidence through the Information Technology Service (ITS), which further submits monthly information regarding the number of crimes registered by the following bodies:

- district/municipal police sections;
- district/municipal prosecutor's offices;
- National Anticorruption Center;
- Customs Service;
- State Tax Service.

Data are processed and generalized by the ITS of the MIA. The provided data are disaggregated by: category and type of committed crime, age groups, sex, area of residence, territorial profile and other criteria.

Court statistics

Agency for Court Administration (ACA) (subordinated to the Ministry of Justice) submits aggregated information on the number of cases entered in the courts during the year and the number of convicted persons after the decision of the first instance based on the information presented by all district/municipality courts. Information is processed and generalized by the ACA. The provided data are disaggregated by: type of crime, type of case, age groups, sex, and other criteria.

Prison statistics

National Administration of Penitentiaries (NAP) (subordinated to the Ministry of Justice) submits information regarding the number of prisoners within 17 penitentiary institutions in the country. The provided data are disaggregated by: category and type of committed crime, type of institution, length of sentence, recidivism, age groups, sex, and other criteria.

Legal professionals statistics

The Ministry of Justice presents information on the number of legal professionals. The data are disaggregated by sex and category of legal professionals.

Classifications used:

- Classification of Administrative-Territorial Units of the Republic of Moldova;
- Criminal Code of the Republic of Moldova (Code No. 985/2002);
- Contravention Code of the Republic of Moldova (Code No. 218/2008).

The used statistical *definitions* are based on the provisions of the national legislation.

According to the ITS, all reported incidents and all offenders are counted within the information system. A *principal offense rule* is not applied when recording the primary data into the system. The NAP uses the '*most serious offense*' approach (in the case of multiple offenses, the most serious offense is reflected in statistics).

Geographical coverage: The information collected and disseminated in the field of justice and crime statistics does not include the data from the left side of the Nistru River, except for the data on registered crimes which includes the Police Commissariats subordinated to the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Moldova located in Bender municipality.

Time coverage: time series is available since 1995. Data on crimes by level of severity are comparable since 2003, when the Criminal Code in its edition from 18 April 2002 was enforced. Data regarding contraventions are comparable since 2009, due to the enforcement of a new Contravention Code (entered into force on 31 May 2009) and respectively due to the modification of articles' content, as well as of the bodies entitled to apply sanctions.

Since 2018, the indicators related to the number of population are calculated based on the estimates of usual resident population. The data since 2014 onwards have been revised.

Timeliness: Data are disseminated quarterly (the number of registered crimes and people who suffered as a result of road accidents) and annually (crimes, detainees / convicted persons, contraventions) in several statistical products on NBS official page under Statistics by themes / Social statistics / Justice and crime.

The quality of the justice and crime statistics depends on the accuracy of the data received from administrative data sources. Thus, the quality of released official statistical data is ensured through consistency and integrity checks so that output quality standard is reached. Also, Reference Metadata in Euro SDMX Metadata Structure (ESMS format) on Justice statistics is available on the NBS website.

Victimization surveys

In 2010, NBS carried out a national wide survey on *Violence against Women (VAW) in the Family*,[78] based on the module developed by the *United Nations Economic Commission for Europe* (UNECE), which was revised and adopted to the national context. At present, NBS has initiated the methodological work in order to prepare and conduct another round of the same survey.

Moldova was also one of the countries included in the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) *Survey on the Well-Being and Safety of Women*, which took place in selected countries in South Eastern Europe and Eastern Europe (OSCE, 2019). On a similar topic, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) conducted the *Violence Against Children and Youth Survey*

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[78] https://statistica.gov.md/pageview.php?l=en&id=3626&idc=350

in the Republic of Moldova in 2019 (IOM, 2020). Both surveys were conducted by private sociological companies with the participation of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection.

As it regards the standard victimization survey, neither the NBS, nor other central public authority, has conducted such a survey yet which could be used as the official source of data for criminal victimization. Hence, the Soros Foundation-Moldova carried out two so-called victimization surveys in 2010 and 2021.

Steps being taken to comply with requirements

The statistical indicators in the field of justice and crime statistics are collected and classified according to the national legislation. At the national level, the International Classification of Crimes for Statistical Purposes (ICCS) needed to ensure the comparability of crimes data at the international level according to the standards of the United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is not yet implemented.

In 2021, NBS as the central authority in the field of statistics, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Program, launched an in-depth sectoral assessment of crime and justice official statistics, with a view to promote better alignment with international standards, in particular the UN Manual for the Development of a system of Criminal Justice Statistics and the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes (ICCS).

The main objective of the assessment was to analyze the current level of compliance of official justice related statistics and crime classification for statistical purposes with international standards in the field, as well as to identify the current strengths and challenges of the national statistical system. In addition, the evaluators' conclusions and recommendations are intended to support NBS efforts to define and certify other producers of official statistics in this sector and to improve the quality of the data, thus creating the necessary basis for monitoring and assessing the impact of sectoral policies. The in-depth assessment report and recommendations will be followed by a roadmap identifying milestones for relevant reform and improvements in the official statistics on crime and justice.

Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant:

- NBS would be able to cease to collect the statistical survey on *Detected contraventions* when the development and full functionality of the Information System of contraventions evidence, cases and persons who have committed contraventions will be ensured;
- Although there is some awareness of the importance of crime and justice data collected through surveys, most of the statistics in Moldova are of administrative nature. Surveys among the population have been carried out occasionally and there is no sustainable plan for integrating them into the national official statistics.

- The lack of a national classification of crimes which would be harmonized with the ICCS is one of the impediments in ensuring the international comparability of Moldova's crime and justice statistics. There is a need to develop a framework of Crime and Criminal Justice Statistics to include key concepts and a core list of offenses in line with international standards (particularly the UN Manual on Development of a System of Criminal Justice Statistics and the ICCS and the International Classification of Crime for Statistical purposes (ICCS).
- Updating the information systems of the public institutions may generate opportunities for creating a smoother flow of information in the criminal justice system, which could be supported by a legal mandate authorizing multiple formats for data exchange. Each data producer has established or is in the process of establishing its own process and tools for data collection and generalization, using the technical resources available to carry out the data collection - in electronic or paper format.
- Improving the coordination of the production and dissemination of crime and justice statistics, the NBS (as the central statistical authority) playing a key role in this process. NBS should be provided with the necessary resources to fully play this role within the NSS.

Culture

Culture and sport

Culture

The current situation

The statistical surveys in the field of culture (7 surveys) are carried out annually, using paper questionnaires, by the NBS in collaboration with the relevant central public administration institutions.

Out of the seven statistical surveys, NBS conducts three statistical surveys collecting data on the activity of theatrical institutions, concerts, concert organizations and circuses; cinemas; the activity of museums / galleries. The NBS uses concepts and classifications that meet the needs of internal users. The NBS methodology for developing statistical indicators in the field of culture is partially following the UNESCO definitions.

Other four statistical surveys are carried out in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture and refer to: the activity of libraries, the activity of houses of culture and artistic formations; the activity of children's music schools, arts and fine arts schools; and editorial information.

The entire system of culture related data collection, analysis and dissemination is to be improved. Therefore, the full revision and redesign of questionnaires and instructions for completion, the development of a separate methodology, and

modernisation of the data collection system would represent the core changes being necessary in the context of the adjustment to the EU requirements.

Key indicators published in the Statistical databank, the Statistical Yearbook and other publications include:

- number of theaters and number of spectators;
- number of museums and number of visits;
- number of libraries, number of collections, number of users and number of visits,
- number of entries in the library and of borrowed books;
- number of books, and published outlets and their circulation,
- number of magazines and newspapers published, including periodicity.

Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant:

- Outdated data collection system regarding culture (statistical tools and method of collection) and non-documented from administrative sources;
- Adjustment of the methodologies of the existing surveys on culture to the Eurostat requirements is hampered by the insufficiency of proficient staff within NBS who could be assigned to the culture statistics area and would have sufficient skills and abilities to undertake the necessary improvements.

Sport

The current situation

Statistical surveys in the field of sport are carried out on an annual basis by the Ministry of Education and Research, with reference to the development of physical culture and sports, and the activity of public sport institutions. NBS obtains the mentioned generalized information (as aggregated tables) on paper from the Ministry.

Data collected and disseminated include:

- sports constructions by type (eg stadiums, sports halls, swimming pools, etc.) in territorial profile;
- number of people practicing the sport, by branch of sport including Olympic and non-Olympic.

Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant:

- The coverage of statistical observation units is not well defined;
- Outdated data collection system (statistical tools and method of collection) and non-documented from administrative sources;

- Difficulties in collecting data from the Local Public Administration and from private sports units.

Gender statistics

The current situation

By adopting the Law No.5/2006[79] on ensuring equal opportunities between women and men, the Moldovan Government made a major step forward in setting up the legal framework for ensuring gender equality and establishing clear provisions on responsibilities related to gender statistics.

Thus, according to the Art.22 on gender statistics, the NBS shall collect, process and generalize statistical information disaggregated by sex while the central and local public administration authorities, parties, other socio-political organizations, legal entities and natural persons carrying out entrepreneurial activity shall present to the NBS the necessary information disaggregated by sex.

Being a cross-sectoral domain, gender statistics is generated from the regular statistical surveys carried out by NBS, as well as from administrative data sources. As sex is a core topic according to the Conference of European Statisticians Recommendations for the Censuses of Population and Housing any topic collected during the last Population and Housing Census[80] conducted in 2014 can be disaggregated by sex. A leaflet[81] *Women and men in agriculture of the Republic of Moldova* was developed based on the 2011 General Agricultural Census data (with the support of UN FAO).

Gender statistics is compiled using the following *Classifications:*

- Classification of Activities in Moldova Economy, harmonized with NACE rev.2;
- Classification of Property Forms in the Republic of Moldova;
- Classification of Administrative-Territorial Units of the Republic of Moldova;
- Classification of educational programs in the Republic of Moldova, harmonized with the respective international standard ISCED-2011;
- International Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, the 10-th revision of WHO;
- Classification of Occupation in the Republic of Moldova, harmonized with the respective international standard ISCO-08.

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[79] Available in Romanian at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=107179&lang=ro
[80] https://statistica.gov.md/pageview.php?l=en&idc=479
[81]https://statistica.gov.md/public/files/Recensamint/Recensamint_agricol/Femei_barbati_agr/Femei_barbati_agric_eng.pdf

Definitions: The concepts and definitions used are aligned to EU and other international standards as described in the sections dedicated to the relevant statistical areas.

Gender statistics are disseminated by NBS annually according to the annual release calendar. Sex-disaggregated statistics is released in many statistical products (many of them developed with the UN Women support) such as: press releases, publications, analytical notes[82], reports[83] and info-graphs dedicated to specific gender related topics, Statistical databank, a dedicated platform www.genderpulse.md and are available under Statistics by themes/ Gender statistics on the official website www.statistica.gov.md.

Since 2014, NBS disseminates gender statistics in a dedicated folder of the Statistical databank including indicators on four major areas according to the Minimum Set of Gender indicators developed by the UN Statistics Commission:

- Women's economic empowerment;
- Education and training of women during lifetime;
- The participation of women in decision-making process;
- Women's health.

Time coverage: Time series is disseminated for 2008-2020. Since 2018, the indicators related to the number of population are calculated based on the estimates of usual resident population. The data from 2014 onwards have been revised correspondingly.

Additionally, data by sex are disseminated within other statistical areas such as:population and demographic statistics, education statistics, health protection, justice and crimes statistics, labour force and earnings, social protection.

Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant:

- Further work is required to harmonize gender statistics with UN and Eurostat requirements and fill in some data gaps. Indicators usually obtained from EU-SILC (on social exclusion, risk at poverty, formal childcare, healthy life years), data on hospital discharges disaggregated by sex and data from ICT survey are currently missing.
- Continuous support is needed to regularly collect/repeat modules (VAW surveys) to provide the policy makers with relevant and timely data.

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[82] Available in English at: https://statistica.gov.md/pageview.php?l=en&id=5294&idc=350
[83] https://statistica.gov.md/pageview.php?l=ro&idc=350&id=6723.

d) Macroeconomic statistics, including compliance and plans for increasing compliance with the ESA 2010 regulation in all relevant areas, and introduction of institutional sector codes compliant with ESA 2010

Macroeconomics

System of National Accounts

The current situation

National Accounts in the Republic of Moldova were introduced by the NBS in 1995 with retrospective calculations starting from 1993. Non-financial accounts have evolved since then and currently the sequence of accounts is presented up to capital accounts, inclusively. Financial accounts are at the stage of development by the NBM.

