

**United Nations Development Programme**  
**Programul Națiunilor Unite pentru Dezvoltare** Project 00047658  
**„Strengthening the National Statistical System”**

**MINUTES OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Venue:** National Bureau of Statistics

**Date:** July 22, 2010, 10:00

**Agenda**

1. Presentation of the Project's Progress Report for the period of May-mid July 2010 and discussion on the achievements ..... 1
2. Presentation and discussion of the Work Plan for the next period - 3rd quarter 2010 ..... 3
3. Decisions ..... 3

**Participants:**

*Members of the Steering Committee*

1. Oleg Cara, Vice General-Director of the National Bureau of Statistics, National Project Coordinator
2. Iurii Torcunov, Head of Division for Macroeconomic Analysis and Forecasts, Minister of Economy
3. Lovita Ramguttee, Assistant Resident Representative, UNDP Moldova
4. Galina Corgoja, Programme Associate, UNIFEM
5. Corneliu Eftodi, Programme analyst, UNIFEM
6. Serghei Buruiana, Chief of Social Policy Unit, UNICEF Moldova

*Special invitees*

7. Oxana Maciucu, IOM Moldova

Mr. Cara, the Deputy General Director of NBS welcomed the members of the SC and the representative from IOM, as well as presented the main points of the SC meeting agenda.

**1. Presentation of the Project's Progress Report for the period of May-mid July 2010 and discussion on the achievements**

Because of the new UNICEF and IOM participants at the meeting, Ms. Spataru made a short introduction and presentation of the Project's objectives, components and activities. Then she presented in relevant details the achievements/results within each Project's activities, which in brief comprise the following:

- 4 international experts/consultants provided their expertise during their mission in Chisinau mainly as it regards new data collection or alignment to the international standards:

| <i>Purpose, timeframe, expert</i>   | <i>Conclusion / Follow-up / Result</i>   |
|---|--|
| 1. Preparations for the ratification of ILO Labour Statistics Convention no. 160 (as of 1985), Igor Chernyshev, ILO, May 19-21                          | MLSPF, together with NBS: (a) to prepare & send a request technical assistance to ILO on procedure of registration & collection of data on occupational diseases and industrial disputes statistics; (b) should prepare without delay a draft legislative act on the ILO Convention concerning Labour Statistics No. 160 for its submission to the Parliament of the RM for ratification by the end of 2010. |
| 2. Data collection for the study on "Violence against women in family", Tatjana Shikoska, UNFPA FYR of Macedonia, July 1-10                             | a) Toolkit for the quantitative statistical survey was developed, tested in the field, interviewers trained;<br>b) Guidelines for the qualitative survey (focus-groups, in-depth interviews) developed (by Valentina Bodrug-Lungu, national consultant) and fine-tuned.  |
| 3. Design and piloting of the Time Use Statistical Survey, Georgeta Istrate, INS Romania, July 19-23  | a) TUS methodology & toolkit expertised to ensure their compliance with the international standards;<br>b) NBS's staff, involved in the piloting & testing of toolkit trained.   |
| 4. Measurement of social exclusion and conceptualization of the 2nd phase of Statistics Project, Susanne Milcher, UNDP BRC for Europe and CIS, May 3-6, | a) The workshop was well appreciated and the practical exercise proved to be useful and inspiring for participants to think outside their sectoral area and major weaknesses in understanding of basic statistics were apparent;<br>b) on the basis of discussions with partner agencies and NBS, a new project proposal for the next phase of the Joint project was elaborated.                             |

- Capacities of data producers and user were build, experience and best practices were shared on topics like social exclusion violence against women, tourism statistics, time use:

| <i>Topic, timeframe</i>   | <i>Participants, results</i>  |
|---|---|
| Round table & presentation on Convention No. 160 and Recommendation No. 170, May 20 | major producers and users of labour statistics in Moldova, representatives of workers' and employers' organisations |
| Toolkit and methodology for the statistical survey on "Violence against women in    | Mobile team of NBS's interviewers, involved in the piloting and testing of the questionnaire in the field           |

family”, July 8

Toolkit and methodology for the statistical survey on Time Use, July 21-22

Workshop on measurement of social inclusion and exclusion in the context of sector and national policies , May 6

Regional Workshop for the CIS countries and Georgia ‘Developing National Systems of Tourism Statistics: Challenges and Good Practices’, June 29 – July 2

58th Plenary Session of the Conference of European Statisticians, Paris, June 8-10

Interviewers and NBS’s staff who will undertake the testing (in August/September) of the TUS questionnaires and diary in the field

i) introduced representatives of line ministries (MoLSPF, MoE, MoEdu, MoH) and NBS staff from other sections (total number of participants - 24 participants) to the inventory of social exclusion indicators and their interpretation and relevance with regard to the policy environment in Moldova; ii) presented examples from EU member states on social exclusion indicators; and iii) exercises on applicability and use of these indicators in current sector and national plans.

