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Theme 3

**CHANGING USE OF STATISTICS IN GEORGIA**

Paper Submitted by the State Department for Statistics of Georgia 1/

1. Georgia today is a country in transition. The economic processes have been dynamically developing. Along with the occurring changes the statistics also require the progress. As a result of economic reforms, the role of statistics has been significantly increasing.
2. The "Law on Statistics" and the Statute of the Department aim to fulfill the goals such as the monitoring of social-economic issues and the provision of the current economic reforms with the necessary information, fulfillment of international requirements and responsibilities.
3. In order to improve the legal regulation of the activities of statistical bodies, a new "Law on Statistics" was adopted in 1997. This modified law clearly determines the rights and responsibilities of the State statistical bodies and the rights and responsibilities of providers of statistical information.
4. During 1997-1999 more than 10 edicts were adopted and signed. They aimed to improve the quality and efficiency of SDS.

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1/ Prepared by Mr. Teimuraz Beridze, Chairman.

5. As a result of the development of economy, the demand on statistical information has been significantly increasing. Due to this fact "The program on development of statistics of Georgia during 2000-2005" was elaborated in 1999. The program focuses on the methods of approach to the users of statistical information, and the efforts to increase their ability to interpret the information.
6. The SDS gives an important role to the availability of statistical information and its proper interpretation. The statistical bulletins and data collections are regularly published. In 1999, the SDS published more than 11 data collections which comprised the fields of industry, agriculture, trade, law and order, gender statistics and other. Recently, SDS published the annual data collection.
7. In order to discuss and estimate the current pressing issues and social-economic issues, the SDS organizes press-conferences.
8. In September 1998, due to the assistance of Eurostat the International Seminar was carried out in SDS. The seminar focused on the forms of attitudes to the users of statistical information and less focused on functional and organizational structure of SDS. In April 1999 the Eurostat organized the seminar on gender statistics and its users.
9. The Cupertino between the SDS and the users of information is necessary for the proper interpretation of statistical data. The SDS must satisfy the variable needs of its users. The SDS must popularize the information and support the proper understanding and interpretation of its data. The reducing number of state organizations and the increase of the share of private sector effected the fulfillment of this goal. The SDS introduces the users of information its projects, which are reviewed by mass media. The SDS considers the users suggestions in order to establish the final program of actions.
10. The relations between the statistical bodies and the users of information occur in conditions of establishment of rightful state and institutions of democracy. Therefore, the relations between the producers and the users of statistical information rely on juridical principles, the rights and responsibilities of the both sides. The protection of confidentiality of primary information and business secrets is the basic approach and principle of SDS.
11. It is important to present the information in accuracy with the event, process or tendency. According to the basic principles of market economy the SDS produces the information which is demanded. According to the approach, the information which is not demanded is useless and the resources spent on its production are inefficiently used. In order to determine the variable interests of users, the statistical service carries out the preliminary marketing research.
12. Mass media plays the role if an intermediary between the producers and the users of statistical information. Therefore, it is important to establish and maintain friendly relations and cooperation with mass media agencies.
13. The users of information such as the scientific centers and establishments set high requirements for SDS. The information provided to the individual scientists and scientific

establishments are frequently interpreted by them. SDS should not be responsible for the wrong analysis of information by the users.

14. It is important to mention that the international partners of SDS, economic and statistical services of Germany, the Netherlands, Finland, Sweden and other support SDS, and influence the process of communication with the users of information. The quality of data mostly depend on its ability to be reconciled with the international information. This is very important for the SNA and macroeconomic indicators.

15. The users of information must know that in market economy it is impossible to obtain and process the information from each of thousands entrepreneurs. Therefore SDS conducts the sampled surveys. In these circumstances the demand on information (from both governmental and private institutions) of individual enterprises is not possible and is incorrect.

16. On the basis of statistical information authorities develop the aspects of the policy, scientific organizations and mass media make projections and forecastings. These organizations which forecast on the basis of statistical information, must be responsible for their forecastings.

17. The State Department for Statistics of Georgia must be focused on the organizational and methodological aspects and less concentrated on analytical work and comments.

18. The users of statistical information imply the users inside the department and external users. Therefore, the term "relations with the users of statistical information" comprises the satisfaction of requirements and cooperation with these two categories of users.

19. The discussion between the producers of statistical information and its users implies the improvement of data quality. The SDS puts the agreements with particular users of information on the provision of information and its periodicity. The users may observe the process of data production, outstanding issues, participate in the improvement of methods and methodology. The SDS established a scientific consultation group, which unites the users of information such as the governmental and non-governmental establishments and organizations, representatives of scientific establishments and other. They participate in the production and improvement of statistical information, methods and methodology.

20. In spite of these efforts, the system of regular observation of users is not implemented. The system implies the surveys based on questionnaires and investigations of attitudes.

21. The SDS communicates with the users by telephone, fax, and provides shops with the data collections, newspapers, press releases and other. The branch divisions participate in preparation of data collections, in the field of data processing, data presentation in accordance with the international standards.

22. The SDS works on implementation of data distribution by Internet, which will enable the users to enter the database.

23. The SDS elaborated the plan of annual publications which will help to determine the demand and orders on publications. The SDS plans to develop the catalogue of annual publications, which will contain the list of publications, short review, expected time of publishing and price.

24. The distribution of statistical information is effected by the lack of experience in the field of marketing and market research. It is necessary to improve and learn the new methods of provision of statistical information, estimate the demand and the satisfaction of users. We think that international organizations could help us in improvement of mentioned fields through projects, their experience will be greatly appreciated.

25. The co-operation between the SDS and the users of its information increases the quality of information, its value and enlarges its area.

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