

STRATEGY

of National Statistics Development for the period 2008 - 2011

I. Introduction

The Strategy of National Statistics Development for the period 2008-2011 is developed in accordance with the provisions of the Plan of Actions Moldova – European Union, of the Government Program of Activities for the years 2005-2009 „Country Modernization – Wellbeing of People”, of the Plan of Actions of National Statistics Development (approved by Government decision # 893 from August 07, 2006) and defines the priorities and the necessary measures for ensuring complex and continuous development of the statistics for the purpose of supplying central and local public authorities, the large spectrum of users with authentic, relevant and complying to international standards information on the situation and on economic-social, demographic and environmental development tendencies.

Promotion of economic and social reforms, the processes of democratization of the society after proclamation of independence of the Republic of Moldova have generated increase of statistical information demand on behalf of central and local public administrations, of non-governmental institutions, of the academic circle, of international organisms to which our country is a part, of other users of statistical information, adapted to the new social-economic conditions of the state and complying to international requirements.

The statistical disaggregated information on the criteria of gender, age and geographical areas serves the purpose of problems identification, development policies and strategies elaboration, to the development of middle and long term forecasts of economic and social phenomena, development and implementation of economic-social policies, of their implementation evaluation and monitoring, to informing the large spectrum of internal and external users, in such a way contributing to ensuring sustainable development of the country and to democratization of the society.

The availability of relevant and reliable statistical data has a major importance for ensuring monitoring and evaluation of national programs and strategies, especially of the National Development Strategy of the Republic of Moldova (NDS).

Statistical information development in accordance with the methodologies adapted to international norms, especially to those of the European Union, is positively influencing the image of the Republic of Moldova abroad, improving the flow of investments into the state, exports of local goods etc., and in the last instance – economic growth of the country and increase of population wellbeing.

Obtainment of relevant and authentic statistical data with the purpose of integral fulfillment of information requirements of the society requires the continuous improvement of statistics.

The Strategy work out begins from the actual stage of national statistics development, from its missions and tasks complying to existent legal norms, from the background of its future development objectives, in accordance with the society evolution requirements of the Republic of Moldova.

II. CURRENT SITUATION EVALUATION

2.1. Statistical Legislation and National Statistics System Organization

The legal framework which regulates the activity of statistics in the Republic of Moldova includes the Law # 412-XV from December 09, 2004 on official statistics, with

ulterior modifications and additions (the Official Monitor of the Republic of Moldova, 2005, # 1-4, article 8); Law # 548-XIII from July 21, 1995 on the National Bank of Moldova, with ulterior modifications and additions (the Official Monitor of the Republic of Moldova, 1995, # 56-57, article 624); Law # 847-XIII from May 24, 1996 on the budgetary system and the budgetary process with ulterior modifications and additions (the official Monitor of the Republic of Moldova, 1997, # 19-20, article 197); Law # 192-XIV from November 12, 1998 on the National Commission of the Financial Market (the Official Monitor of the Republic of Moldova, 2007, # 117-126B/S) and other existent legislative acts.

These acts, particularly, establish the attributions of the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), of other specialized public organs in producing and disseminating official statistical data.

The institutional framework and the legal status of the public organs responsible for collecting statistical data, especially of the NBS, is determined and by other legislative and normative acts as the Law # 64-XII from May 31, 1990 on the Government (Veștile [News], 1990, # 8 article 191), Government Decision of the Republic of Moldova # 1049 from October 06, 2005 on the approval of the Regulation of the National Bureau of Statistics and of the nominal composition of the Collegiums of the National Bureau of Statistics (Official Monitor of the Republic of Moldova, 2005, # 135-138, article 1431).

The statistical system of the Republic of Moldova is centralized and is constituted of the NBS, central organ of public administration, responsible for the organization of official statistics, which in accordance with the Law # 412-XV from December 09, 2004 on official statistics is empowered to organize and lead the overall statistical activity in the country, as well as other public institutions, which take part in the production of official statistical information.

Thus, in 2007, the NBS and other institutions responsible for the official statistics have collected 224 types of statistical reports (questioners), out of which annual periodicity – 164, quarterly – 35 and monthly – 25. Out of the total statistical reports (questioners), 170 were collected directly by the NBS, and 54 statistical reports were collected and transmitted centrally to the NBS by other institutions (for information: in 2002 – 251 statistical reports (questioners) were approved, out of which 196 – were directly collected by the NBS and respectively 55 – by other institutions.

The number of economic agents, who take part in the economic development of the country, is permanently increasing. As a result, the number of respondents involved in statistical research also increases. Thus, the total number of respondents who are involved in statistical research or/and have presented financial (accounting) reports to the address of the NBS in 2007 has constituted approximately 39,000 economic agents, or by 1.6 times (by 14,000) more compared to the year 2002 and by 2.4 times (by 22,000) more than in the year 1997.

Other organs of the central public administration responsible for the production and dissemination of official statistical data are:

The National Bank of Moldova is responsible for the development of the Balance of Payments, for banking services and monetary statistics. The data of the Balance of Payments are utilized for the development of the accounts of the „rest of the world” sector performed by the NBS. For developing the balance of payments, the NBS provides the National Bank with various statistical information (on external trade of goods and services, on foreign direct investments etc.);

The Ministry of Finance is responsible for the development of the National Public Budget (the State Budget, budgets of administrative-territorial units, the state social protection budget, the funds of obligatory medical assistance insurance), utilized by the NBS at

developing the sequence of accounts for the „Public Administration” sector, public finance statistics, etc.;

Ministry of Health presents the annual, generalized information on the number of doctors of all specializations, on morbidity, on the number of patients who are on evidence of curative-prophylactic institutions; quarterly – on mortality by causes;

National Commission of Financial Market – information on transactions on securities market;

State Civil Aviation Administration – statistical data on civil aviation.

