

The Five-Year Statistical Program of the Republic of Armenia for 2019-2023

INTRODUCTION

According to the “Law on Official Statistics”, statistical programs are the basis for the implementation of official statistics on the territory of the Republic of Armenia, which include statistical information necessary for the observation of the economic, demographic, social and environmental situation of the country, taking into account the existing resource constraints, the amount of responsibilities given to statistical information providers and the cost-effectiveness.

Directions and measures envisaged by the statistical program take into account the comparability of the country's indicators to the international statistical standards, ensure their possible stable periodicity for disclosing trends in the long-term and the proportion of resources allocated annually to the official statistics.

Statistical Committee of RA (hereafter Statistical Committee) develops statistical programs based on the study of the demand of users of official statistics.

Five-year statistical program of the Republic of Armenia for 2019-2023 (hereinafter five-year program) comes from the requirements of the Articles 14 and 15 of the RA “Law on Official Statistics” and was developed for the entire national statistical system as a key tool for efficient strategic and operational management and coordination.

It defines the strategic development directions of the official statistics of the Republic of Armenia in order to meet the current and emerging needs of users.

The five-year statistical program defines the conceptual approaches and development priorities of the national statistical system.

The Statistical Committee is responsible for developing statistical programs, in close cooperation with the Central Bank of the Republic of Armenia, other producers of official statistics, users, respondents and administrative data providers.

The implementation and financing of the five-year program is conditioned and based on annual state budget of the Republic of Armenia.

PART 1.

GENERAL STRATEGY

1. The directions and measures of the activity foreseen by the given five-year program are also derived from the strategic directions, defined by the three-year programs of previous years specified in the “Law on State Statistics”, aimed at ensuring their continuity.

2. The strategy adopted in the field of official statistics is aimed at ensuring of implementation of main tasks defined by RA “Law on Official Statistics” and anchored on 10 Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics adopted by the 47th Session of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (15 April 1992) and United Nation Statistical Commission (14 April 1994), and approved by the United Nations General Assembly (29 January 2014, Resolution 68/261), as well as, in addition to those Principles, on 15 Principles defined by the European Statistics Code of Practice adopted by the Statistical Program Committee (24 February 2005) and European Statistical System Committee (28 September 2011), on Quality Declaration of the European Statistical System of European Commission and Statistical Office of the European Union (2002), on requirements of the Special Data Dissemination Standard of the International Monetary Fund (hereafter IMF) (2003), on Armenia Country Report on the Observance of Standards and Codes— Data Module, Response by the Authorities, and Detailed Assessment Using the Data Quality Assessment Framework (2009), as well as on results of the Global Assessment of the National System of Official Statistics of the Republic of Armenia jointly undertaken by the experts of the European Commission (Eurostat), European Free Trade Association (EFTA) and United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) (2008) and on the provisions of the “Legal Framework for European Statistics. Law on Statistics” approved by the European Parliament and Council Regulation No 223/2009 dated 11 March 2009 (2010) and statistics international criteria and standards developed based on them, as well as on the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics defined in the “Law on Official Statistics”.

3. According to the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, statistics should ensure impartiality (independence), equal access to use information, professional standards, efficiency, accountability and transparency, confidentiality of primary (personal) data, etc. to meet requirements of state institutions, international organizations, public and business during the program work. It is necessary that users consider the Statistical Committee as an organization radically differing from certain policy-oriented state institutions. The guarantees to avoid the involvement of the official statistics in the existing conflicts between political, administrative and similar interests are defined by the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics.
4. To ensure the main tasks and fundamental principles of official statistics, it is foreseen:
 - 1) To continue and expand the international cooperation of Statistical Committee with a purpose to ensure a continuous improvement of statistical methodology, its harmonization with international criteria and unification with international standards, as well as the international comparability of statistical indicators.
 - 2) To continue the work of introduction and application of internationally adopted standards on data dissemination (in particular, Special Data Dissemination Standard developed by the International Monetary Fund) with the purpose to ensure statistical data quality and transparency, which imply uninterrupted operation of the official web-page of Statistical Committee and regular updating of information composition and quality, as well as methodological data.
 - 3) In parallel with the development of statistical methodology to continue the work on review of composition and contents of indicators reflected in the currently acting statistical observation documents and unification of statistical observation documents, aiming at minimizing possible negative impacts on information quality, completeness and reliability, as well as to reduce the burden on statistical information providers.
 - 4) To continue the work on development and introduction of national classifications, which are part of a unified classification and coding system of technical and economic, and social information, as well as work on improvement of classifications already introduced and applied in the state statistics.