Organisers: UNSD, UNWTO, EUROSTAT, ILO, NBS, UNDP, Participants: 50 persons from statistical offices, ministries, central banks from 11 CIS countries and Georgia.

Objectives: providing practical advice on organizing and improvement of the national programmes of tourism statistics under various country specific circumstances, promotion of inter-agency cooperation to ensure that tourism statistics is compiled in an integrated and efficient way and the disseminated data serve the needs of national tourism agencies, national statistical offices and central banks in the best possible way.

Plenary session on review of international statistical work in the region, foundational issues of statistical systems; new emerging issues;

Time use survey and measuring the information society and statistics on science, technology and innovation were reviewed;

Three documents developed: Manual on gender statistics; Measurement of different emerging forms of households and families; and Measuring the quality of employment.

- Work on design, elaboration, piloting and data analysis of a number of surveys (TUS, Violence against women, MICS, Child Labour)
- Progress on the Project „Community monitoring of crisis at local level in Moldova” reported (data collected through 2 household surveys - 10 communities, sample 1000 respondents, First Crisis-Impact Report presented, 5 Focus-groups in 10 villages held, 52 participants trained within 5 trainings, 6 meetings of the project working group, 2 Steering Group meetings, 2 discussion roundtables (29 participants) held).
- 2009 UNICEF activities (TransMONEE and publication “Education in Moldova”) were reported, preparations for the TransMONEE project 2010 (on the situation of women) started;
- UNDP and UNFPA Institutional Development Outcome evaluated at the country level;
- Statistical data available in order to develop an analysis on *Aging of the population* in the demography or/and related fields are under mapping;
- Development of the database with demographic data was continued;
- Needs of media regarding their training in statistical fields have been assessed by the UNDP&UNFPA communication specialists and will be used for the organization of tailored trainings in autumn;
- The 2nd research paper on the ‘Impact of Foreign Direct Investments on the Moldovan Economy’ was finalized and prepared for public dissemination. Work on the other 2 analytical papers continued;
- Activities planned for the reported period have been implemented in time and with certain delays (as described in the progress report);
- A few ToRs were drafted, coordinated with NBS and announced within the competition (on 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of metadata for MDGs indicators, research & development statistics, ToRs for the international experts);
- Except the amount on crisis monitoring, the delivery of 50.3% - total UNDP & UNIFEM funds, or 49% - UNDP, 55.1% - UNIFEM) has been insured so far.

A few activities planed to start in Quarter 2 (optimisation of organisational structure of NBS, analysis of HBS refusals, preparation of UNICA enterprises survey) had to be postponed for the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter because of NBS staff overload with other work.

Among the current risks and issues, related to the implementation of the Project, preparation for the approval of the next phase of the Project which is pending because of lack of response from UN partner agencies and NBS on the new concept note developed in June 2010, can be mentioned. This could affect the delayed approval of the project which will damage the sustainability of progress achieved so far. Also, the timely accomplishment of activities and delivery of resources allocated till December 2010 should be ensured by project’s partners.

(For more info on activities, results, Risks and Issues, see in the progress report).

In addition to the project Manager’s presentation the following has been added:

*Oleg Cara*

PX web statistical Databank of NBS, publicly launched on May 27, gives the possibility of extended, user-friendly access to the statistical data. The Databank is using the results of the Joint Project such as reference metadata on statistical fields and the database with demographic indicators which are incorporated into this. A range of MDG indicators are presented in the Databank as well (in the respective statistical domains).

The continuity of the previous activities also is considered as for example the second phase of the metadata creation, this time focusing also on the list of MDGs indicators under the responsibility of NBS. The complete coverage of MDG indicators in Databank and reference metadata will not be possible until the clear distribution of responsibilities on MDG indicators elaboration among national institutions will be made, and the elaboration of data on sound methodology in accordance with international standards will be assured .

Regarding the Time Use Survey, NBS count on the financial support fully provided by donors, as the Bureau has very limited possibilities to attract any money from the state budget next year (the preliminary data on draft budget of NBS for 2011 provided by MoF does not allow this. Moreover, there is already a funding gaps in regard to the on-going Agricultural Census activities.

*Lovita Ramguttee*

As it was agreed some time ago, a meeting with the technical staff of the State Chancellery, Ministry of Economy, NBS and other relevant institutions should be convened to discuss and agree on the responsibilities for data set on MDGs and other objectives for monitoring at the national and international level.