The NBS also collaborates with other public organs for the purpose of obtaining statistical and administrative data they collect:

Ministry of Transports and Roads Administration - collects, generalizes and presents centralized statistical data on public roads;

Ministry of Information Development on the basis of administered registers:

a) „State Register of Transports” – presents the database on goods’ delivery vehicles registered in the republic, the data referring to auto transportation vehicles registered in the republic, the situation by the end of the year;

b) „Register of Population Documentation” – data on internal and international migration;

c) Civil State Offices – present information about babies born, persons deceased, persons married and divorced.

Quarterly, statistical reports are presented to the NBS on resources and activity of post-offices and telecommunications.

The Ministry of Education and Youth presents annual generalized data on the number of pupils and didactical staff in evening schools, the number of pupils and the material base of boarding houses for children, didactical personnel, on the number of children and teen-agers without parents’ care, and on extra-school institutions for children.

The Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources – the information on the formation of extra-budgetary ecological funds, on the state control of rational use of natural resources and environment protection.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs – monthly and annual generalized data on the state of criminality.

The Ministry of Culture and Tourism – generalized annual information on theatres, cultural institutions, the activity of libraries, and quarterly information on tourists’ accommodation structures.

The Ministry of Social Protection, Family and Child – annual information on the activity of social assistance institutions, on medical evaluation of disability.

The Customs Service on monthly basis presents the data base of customs declarations, which serves as basis for external trade of goods statistics development.

The Main State Tax Inspectorate – data on revenues declarations of legal and physical persons (annually).

The Land and Cadastre Agency - Cadastral information on the areas of terrenes, including agricultural ones, by division on categories of use and by territorial profile.

The Sports Agency – annual generalized data on physical culture and sports development.

The National Employment Agency – information on measurers of employment and social protection of persons in search of workplaces, undertaken by employment agencies.

The Forestry Agency „Moldsilva” – indicators on the production obtained and the works effectuated in forestry, data on hunting activities.

The „Apele Moldovei” (Moldova’s Water) Concern - information on water utilization.

2.2. Achievements

A range of notable achievements have been obtained during the process of reformation of the national statistics system, its adaptation to the new socio-economic conditions of the country in the period of transition to the market economy as well as to international standards:

2.2.1. By adopting the Law # 412-XV from December 09, 2004 on official statistics the background has been constituted for its harmonization to international standards, especially to those of the EU. In accordance with the Law, respect of Fundamental Principles of official statistics, adopted by UN is at the basis of national statistics system operation: impartiality, statistical deontology, relevance, transparency, confidentiality, cost/efficiency principle, coordination at national level, as well as collaboration at international level.

2.2.2. New statistical developments have been implemented:

a) the switch from macro-economic calculations in the Material Production System to the National Accounts System, developed on the basis of UN methodology (NAS UN-1993);

b) the research and calculation of consumption prices indexes, on the basis of the methodology and with the support of the International Monetary Fund (IMF);

c) performed a range of researches and statistical calculations within the Program of international comparability, the rounds 1993, 1996, 2000, 2004 and 2005 fact which allowed the estimation of parity of the Moldovan Leu purchasing power;

d) implemented on the basis of IMF methodology (V-th edition, 1993) the external sector statistics of national economy - the balance of payments and the international investment position of the State, prepared by the National Bank of Moldova;

e) implemented on the basis of IMF methodology (I-st, edition 2003) state’s external debt statistics, prepared by the National Bank of Moldova;

f) public finance statistics developed in accordance with IMF recommendations (GFSM 2001), implemented by the Ministry of Finance;

g) statistics of external trade of goods was harmonized to international standards (recommendations of the UN Commission for Statistics and the EU regulations). Classification of exported and imported goods is effectuated in accordance with the Classifier of Goods, developed in accordance with the Harmonized System of Codification and Description of Goods (HS-2002) and the Combined Nomenclature (CN);

h) Households Budgets Survey improved, which presently constitutes the main informational background for the life standard statistics of population;

i) in the framework of health statistics a new tool for data collection on the health of population was developed, households’ survey on the health of population, which follows to be performed with a periodicity of 3-5 years;

j) the Labor Force Inquiry (LFI) implemented – statistical research on the households of the population, performed quarterly, in accordance with the recommendations of the ILB. The LFI represents an important source of information on the evolution of the number and of the structure of active and inactive population, of the employed population and of unemployment etc. As of 2006, the LFI is implemented in accordance with a new survey plan,

of a new rotation scheme and new questionnaires, which have been harmonized to the recommendations of the International Conference of Labor Statisticians from 1998 and 2003.

2.2.3. The Census of population was performed (October 5-12, 2004) – the first national Census performed after the proclamation of independence of the Republic of Moldova, which was performed in accordance with UN recommendations.