- 5) To supplement, update and complete (minimum annually) the business register database (on legal persons and individual entrepreneurs) and as a result to implement a gradual transition to expand the use of sampling methods of information collection.
- 6) To expand the application of information collection mechanism through the administrative registers, taking into account the ensuring of implementation of relevant works defined by the annual statistical program.
- 7) To improve and expand the composition and contents of indicators necessary for the maintenance of regional statistics in parallel with introduction and maintenance of local (community) administrative registers (including community passports).
- 8) To expand the set of statistical indicators maintained by gender.
- 9) To implement measures towards the electronic collection of information by introducing and applying information technologies with a purpose to ensure the timeliness of indicators development, as well as to increase the work efficiency.
- 10) To promote the increase of confidence in statistical information through in-depth study of users' requirements and needs, and improving the relevant legal framework of statistics and data dissemination.
- 11) To continue the production of statistical publications (bulletins, handbooks, etc.) consisting of statistical information characterizing economic, demographic, social and environmental situation of the country, as well as to improve their composition, content and thematic coverage to fully meet the needs of statistical information users.
- 12) To improve the methods of summary information dissemination from the official web-page of Statistical Committee in a real time regime for users of statistical information.

PART 2.

PROGRAMS OF MEASURES ENSURING THE DEVELOPMENT OF FUNCTIONAL SPHERES

5. The sphere of statistics is characterized by the need of permanent improvement of the methodology that is anchored, on one hand, on data reliability, timeliness, sound methodology of getting information and increasing demands on compliance with international criteria, and, on the other hand, on the requirement of keeping the principle of statistical confidentiality.

6. It is foreseen to implement the further development of statistics for 2019-2023 by real, fiscal, financial, external and social and demographic sectors of economy.

SECTION 1. REAL SECTOR

CHAPTER 1. NATIONAL ACCOUNTS

7. It is foreseen to implement the following measures:
 - 1) Maintenance and improvement of the System of National Accounts of Armenia at the level of whole economy, as well as structural sectors of economy according to the “System of National Accounts - 2008” and “European Accounts System - 2010” international methodologies.
 - 2) Implementation of works on retrospective reviews on the absolute volume and dynamics of gross domestic product (hereafter GDP), based on the “System of National Accounts - 2008” methodology.
 - 3) Completion and improvement of the information sources according to the requirements of the “System of National Accounts - 2008” with a purpose to improve calculations of the indicators of the System of National Accounts of Armenia.
 - 4) Maintenance of value-added statistics (by production approach) of sectors of financial and non-financial organizations by sub-sectors.
 - 5) Maintenance of the statistics of Armenia's National Accounts according to the “Armenian Classification of Types of Economic Activities” and Classifications defined by the “System of National Accounts – 2008”.
 - 6) Improvement of the estimation methodology of sizes and calculations of the non-observed economy by applying “Tabular approach” principle of Eurostat, including implementation of "illegal activities" evaluation.
 - 7) Implementation of works on the compilation of “supply-use” tables in the National Accounts System with possible involvement of additional resources.
 - 8) Improvement of the estimation methodology of indirectly measured services on financial intermediation jointly with the Central Bank of the Republic of Armenia.
 - 9) Maintenance and improvement of statistics on national wealth components.
 - 10) Improvement of the estimation methodology on the consumption of fixed assets in the National Accounts of Armenia.
 - 11) Evaluation on “conventionally calculated rental value of owner-occupied dwellings” by applying “the user-cost approach”.