The National Accounts are compiled in accordance with the System of National Accounts, 2008 (2008 SNA). The alignment of the National Accounts with the European System of National and Regional Accounts (ESA 2010), that is the newest internationally compatible EU accounting framework, has not yet been started. Until 2018, the national accounts were based on the methodological framework of the System of National Accounts, 1993 (1993 SNA).

In 2018, SNA 2008 was implemented for annual GDP estimates by production, expenditure and income approach, as well as for quarterly estimates of GDP by production and expenditure approach. Revised annual GDP estimates by production and expenditure approach for the 2010 – 2018 period were published, in line with the SNA 2008 methodology. Revised quarterly estimates of GDP by production and expenditure approach, in line with SNA 2008, were also published.

The National Bureau of Statistics is currently in the process of revising the annual and quarterly national accounts data for the 2014-2019, with the technical assistance provided by the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The main reasons to revise the national accounts are:

- revision of demographic data according to the new concepts of population with usual residence, which replaced the concept of stable population. Significant differences between the number of the population with usual residence and the number of the stable population required adjustments and calculations of GDP;
- reviewing and updating statistical and administrative data caused by: (i) the emergence of new data sources, e.g. in the field of microfinance activity; (ii) revision and updating of primary statistical data used in the calculation of GDP, in particular from the Balance of Payments (e.g. annual review of Balance of Payments data may cover up to four years).

The revised quarterly and annual GDP data for 2014-2019 will be compiled and disseminated through the NBS website during 2022.

Annual GDP is estimated based on three approaches: (i) production approach, (ii) income approach and (iii) expenditure approach. Quarterly GDP is estimated based on two approaches: (i) production approach and (ii) expenditure approach.

Timeliness:

- Quarterly GDP data are released on the 75th day after the reported period;
- Annual GDP:
    - preliminary data – on March 15 of the year following the reported year (t+1);
    - semi definitive data – on June 15 of the year (t+1);
    - updated data – on December 29 of the year (t+1); and
    - final data – on December 29 of the year (t+2).

Data are published in national currency, at current and constant prices.

Annual and quarterly GDP at constant prices by production and expenditure approach are presented in previous year prices and the 2010 reference prices (base year). The method of single deflation of gross value of production or the method of single extrapolation is used for calculation of GDP at constant prices by production approach, depending on available data (for every year the previous year is the base year). Application of single indicators implies application of fixed input/output coefficients from the base year. The chain-linking method is used for comparison of data in a longer time series; that method reduces data to one chosen reference year (2010=100).

The Classification of Activity in Moldovan Economy (CAEM-2) is used to develop the national accounts variables by economic activity; the CAEM is harmonized with NACE, rev.2 (Statistical Classification of Economic Activities in the European Community, rev.2).

Data from different sources are used to compile the national accounts:

- Statistical surveys carried out by NBS: Structural Business Survey (SBS); Household Budget Survey; Quarterly survey on earnings; Annual survey on earnings and labour force costs; Labor Force Survey; balance of agricultural production; annual and quarterly surveys on industry, constructions, services, trade; population census data, etc.
- Financial (accounting) reports of entities collected, processed and disseminated by NBS;
- Other statistics, as well as administrative data provided by other institutions: Ministry of Finance, National Bank of Moldova, State Tax Service, Customs Service, National Commission for Financial Markets and other administrative public authorities.

In addition, the NBS uses estimates to fill in the existing data gaps. Activities «missing» from the basic information used for compiling national accounts, either

because they are hidden activity, informal or that is production of households for own use or as a result of shortcomings in the system of data collection, are defined as non-observed economy (NOE). The NOE estimates are produced by economic activity and by sectors (formal, informal and household production for own use).

The quarterly calculations are performed on a discrete basis at current prices and at average prices of the previous year. The preliminary annual calculations represent the sum of four quarters. The annual updated calculations are compiled based on the annual information from statistical, financial-banking, administrative and other sources. After finalizing the annual data, the quarterly calculations are reconciled with the annual ones, and recalculated at constant prices (prices of the fixed base year) and are seasonally adjusted.

Data on national accounts are subject to continuous revision routine as soon as entry data are available. Data are also subject to revisions when the new annual data are published, to ensure consistency between quarterly and annual data.

The seasonal adjustment of data series is performed using DEMETRA software and TRAMO-SEATS method. Quarterly time series, subject to seasonal adjustment, is estimated at current prices and at average prices of 2010. While quarterly seasonally adjusted series at current prices provides an overview of general development in absolute values of which the seasonal factors were eliminated; seasonally adjusted series calculated based on 2010 prices can be used for volume comparisons between any two quarters of adjusted time series. Since seasonally adjusted GDP is obtained by direct method, it leads to a statistical discrepancy between the overall GDP and the sum of its independently seasonally adjusted components.

The economic activity of the enterprises and organizations from the left side of the River Nistru and Bender municipality[84] are not included in the calculations of GDP series.

Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant:

- Lack of in-depth knowledge of the European System of National and Regional Accounts (ESA 2010);
- Strengthen the consistency and coherence of the national accounts compilation system;
- Enhance the consistency between statistics, notably between external sector accounts, national accounts, labor market and population statistics;
- Compile the Supply and Use Tables. The latest data were elaborated in 2014;
- Enhance seasonal adjustment methods of the quarterly national accounts;

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[84]   This is relevant for all official statistics, because of the lack of comparable official data on the enterprises and organizations from the left side of the River Nistru and Bender municipality, except for some data regarding land cadaster and some international trade data. Such cases are clearly specified.

- Improve the data estimates for the non-observed economy;
- Improve data estimates of the illegal economy;
- Allocate more human resources for national accounts production, in particular increase the number of dedicated staff.

Sector accounts

The current situation

The **annual sector accounts** are developed by total economy, by economic activity according to NACE rev. 2, and institutional sectors for five institutional sectors of the domestic economy: the non-financial corporations, the financial corporations, the general government, the non-profit institutions serving households, and the households.

Economic relations with other countries are made through the sector "Rest of the world", which at the moment is presented by three accounts: (i) account of goods and services; (ii) primary income and current transfers; and (iii) capital account. GDP is presented also by ownership forms (annually).

Quarterly sector accounts have not yet been developed.

Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant:

- Preparation of a manual for the classification of institutional units into institutional sectors in accordance with SNA 2008;
- Improvement of data sources for the compilation of sector accounts;
- There is a need to train and increase the number of dedicated staff in this area.

Supply, use and input-output tables

The current situation

Currently, **supply-use and input-output tables** are not elaborated. The compilation of supply - use tables was discontinued in 2014. At the moment, the possibility of their elaboration is being analyzed.

Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant:

- Lack of dedicated staff in this area;
- Lack of knowledge on how to compile data supply-use and input-output according to EU requirements;
- Lack of sufficient technical assistance in this domain;
- Lack of some tools and data sources (detailed Classification of Products by Activity (CPA) for gross output and intermediate consumption; more

detailed VAT data, lack of a specific software) for compilation of supply-use and input-output tables.

Regional accounts

The current situation

In 2016, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) launched the calculations of the Regional Gross Domestic Product (RGDP), with the technical assistance of the EU Delegation. RGDP was calculated since 2013 at current and comparable prices by NUTS 3 level the administrative regions being grouped into: North (MD111), Center (MD112), South (MD113), ATU of Gagauzia (MD114) and Municipality of Chisinau (MD115). The regional accounts of the Republic of Moldova are based on the same concepts as the national accounts, implementing the System of National Accounts (SNA 2008). The RGDP data are elaborated and disseminated after the finalization and dissemination of the final GDP calculations.

Timeliness for dissemination of the RGDP for the year (t) is December (t + 2).

Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant:

- Lack of dedicated staff in this area;
- Insufficient level of harmonization with the administrative data sources, as well as lack of detailed breakdown needed for data coming from the Ministry of Finance, Treasury Administration, etc.;
- Lack of support/technical assistance;
- Lack of training and limited representation in international organizations/forums in order to keep up-to-date with best practices in this domain.

International trade and Balance of Payments

Balance of Payments (BOP)

The current situation

Balance of Payments statistics are compiled and disseminated by the **National Bank of Moldova** on a quarterly basis. Some key information about the compilation of the BoP statistics is provided below:

- **Monthly BOP** data (Geo1 - Geo3) are not compiled.
- *Reserves, monthly changes in price, monthly flows due to exchange rates changes, monthly changes in volume* are compiled.
- **Quarterly BOP** (Geo1-Geo4): compiled at t+90, geographical distribution is not available.

- **Quarterly IIP** (Geo1, 2 -Geo4. 4D, 4A): standard positions and changes are compiled at t+90, if relevant for the Republic of Moldova. The currency composition of debt claims on nonresidents and debt liabilities to nonresidents by sector are only partly available. External debt data by currency composition is available quarterly for Public Debt, and currency and deposits. Geographical distribution on a quarterly basis is partly available for loans only.

Balance of Payments in the Republic of Moldova is quarterly compiled. However, it does not have the required ESA 2010 geographical breakdown (p.18.18 and p. 18.19).

Detailed information (metadata) on the production and dissemination of BOP statistics that is also part of the Special Data Dissemination Standard, is posted on the NBM website (https://www.bnm.md/en), as well as on the Dissemination Standards Bulletin Board (DSBB) maintained by the IMF.[85]

International accounts are currently compiled in million USD dollar (not in MDL, or EUR). However, in the Yearbook IA of the Republic of Moldova the annexes with IA statements converted in EUR are presented.

Foreign direct investment (FDI)

The current situation

Foreign direct investment (FDI) statistics are compiled and disseminated by the **National Bank of Moldova.** Some key information about the compilation of FDI statistics is provided below:

- **FDI flows** (Geo5, 6): standard items are compiled, if relevant for the Republic of Moldova, on a quarterly basis. Geographical distribution is partly available.
- **FDI income** (Geo5, 6): standard items are compiled, if relevant for the Republic of Moldova, on a quarterly basis. Geographical distribution is partly available for dividends.
- **FDI Transactions and Income** with geographical and activity breakdown - not available.
- **FDI positions** (Geo4, 5): standard items are compiled. Geographical distribution is available annually within the CDIS for inward FDI, only. FDI positions with geographical and activity breakdown is available annually within the CDIS for inward FDI, only.

Voluntary data related to FDI are not complied

- Quarterly SPEs,

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[85] https://dsbb.imf.org/sdds/dqaf-base/country/MDA/category/BOP00

- Ultimate Investing Country,
- Greenfield investment.

Detailed information on the production and dissemination of relevant statistics is posted on the NBM website.

International Trade in Services and Remittances

The current situation

International Trade in Services and Remittances statistics are compiled and disseminated by the **National Bank of Moldova** on a quarterly basis. Some key information about the compilation of such statistics is provided below:

- **International Trade in Services,** T+270 days (Geo5, 6): all services EBOPS details are compiled, if relevant for the Republic of Moldova, on quarterly basis. Distribution by countries is compiled yearly for 2 items:
  - Manufacturing services on physical inputs owned by others and
  - Computer services.

Experiential[86] data related to international trade in services are not complied:

- Services – mode of supply,
- Services Trade by Enterprise Characteristics (STEC) statistics.

Other geographic distribution is not compiled (Geo5, 6 - not available).

- **Remittances,** T+270 days (Geo5): most of the components of remittances are available in BOP. However, only personal remittances are available as a supplementary item. Three geographical area are compiled for total personal remittances: EU, CIS and other countries, no lower county distribution is available (Geo5 - not available)**.**

Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant:

- Resources available to the National Bank of Moldova (NBM), one of the producers of official statistics, are enough to continue production of statistics within NBM's responsibility as it stands now. Mobilization of additional resources are needed for ensuring a sustainable environment (including organizational structure focused on main statistical processes, following EU model) for upgrading data collection, processing, compilation, analysis, and dissemination in order to make progress in aligning methodology and implementation of the mandatory requirements for data production as a base for further developments.
- Significant effort is needed in upgrading IT infrastructure and building a data warehouse for macroeconomic statistics.

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[86] Comments to data produced related to the international trade in services

- Another shortcoming are limited data sources, and limited capacity to enhance the collection system of granular data, including related to new digital technologies.
- A detailed roadmap for statistics progress towards EU standards should be developed.

International trade in goods statistics

International trade in goods statistics are compiled on a monthly, quarterly, and annual basis. The data are produced by type of goods and by trade partners, in absolute values, value indices, unit value indices and volume indices).

Brief history

The organization and implementation of external trade statistics began with the declaration of independence of the Republic of Moldova. In 1991-1994, a system of statistical evidence of external trade in goods was created, based on statistical reports, collected from economic agents - participants in foreign economic activity, on a narrow nomenclature of goods (about 450 goods). On January 1, 1995, a complete transition was made to compile statistics on external trade in goods on the basis of information obtained from customs declarations, which covers all economic operators engaged in external trade in goods and follows, on the basis of the Nomenclature of Goods, about 10 000 positions of goods.