2.2.4. The system of statistical classifications system was created, for the purpose of ensuring the functioning of the national statistics system at internationally comparable level. General Classifiers, the basic ones for statistics were developed – the Classifier of Activities the Economy of Moldova and the Statistical Classifier of Products (of goods and services), adjusted to European statistical standards (NACE and CPA).

The Classifier of Occupations of the Republic of Moldova is utilized for statistical and administrative purposes, developed in accordance with the Standard International Classification of Occupations (ISCO88).

The classifier of products and industrial services PRODMOLD was implemented aligned to the PRODCOM European standard.

The classification and presentation of consumption expenditures data of households of population at aggregated level is performed in accordance with the European analogue COICOP.

For the purpose of ensuring comparability of statistical indicators in the education domain, the Classifier of Educational Programs of the RM (MoldCED) was developed in accordance with the International Standard Classifier for Education (ISCED-97) etc.

2.2.5. The appearance of a big number of economic agents in the process of transition to market economy, mainly in private property domain and the extension of the activity of the non-organized sector in the economy have imposed the necessity of reforming the system of statistical observations, based on implementation of surveys researches, in accordance with world practice. In such a way, during the process of improving the methods of collecting statistical data in the last few years the following works have been implemented:

- a) the annual structural inquiry at enterprises;
- b) created the National Register of Statistical Units (RENUS), which constitutes the basic instrument for the organization of statistical research in the economic domain;
- c) a unique system of statistical research on agricultural activity in the individual sector (households of population and of peasants (farmers), which comprises approximately 70 % of the total agricultural production
- d) introduced into statistical practice the estimations of the volume of retail sales in the non-organized sector of trade, which holds presently approximately 42 % of total retail sales;
- e) the Multifunctional Sample for Social Domain Research (EMDOS), having the purpose of improving the information basis of statistics on the level of life of population and on labor market. As a result of implementation, it became possible to obtain the increase of research area and the improvement of the design effect that contributed to the improvement of the quality of data obtained within Labor Force Survey and Households Budgets Survey and the possibility of obtaining the main indicators of 4 statistical zones: North, South, Center and Chisinau. A great deal of work was performed in connection with improving the instruments of the two researches.

2.2.6. Actions were achieved for the purpose of improving and adhering to international standards of the indicators system and of researches in other statistical domains: industry, transport, tourism, investments, external trade and services, internal trade in goods and services; financial, environmental, demographic, educational, science and culture statistics.

2.2.7. The quality of information provided to users was improved as a result of improving the dissemination system due to implementation of new publications, as well as due to utilization at a bigger extent of modern channels of data transmission through Internet.

The number increased and the content of statistical publications essentially improved. In order to ensure central and local public administration authorities, other users with statistical information, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) develops and delivers over 40 publications annually. The most complex and comprehensive statistical publications as the „Statistics Year-book of the Republic of Moldova”, „External Trade of the Republic of Moldova” and „Energy Balance of the Republic of Moldova” are developed and on CD in accessible formats for users, favoring and facilitating a better utilization of statistical data. At the same time, the NBS annually delivers approximately 130 releases and press editions (analytical notes and operative information) on the state and evolution of demographic, social and economic life of the country. Besides, in order to ensure with specific, detailed information the central and local public administrations, as well as other users over 550 statistical bulletins with generalized data on diverse domains of activities are developed.

In order to facilitate access to statistical data, to better inform internal and external users, a considerable volume of information is disseminated through the Web Page of the Bureau (www.statistica.gov.md). So, the NBS is placing on the Web page the most recent statistical data in accordance with operative information time-table on the social-economic situation and evolution of the country, as well as series of actualized data on main statistical indicators etc.

In such a way, the official statistics offers statistical data and information to all categories of users, ensuring the right of access of citizens to public information.

2.2.8. An important achievement of the partners within the national statistical system (the National Bureau of Statistics, the National Bank of Moldova, the Ministry of Finance, the National Commission of Financial Market) has constituted the subscription of the Republic of Moldova to the Special Standard of Data Dissemination (SSDD) of the International Monetary Fund, our country becoming the 63-rd member-state to this standard (out of 184 IMF member-states). As a result of subscription to the SSDD, placement of relevant information on the national summarized page of data and in the Informative Bulletin of Data Dissemination Standards of the IMF, the access of decision factors, of potential investors and of the large public to complex and opportune statistical data is facilitated, that contributes to financial market functioning, to increasing trust on behalf of investors, to the implementation of certain viable macro-economic policies for the sustainable economic and social development of the country, contributing positively to the image of the Republic of Moldova abroad.

2.3. SWOT Analysis

2.3.1. Advantages

1. Existence of the adequate legal framework;
2. Achievements and positive experience accumulated within cooperation with national and international partners in the process of developing the national statistical system (NSS), with the purpose of its adaptation to new socio-economic conditions of the country and to international standards;
3. Competence, devotion, receptivity and high discipline of statistical organs' employees;
4. Existence of a developed territorial infrastructure of statistical organs that ensures tight contact with economic agents, local public administrations, influencing positively the quality and effectiveness of obtaining primary statistical data.