- 12) Maintenance of statistics of gross added value according to the types of economic activity and organization size determined by the number of employees.
- 13) Implementation of territorial GDP estimation.

CHAPTER 2.

BUSINESS STATISTICS (INDUSTRY, AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY, CONSTRUCTION, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS, TRADE AND OTHER SERVICES)

8. It is foreseen to implement the following measures:

- 1) Maintenance of statistics according to the Armenian Classification of Types of Economic Activities.
- 2) Complete introduction of Classification of Products by Types of Activity in industry statistics (up to 9 digits) and maintenance of statistics of product kinds, as well as agriculture, forestry and fish-breeding, construction, transport and communication, trade statistics, as well as statistics of other service sectors.
- 3) Continued improvement of collection and processing methodology of statistical data and ensuring its comparability according to the international criteria and standards.
- 4) Application of toolkit for non-observed (under-reported) evaluation and their continuous improvement according to international standards with the purpose of completion of registration field and quality assurance of indicators.
- 5) Updating of registration field through business register, as well as farm register information data banks, extension and improvement of application of sample observations methods.
- 6) Publication of energy balance of the Republic of Armenia in accordance with International Energy Commission standards.
- 7) Implementation of preparation activities for agricultural census of the Republic of Armenia to be conducted in 2024.
- 8) Application of accurate tools with the results of sample observations, taking into account peculiarities of each sector, with the purpose of ensuring the quality of statistical data collected on plant-growing output and cattle breeding production.
- 9) According to methodology used by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and European Commission, continuous improvement of system of

indicators (availability of food, accessibility and consumption) describing food security situation, periodical compilation and improvement of National Food Accounts based on it.

- 10) Extension of the scope of application of administrative registers as a source of statistical information.

CHAPTER 3.

PRICES AND TARIFFS

9. It is foreseen to implement the following measures:
 - 1) Revision and updating of the composition and structure of observed goods- services with the purpose of further improvement of methodology of consumer price indexes (hereafter CPI) calculation, recalculation of weights of goods-services included in the CPI basket.
 - 2) Adoption of relevant year as a base period approved by EU and reviewed once in 5 years for the long-term estimations of consumer price index.
 - 3) Compilation of electronic tables according to 2-5 digit levels of “Classification of Individual Consumption by Purpose” (hereafter COICOP) for the purpose of efficient organization of CPI calculation.
 - 4) Revision of CPI publication formats, based on the recommendations of the IMF mission and the statistical organizations of the European countries on the requirements of the CPI and internationally accepted standards, publication of CPI 12-month inflation.
 - 5) Introduction of the use of Typical Price method used more frequently in international practice for CPI calculations for high seasonal non-food products.
 - 6) Implementation of preparation work on including “conventionally calculated rental value of owner-occupied dwellings” in CPI calculations, by applying “rent valuation method” suggested by IMF mission as a preferable and much frequently used method in European countries.
 - 7) Continuous improvement of sampling of trade and service providing organizations implemented for the price observation, implementation of monthly price observations of consumer goods and services in the selected organizations by the use

of small portable computers, use of relevant information available on internet for registration of online trade or mobile network tariffs.

- 8) Updating of sampling of base organizations participating in the calculations of Industrial producer price indices (IPPI).
- 9) Continuous improvement of calculation methodology of industrial and agricultural products, transportation tariff indices, extension of observation field, revision of sampling of observed industrial organizations and agricultural farms, organization of price observation in accordance with international standards and classifications, particularly introduction of Classification of Products by Types of Activity (with 9-digit level) in the calculation of industrial product price index.
- 10) Implementation of re-classification of products included in external trade price (average price) index calculations, in accordance with the new version of “Commodity Nomenclature of Foreign Economic Activity”.
- 11) Implementation of activities and publication of final results with 2017 indicators by the international comparisons program of adequate calculation of gross domestic product and Purchasing power parity of national currency carried out by on the territory of CIS countries. Implementation of preparatory activities for participating in activities of the next phase of international global comparisons program of International Comparison Program organized and funded by World Bank.