The legal framework

Data on exports and imports of goods based on customs declarations are collected, verified, processed by the Customs Service, in accordance with Article 321 of the Customs Code of the Republic of Moldova No.1149/2000 and submitted to the National Bureau of Statistics for verification, completion, processing (including editing and validation), compilation and dissemination in accordance with the Law of the Republic of Moldova "On official statistics", No. 93 of May 26, 2017 (Articles 13, 14, 16, 18, 19, 23 and 24) and the Annual Program of Statistical Works, approved by the Government.

Methodological notes

External trade statistics in the Republic of Moldova are based on the recommendations of the UN Statistics Commission (*International Merchandise Trade Statistics - Concepts and Definitions, 2010 Series M No. 52)* and the relevant EU legislation (Council Regulation (CE) No 471/2009) on international trade in goods with third countries (*EXTRASTAT*).

In the elaboration of the statistics of the external trade of goods of the Republic of Moldova, the notions of customs procedure are used, which have a decisive significance in determining the trade system and the scope.

Geographic coverage

The territory considered in the external trade statistics of the Republic of Moldova refers to the economic territory of the country, in which the national customs legislation applies, but which does not coincide with the geographical territory of the country. The data do not cover the territory on the left side of the Nistru River and the Bender municipality).

Trade system used in the production of statistics on external trade of the Republic of Moldova is the **General Trade System.**

Statistical valuation of exports is produced in FOB prices, and of imports - in CIF prices.

The statistical value is registered in the national currency and is determined by converting the invoice currency into national currency (Moldovan leu, MDL), according to the legal provisions.

The conversion of currencies into MDL is based on the official exchange rates established by the National Bank of Moldova (NBM) on the date of registration of the customs declaration.

Data *in US dollars* and *euros* are calculated from data in MDL, using the official exchange rate of the NBM for the two currencies.

Quantitative evidence of goods

The quantitative evidence of the goods, both for export and for import, is recorded in net weight expressed in kilograms or tons (excluding packaging), and for some goods - in one or more units of measure specific to the goods, mentioned under the heading goods from the Combined Nomenclature of Goods - pieces, m3, m2, pairs, kW / h etc.

Geographical distribution of exports and imports

The distribution by countries of exports is made after *the last country of destination of the goods,* and of imports - *by the country of origin of the goods*.

If at the time of delivery, the country of last destination (or the country of origin of the goods) is not known, then the export (import) is determined according to the country of destination / dispatch of the goods that are known.

Nomenclatures used in external trade statistics

Goods exported and imported by the Republic of Moldova are classified in accordance with the **Combined Nomenclature of Goods,** developed in accordance with the Harmonized Commodity Coding and Description System (HS-2017) and the Combined Nomenclature of the European Union (CN -2017). The current

Combined Nomenclature of Goods was approved by the Law of the Republic of Moldova no. 275 of 29.11.2018, being implemented from January 1, 2020.

The first six digits of the Combined Nomenclature of Goods codes correspond entirely to the Harmonized System (HS-2017), six digits plus the 7th and the 8th digits correspond to the Combined Nomenclature of the European Union, the 9th digit shows the national details for goods. Each good's position is uniquely identified in the customs declaration.

For economic and statistical analysis, the **Standard International Trade Classification (SITC Rev. 4)** and also the Classification by Broad Economic Categories **(BEC)** are used.

Using pass-through tables between the Combined Nomenclature of Goods and the CPA 2008, NBS also produces statistics on exports and imports of goods, structured by *economic activity.*

For countries, **the Classification of Countries and Territories**, developed by the UN Statistical Office (ISO 3166), was used until 2005.

The Nomenclature of Countries and Territories (Geonomenclature, applied in European statistics on international trade in goods) is currently used (from 2005)**.**

Data sources

External trade statistics are compiled on the basis of *customs declarations*, which are registered, collected, processed and validated by the Customs Service, in accordance with the provisions of the Customs Code, through the Integrated Information System *"Asycuda Word"*. For the goods that are transported by cable or pipes, *the source of the preliminary data* is the statistical questionnaire on export (import) of electricity and natural gas collected by the NBS.

The statistical information at the level of customs declarations is presented monthly to the NBS in electronic format (on the 20th day after the reporting period) and is uploaded to the NBS Server for verification, completion, processing (including editing and validation), compilation and dissemination of international trade in goods statistics. The authenticity of the merchandise trade statistics (based on customs declaration) is verified at the following three levels : at the customs border, at the Customs' Service, and at the NBS.

Unit value indices for exported and imported goods are calculated quarterly and annually, based on unit values (averages) expressed in MDL (US dollars), using the Paasche formula.

At the same time, quarterly (annually) are calculated **the physical volume indices for exported and imported goods**, using the Laspeyres formula.

Dissemination of statistical information

Statistical data on external trade in goods are disseminated monthly via the NBS website on the 45th day after the end of the reference period, including data such as: exports, imports, overall trade balance, by country and by groups of countries; exports and imports by main sections and chapters, according to the Combined Nomenclature of Goods and by groups of countries; exports and imports by main sections and chapters of the Standard International Trade classification and by groups of countries; exports and imports by modes of transport. Exports and imports by main goods, groups of countries and countries, countries-goods are disseminated on the 65th day after the end of the reference period.

The monthly published data are provisional, being subject to successive corrections by the Customs Service, and, correspondingly, by the NBS (as a result of corrections, adjustments made in the customs declarations).

The annual statistics are first published on a provisional basis (on the 45th and 65th days respectively after the reporting period), being finalized by 30 June after the end of the reference year.

Trade data are published through dedicated publications (downloadable from the NBS website) and in the NBS Statistical databank. External trade data are also transmitted to Eurostat (COMEXT) and to the UN (COMTRADE). In addition, the NBS subscribed to the IMF's SDDS and provided the related metadata.

Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant:

- Allocate more resources, to increase the number of dedicated staff compiling external trade statistics;
- Implement the Combined Nomenclature of Goods - 2022 based on the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System - 2022 and the Combined Nomenclature of the European Union, starting with January 1, 2023;
- Compile external trade statistics of goods by enterprise characteristics (size of enterprise, turnover, number of employees, etc.);
- Improve the dissemination of statistical information, inter alia by creating a portal for the dissemination of external trade statistics at the level of goods (4, 6 and 9 digits of the Combined Nomenclature of Goods).
- Further harmonize the national methodology for compiling statistics on external trade in goods in line with the European Union standards, in order to enhance the quality and the international comparability of data.

Prices: Consumer Price Index

The current situation

Consumer Price Index (CPI) is compiled according to the international recommendations, in particular, those set out in *Consumer Price Index Manual: Theory and Practice 2004*, developed by the International Labor Office, the

International Monetary Fund, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the Statistical Office of European Communities, World Bank.

Coverage

Consumer price index measures the evolution of price for goods bought and for tariffs of services used by the population in a certain period (current period), as against previous period (base period). Consumer price index is calculated only for elements entering the population direct consumption, excluding: consumption from own resources, expenditures for investments and accumulation, interests paid for credits, insurance rates, fines, taxes etc. The consumer price includes the VAT, excise tax, sales tax, and other indirect taxes.

Population coverage: The reference population for the index is all private households from urban and rural areas (population is presented for the whole of the country, except the left side of river Nistru and municipality Bender).

Item coverage: The statistical survey on the evolution of consumer prices includes the retail prices of more than 1 200 representative goods and services:

- "Food" group contains 109 groups with 400 products/items;
- "Non-food goods" group contains 158 groups with over 700 items;
- "Services" group contains 79 groups, which include over 200 items.

Geographic coverage: Prices are collected from about 900 outlets (collection centers) from 8 cities of the country. The key criterion for the selection of a point of sale is based on the experience of price collectors and their knowledge of the market. The sample of stores and the nomenclature of representative goods and services included in the survey shall be updated annually. The data do not cover the territory on the left side of the Nistru river and municipality Bender.

The consumer prices are recorded by 20 operators, who visit the retail units included in the respective survey. The specialists strictly identify the product-service according to the indicated parameters, thus ensuring the continuity of the product collection from one period to another.

Data collection is conducted by operators using tablets.

CPI is produced on a monthly basis. Data are usually disseminated within 10 days after the end of the reference month.

Food prices are recorded twice a month for each product. The primary data are transmitted to the NBS twice a month (for the first half of the month and for the second half, respectively).The prices for **non-food goods and services** provided to the population are collected only once a month for each service goods, the records being distributed evenly throughout the month. For this category of goods, the data are transmitted to the NBS only once at the end of the month or the first days of the following month. In total, over 65 000 prices are recorded every month.

Weights

According to the CPI calculation methodology, the weights are updated annually, based on the structure of average monthly expenditures of households, taken from the Household Budget Survey (HBS) data in year t-2, adjusted to the final consumption of households according to National Accounts calculations. Representative goods and services and their weights are derived using the Household Budget Survey (from a representative sample of about 1200 households that are annually surveyed). According to NBS Decision No. 53/2021, for the calculation of the CPI in 2022, 2019 weights are maintained. Given the impact of the Covid 19 pandemic on the socio-economic situation, the expenditures weights for 2020 (t-2) cannot be considered representative.

Index calculation

The CPI is calculated as a fixed base Laspeyres index. The prices collected are combined as an unweighted geometric mean to give the average monthly price for each item. Aggregated price indices are compiled, using the appropriate weights. Adjustments are made to the weights to assure that the base periods of the weights and prices are comparable. To ensure the comparability of information in two successive years, indices of missing prices for the previous year are imputed. The index is chain – linked. December of the previous year is used as the period when the price index = 100. Indices are calculated and published as against previous month, December, corresponding month and period of previous year.

The system used to classify and aggregate CPI items is the Nomenclature for CPI computation at national level, harmonized with COICOP. Section A *Individual consumption expenditure by destination* (divisions 1-12) of the Classification of Household Expenditure (CHE), starting with January 2021, has been harmonized at the 5-digits category level with the European Classification of Individual Consumption by Destination (ECOICOP 2013).

The CPI is calculated and disseminated according to different specific aggregations, national and international (national classification - 42 aggregate indices, 4 COICOP classes, 12 COICOP divisions, total CPI by country, CPI food, CPI non-food goods, CPI services, etc.).

Following the request from the National Bank of Moldova, starting with 2009, the NBS also calculates **core inflation (**as partial indices, using the method of excluding specific groups from the CPI).

Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

There is a need:

- to increase the number of dedicated staff in this area;
- to modernize the procedures of data collection and processing, in particular improve access to data from big retail companies.

e) Business statistics

Production of structural business statistics

The current situation[87]

The Structural Business Statistics (SBS) are compiled in accordance with Regulation (EC) 295/2008 concerning structural business statistics with subsequent amendments. Definitions, breakdowns, and covered enterprises are compliant with this Regulation.

For the SBS survey, which is an annual survey, the statistical unit is the enterprise, that is defined as the smallest legally established unit which has decisional autonomy and is organized to carry out one or more activities in one or more places for production of goods and services. The survey also collects information on local units belonging to each enterprise.

To select the sample, the NBS uses the following stratification criteria: i) main activity according to the NACE, rev.2 and ii) number of employees. Enterprise size classes by employment used are:

- 0 - 4 employees;
- 5 - 9 employees;
- 10 - 19 employees;
- 20 and more employees.

The results of the SBS include information by size classes: on micro-, small, medium-, small, mid-size and large enterprises. Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are classified according to Recommendation CE of May 6, 2003 concerning the definition of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises and are made up of:

- micro-enterprises: up to 9 employees;
- small enterprises: 10 - 49 employees;
- medium-sized enterprises: 50-249 employees.

The NBS selects a sample of enterprises with up to 19 employees (inclusively) and exhaustively surveys enterprises with 20 employees and over. Overall, the SBS 2021 sample covered approximately 13400 enterprises. The average annual non-response rate is about 5%.

The main chapters in the questionnaire are:

- income,
- expenditures,

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[87] More details (the metadata) on structural business statistics are available on the NBS website: https://statistica.gov.md/public/files/Metadate/en/Ancheta_structurala_anuala_en.pdf

- stocks,
- local units and their main indicators,
- special modules for wholesale and retail trade.

Timeliness: the SBS results are disseminated 11 months after the reference year.

The results of the SBS are published in an electronic format and disseminated through the NBS official website. Data are also available in the NBS Statistical databank [88].

Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant:

- The production of statistics on the self-employed is lacking;
- Lack of knowledge for implementation of the requirements of new Regulation (EU) 2019/2152 on European business statistics.

