Twentieth session of the Joint Task force on Environmental Statistics and Indicators

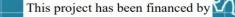
The Sector Review of Environment Statistics

Republic of Armenia

Eurostat and ARMSTAT

Dr. Jana TAFI

Palais des Nations, Geneva Switzerland 16 October - 17 October 2023





Sector Review of Environment Statistics Outline

European Statistics Code of Practice

For the National Statistical Authorities and the European Union Statistical Authority

Adopted by the European Statistical System Committee

16th November 2017

Sector Review of Environment Statistics

Statistical Committee of the Republic of Armenia

Report

July 2022

This report has been financed by Eurostat (the Statistical Office of the European Union) and prepared in cooperation with external experts and ARMSTAT, the Statistical Committee of the Republic of Armenia

This project has been financed by

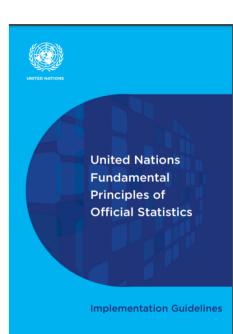
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https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/52535/10844196/SR Environment+statistics_Armenia_FINAL.pdf/3166227c-1f7a-737 0-d3da-93093379cff??t=1687418757085 Review conducted by Jana TAFI and Monica LUZ UREÑA,

Review conducted by Jana TAFI and Monica LUZ URENA DevStat Statistical Consulting Service S.L. "There is an ocean of information, facts and statistics out there. How can you be sure that this information is accurate, the facts are not fake and the statistics have not been manipulated...." (EUROSTAT)

Environment Statistics Review is a tool box that help statistical authorities to further improve and develop their statistical systems.





E/1992/32 E/ECE/1266 (page, 17 page 35-36) Economic Commission for Europe, Annual Report (18 April 1991 - 15 April 1992)

123. At its eight meeting, the Commission adopted its decision C(47) on the fundamental principles of official statistics in the region of the Economic Commission for Europe:

C (47) THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF OFFICIAL STATISTICS IN THE REGION OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Sector Review of Environment Statistics in Armenia

Objective

Compliance of Environment Statistics of the National Statistical System of Armenia with the European statistical standards set up by the European Statistics Code of Practice (ESCoP), guided by the Quality Assurance Framework of the European Statistical System (ESS QAF).

Motivation

Assess Environment Statistics System's strengths, weaknesses, good practices and areas for future oriented development:

Institutional environment (ESCoP principles 1 to 6); Statistical processes (ESCoP principles 7 to 10); Statistical outputs (ESCoP principles 11 to 15).



Sector Review of Environment Statistics: steps





ARMSTAT request within the "Global Assessments, Peer Reviews and Sector Reviews for the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) Countries" project initiated and funded by EUROSTAT.



- **Development of a self-assessment questionnaire** (SAQ) for Review of Environment Statistics to gauge the strengths of the production process and pinpoint the areas where improvements are still needed to align with European Statistical Standards.
- **ARMSTAT** completed the SAQ to assess itself against the principles of the ESCoP, and provided extensive documentation on its own functioning.



- Completed SAQ and documents were checked and analysed by an expert team which subsequently carried out an in-country visit during which a further in-depth review was performed
- **Meetings** with ARMSTAT's **experts** (collection, treatment, quality control and dissemination), stakeholders (government, ministries) and users (citizens, NGOs and scientific communities).



• The expert team compiled **a final report with recommendations** for improvements and the report was submitted to ARMSTAT for approval and drafting of future orientated actions.

Main findings: institutional environment, statistical processes and statistical outputs



- Existing of legal mandate to carries out statistical activities in line with UN FSOP and ESCoP: 2018 Law on Official Statistics, 5 Year Statistical Programme, Annual Working Plan, Environmental Laws, MoU with Ministry of Environment ...
- 2) Confidence of stakeholders in objectivity, impartiality and quality: Consultation and feedback on the 5 Year Statistical Programme, Annual Working Plan, Working Expert Group on Environment Statistics on methodology and technical issues, 2016 ARMSTAT Quality Policy, ARMSTAT Handbook on Data Quality Assessment and Tools...
- 3) Resources (human, IT and finance) adequacy is a persistent challenge: Financial sustainability uncertain, high staff turnover, IT infrastructure outdated.
- 4) Environment Statistics are largely compliant with international statistical standards, such as the UN FDES 2013 and the SDGs indicators frameworks, concepts, definitions and procedures.
- 5) Relevant outreach and dissemination of statistical products of good quality, considering users requirements and needs. Outcomes available and accessible in a suitable and user friendly format with guidance and metadata (User Satisfaction Survey results online, key users meetings...).
- 6) The Review recognises the strengths of the ARMSTAT Environment Statistics production process and brings to light areas where improvement is still needed to align the sector with European statistical standards. 5