2.3.2. Constraints

1. Development beneath the required level of a modern information system of information technologies in the statistics domain;
2. Lack of strict delimitation of the functions of institutions with activities' attributions of official statistics on certain statistical domains (environment, information technologies, education, science and innovation statistics etc.);
3. Reduced (institutional etc.) capacities in a range of institutions with functions of statistical data production:
 - a) lack of distinct sub-divisions responsible for official statistics (statistical compartments) with personnel of corresponding statistical background;
 - b) reduced possibilities of awareness by the personnel trained in statistics information of international standards and advanced experience of other states;
 - c) development beneath present requirements of information technologies, fact which influences negatively the development of statistics in respective domains.
4. Reduced capacities of research-development in the domain of statistics;
5. The official statistical data represent a public good; the good is costly and requires considerable financial, human and time resources. Certain partners have not realized that the role and functions of statistical organs (including of the NBS as central statistics organ) in a market economy society differ essentially from those characteristic for a state with planned economy; the statistical organs can not supply equally detailed, precise information and in limited time frames as in the case of a command economy, where the number of economic agents is very small, and their activity is directed by the state;
6. Complicated access to necessary administrative data for the development of official statistics, certain causes being:
 - a) lack of data in electronic format;
 - b) unsuitability of certain administrative data to statistical requirements (regarding the notions utilized, coverage, updating, data presentation method etc.).

2.3.3. Opportunities

1. Information technologies and modern communications implementation in statistics; achievement of provisions of the National Strategy of edification of the information society - "Electronic Moldova" and of the Concept of electronic governance;
2. Permanent improvement of the quality of statistical information submitted to large public;
3. Extension of utilization of administrative sources of data (ASD) and of more intense collaboration for that purpose between the organs of official statistics and bearers of ASD;
4. Statistical staff formation improvement;
5. Development of research activity in the statistics domain;
6. Continuous development of international collaboration, granting of methodological and technical assistance for the purpose of continuous reformation of national statistics on behalf of international organizations and of other states.

2.3.4. Risks

1. Lack of adequate financing of statistical works';
2. Cut of staff trained in performing statistical works.

III. THE OBJECTIVE OF THE STRATEGY AND THE PRIORITY DIRECTIONS OF NATIONAL STATISTICS DEVELOPMENT FOR THE YEARS 2008 - 2011

3.1. Basic Objective

The basic objective of national statistics development constitutes the supply of public administration, economic agents, the large public and other internal and external users with relevant, qualitative and international level comparable statistical information.

The implementation of the current objective will contribute to increasing national statistics' credibility, by the truthfulness and relevance of information, by improving the specific culture and by edification of a consensual mentality among all segments and categories of users.

3.2. Priority Directions

The priority is the development of authentic information which characterizes the sustainable development of the country (under the economic, social and environmental aspects), especially of data necessary for monitoring the implementation of state programs and of development strategies (especially of the NDS), of the UN initiatives on Millennium Development Goals, of indicators included in the Special Data Dissemination System (SDDS) of the IMF etc.

3.2.1. Implementation of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)

Renovation of information technologies infrastructure constitutes the key element in reforming the integral national statistics system.

The basic objectives of ICT implementation in the development of national statistics are:

1. ICT implementation in collecting, processing, storing and dissemination of statistical data;
2. Upgrading the NBS offices with modern equipment;
3. Statistical processes supply with licensed software;
4. Information security supply of statistical processes;
5. Local networks development within the NBS and connection of NBS offices' computers to Internet;
6. Implementation of efficient access technologies to databases with statistical indicators;
7. Provision of interconnection of public administration authorities to the integrated information area;
8. Implementation of the integrated system of electronic circulation of documents within the NBS;
9. Development of the information system's concept of the NBS and launching its implementation by stages;
10. Access provision to administrative data sources (Ministry of Information Development, Ministry of Internal Affairs (Road Police Direction), Boarder Guards Service and the Ministry of Transports and Roads Administration) etc.;
11. Creation of the „e-Statistics” portal.

3.2.2. Indicators System Improvement and of their Calculation Methodologies

The basic tasks in this domain are the following:

1. International standards learning, especially those of the EU and of developed countries' advanced practice with the aim of their adaptation to the realities of the Republic of Moldova;

2. Improvement in accordance with the NAS of the system of statistical indicators as a whole and of those which represent an increased interest for the society, especially of those indicators, which contribute to the evaluation of tendencies of sustainable development of the country from the economic point of view, as well as social and environmental ones and exclusion of those that lost their actuality or which have reduced utility level;

3. Continuous improvement of GDP calculations, of other NAS indicators, development of the complete sequence of accounts in accordance with the NAS UN-93 requirements; an increased attention needs to be granted to improving the methods of estimation of the non-observed economy (the formal and informal sectors), to performing experimental calculations of illegal activity dimension;

4. Improvement of indicators of branches statistics and their harmonization to the NAS;

5. Improvement of calculations of infra-annual tendencies of the economy development as a whole and of its sectors by applying seasonal adjustments, etc;

6. Application of statistical-mathematical and econometrical methods for increasing the analysis capacity of economic and social processes;

7. Indicators system improvement under regional aspect.

3.2.3. Statistical Information Collection System Improvement

Perfecting the statistical research system will contribute as to the improvement of statistical data quality, to budget expenditures optimization, as well as to considerable decrease of the information load on economic agents.