Industrial production statistics - PRODMOLD

The current situation

The objective is to collect, process and publish data on manufactured goods in accordance with the Council Regulation 3924/91 and implementation regulations.

The industrial production statistics is produced based on the Nomenclature of Industrial Products and Services (PRODMOLD, 2013 list), harmonized with the European standard PRODCOM-2013. Industrial production statistics include data on industrial production in value and physical expression.

Industrial activities are represented in Section B "Mining and quarrying", Section C "Processing Industry" and Section D "Production and supply of electricity, heat, steam, hot water and air conditioning", E "Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities" of the Classification of Activities in Moldovan Economy (CAEM-2) harmonized with the European standard NACE Rev. 2.

The statistics on industrial production are compiled based on statistical surveys covering all enterprises, which carry out industrial activities, including secondary activities. The observation unit is the enterprise and the reference period is the calendar year. Survey data are collected through e-reporting and using paper questionnaires, according to respondent's preference. Statistics is compiled on production, stock changes of industrial products and sale of industrial products on the internal/external market.

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[88] see: a) https://statistica.gov.md/public/files/publicatii_electronice/ASA/ASA_2020_eng.pdf
b)
https://statbank.statistica.md/PxWeb/pxweb/en/40%20Statistica%20economica/40%20Statistica%20economica__24%20ANT.asp

*Timeliness: d*ata are published at t+208 days through the NBS web page. Time series for the main indicators have been available in publications since 1970. Starting with 2004 up to 2013 (inclusively), data on industry statistics are available according to CAEM, rev.1, and industrial product statistics are in accordance with the PRODMOLD Nomenclature (2000 list).

Starting with 2013, the time series is available according to CAEM-2, and industrial product statistics are in accordance with the PRODMOLD Nomenclature (list 2013), harmonized with PRODCOM – 2013.

Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

There is a need to increase the number of dedicated staff for a regular update of the PRODMOLD list in accordance with the latest PRODCOM list.

Short-term business statistics

Short-term statistics (STS) in the Republic of Moldova are produced according to STS Regulation (EC) No. 1165/98 since 2011. All statistics stipulated on Annexes A, B, C and D of the EU STS Regulation are collected on a monthly and quarterly basis. The NBS uses a single observation unit (enterprise) for all Annexes. NACE Rev. 2 was introduced for STS in 2014. STS are based on sample surveys. The NBS exhaustively surveys enterprises with 20 or more employees and applies a sampling method for enterprises that have 4-19 employees. Enterprises that have under 4 employees are not surveyed. However, by exception, the domestic trade and services section of the STS questionnaire, however, includes enterprises with one or two employees if the share of selected enterprises with one or two employees represents less than 90% of the total turnover. The response rate for STS is 96-97%.

The results of the STS are published in an electronic format and disseminated through the NBS website and the NBS Statistical databank.

Short-term business statistics on producer prices: Industrial Producer Prices Index

The current situation

The Industrial Production Price Index (IPPI) measures the overall evolution of the prices of industrial products/services manufactured and delivered in the first trading stage by domestic producers during a certain period as against a previous period.

The prices for the products sold by the economic units are registered separately for deliveries on the domestic and non-domestic markets.The calculation methodology for IPPI complies with the international standards and Eurostat

recommendations. The Industrial Production Price Index is calculated according to the Laspeyres formula.

The classifications used are:

- Classification of Activities in Moldovan Economy (CAEM-2), harmonized with NACE Rev. 2;
- Statistical Classification of Products and Services in Moldova (CSPM), harmonized with the EU CPA-2008;
- Nomenclature of Industrial Products and Services (PRODMOLD, 2013 list), harmonized with the European standard PRODCOM-2013;
- Nomenclature of products-assortment established for the price survey.

The IPPI covers almost totally the mining and quarrying, as well as manufacturing sectors, as well as the energy sector, except for energy resources distribution services.

Data are collected through e-reporting and using paper questionnaires, according to respondent's preference.

Timeliness: data are disseminated - the 20th day after the reference month.

Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

There is a need to increase the number of qualified staff to extend the IPPI survey, for software development and dissemination.

Short-term business statistics in industry

The current situation

Short-term indicators in industry produced in Moldova include the Industrial Production Index (IPI) and the Industrial Turnover Index (ITI).

Calculation of the IPI and the ITI corresponds to the "International Recommendations on Industry Statistics, 2008" and "International Recommendations on Industrial production Index 2010", edited by the UN Statistical Section and the "Short-Term Statistics Methodology, Eurostat 1998" Manual.

For the Industrial Production Index (IPI) the industrial activities are represented by sections B "Mining and quarrying", C "Manufacturing" and D "Production and supply of electric and thermal energy, gas, hot water and air conditioning" of the Classification of Economic Activities of Moldova (CAEM-2), harmonized with the European Standard NACE Rev.2.

The Industrial Production Indexes are adjusted seasonally by the number of working days and seasonality. Seasonally adjusted indices have been published since 2017.

For the Industrial Turnover Index (ITI), industrial activities are represented by the sections B "Mining and quarrying", C "Manufacturing" of the CAEM-2, harmonized with NACE Rev.2.

Short-term business statistics in industry are based on the monthly statistical survey of enterprises with a main industry activity, comprising enterprises with four or more employees.

Classifications used:

- *Economic activity*: the survey results are classified in line with the Classifier of Activities in Moldova Economy (CAEM-2), harmonized with NACE rev.2, approved via Order of the NBS No. 28 dated May 7, 2019.
- *Classification of products*: the data are collected and presented in line with Statistical Classification of Moldova Products and Services (CSPM), harmonized with the EU CPA Classification, approved by the NBS Board via Decision No. 6 dated from October 7, 2014.
- *Nomenclature of Industrial Products and Services* (PRODMOLD, 2013 list), harmonized with the European standard PRODCOM-2013, approved by the NBS Board via Decision dated from November 7, 2013.
- *Administrative-territorial units:* the data are grouped according to the Classifier of Administrative-Territorial Units of the Republic of Moldova (NUTS), approved via Decision of the Government of the Republic of Moldova No. 570/2017.

Available breakdowns:

- by activity: at the level of CAEM-2, group, division and section;
- by territory profile: by development region, mun. Chisinau, TAU Gagauzia and according to the NUTS classification following the requirements set for confidentiality of disseminated data.

Timeliness: data are disseminated monthly on the 50th day after the reference month.

Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

Lack of dedicated staff to update and implement the PRODMOLD list in accordance with the latest PRODCOM list (2022).

Short-term business statistics in construction

The current situation

Short-term statistics in construction are partially harmonized with Council Regulation (EC) No 1165/98, Regulation (EC) of the European Parliament and of the Council 1158/2005 and Commission Regulation 1503/2006 concerning short-term statistics.

Short-term statistics in construction are based on the quarterly statistical survey of enterprises with a main construction activity according to CAEM-2 (harmonized with NACE Rev.2) Section F and comprising enterprises with 4 or more employees.

Short-term indicators in construction comprise the value and volume indices of construction works, presented by structure elements (new construction works, capital repairs works and maintenance and current repairs works) and construction objects (residential buildings, non-residential buildings, engineering works).

The construction volume indices are determined by deflating the value data with the price indices for the construction-assembly works. The price indices for construction-assembly works are part of the construction price indices calculated using the weights of the components by the technological structure of the investments in fixed capital.

Indices are not seasonally adjusted.

Timeliness: data are disseminated quarterly - on the 50th day after the reference quarter.

Construction permits released for buildings (number and total area (m^2) of buildings), quarterly. Indicators of quarterly surveys on permits are produced for residential buildings and non-residential buildings, which include administrative buildings, hotels and similar buildings, buildings for wholesale and retail trade, and other buildings.

The data are obtained from administrative sources, i.e. from the authorities responsible (the executive authority of the local public administration) for the issuance of building permits.

Timeliness: data are disseminated quarterly - on the 30th day after the reference quarter.

Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant:

- Limitations in the use of administrative data sources to produce dwelling statistics;
- Lack of dedicated staff and knowledge to develop and implement an updated methodology for calculating construction cost indices for deflation of value data;
- Lack of knowledge to apply the Eurostat method of seasonal adjustment index for construction works.

Short-term business statistics in internal trade and services

The current situation

Statistics on trade and services are produced based on statistical surveys of enterprises with the main activity of trade and services of the Economic Activities Classification of Moldova (CAEM-2), harmonized with NACE Rev. 2. The main unit of surveying and analysis are enterprises with four or more employees.

Definitions, breakdowns, coverage of statistical units are compliant with the Regulation (EC) No. 1165/98 concerning short-term statistics.

Sector coverage: enterprises with the main activity in the divisions 45-47, 49, 51-53, 55,56, 58-63, 68-82, 85-88, 91 -93, 95, 96 according to the Classification of Economic Activities of the Economy of Moldova (CAEM-2), harmonized with NACE 2.

Timeliness: data are disseminated monthly - on the 30th day after the reference month.

Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant:

- Lack of knowledge regarding the seasonal adjustment index for turnover;
- Limitations in the use of administrative data sources to produce short-term statistics.

f) Statistics on agriculture, forestry and fisheries, including plans to conduct an agriculture census

Agricultural statistics

Overview

Agriculture is an important part of the Moldovan economy (constitutes 10% of GDP) and there is a comprehensive system of agricultural surveys that provides a wide range of agricultural statistics that are compiled broadly in accordance with EU and other international recommendations. The successful completion of the first General Census of Agriculture (GAC) in 2011 was a major achievement. The census results provided a comprehensive picture of agricultural activity at national, regional and local levels. Furthermore, the information on the 902 thousand agricultural producers collected in the census formed the basis for the development of a Statistical Register of Agricultural Producers (SRAP). The next GAC is planned to integrate with the next Population and Housing Census that is intended to be conducted in 2024. However, the decision about the next General Census of Agriculture as part of the FAO 2020 world census round (WCA 2020) has not been made yet.

Currently agricultural statistics is centralized within the NBS, except some segments of statistics such as land-related data, that are produced by the Agency of Land Relations and Cadaster through the Land Cadaster.

Statistical data collection is based on the following categories of surveys conducted by the NBS:

- i) surveys on agricultural activity of juridical persons and big & medium size farms, that are conducted exhaustively, using the self-interviewing method (paper-based questionnaires and CAWI),
- ii) on the sample surveys on small agricultural producers (SSAP)[89] that includes three statistical questionnaires:
  • on crop production (three times per year),
  • on animal production (quarter survey),
  • on income, expenditure (annual survey).

The SSAP are conducted by statistical enumerators based on a paper-assisted personal interviewing method (PAPI).

Crop statistics

The current situation

Crop statistics are based on data provided:

- through statistical surveys on crop production,
- from administrative data sources:
  • Land Cadaster data provided by the Agency of Land Relations and Cadaster (annually, as of January 1st) and
  • the information provided by local authorities regarding the holders of agricultural land with 10 ha and more (annually, as of May 1st).

The NBS conducts data collection on crop statistics based on the following surveys:

- on agricultural activity of juridical persons and big & medium size farms, on:
  • sown areas (conducted annually, in June),
  • on harvested areas and production (average yield per hectare and gross harvest) by agricultural crops (conducted annually, in December). In addition, the information on the crop production for large holdings (with the agricultural area of 50ha and over) is collected 2 times per year: in July and October.
  • Data are disseminated on 27th day after reporting period, final data for the year are available on April 5th after reporting year;
  • on the establishment of perennial plantations and production of planting material, conducted 2 times per year: in June and December; data are disseminated on the 15th day after the reporting period.

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[89] Small agricultural producers are households and farms that have less than 10 ha of agricultural land

- ii) of small agricultural producers (SSAP), carried out 3 times per year: in July, October and December:
  - on sown areas,
  - on harvested areas and production by agricultural crops.

This set of indicators almost corresponds to Regulation (EC) No 543/2009 concerning crop statistics.

Balances of food resources and their use

The balances of food resources and their use for crop products are calculated on 27 agricultural crops, for the total calendar year, by country, in accordance with the methodological recommendations of Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) on the development of resource balances food and their use (2001).

Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant:

- There are limitations (operational, data quality) in updating the Statistical Register of agricultural holdings from administrative data sources;
- Lack of dedicated statistical staff in this area.

Livestock statistics

The current situation

The livestock statistics cover the statistical data on:

- number of animals and poultry, including:
  - livestock of animals by species;
  - live born;
  - animal mortality.
- animal production, including:
  - animal productivity;
  - production (sale) of cattle and poultry;
  - production (growth) of cattle and poultry;
  - production of milk of all types;
  - production of eggs of all types;
  - production of eggs for incubation;
  - production of wool;
  - production of other types of products.

This set of indicators almost corresponds to Regulation (EC) No 1165/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning livestock and meat statistics.