Main recommendations on institutional environment, statistical processes and statistical outputs regarding:



- Legal mandate, regulations that national statistical system operate to develop, produce, coordinate, cooperate and share activities in Environment statistics in changing data landscape to strengthen role as a data steward.
- Committent to quality, sound methodology, objectivity by broad integration and application of EUROSTAT methodologies, and practices. European Environmental Indicator Catalogue, EU practice in SEEA accounts, EU statistical Classifications, ...Environmental Protection Activities and Expenditure (CEPA).
- Efficient use of national financial resources and the efficiency of the Environment Statistics production process
 right from its inception at data collection, and exploration of new and alternative data sources, such as:
 administrative data (for environmental taxes); earth observation data; and climate change data.
- Response to relevant environmental and societal concerns such as water scarcity, climate change, deforestation, waste management, and soil degradation, in statistics on water, forestry, waste, soil and climate change with primary focus to development and reforms. Continue application of UN FDES, SEEA, and SDGs frameworks,....
- Integration of social and economic statistics to measuring environmental footprint of business and households, and well-being.
- Regular contacts with key users and stakeholders on methodology development, interpretation and dissemination format. User orientation and designed statistical products, accessible and available on the ARMSTAT website.

Lessons learned from this Review exercise



- This review is an instrument that leads to the implementation of the common quality framework and thus to comply with the high-quality of European Environment statistics.
- It promotes free and equal access to Environment statistics that are reliable, trustworthy and comparable.
- It highlights overarching policy concerns and the increase demand for Environment statistics (timelyness, disaggregation, data for now..) under tight fiscal constraints and the need for strong data infrastructure and its governance.
- It addresses professional considerations and ethic principles to enhancing and broadening international statistical frameworks and EU practices in relation to national methods and procedures for development, collection, processing, storage and presentation of Environment statistics.
- It provides guidance to the development of an indispensable element in the information system of a democratic society, serving government, economy and public with data and indicators about environment and related concerns in economic, demographic and social situation.

Recommendations to Countries interested a Review



For the Review of national Environment Statistics System to assess the compliance with the principles and indicators of the ESCoP based on the UN FPOS and practical utility of aligning with European statistical standards, consider:

- Future improvements in administrative and technical capacities, statistical production and dissemination processes.
- The use by statistical and environmental agencies of international concepts, classifications and methods to promote consistency and efficiency.
- The need to retain trust in Environment statistics, in particular by using scientific and transparent methods and procedures and the contribution of recognizing international statistical standards.
- Reinforcing the benchmark status of the National Environment Statistics System in providing its stakeholders with impartial, relevant and accurate information to guide decision-making.

Recommendations to International Organisations and to Experts involved in Reviews



Quality is the trademark of European statistics and makes them more trustworthy than other data that are readily available through many channels. Guidance is provided by the 2017 EUROSTAT common quality framework - the European Statistics Code of Practice (ESCoP), based on the 1992 Fundamental principles of official statistics in the region of UNECE.

- Review of Environment statistics based on a set of principles ESCoP ensure impartiality, relevance, and accuracy and it is a public good available for all users.
- Coordination among statistical and environmental agencies, other agencies e.g. forestry, fisheries, water, agriculture, transport and energy, within countries is essential to achieve consistency and efficiency in the environmental statistical system at all levels.
- Bilateral and Multilateral Cooperation in Environment Statistics Reviews contribute to the improvement of official statistics systems (institutional environment, statistical processes and outputs) in all countries.
- Contribution to reporting data and indicators to the UNECE 'Environment for Europe', UNECE Environmental indicators and SDGs processes, international and UNECE environmental conventions and agreements is important outcome.
- Adequate technical assistance and financial support should be provided to the review process and to the implementation of the recommendations.

Thank you



Dr. Jana TAFI