The improvement of the statistical research system will be based on statistical infrastructure upgrading, especially on:

1. Improvement of the National Register of Statistical Units (NRSU); switching to NRSU utilization, as a universal basic source and tool for statistical research performance;

2. Continuous development of the statistical classifications system;

3. Large scale implementation of statistical research by surveying small enterprises and individual entrepreneurs and their optimal combination with total registrations. Special role pertains to performing the General Agricultural Census, which will ensure both - obtaining of important statistical data for the society on the situation in agriculture, as well as creation of survey bases for organizing selective statistical researches;

4. Improvement of statistical reports and questionnaires in accordance with the NAS requirements and taking into account those of the National Accounting Standards, with the aim of facilitating their qualitative completion by economic agents;

5. Implementation in statistical practice of modern methods of collecting statistical information from economic agents, especially utilizing the Internet network;

As presently, the large and medium economic agents will undergo total registrations, while during the censuses (of population, economic, agricultural ones etc.) – and other legal and physical persons will be registered, depending on the settled limit of participation.

The enormous number of economic agents who develop diverse economic activities and which is very dynamically modified, imposes the necessity of switching to enterprises' statistics, with the change of emphasis from the functional principle of statistical research organization (with the participation of all economic agents in diverse statistical researches on domains) to the institutional one (participation of enterprises in complex statistical researches,

depending on their main type of activity), on the basis of observing small enterprises by surveying.

In such a way, in the economic statistics domain, the emphasis will be put on the creation of **an integral system of enterprises' statistics**, which in accordance with international norms will be constituted of a coherent spectrum of annual and infra-annual statistical researches (monthly and quarterly).

The nucleus of this system will be constituted by the National Register of Statistical Units (NRSU), which will be permanently actualized on the basis of statistical research and of administrative data sources.

It is important to mention the necessity of developing internal capacities of public institutions in administrative information, necessary for ensuring monitoring of the situation in the domains of their sphere of activity, because the statistical information developed by statistical organs will have (compared to the situation in the planned economy period) a character only slightly oriented to solving administrative functions of ministries and departments.

An extremely important role in improving the statistical infrastructure as a basis for solving the tasks indicated in chapter III of the Strategy pertains to the necessity of **developing the statistical classification system in accordance with the EU requirements**.

That implies the revision of the following statistical classifiers:

1. Classifier of Moldova's Economy Activities in accordance with the revision of the Nomenclature of Economic Activities of the European Economic Community (NAEC rev. II, operation 2007);

2. Statistical Classifier of Products (goods and services) in accordance with the revision of the Classifier of Products associated to the Activities of the European Economic Community (APC operation 2008);

3. PRODMOLD in accordance with the revision of the Nomenclature of industrial products and services of the European Union (PRODCOM);

4. Classifier of Operations of the Republic of Moldova in accordance with the revised version of the ISCO 88.

The statistical information developed on the basis of these national statistical classifiers will permit the production of qualitative statistical information comparable at European level.

3.2.4. Improvement of the Quality of Publications, of Statistical Information Dissemination and of Relations with Users

The statistical information, constituting a public good, is produced for satisfying the requirements of a large spectrum of users: public administration authorities, business and academic circles, the large public, etc. In such a way, the basic task in the statistical information dissemination domain is constituted by directing statistical editions to the user through improving satisfying the continuous increase and diversification of information requirements of all users of statistical information.

At the same time, improvement of statistical information dissemination and the development of statistics as a whole require an efficient collaboration between producers and consumers of statistical data. In this respect, optimization of the dialogue between the producers of statistical information and its consumers is an imperative of the time: the statistical organs have to grant an increased importance to the wishes of users, and the users to be totally aware of the role of official statistics in a modern society.

In such a way, the improvement of statistical information dissemination and of the relations with its users will be ensured by:

1. Improvement of publications' content and aspect and of methods of statistical information dissemination, launching of new editions, in the domains that represent an increase interest for users, development of statistical publications and information through electronic means (*Internet, CD*), development of visual forms of statistical information presentation, development of statistical information dissemination through individual and standardized services.

2. Creation of necessary conditions for delivering qualitative services of data dissemination through: NBS information technologies development (creation of the metadata system, implementation of PC-Axis programs for statistical information dissemination in diverse forms, creation of the central data bank with ensuring the sanctioned access of users; implementation of Internet and Intranet technologies for statistical data collection and delivery.

3. Improvement of collaboration with statistical data users by: promoting profound training of notions utilized in statistics, of the methodologies of calculating the main indicators for the purpose of better acknowledgement by a greater number of users, for the purpose of adequate utilization of statistical data by organizing diverse meetings (round tables, seminars etc) with participation of representatives of mass media information organs, of other interested persons; continuous study of users' requirements, especially by launching surveys.

4. Development of collaboration with statistical information producers, the bearers of administrative data sources and respondents (provision of access to administrative data sources in possession of other central and local public administration organs, which represent an increased interest for statistics (State Register of population, of the judiciary units, of administrative-territorial units, of licenses bearers etc.).

5. Development of statistical products/services marketing, directed to evaluating the users requirements and, especially to establishing systematic relations with potential and actual users (promotion of statistical publications and services of various categories of users, simplification of the method of servicing of clients).

It is also necessary to mention that statistical information dissemination improvement is determined by the development of information technologies capacities of the NBS, as well as by the overall improvement of the quality of statistical data. So, the following will have to benefit: *the large public* (will possess more information on the events, which take place in the society, about the existent information sources); *the public administration* (will have a better basis for planning and taking decisions, a better efficiency in resources' utilization); *diverse groups of users* (will have at their disposal more possibilities of obtaining statistical information for taking decisions, will have more ample knowledge on various sources of statistical information); *the international community* – will be better informed about the Republic of Moldova on the basis of active dissemination of internationally comparable statistical data, contributing to improving the image of our country beyond its borders.