Meeting with the Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family to explain the advantages of the Time Use Survey and its results and raise their funds for data collection in 2011 should be organized. Also, the agencies participating in the Project are asked to consider their contributions next year for this very comprehensive, and very useful and multilateral survey which cuts across different sectors.

On July 29 a meeting is scheduled with the participation of top management and technical personnel of the main ministries aimed to discuss the issue of institutionalisation of the Community monitoring of crisis at local level in Moldova, for which the present members of the Steering Committee, involved in the activity, as well as Mr.Torcunov, were invited to participate.

*Serghei Buruiana*

Costs of MICS are estimated worth of \$240,000. The local consultant to assist the preparation and implementation of the survey has been hired already. Soon the agreement and corresponding budget will be signed with the Center of Preventive Medicine. Negotiations with the administration from Transnistria were held to cover this region by the MICS. Meanwhile, UNICEF received a letter from regional Ministry of Economy informing that the region does not consider appropriate its participate in MICS. UNICEF will continue its advocacy activities with the joint (RM- TN) working group on humanitarian aid, trying to persuade the local authorities from TN to take part in MICS exercise. .

Members of the Steering Committee also talked about the institutionalisation of the demographic forecasts, which could be done on the basis of the demographic database of NBS under development, but for which a special trained staff, able to develop the methodologies on forecasts production and being equipped with the corresponding hard and soft-wares, would be required.

## **2. Presentation and discussion of the Work Plan for the next period - 3rd quarter 2010**

The Project Manager presented the activities to be implemented in the period July 22-September 2010:

- Hire the international consult to review the toolkit for the collection of data in the Research & Development field;
- Develop the drafts of normative acts for the approval by the Government of the new optimised organisational structure of NBS;
- Conduct data collection on violence against women in the field;
- Pilot the toolkit for the Time Use Survey in the field;
- Hire a national consultant to analyse the refusals within the framework of the HBS & LFS survey and the evaluation of the impact of refusals on the quality of data;
- Prepare training of interviewers newly hired within the social statistics surveys;
- Hire an accounting specialist to expertise and test the toolkit for the UNICA survey and draft the technical specification for the software on UNICA's data processing;
- Launch the report on Child Labour Survey;
- Prepare a tailored seminar on statistics for media, as one of the specific group of data users;
- Develop the template for metadata on MDGs indicators and start to develop the corresponding metadata;
- Finalise 2 research reports on labour force in rural area and population's health and launch them.

The complete list of activities planned in Q3 is listed in the Work Plan document hereby attached.

*Serghei Buruiana*

As it regards the presentation of the results on Child Labour, UNICEF is going to support the publishing of the report in both languages, the public presentation of it in September, as well as further dissemination of the report to the interested parties.

*Lovita Ramguttee*

Taking into consideration the recent supplementation of the Project's budget, the full support and involvement of the NBS colleagues is needed to ensure that the activities are completed on time with the support of this additional funding.

Also, the members of the Steering Committee from the participating agencies, as well as NBS and colleague from IOM, are asked to review the concept note on the second phase of the Joint Statistics Project and the budget & activity framework and to provide their comments to the respective note, as well as to estimate the contribution of each Project participant for the accomplishment of the envisaged objectives and targets. The respective responses should be provided to the Project Manager by the middle of August.

## **3. Decisions**

As a result of the discussions held, the members of the Steering Committee formulated the following decisions & recommendations:

1. To approve the Project's Progress Report for May-mid July 2010;
2. To approve the Work Plan for the next period (July 22-September 2010);

JP "Strengthening the National Statistical System"

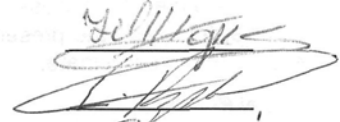
3. Each Project's partner to provide, by middle of August, comments on the concept note for the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of the Project and estimate own contribution for it.

**Signatures of the participants at the meeting:**

Oleg Cara, Deputy Director General of the NBS, National Project Coordinator

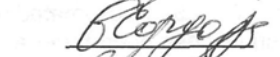


Iurii Torcunov, Head of Division for Macroeconomic Analysis and Forecasts, Minister of Economy

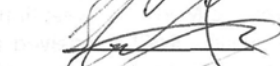


Lovita Ramguttee, Assistant Resident Representative, UNDP Moldova

Galina Corgoja, Programme Associate, UNIFEM Moldova



Corneliu Eftodi, Programme analyst, UNIFEM



Serghei Buruiana, Chief of Social Policy Unit, UNICEF Moldova



Oxana Maciuca, IOM Moldova

Aurelia Spataru, Project Manager, UNDP Moldova



**Documents enclosed to the present minutes:**

- Agenda of the Steering Committee meeting
- Progress Report for the May-July 20, 2010
- Project Work Plan for the next period – 22 July-September 2010