The statistical data regarding the livestock sector by categories of agricultural producers are obtained and presented by:

- enterprises-juridical persons producing agricultural production and farms which have animals and/or poultry on their balance sheet, based on an exhaustive survey;
- households based on the sample statistical survey of small agricultural producers.

In addition, NBS has access to data from the livestock register held by the Information Technology and Cyber Security Service. However, the data in the Register are not regularly updated.

Statistical data regarding the number of animals and volume of production are collected quarterly. Data are disseminated on 27th day after the reporting period.

Balances of food resources and their use

The balances of food resources and their use are calculated on 8 types of animal products, for the total calendar year, by country, in accordance with the Food balance sheets Handbook of Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, FAO (2001).

Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant:

- There is a need to increase the number of dedicated staff in this area;
- Lack of comprehensive and quality data on livestock in the administrative sources.

Integrated farm statistics

Farm structure surveys: the Agricultural Census

The current situation

The first and the only General Census of Agriculture (GAC)[90] was conducted in 2011 and involved the enumeration of 902 thousand holdings.

The census scope covered agricultural activities related to the production of crop and livestock products, as well as to agricultural services provided by the holdings. Some data on aquaculture carried out in association with the agricultural activities of the agricultural holding were also collected in the census.

The main statistical unit covered in the GAC 2011 was the agricultural holding (AH), defined as a technical-economical unit of agricultural production (with or without juridical status) with a single management, performing agricultural activities by using agricultural land and/or raising livestock or activities to maintain the agricultural land in good agricultural and environmental conditions, whether as a principal activity or as a secondary activity.[91]

The main purpose of the GAC was: i) to collect key census items on the structure of the agricultural sector, including the information necessary to define the typology of agricultural holdings; ii) to build a comprehensive frame for the regular statistical surveys (a statistical farm register).

The vast majority of the holdings in Moldova are small. According to the GAC 2011, over 85% of holdings were those engaged in own account agricultural production for own final consumption and around 71% of units had less than 1 hectare of agricultural land.

The census was conducted in line with EU Regulation 1166/2008 on farm structure surveys and the survey of agricultural production methods, and in accordance with the FAO recommendations for the 2010 world round of agricultural censuses

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[90] The GAC 2011 was the first comprehensive agricultural census carried out in the Republic of Moldova. Until 2011, only specialized agricultural censuses were conducted, such as the census of sown area in 1985, the livestock census in 1992 and the census of permanent crops in 1994.
The GAC 2011 results are available at: National Bureau of Statistics // General Agricultural Census (gov.md)
[91] No thresholds were applied for the agricultural holdings in the non-household sector and for those in rural areas. For the agricultural holdings in the household sector in urban areas and of the members of horticultural associations (tenants of horticultural plots), the following minimum size limits were established (at least): (i) 10 ares (0.1 ha) of agricultural land; (ii) 1 are (100 m2) of land under greenhouses; (iii) one cattle, sheep, pig or goat; or (iv) 20 poultry.

(WCA 2010). The results of the census were published in a number of reports that provide a comprehensive picture of agricultural activity in Moldova at national and territorial levels. The census results were used as the basis for developing a statistical register of agricultural producers (statistical farm register).

The next Agricultural Census is intended to be conducted jointly with the Population and Housing Census (PHC) in 2024. In this respect, an agricultural module will be collected from the agricultural holdings in the household sector together with the PHC questionnaire. In addition, the holdings in the non-household sector are planned to be conducted by self-enumeration. Data collection will be carried out using new technologies: i) CAWI (Computer-assisted Web Interviewing) and PAPI (Computer-assisted Personal Interviewing) method - for the holdings in the household sector) and ii) Self-interviewing using CAWI method and paper questionnaires - for holdings in the non-household sector.

The farm structure surveys between censuses have not been conducted.

However, detailed structural information on big holdings in the non-household sector (50 ha and over and with livestock) is collected annually through regular statistical surveys on agricultural enterprises.

Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant:

- The lack of funds for a properly resourced Census of Agriculture. For cost-efficiency, the integration of the GAC with the PHC is currently considered by the NBS.
- Insufficient human and financial resources for conducting regular Farm Structure Surveys between censuses.

Farm statistical register

The current situation

The Statistical Register of Agricultural Producers (SRAP) was created by the NBS in collaboration with FAO experts and is based on the 902, thousand holdings enumerated in the General Census of Agriculture in 2011. Four types of characteristics are distinguished in the SRAP:

- identification characteristics (name and address of the holding, legal status, fiscal code/identification code, legal status, farmer personal identification code, district and region);
- demographic characteristics (information on the establishment or cessation of agricultural activity);
- economic characteristics;
- agricultural characteristics (total area, field plots, plots of land and gardens, utilized agricultural area, arable land, orchards, nuts, fruit

plantations, vineyards, pastures, mushrooms, livestock by main species (cattle, sheep, pigs, goats, horses, poultry, rabbits, bees, and fur animals).

The NBS developed the Standard Output (SO) coefficients and defined the typology of agricultural producers after the Agricultural Census in accordance with Commission Regulation (EC) No 1242/2008 Establishing a Community typology for agricultural holdings.[92]

In addition, the calculations on the typology of big and medium holdings were made based on current statistics for 2020.[93]

Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

The register needs to be updated, based on the data provided by the next General Agricultural Census under the WCA 2020 (as well as, at a later stage, structural surveys between censuses).

Agricultural accounts and prices

Economic Accounts for Agriculture

The current situation

Economic Accounts for Agriculture (EAA) are not elaborated. The production account is calculated for the calculation of GDP for agriculture, forestry and fishing.

Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant:

- There is a need for technical assistance on latest EU recommendations for the elaboration of the EAA;
- There is a need to increase the number of dedicated staff in this area;
- There is a need to implement a survey in line with Farm Accounting Data Network (FADN).

Agricultural prices and indices

The current situation

The NBS currently uses the statistical survey "Agricultural Production Sale" as the source for average agricultural prices and for calculating price indices for agricultural products. The statistical survey exhaustively includes agricultural enterprises and organizations which produce agricultural products (including medium-sized and large farms with an agricultural land area of 50 ha and over). Statistical data regarding sales volume and prices are collected quarterly. Based on

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[92] Available in Romanian and partially available in English at:
https://statistica.gov.md/pageview.php?l=ro&id=5151&idc=352
[93] https://statistica.gov.md/category.php?l=ro&idc=129&

this survey, agricultural producer price indices are calculated (using the Laspeyres formula).

Timeliness: Data for quarters I-III are available and disseminated on 35th day after the reporting period and data for IV quarter - on 4th March 4th following the reporting year.[94]

Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

There is a need to increase the number of dedicated staff and technical assistance for the development of seasonally adjusted series.

Forestry

The current situation

Statistical data on forestry are elaborated by the Agency "Moldsilva" subordinated to the Ministry of Environment. The main legislative act that regulates the sustainable management of the forest fund is the Forestry Code approved by the Parliament No. 887/1996, regulates the relations that appeared within the use of the forest fund, contain definitions and classifications[95].

The forestry statistics cover:

- Quantitative indicators:
  - surface area and structure forest resources,
  - number of species and age composition of forest plantations,
  - carrying of various types of reforestation works (planting and sowing, supporting the natural regeneration of forests, natural regeneration),
  - forest care works by type and volume of timber,
  - number of forest fires.

Regarding the area of the forest fund is the Land Cadastre elaborated by the Agency for Land Relations and Cadastre, for other indicators are the statistical reports submitted to the Moldsilva Agency by forestry enterprises and state nature reserves and other forest management enterprises.

Data are collected annually, the deadline for Land Cadastre is May 31st, for Moldsilva Agency - March 30th. Data are disseminated in Statistical databank and statistical publications[96].

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[94] Metadata are available at: https://statistica.gov.md/public/files/Metadate/en/Preturi_Agricultura_en.pdf
[95] http://lex.justice.md/index.php?action=view&view=doc&lang=1&id=311740
[96] https://statistica.gov.md/index.php?l=en

- Value indicators:
  - turnover (sales revenue: sale of products, sale of goods, services, etc),
  - operational costs and expenses,
  - material costs and expenses,
  - costs and expenses related to services (works) provided (performed) by third parties in the course of operational activity, etc.

The source of data are the statistical returns submitted to the Agency Moldsilva by forestry enterprises.

Periodicity and timeliness: data are collected quarterly and annually, and are available on the 50th day after the reference period.

The Republic of Moldova (National Bureau of Statistics jointly with Agency Moldsilva) provides annual data by completing the ECE/FAO/ITTO/Eurostat Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire (JFSQ) on production and trade of wood and wood products. The following classifications are used to complete the questionnaire: Nomenclature of Industrial Products and Services (PRODMOLD, 2013 list), harmonized with the European standard PRODCOM-2013 and Combined Nomenclature of Goods, developed in accordance with the Harmonized Commodity Coding and Description System (HS-2017) and the Combined Nomenclature of the European Union (CN -2017).

Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

Insufficient financial and human resources to conduct specific research in this area.

Fisheries

The current situation

The main legislative act that establishes the legal framework in the field of fisheries fund, fishing and fish farming is Law No. 149/2006 on the fishery fund, fisheries and fish farming.

The NBS collects data on enterprises whose main activity involves aquaculture (as according NACE, rev.2) via the NBS statistical questionnaire. Data are collected quarterly. The questionnaire includes indicators regarding:

- incomes: revenue from sales, provide of services, etc.,
- expenditures: material expenses, expenses related to services provided by third parties, remuneration, etc.
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This information is used to calculate the aquaculture production account for the quarterly and annual GDP calculation.

Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

There is a need for:

- A better cooperation between the NBS and other institutions on water and fisheries statistics (first of all with the Agency "Waters of Moldova") of to assess the situation regarding the availability, the coverage and compliance of statistics with the EU requirements;
- Technical assistance in order to fill-in the existing methodological and data collection gaps.

Organic production

The current situation

The available data relate to :

- Organic cultivated area:
  - certified organic production methods
  - in-conversion organic production methods
- Organic reared livestock:
  - bovines
  - pigs
  - sheep and goats
  - poultry
  - other species.
  -

These data are under the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry (MAFI), which certifies the organic farms and monitors their activity. The main legislative act is Law No. 115/2005 on ecological agricultural production which regulates social relations related to the production of ecological agricultural products without the use of chemical-synthetic substances, as well as the sale of ecological products of plant and animal origin.

Certified farms provide information to the MAFI which publishes on its website the relevant data, including the Atlas of organic farming in the Republic of Moldova.[97]

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[97] https://maia.gov.md/ro/content/informa%C8%9Bii-utile-privind-agricultura-ecologica

In addition to administrative data above mentioned, the organic production items were included in the General Agricultural Census 2011. The census data, including related to organic farming are available on the NBS website[98].

Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant:

- Implementation by the MAFI, in collaboration with the NBS, of statistical data collection on organic production to complement administrative data sources with additional relevant information required.
- There is a need for technical assistance in order to fill-in the existing methodological and data collection gaps.

Agri-environmental indicators

The current situation

The main legislative act that establishes the legal bases and state policy in the field of activity with phytosanitary products and fertilizers, regulates their conditions of research, testing, experimentation and state approval, manufacture, import, transport, storage, marketing and use harmless to humans, animals and the environment, the relations related to the state supervision and control over the observance of the legislation in force is the Law No. 119/2004 on plant protection products and fertilizers.

Agri-environmental indicators available in the country covers statistical data on:

- use of pesticides (insecticides, fungicides, herbicides, biological products for phytosanitary use, other),
- use of chemical/mineral fertilizers (nitrogenous, phosphatic, potassium) and organic fertilizers.

Statistics are produced by the NBS based on statistical questionnaires presented by agricultural enterprises and farms with agricultural land of 50 ha and over – based on exhaustive surveys (by self-reporting using electronic reporting and paper questionnaires). This report contains information on:

- the amount of chemical and organic fertilizers, pesticides by crop type,
- the size of the fertilized area by types of crops.

Timeliness: data are produced annually and are disseminated on January 17th.[99]

Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

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[98] https://statistica.gov.md/pageview.php?l=en&id=4095&idc=350
[99] Metadata and data are available on the NBS website at:
https://statistica.gov.md/public/files/Metadate/en/Fitotehnia_en.pdf
https://statistica.gov.md/pageview.php?l=en&idc=263&id=2193
https://statistica.gov.md/pageview.php?l=en&id=3242&idc=350

Limited institutional resources for conducting specialized research in this area (it is necessary to conduct selective statistical research in this field on small agricultural producers for what financial and human resources are needed).

g) Multi-domain statistics

Energy

The current situation

The fundamental legal act governing the statistics of energy quantities is the Energy Statistics Regulation (Regulation (EC) No. 1099/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of October 22, 2008 on energy statistics (Text with EEA relevance), OJ L 304, 14.11.2008, p. 1-62). The objective of this legislation is to regulate the process of collecting, processing and publish annual, monthly and short-term monthly energy statistics on quantities of primary (e.g. crude oil, natural gas, hard coal, etc.) and secondary energy commodities (e.g. motor gasoline, gas/diesel oil, coke, patent fuels, etc.) as well as energy statistics on end-user prices of electricity and natural gas.