3.2.5. Capacity Consolidation of Statistical Organs and of other Institutions – Bearers of Administrative Data within Production of Data utilized for Statistical Purposes

1. Delimitation of official statistics organs' functions in production and dissemination of official statistics.

2. Consolidation of institutional capacities of the NBS by:

a) modernizing the organizational structure of the statistical system for the purpose of improving the statistical activity, especially, the horizontal integration of the Information Technologies General Direction (ITGD) with the respective subdivisions of the central apparatus of the NBS; consolidation of institutional capacities in performing survey based research;

- b) improvement of financial and human management resources, especially by: developing and launching of an advanced evidence system on time consumption by main statistical works; improvement of the statistical planning process; improvement of personnel motivation methods for their efficient operation; creation of better work conditions for improving the attractiveness of work in statistical domain and for multilateral development of each employee's personality.

3. Capacities fortification of official statistics' organs and of central and local public administrations for the purpose of developing relevant statistical and administrative information, ensuring its efficient production and utilization, and also of respecting certain important dimensions of data presentation, as data desegregations (where possible) by gender, age and geographical areas.

3.2.6. Statistical System's Personnel Training

Development and implementation of the new statistical methodologies and of applications in accordance with scientific principles, that ensure obtaining of comparable statistical information at international level, supposes continuous improvement of personnel's knowledge in the domain of statistics, which in its turn can be achieved by:

1. Formation and improvement of professional training of the personnel in the domain of advanced statistical methodologies and practices both in the country and abroad, by involving foreign experts of international fame and by sharing knowledge obtained by participants to trainings to other coworkers by organizing seminars, courses, as well as during the process of day by day activity;

2. Granting of increased attention to the preparation and formation of personnel in territorial statistical organs;

3. Improvement of foreign languages knowledge, especially of English, in order to have the possibility to study methodological materials coming from abroad, as well as for active participation of employees in international seminars and conferences, fact that in its turn will give a boost to the application of advanced experience of other countries in the statistical practice of the Republic of Moldova.

4. Learning and application in practice of new achievements in the information technologies domain.

3.2.7. International Collaboration Development in the Statistics Domain

International collaboration and cooperation in the domain of statistics has a priority role, deriving from the functions of statistics that refer in particular to:

1. Development of data in accordance with international standards, especially those of the EU, for the purpose of ensuring their comparability, in the conditions of continuous improvement of statistical methods and of information technologies;

2. Presentation of statistical information to international organisms, in accordance with the obligations assumed by the Republic of Moldova.

In this sense, it is more evident the importance of international collaboration in the period of continuous reformation of national statistics.

The basic objectives in this domain are oriented to intensification of collaboration with:

1. the Eurostat, in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding between the NBS and Eurostat on data exchange, Agreement signed on the basis of Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the Republic of Moldova and the European Union; UN and its institutions (United Nations Development Program (UNDP), United Nations Children

Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Fund for Population (UNFPA), the United Nations Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Labor Organization (ILO), the United Nations Education, Science and Culture Organization (UNESCO), the World Bank (WB), the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for the purpose of:

- a) presentation of qualitative statistical information, contributing in such a way to the improvement of the image of the country abroad. A special role in this sense has the permanent presentation and update of statistical data and of methodologies for the SDDS of the IMF;
- b) obtaining of technical assistance for connecting the national statistics to international standards, taking into account the particularities of the country.

2. The CIS statistical committee, the national statistical organs of the countries with which agreements of collaboration are already signed in the statistics domain (Azerbaijan, Belarus, Russian Federation, Romania, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan) for the purpose of exchange of experience through methodological materials, statistical publications, etc.

An important activity will be the developed within the Program of international comparability, round 2008, which permits obtaining actualized data on the parity of national currency's purchasing power – important indicator for ensuring comparability of country's population wellbeing on world arena.

3.3. The Main Tasks on Statistical Domains are the following:

3.3.1. In the National Accounts System

1. Financial account development, that leads to: integral implementation of the system of national accounts in accordance with international standards; supply of beneficiaries, both internal as well as external ones with complete information on national accounts and with veridical calculations of the gross domestic product;

2. Development of the fixed capital consumption methodology in accordance with the requirements of the National Accounts System, as well as the performance of calculations of it will permit and the development of net domestic product (NDP) calculations;

3. Development of the methodology and of the modalities of estimation of illegal economic activities, will contribute to the truthfulness and complexity of the gross domestic product calculations;

4. Calculations improvement on reconciliation of quarterly data of the gross domestic product with the annual ones, with application of seasonal adjustments.

3.3.2. In Prices Statistics Domain

1. Improvement of the methods of collection, validation, delivery and processing of primary data on consumption prices;

2. Improvement of consumption prices' indexes calculations, with elimination of seasonal oscillations' inflation;

3. Improvement of the calculation methodology of consumption prices indexes, of industrial, agricultural production

4. Improvement of the calculation methodology of prices indexes in constructions and development or acquisition of the set of new programs for information processing.

3.3.3. In Enterprises' Statistics Domain

Emphasis will be put on the creation of an integral system of enterprises' statistics, which will be constituted of a coherent spectrum of annual and infra-annual (monthly and quarterly) statistical researches, in accordance with international norms, first of all with those of the EU:

a) Improvement of the system of statistical research and indicators in accordance with the basic principles of enterprises' statistics;

b) Harmonization of branches' statistical researches with the structural research in enterprises.