Several complementary legal acts govern the produced statistics on biofuels, renewables, cogeneration, energy efficiency and oil stocks. Household and the non-household customer prices of electricity and natural gas are accounted for under the Regulation (EU) 2016/1952.

The Republic of Moldova, as a full-fledged State of the Energy Community, is committed to calculating and disseminating accurate and timely data on energy quantities, their sources, generation, supply, transformation and consumption, for monitoring the impact and consequences of its policy work on energy. The common framework for the production, transmission, evaluation and dissemination of comparable energy statistics in the Energy Community is provided in Regulation (EC) No. 1099/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of October 22, 2008 on energy statistics, with subsequent modifications. The Regulation applies to statistical data concerning energy products and their aggregates. At a national level, the Regulation (EC) No. 1099/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of October 22, 2008 on energy statistics has been transposed into methodology which was approved by the Decision of the NBS Board, No. 6/3 of December 23, 2014.

Energy statistics data are produced in accordance with the relevant international classifications: CAEM rev.2 which is harmonized with NACE rev. 2 and standard international energy product classification (IRES, UN-2011).

Energy statistics in Moldova are based on monthly, semiannual and annual regular statistical surveys, as outlined below.

Annual statistics of energy

The energy balance is compiled annually and covers indicators related to the production, import, export, distribution and final consumption of primary resources as well as of transformations, covering all economic activities and household consumption during the reported year.

Starting from 2010, the energy balance of Moldova is presented in accordance with the international standards (IEA, UN, Eurostat). The energy balance data are compiled in natural units (for energy products balance) and in conventional energy units (coal equivalent, oil equivalent, and joules).

The energy balance is produced based on a statistical survey that covers the units producing electricity and thermal energy as well as other local energy sources, such as renewable energy sources (fire wood, agricultural combustible waste, etc.), photovoltaic energy, wind energy as well as any energy consumers of energy resources which are considered legal entities. The survey is based on functional principles and covers all units, which produce, import, distribute and finally consume energy sources regardless of the main activity of the economic unit or the legal entity.

The conversion of natural units of measurement into energy units is carried out in accordance with the International Recommendations on Energy Statistics, developed by the UN, 2011.

The 2014 edition of the Energy balance (recalculation beginning with 2010) included for the first time estimations of the renewable energy consumption in households (biomass of agricultural waste, other households waste etc.) using Household Budget Survey data.

The annual survey covers over 20 thousand statistical units representing energy sources producers, importers, distributors, and consumers.

Monthly and short-term monthly statistics of energy

As opposed to annual energy data collections which cover the full spectrum of the overall energy flows in society (from supply, through transformation to final energy and non-energy consumption by sector and by fuel type), monthly data collections are limited only to the supply and partially the transformation side. Renewables are covered to a limited extent. Nonetheless, monthly energy statistics, although not as complete or directly comparable to annual statistics, provide quickly energy related tendencies long before annual data can be made available.

Energy prices

Twice a year data are collected, processed and published on the prices of electricity and natural gas. The data are broken down per consumer bands and cover three levels of taxes. Once a year, together with the reporting for the second semester of

the year NBS collects disaggregated price data (energy and supply, network cost, taxes and levies).

Starting with 2015, NBS implemented the Regulation (EU) 2016/1952 of the European Parliament and of the Council of October 26, 2016 on European statistics on natural gas and electricity prices and repealing Directive 2008/92/EC both on mandatory (non-household prices of electricity and natural gas) and voluntary basis (households end-user prices). The NBS disseminates time series regarding prices via its website[100].

All the data on energy statistics annual, monthly and semiannual are presented to Eurostat via EDAMIS according to the requested deadlines.

New activities

Currently the NBS conducts a ***survey on energy consumption of households***. The reference period is the months April 2021-March 2022. Previously, a similar survey was carried out in 2016 for the reference period April 2015-March 2016[101].

The NBS strives access to administrative data (individual records) on energy resources delivered to customers (such as electricity, natural gas), held by public institutions and enterprises to ensure complete coverage of energy statistics, as well as to decrease the response burden and reduce data collection costs. Despite ongoing attempts to access data held by entities on individuals-consumers of electricity, the process is very problematic as the holders appeal to protection of personal data as outlined in Law 133/2011 (see also Section 3.3 above).

Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant:

- Barriers (legal and operational) associated with accessing administrative data (individual records) held by public institutions and enterprises, as well as private enterprises on energy resources delivered to customers (such as electricity, natural gas) in order to improve the quality and cost-efficiency of data production.
- Lack of dedicated staff and knowledge to implement sample surveys on energy consumption by enterprises.

Transport

The current situation

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[100] Time series regarding prices are available on the NBS website at:
https://statistica.gov.md/category.php?l=en&idc=128
[101] Survey results are available on the NBS website at:
https://statistica.gov.md/pageview.php?l=en&id=5413&idc=350

The legal basis for the collection and dissemination of transport statistics is accounted for in several national laws and Government decisions, as well as in Regulation (EU) no. 91/2003, Regulation (EU) No. 70/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of January 18, 2001, Glossary on Transport Statistics, 4th edition.

A wide range of statistics on the transport of goods and passengers are produced and disseminated. In addition, annual data are published on transport infrastructure and the structure and operations of transport companies. Data sources include sample statistical surveys, inputs from transport companies and administrative data. Official transport statistics cover all indicators regarding the volume and evolution of freight and passenger transport for each type of transport: road, rail, air and river. The annual statistical data on road freight transport obtained via statistical survey on road freight transport, refer to transport on own account (free of charge) and/or for payment. The quarterly statistical data refer to the transport for payment by enterprises (legal entities), which have registered in the inventory or rented 10 or more goods vehicles.

Public passenger transport includes transport by road transport vehicles (buses, minibusses, taxis and trolleybuses), which are carried out on a scheduled and occasional basis, as well as transport by rail, river and air. Exhaustive statistical surveys specific to each mode of transport (rail, road, air, river and gas pipelines) allow the production of statistics on the length of public and private roads, railways and trolleybuses, inland waterways, gas pipelines network and means of transport stocks at the end of the year. The Public Services Agency presents data on the means of transport registered at the end of the year on an annual basis, and data on the number of trucks, cars, buses (and minibusses) registered for the first time in the Republic of Moldova on a monthly basis.

The NBS is responsible for collecting and processing data on road freight and passenger transport, freight and passenger transport by inland waterways, electric passenger transport, and natural gas main pipelines. The Civil Aviation Authority is responsible for collecting and processing data on air freight and passenger transport, the fleet of civil aircraft at the end of the year, traffic through the airport.

The NBS produces transport statistics based on exhaustive statistical surveys specific to each type of transport: rail, road, river, air, and pipeline. The monthly, quarterly, annual statistical surveys are conducted for production of transport statistics.

The NBS also uses information from administrative sources to produce statistical data in the field of road transport. Data are collected through e-reporting and using paper questionnaires, according to respondent's preference.

Transport activity data cover indicators on freight transport (in tonnes and tonne-kilometers) and passenger transport (passenger and passenger-kilometers) for each type of transport: road, rail, air and river. Concepts, definitions and classifications largely comply with Glossary on Transport Statistics, 4th edition.

The NBS uses following nomenclatures and classifications regarding transport data which also correspond to EU requirements:

- Standard transport nomenclature / revised - NST / R;
- Classification of hazardous goods;
- Nomenclature of methods of packaging of goods;
- Classification of types of road transport routes.

Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

Lack of dedicated staff and knowledge to implement freight and passenger statistics in line with EU standards.

Tourism

The current situation

Tourism statistics include the main indicators that characterize structures of collective tourist reception with accommodation functions, the frequency of their attendance, as well as data on the tourist activity of travel agencies and tour operators.

NBS conducts quarterly and annual statistical surveys on structures of collective tourist reception with accommodation functions and provides information on:

- the existence of the number of accommodation structures, rooms and beds in the existing rooms (with annual periodicity);
- the number of tourists accommodated and overnight stays of tourists in the accommodation structures (with quarterly periodicity, including data for each month of the surveyed quarter).

The methodological principles on statistical surveys on collective accommodation structures, comply with the requirements of Directive 95/57 / EC (pp. A and B).

Statistical data on the tourist activity of travel agencies and tour operators are compiled based on exhaustive statistical surveys and include quarterly indicators: number of tourists and visitors participating in domestic tourism, receiver and sender, number of tourist days, number of staff employed at travel agencies and tour operators.

The work on the development of a tourism satellite account has not been started.

Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant:

- Lack of data collection on tourists of the private households; the estimation of the tourists' expenses is not covered.
- There are impediments related to the distinction between visitors and travelers when crossing the state border.

- These works require additional institutional capacity, external technical assistance / consultancy.

Science, technology and innovation

Statistics of innovation

The current situation

The Oslo Manual serves as the methodological basis for innovation statistics and was developed jointly by EUROSTAT (European Commission Bureau of Statistics) and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

According to Eurostat's recommendations, the statistical survey on innovation is carried out every two years and is based on the EU recommendations on Community Innovation Survey (CIS). For the survey regarding the innovation activity of the enterprises from the Republic of Moldova, only the indicators that are mandatory according to the EC Regulation No. 995/2012 were included, excluding the optional indicators. The scope of Statistical Survey on Innovation refers to enterprises active in industry and services sector. The units were selected according to their size and number of employees (exhaustively all enterprises with 10 or more employees). [102]

Statistical survey excludes enterprises with economic activities such as: agriculture, construction, retail, public administration, education, health and social assistance, recreational and leisure activities, and other service activities. The Statistical Survey on Innovation is a survey designed to collect data on innovative enterprises, the type of innovations and innovators, the turnover of new or improved products, the costs of innovation activities.

Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant:

- There is a need to improve the survey tool, especially the manual, as there are difficulties for respondents in completing the questionnaire on types of innovations (innovations in products, services, processes, etc.) ;
- There is a need for training of staff and to allocate a dedicated statistical staff in this area.

Statistics on information and communication technologies

The current situation

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[102] Metadata regarding statistics of innovation may be found on the NBS website, at: https://statistica.gov.md/public/files/Metadate/en/Inovarea_eng.pdf

In order to improve the system of indicators on Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in line with EU recommendations. A new annual statistical questionnaire was developed at the end of 2021 and implemented in 2022, in line with EU standards and requirements (Regulation (EU) 2019/2152 on European business statistics on European Business Statistics 2019/2152), on the use of ICT in enterprises. The questionnaire was adapted to the situation in Moldova both in terms of information needs and information availability.

Data on the use of ICT products are collected exhaustively from legal entities with 10 and more employees, including public institutions (including public administration, schools, high schools and higher education institutions) and IT Park residents in the Republic of Moldova (exhaustive), covering approximately 11,000 respondents. The questionnaire covers the following topics:

- General information about ICT systems - Internet access and use
- Use of website and Social Media
- Use of cloud computing services
- ICT security
- Use the Internet to interact with public authorities
- Electronic commerce
- Exchange of information by electronic means within the enterprise.

Household information is taken from a dedicated module in the HBS.

Other data sources include surveys on electronic communications activities and surveys on postal communications activities. The respective national regulatory agency (ANRCETI) performs the collection and processing of data by electronic and postal communication on a quarterly and annual frequency.

The NBS is responsible for disseminating data on the use of ICT in accordance with the requirements of confidentiality.

Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant:

- Lack of data collection on ICT in the household sector.
- Lack of knowledge and dedicated staff to implement the survey on ICT in the household sector.

Statistics on research and development (R&D)

The current situation

The NBS carries out an annual statistical survey on research and development (R&D) activity. The main goal of the survey is to collect data regarding the quantitative indicators referring to human resources and expenses. Notions and

definitions used[103] are based on the Recommendation concerning the International Standardization of Statistics on Science and Technology (UNESCO, 1978) and the Frascati Manual (OECD, 2002).

The statistical questionnaires are filled in by all types of legal entities which carry out the research & development as the main or secondary activities, according to Classification of Activities in the Economy of Moldova (CAEM rev.2), division 72 *Research and development*, as well as the institutions with a basic activity other than research and development, but which have structures / units which carry out research and development activities (e.g. higher education institutions, medical institutions, etc.). About 70 respondent units participate in the survey on an annual basis.

Statistical data are collected on paper and the main output indicators are:

- number of employees by occupation, level of education, sex and age groups;
- number of researchers by scientific field, sex and age groups;
- internal expenditures for research and development depending on the destination (current and capital), scientific fields, source of funding (funds from the budget, own resources, economic agents, resources from higher education, from abroad).

The statistical data on R&D are disaggregated by forms of ownership and sectors (state sector, business sector, higher education sector; R&D organizations in the private non-commercial sector are missing) and disseminated via press releases and in the Statistical Yearbook annually. Additionally, data on research & development are filled in the questionnaires for EUROSTAT and UNESCO on an annual basis.

Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant:

- Analysis of the available statistical surveys on innovation, research and development is required to ensure internal coherence of the statistical outputs, taking into consideration the EU requirements towards coverage and quality of conducted surveys;
- The methodology used for R&D statistics needs consistent revision in order to ensure compliance with the international standards (OECD's Frascati Manual, 2015) and EU requirements on statistics on science and technology).

Environment

Environmental accounts

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[103] Available in Romanian at:
https://statistica.gov.md/public/files/Formulare_statistice/2022/Stiinta/Instructiuni_1_stiinta.pdf

The NBS produces the Environment Economic Account for Atmospheric emissions, in accordance with the System of Environment-Economic Accounting (SEEA) - Central Framework of the UNSC. At the moment the draft methodology adapted to the conditions of the Republic of Moldova is elaborated and draft calculations for 2014-2019 are performed.

Statistics on waste

The current situation

Statistics on waste produced in Moldova include statistics related to:

- Amount of waste generated;
- Rate of reuse and recycling of waste;
- - Share of final disposal of waste;
- Protocol on hazardous waste management.

Waste statistics are produced using:

- administrative data sources and
- statistical surveys.

The data on waste from associated entities are collected on an annual basis through the Automated Information System "Waste Management"[104] held by the Environment Agency (developed in accordance with the Government Decision No. 682/2018). Data are collected and generalized in accordance with the Waste List approved by Government Decision No. 99/2018 which transposes Commission Decision 2000/532 / EC of 3 May 2000 replacing Decision 94/3 / EC establishing a list of wastes pursuant to Article 1 (a) of Council Directive 75/442 / EEC on waste.

 The reporting units are:

- entities whose activity generates waste (waste generators);
- entities that collect, on a contract basis, waste generated by individuals and other entities (population, enterprises and institutions);
- holders of environmental authorizations for waste management, etc.

Data on waste and waste management are produced by the Environment Agency and are available annually on July 20th[105].

Municipal waste statistics are collected through a statistical survey "Sanitation of localities" carried out by the NBS. The statistical survey on municipal waste provides information on the population's access to the public sanitation service and the management of municipal waste (transport and storage of waste).

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[104] Available in Romanian at: https://siamd.gov.md/portal/index.html
[105] Available in Romanian at: https://am.gov.md/ro/content/deseuri

Definitions: The definition of municipal waste corresponds to the category of waste mentioned at chapter 20 of the Waste List, approved by Government Decision No. 99/2018 which transposes Commission Decision 2000/532 / EC of 3 May 2000 replacing Decision 94/3 / EC establishing a list of wastes pursuant to Article 1 (a) of Council Directive 75/442 / EEC on waste.

Sector coverage: Statistical surveys cover municipalities and enterprises, which perform sanitation works of localities and/or waste transportation regardless of the form of ownership. The surveys also include organizations which according to NACE, rev.2 Classification of Activities in the Economy of the Republic of Moldova (CAEM-2) carry out the activities that are included in - 38.1 "Collection of waste", through 38.11 "Non-hazardous waste".

Timeliness: data are disseminated by the NBS annually, at t+125 days. Municipal waste statistics are disseminated in several statistical products such as press releases, publications, Statistical databank and are available under Statistics by themes/ Environment/ Wastes/ Municipal waste on the official website www.statistica.gov.md.

Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant:

- Finalize the development of the Automated information system on Waste management (held by the Environment Agency) to include all units involved in municipal waste collection in order to use this register as an unique source of data for all waste statistics, to reduce the response burden and to avoid double data collection.
- The measurement unit that is currently (and traditionally) used for statistics on municipal waste is *cubic meter* instead of *tons* as according to the requirements provided in the Regulation (EC) No. 2150/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2002 on waste statistics. In order to produce data on municipal waste in tons, respective national conversion coefficients should be developed.

Water statistics

The Water Law No. 272/2011 approved by Parliament is partially harmonized with the Council directives: No. 91/271/EEC of 21 May 1991 on urban waste water treatment and No. 91/676 EEC of 12 December 1991 on the protection of waters against pollution caused by nitrates from agricultural sources, with Directives of the European Parliament and of the Council: No. 2000/60/EC of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water resources; No. 2006/7/EC of 15 February 2006 on bathing water quality management; no. 2007/60/EC of 23 October 2007 on the assessment and management of floods; No. 2008/105/EC of 16 December 2008 on environmental quality standards in the field of water, creates the necessary legal framework for water management, protection and use. According to the Law the monitoring and systematic recording of the state

of surface waters, groundwaters is carried out by the central body of the public administration in the field of environment, through subordinated institutions.

Statistical data on water resources are elaborated by the Agency "Apele Moldovei" ("Waters of Moldova") subordinated to the Ministry of Environment.

The water statistics cover:

- number of water sources;
- volume of captured water;
- volume of used water;
- use of water by needs;
- volume of water distributed to other users;
- transportation water losses.

The survey is exhaustive, data are collected annually from the enterprises which capture and use water.

Timeliness: data are available and disseminated on 27th of May.

Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

There is a need to increase the number of dedicated staff in this area.

Biodiversity

The national statistics in this area cover data on:

1) State protected natural areas.

Data source is Cadastre of objects and complexes from the fund of natural areas protected by the state. The Cadastre is the responsibility of the central environmental authority, the cadastre database is elaborated for a period of 10 years and maintained within the Institute of Ecology and Geography, in accordance with Government Decision no. 414/2000 on the approval of the Regulation of the Cadastre of objects and complexes from the fund of natural areas protected by the state and published on the web page[106].

The data included in the Cadastre provide local public administration authorities, enterprises, institutions, interested organizations and citizens with information on:

- the name and legal status of the protected object;
- the landowner of the object or land;
- the location of the lands;

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[106] https://ieg.md/cadastrul-ariilor-protejate

- quantitative parameters and quality of objects and complexes;
- the ecological value and the protection regime of the objects and complexes;
- the scientific, cognitive and recreational importance of objects and complexes;
- restrictions on land use.

2) Protected species and trends in the number and distribution of selected species.

Sources of data are the State Cadastre of the vegetal world, which is developed by the central authority empowered with the management of natural resources and environmental protection and is carried out through the Institute of Ecology and Geography for a period of 10 years (Government Decision No. 211/2009 on the approval of the Regulation of the Cadastre of the objects of the vegetal world) and the State Cadastre of the animal world, which is developed by the Academy of Sciences of Moldova based on the State Evidence for a period of 10 years (Government Decision No. 1005/2004 on the approval of the Regulation of the State Cadastre of the animal world) and published on the web page of Environment Agency[107].

These cadastres include the following data:

- species of plants, algae, lichens and fungi that grow in natural conditions;
- species with rare, vulnerable or endangered species status and / or those with protection status, according to the provisions of the international treaties to which the Republic of Moldova is a party,
- number of animals, spread of species.

Other relevant information elaborated by the Environment Agency include:

- Red Book of the Republic of Moldova[108],
- Register of animal and plant collections[109],
- information on the condition of green spaces.[110]

3) Forest lands.

Data source for data is Land Cadastre elaborated by the Land Relations and Cadastre Agency[111].

Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant

[107] https://am.gov.md/sites/default/files/document/attachments/Anexa%20nr.%201cadastrul%20regnului%20vegetal.pdf . https://am.gov.md/ro/node/590
[108] https://www.yumpu.com/en/document/read/63104111/cartea-rosie-a-rm-2015
[109] https://docs.google.com/document/d/1wzBFJJmyt0G-QWCoCu_habkiiVIwAftyFVnhU_u7Yyg/edit
[110] https://am.gov.md/ro/node/589
[111] https://arfc.gov.md

Limited institutional resources for conducting researches.

Regional statistics

Most economic data and some from social data are disaggregated by districts/ municipalities (35) and development regions (5 regions). Data from household surveys (Household Budget survey and Labor Force Survey) are disaggregated only by statistical regions (4 regions). The only two differences between statistical regions and development regions is that (1) the Soldanesti district is a part of the Northern statistical region but is included as part of the Center development region and (2) the T.A.U Gagauzia is listed as a part of the Southern statistical region and listed as a separate development region More details are available at the link https://statistica.gov.md/pageview.php?l=en&idc=349&id=5091 .

Data are presented without the left side of the river Nistru and municipality Bender, except specially mentioned cases.

Regional statistics publicly available in Statistical databank are for the following statistical domains:

- **Agriculture** (sown area, average harvest, average yield, livestock, animal production – *by districts and development regions*)
- **Construction** *(construction works, implementation of dwellings, construction permits – by districts and development regions)*
- **Culture and sport** (libraries, museums, sport premises – *by districts and development regions*)
- **Domestic trade** (turnover in retail and wholesale trade – *by districts and development regions*)
- **Dwellings** (dwelling stock, water supply systems, public aqueducts, sewerage systems, wastewater disposal – *by districts and development regions and some by localities/communes*)
- **Education** (institutions/children/pedagogical staff in early education, primary and general secondary education, secondary vocational education, postsecondary vocational education – *by districts and development regions and some by localities/communes*)
- **Entrepreneurship** (activity and financial position of economic units – *by districts and development regions*)
- **Environment** (water use, air temperature, emission of pollutants, generation and consumption of wastes, toxic wastes, urban streets, urban green spaces, municipal waste, solid and liquid waste, expenditures for environmental protection – *by districts and development regions and some by localities/communes*)
- **Health protection** (physicians, paramedical personnel, pharmacies, hospital beds, abortions, persons with disabilities – *by districts and development regions*)

- **Industry** (value of manufactured and delivered industrial production, production of industrial products – *by districts and development regions*)
- **Information technologies** (expenditures of legal entities for information technologies, telephone sets, personal computers, web pages of legal entities – *by districts and development regions*)
- **Investments in assets** (investments in non-current assets – *by districts and development regions*)
- **Justice and crime** (recorded crimes, persons who committed crimes, drug related crimes, injured persons as a result of road accidents – *by districts and development regions*)
- **Labor force** (employment, unemployment, inactive population, NEET – *by statistical regions*)
- **Earnings** (monthly gross average earnings, number of employees, victims of work accidents, costs of work accidents – *by districts and development regions*)
- **Living standard of the population** (disposable incomes, consumption expenditures, structure of households, distribution of households by quintiles, household equipment, food consumption, poverty rate – *by statistical regions*)
- **National accounts** (regional gross domestic product, structure of economic activities – *by development regions*)
- **Population** (population, vital statistics, fertility rates, demographic dependence – *by districts, cities and development regions*)
- **Population social protection** (pensioners, employed pensioners, old age pensioners, average size of old age pension – *by districts and development regions*)
- **Tourism** (capacity of collective reception – *by districts and development regions*)
- **Transport** (length of roads, transport of goods and passengers – *by districts and development regions*)

Apart from Statistical databank, regional statistics is available on NBS website in:

- Population and Housing Census Platform 2014 http://recensamant.statistica.md
- Publication „Territorial statistics” https://statistica.gov.md/pageview.php?l=ro&idc=350&id=4290
- Publication „National and regional accounts” https://statistica.gov.md/pageview.php?l=ro&idc=263&id=2334
- Press-releases https://statistica.gov.md/news.php?l=ro&idc=168&nod=1&
- Some additional data that are not available on the website can be presented at request.

Dissemination of statistical data is carried out according to the Annual Statistical Program of Works and the official release dissemination calendar, which is

publicly available and all users have equal access to the statistical products at the same time.

The available regional statistics partially comply with the Regulation (EU) 2017/2391 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 December 2017 amending Regulation (EC) No 1059/2003 as regards the territorial typologies, through the approval of a National <u>Nomenclature of the territorial statistical units of the Republic of Moldova (NUTS)</u> and its use for statistical purpose.

Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant:

- Capacity building and an in-depth assessment of the regional statistics and its compliance with the EU requirements is required;
- Procedures should be put in place to obtain more information and metadata on the quality of administrative data source which could be widely used for increasing the availability of regional and territorial levels required for the regional and urban development;
- The granularity of data to be provided at the lowest territorial level, demanded by data users, are subject to application of clear statistical disclosure control procedures aimed to ensure statistical confidentiality and protection of individual data (including personal).