1. In the domain of Structural Research of Enterprises

Obtainment of more ample information on the particularities of the productive and commercial system of enterprises, which operate in diverse domains of the economy.

2. In the Domain of Industry Statistics

a) Implementation of the industrial production index in accordance with international and European standards on the basis of physical production and of added value;

b) Revision and implementation of the PRODMOLD industrial products' catalogue in accordance with the modified European standard PRODCOM.

3. In the Domain of Constructions' Statistics and of Investments in Fixed Capital

a) Improvement of statistical activity on the dwellings fund, based on perfecting the method of collection, processing and obtainment of statistical information on the existence, movement and the state of the dwelling fund, the development of the statistical methodology and tools of statistical observation in this domain;

b) Improvement of statistical indicators and of the calculation methodology on the activity of economic agents in constructions in the framework of enterprise statistics;

c) Organization of regional statistics on investments, constructions and the dwelling fund will require modification of the set of programs in the respective domains.

4. In the Domain of Services Statistics

a) Improvement of methodological instructions, of statistical indicators and indexes on retail trade, wholesale trade and market services in accordance with the European Union Regulations # 1165/1998 and 1158/2005, on short term indicators (Annex D);

b) Improvement of statistical tools, utilized for researching retail trade, wholesale trade and market services;

c) Obtaining qualitative data on road transportation of goods performed by physical persons;

d) Improvement of the statistical indicators system on air and railways transportation of goods and passengers, in accordance with EU regulations;

e) Adaptation of tourism's statistics research to the modifications which intervene in the domain of tourism;

f) Obtaining of statistical indicators on the information society in accordance with users' requirements.

5. In the Domain of Statistics of Innovation and Technological Transfer

a) Familiarization with experience of other countries in the domain, including with international requirements and standards;

b) Development of the system of indicators of the statistics of innovation and of technological transfer;

c) Development of data collection tools, performance of pilot survey and of the basic survey.

3.3.4. In the Domain of Agriculture Statistics

1. Creation of the agriculture producers Register;
2. Continuous improvement of the system of selective research of small producers in agriculture (peasants (farmers) households and of adjacent auxiliary households of the population);
3. Improvement of quarterly calculations of the production account in agriculture.
4. A priority direction of agriculture statistics development is the preparation and performance of the first General Agriculture Census, which has a special role in obtaining veridical information on the situation in agriculture, supply of decision factors with authentic information on the situation in agriculture, supply of decision factors with authentic information for the purpose of ensuring sustainable development, both of the rural sector agriculture, as well as the economy of the country as a whole.

As a result of the Census, important and detailed data will be obtained for the whole country and at territorial level, which will permit:

- a) performing agriculture production calculation, the total one and per products, on categories of households, etc.;
- b) evaluation of the real situation on:
 - the structure of agricultural producers;
 - human, technical-material resources that agricultural producers possess.
- c) development of the Agricultural Producers Register, which serves as basis for organizing selective researches.

The data of the General Agriculture Census will permit obtaining of necessary information for:

- a) the development of policies, of strategic programs of sustainable development of agriculture and of the rural sector;
- b) improvement of the legal basis pertaining to defining the category of agriculture units, etc.

3.3.5. In Environment Statistics Domain

Improvement of the system of indicators, of calculation methodologies, of their method of collection.

3.3.6. In External Sector Statistics Domain

1. Studying of the new IMF methodological norms on balance of payments development and on the international investment position of the state (VI-th edition, 2008);
2. Revision of the methodology of external sector statistics development of the national economy of the Republic of Moldova, for the purpose of complying to the new requirements;
3. Revision of the statistical framework and of tools for collection and processing of data, pertaining to external sector statistics;

4. Development of the information system of the balance of payments and of the investment information position of the state in accordance with the new methodological requirements;

5. Launching the procedure of switching to the balance of payments compiling in accordance with the new methodology (edition the VI-th) developed by the IMF.

3.3.7. In the domain of External Trade of Goods and Services Statistics

1. Continuous improvement of the methodological norms for external trade of goods statistics development in accordance with UN and EU standards, for the purpose of ensuring obtaining of certain useful data at national level and comparable at international level;

2. Implementation of the Catalogue of Goods of the Republic of Moldova, revised in accordance with the Harmonized System of Goods Codification (HS-2007);

3. Adjustment of the set of programs which lay at the basis of development of external trade of goods statistics in the Republic of Moldova;

4. Improvement of the statistical methodology of external trade of services development in accordance with the recommendations of the UN Statistics Commission (The Manual on the statistics of external trade in services, Series M № 86), The IMF Manual for the preparation of the Balance of Payments and the EUROSTAT legislation (Regulation of the Council (CE) # 184/2005 from January 12, 2005 on the balance of payments statistics, international trade in services and foreign direct investments);

5. Improvement of the system of statistical indicators utilized for researching external trade in services in accordance with international and European standards;

6. Improvement of the Classifier of Services, utilized in external trade activity;

7. Improvement of the method of collection, control and processing of statistical information on external trade in services;

3.3.8. In the Demographic Statistics Domain

1. Improvement of the indicators system in accordance with international standards, adaptation of notions to international definitions;

2. Improvement of the system of data collection and processing on demographic phenomena on the basis of computerization of inter-institutional information collaboration;

3. Improvement of the system of statistical migration information collection with the aim of achieving ample completion, both of internal migration, as well as of the external one (international);

4. Creation of the demographic database, that will contain the main demographic indicators;

5. Improvement of the quality of demographic statistics for insuring complex information about the level, quality and conditions of life of population, in accordance with the objectives stipulated in the Millennium Development Goals of the UN;

6. Promotion of statistical data disaggregation improvement according to gender in all domains of statistics;

7. Gender statistics development for the purpose of ensuring information support, for developing and monitoring national policies and programs' achievement on ensuring equality of chances for women and men.