CISCO

The current situation

The use and application of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and, generally, geospatial information is limited in official statistics, although relevant progress was made in the recent period. At present, the NBS cannot ensure that statistical data is fully integrated with geospatial data, as is the case in most of the European National Institutes of Statistics. In 2017, the GIS Unit of the NBS developed a geodatabase at Enumeration Area (EA) level to support sampling procedures for household surveys and to produce field maps for supporting field activities. Therefore, the Moldovan sample frame is at present geocoded at EA level. Thematic maps have been prepared by NBS to disseminate the results of the 2014 population and housing census, as well as relevant data from other statistical surveys, but GIS and geospatial data are not used systematically in the statistical production processes and for data dissemination.

With the support of EU technical assistance[112] and UNFPA, since 2019 the NBS has started to develop a new geodatabase at building and housing unit level, using as a starting point the geodatabase at EA level implemented in 2017. Statistical and geospatial data can be now integrated at point-base level using unique identifiers or through the available addresses managed by the *Agency of Land*

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[112] EU funded project "Technical Assistance to Support the National Bureau of Statistics of the Republic of Moldova"

Relations and Cadastre of the Republic of Moldova. Currently, about 30 percent of the territory of Moldova is covered by this new geodatabase. The NBS indends to:

- Finalise the geodatabase by 2023, to be ready for the next population and housing census scheduled for 2024. Census data geocoded at building and housing unit would be used to produce population grids for the subsequent compilation of grid statistics;
- Use the DEGURBA classification, supporting the design and implementation of household surveys;
- Proceed to geocoding of relevant administrative and statistical data for generating and monitoring SDGs, and
- Integrate geospatial data and regional statistics to enable evidence-based policy planning, programming, monitoring and evaluation.

In the above-mentioned activities, the NBS is following to a maximum extent the defined National Spatial Data Infrastructure[113] and EU INSPIRE[114] standards.

The short-term strategy of the NBS while using geospatial data for official statistics is to enrich and integrate the geospatial information already available in the country to ensure that all buildings and housing units intended or used for residential use will have unique geographic identifiers to allow a solid linkage with the population data collected in the field by the next census, also ensuring consistency and interoperability with the other spatial datasets available in the country, especially with the cadastre database and the existing addresses. This first stage of the general statistical mapping strategy will also ensure that integrated geospatial and census data will support generating, disaggregating, and monitoring SDGs indicators in Moldova.

The medium-long term strategy of the NBS is to build a statistical Register of Buildings and Dwellings for official statistics, linked, through common unique identifiers and geocoding methods, to a Population Register, the Business Register, the Cadastre, with the main objective to conduct the 2030 round of population and housing census using administrative data to the largest possible extent.

Major obstacles to be solved before being fully compliant:

- Hiring of additional dedicated GIS staff and provisioning for adequate training and financial resources;
- Acquisition of more powerful equipment and GIS software;
- Training the staff in using advanced GIS tools for the analysis and dissemination of geocoded statistical data;

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[113] https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=105790&lang=ro
[114] https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX%3A32007L0002

- Establishing of legal mechanisms that would allow to keep the Statistical Register of Buildings and Dwellings up to date, by communicating with other administrative registers;
- Development of population grids and use of the DEGURBA classification.

Sustainable development indicators

The current situation

The Republic of Moldova is strongly committed to supporting global efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda. In September 2015, the Republic of Moldova, together with 192 other Member States of the United Nations, committed to implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, through joint efforts to eliminate all forms of poverty, combat inequalities and address environmental and climate change issues, ensuring that no one is left behind. The *Moldova 2030 National Development Strategy* has been developed by the Government as a national strategic framework for the implementation of the 2030 Global Agenda.

Adaptation of the 2030 Agenda at national level, taking into account its complexity and universality, envisaged the adjustment of the objectives, targets and indicators to the specific context of the country (so-called nationalization), so that the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) become more conclusive, feasible and effective at the national level.

Taking into consideration the global list[115] of SDGs indicators developed by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) and agreed upon at the 48th session of the United Nations Statistical Commission held in March 2017, a list of the **national indicators for SDGs monitoring** has been set in 2016[116] under NBS leadership. This process involved all stakeholders: national and local public authorities, the private sector, civil society, academia and development partners.

Later on, in 2019, in order to assess the degree of availability of the nationalized SDG indicators, and their level of compliance with the global list of SDGs indicators and the proposed international calculation methodologies, the **national SDGs indicators were revised** by the NBS in consultation with the national counterparts responsible for the provision of data for SDGs.

The resulting list of indicators includes: indicators from the global list, adjusted global indicators, global broken-down indicators, national proxy indicators (about one fourth). From the perspective of the **availability** of national SDG indicators: about half of indicators are fully available; one third of indicators are partially available, with the possibility to easily estimate the missing elements; and one fourth of indicators are missing and require additional effort from national institutions responsible for such indicators to produce them, especially with

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[115]   Available in English at https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/indicators-list/
[116]   Available in English at https://statistica.gov.md/public/files/SDG/docs/Indicators_ONU_EN.pdf

external support. For the missing SDGs indicators a methodology and/or toolkit for data collection and production should be developed. While for the partially available indicators additional variables should be added either in the data collection tools or in the information systems aimed at data processing, so that the full spectrum of disaggregation dimensions (in particular related to sub-representative groups of population or small territories) would be ensured

In 2020, the Government of the Republic of Moldova presented the first **Voluntary National Assessment report**[117] (VNR) at the High-Level Political Forum. Available data on SDGs indicators were compiled, provided to the Government and used for the drafting of the report.

In 2021, a draft **Government Decision** *"On the approval of the national framework for monitoring the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda"* was developed and currently is under consultation with stakeholders. The drafted normative act is aimed at approving the national framework for monitoring the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, with clear responsibilities of the relevant institutions to monitor and report on the implementation of the SDGs targets and obligations, and to provide data on SDGs indicators. It also defines the coordination mechanism and the progress reporting framework on 2030 Agenda. The Government Decision will also create the information foundation to ensure reporting on the progress of the Republic of Moldova towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the international level.

According to the draft Decision, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) is the authority that will coordinate the process of production and dissemination of SDG indicators. A dedicated **SDGs reporting platform** was recently set up by NBS, which is to be tested and publicly launched after the approval of the above-mentioned Government Decision. The National Bureau of Statistics will ensure the systematization of the data received from the data holding authorities and will publish them on the platform, in order to ensure open access to data of decision makers, public authorities, civil society, private sector, and international bodies.

Obstacles and next steps:

- The monitoring and evaluation framework for SDGs implementation is affected by the lack of data for about a quarter of the nationalized SDGs and insufficient disaggregated data for over 30% of the indicators. This impedes the monitoring and assessment of the progress in achieving the corresponding targets.
- The finalization, approval and the implementation of the Government Decision on the national framework for monitoring the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.
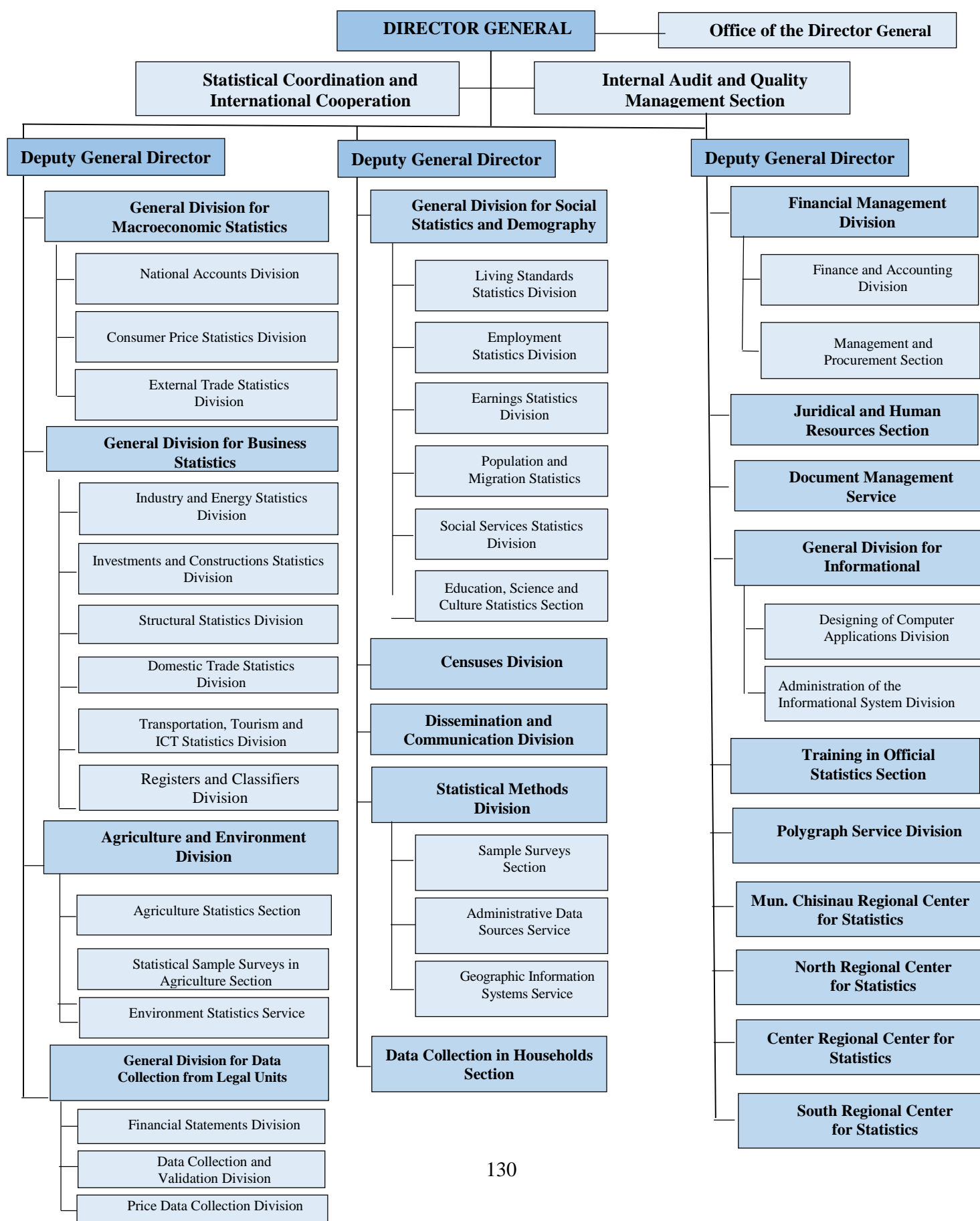
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[117]   Available in English at
https://cancelaria.gov.md/ro/apc/monitorizarea-si-evaluarea-implementarii-agendei-de-dezvoltare-durabila-2030

- Efficient implementation of the SDGs requires a joint effort, through the development of comprehensive and sustainable partnerships.

ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE OF THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF STATISTICS

STATISTICAL CLASSIFICATIONS AND NOMENCLATURES USED IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

National classification/classification used (if the international classification is used directly)*		Compatible with the acronym of the international classification	Implemented in the Republic of Moldova (year of implementation)
Acronym	Title		
CAEM-2	Classification of Economic Activities	NACE, rev. 2, EU	2014
CSPM rev.2	Classification of Product by Activities	CPA 2008, EU	2015
PRODMOLD	Nomenclature of industrial production of manufactured goods	Prodcom, list 2013, EU	2014
NCM	Combined Nomenclature	CN-2017, EU	2020
*	Standard International Trade Classification, Rev.4	SITC Rev.4, UN	2007
*	Classification by Broad Economic Categories	BEC, UN	2001
*	Standard Country or Area Codes for Statistical Use (Current information as at 31 August 1999)	ISO 3166 , UN	1999
*	Nomenclature of countries and territories for the external trade statistics	ISO 3166, EU	2005
*	Standard Classification Currency	ISO 4217 CURRENCY CODES, UN	1998
*	International Standard Classification of Education	ISCED-2011, UN	2015
CIM-10	International Classification of Diseases and Health Related Problems	ICD 10th revision, UN	1996
CORM	International Standard Classification of Occupation	ISCO-08, ILO	2015
*	International Classification of Status in Employment	ICSE-93, ILO	2000
CC-GC	Classification of Individual Consumption according to Purposes	COICOP, UN ECOICOP-2013,	2021
*	Standard Goods Classification for Transport Statistics	EU	2013

National classification/classification used (if the international classification is used directly)*		Compatible with the acronym of the international classification	Implemented in the Republic of Moldova (year of implementation)
Acronym	Title		
NUTS	Nomenclature of territorial units for statistics	NUTS, EU	2018