3.3.9. In Labor Market Statistics Domain

1. Improvement of payroll income statistics in accordance with European norms (short term and long term statistics);
2. Examination of the level of correspondence of labor statistics to the provisions of the ILO Convention # 160 from 1985 on labor statistics and of the ILO recommendations # 170 from 1985 on labor statistics;
3. Preparation of the draft Law on ratification of the ILO Convention;
4. Achievement of statistical research of households on the issues of:
 - a) labor force migration;
 - b) young people entering the labor market;
 - c) children labor;
 - d) time management;
 - e) reconciliation of professional life with family life;
 - f) disabled persons' employment.
5. Achievement of statistical research of enterprises on the issues of:
 - a) placement of young specialists on labor market;
 - b) repartition of payroll employees of the budgetary system on functions, on categories of salaries payment and on size of salaries;
 - c) vacant work places;
 - d) structure of salaries incomes (studying the possibilities of achieving this researches).

3.3.10. In the Social Statistics Domain

1. Life Standard Statistics

- a) Selective surveys improvement on households that have the aim of determining the wellbeing standard of population through the prism of revenues, expenditures, life conditions and other quantitative and qualitative indicators;
- b) Harmonization of revenues and expenditures statistics with European norms and standards, especially the improvement of the data collection modality on expenditures of population within the Household Budgets Survey in accordance with the COICOP Classifier;
- c) Designing and implementation of a survey on social exclusion of population.

2. Education and Science Statistics

- a) Improvement of data collection tools of all educational institutions indifferent of the form of property and departmental subordination;
- b) Harmonization and standardization in common agreement with the Ministry of Education and Youth of methodological concepts of primary data collection and of calculation of indicators in the domain of educational statistics, in accordance with the EUROSTAT and UNESCO recommendations;
- c) Revision of the data collection tools in the domain of science and research-development in accordance with OECD, EUROSTAT and UNESCO standards.

3. Health Statistics

Health statistics will concentrate on the activities achieved jointly by the National Bureau of statistics and the Ministry of Health for the purpose of improving the national information system in the health domain. The statistical indicators obtained on the basis of exhaustive

researches will be supplemented with the indicators obtained within selective surveys in households on the state of health of population performed by the NBS.

4. Social Protection Statistics

a) Development of a unique strategy (in common agreement with the Ministry of Social Protection, Family and Child, the National House of National Protection, the Ministry of Internal Affairs etc.) of data collection and of calculation of indicators of the social protection domain, so that the statistical indicators are comparable from the national and international points of view;

b) Improvement of the social protection statistics for evaluation of policies and reforms in the respective domain.

5. Statistics of Judiciary

Development of a unique strategy, in common agreement with the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Ministry of Justice with the purpose of data collection and calculation of indicators of the juridical statistics, so that, statistical indicators are comparable on national and international levels.

6. Culture and Sports Statistics

Harmonization of statistics on culture and sports in accordance with the European norms and standards in the domain, in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, the Agency of Sports, the National Chamber of Books etc.

3.3.11. Regional Statistics

1. Improvement of the informational system on regional development on the basis of:

a) extending administrative information development and utilization in territorial aspect, held by central and local public authorities;

b) elaborating main statistical indicators on development regions, in accordance with the Law on regional development on the Republic of Moldova # 438-XVI from 12.28.2006;

2. Respecting the cost-efficiency principle of statistical data collection organization at statistical information development in territorial aspect (foremost the availability of representative administrative and statistical data will be taken into account).

IV. EXPECTED RESULTS

The achievement of the present Strategy will contribute to increasing the level of supply of central and local public authorities, of the large public with relevant and reliable statistical information on the situation and tendencies of social, economic, demographic and environmental development; to statistical data quality increase; to optimizing the system of statistical research under the aspect of reduction of statistical data collection duplication, exclusion of the ones with reduced informational value.

Specific results:

- increased degree of harmonization of the system of relevant statistical indicators and of their methodologies of development to international standards, especially to those of the EU, for providing the users with relevant and authentic statistical data, comparable at international level;
- a more efficient utilization of statistical data by users;

- national statistics image increase, both among internal users, as well as among external ones, and respectively increase of the contribution level to continuous development of the national statistics system.

V. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The present Strategy is completed with a Plan of Actions, which presents in details the intermediary measures and stages necessary to attain the stipulated objectives, the required and existent financial resources, as well as the assistance on behalf of international programs for the aim of reforming the national statistics system.

The present Strategy implementation will be accompanied by a continuous process of actions and results monitoring and evaluation by the Council of Statistics, as well and by the NBS, in its quality of official statistics' central organ. It will include:

- obtained results' monitoring and evaluation;
- monitoring the implementation of the Plan of Actions on National Statistics Development for the years 2008-2011.