CHAPTER 4.

LABOR MARKET

10. It is foreseen to implement the following measures:
 - 1) Continuous improvement of information collection, development and summarizing of methods and toolkit on labor market and salary (especially the introduction of technological innovations in primary data collection activities of the labor force survey, conducted in households).
 - 2) Improvement of sample surveys. In particular, it is foreseen:
 - a. Extension of labor survey sample population, intended for revealing problems and peculiarities of population.

- b. Revision of methodology of labor survey sample frame, by individual (personalized) data banks of RA State Population Register of the RA Police as general population for the compilation of sample units.
 - c. Improvement of evaluation methods of labor force survey results by using current demographic statistical data, as well as calculation of indicators (margin of error, confidence interval, etc.) describing the quality of survey results.
 - d. Updating of general population of labor force and vacancy surveys; listing of households/organizations before the start of fieldwork.
 - e. Introduction of panel method of labor force survey in accordance with EU Labor Force Survey Methodology, ensuring new indicators on labor force flow and decreasing the expensiveness of the survey.
 - f. Application of labor force thematic modules, intended for monitoring market developments and challenges.
- 3) Extension of data frame of administrative registers, including improvement of tools for processing information in data banks on hired employees personally registered by RA State Revenue Committee and extension of the frame of output indicators.
- 4) Harmonizing (approximating) the frame of output indicators and methodology of RA labor statistics, as much as possible, to the suggested standards of International Labour Organization and European Union, regulations and classifications (ISCO, NACE, ISECD etc.), ensuring indicators that arise from social-economic needs of the Republic of Armenia and are in line with modern requirements, and comparable labor statistics. In particular, it is foreseen:
- a. Transition from the phase of introducing provisions of resolution on Statistics of Work, Employment and Labour Underutilization, adopted at 19th International Conference of labor Statistics (ICLS) in 2013, to the diagnostics of the “weaknesses” of research tool and their correction, phase-by-phase introduction of suggested new contents and frame for labor market indicators and continuous improvement.
 - b. Continuous improvement of statistics on salary, earnings, labor cost, working hours launched within the framework of the EU Twinning project during 2015-2017 and calculation of labor cost index.
 - c. Continuous improvement of statistics on vacancies and newly opened jobs, labor migration, vocational training of employees, statistics on working conditions.
- 5) Continuous improvement and harmonization of labor market gender statistics with “Content of key gender indicators” suggested by UN Economic Commission for Europe.

- 6) Harmonization of labor migration statistics in the frameworks of introduction of statistics on labor force mobility in line with the manual suggested by the UN Economic Commission for Europe, as well as towards the requirements of resolutions of 20th International Conference of Labor Statistics.
- 7) Phase-by-phase introduction of resolutions to be adopted at 20th International Conference of Labor Statistics in 2020, including the reviewed 2020 version of International Classification of Status in Employment (ICSE).
- 8) Creation of data bank of key statistical indicators for the evaluation of “Decent work” proposed by the International Labor Organization with the coordination of existing frame of indicators and replenished with new indicators defined by 19th ICLS resolution.

CHAPTER 5. BUSINESS REGISTER

11. It is foreseen to implement the following measures:
 - 1) Ensuring the completeness and regular updating of the business register on legal entities and individual entrepreneurs based on databases maintained by administrative registers (in particular, State Register Agency of Legal Entities of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia, State Revenue Committee of the Republic of Armenia, etc.) in accordance with internationally accepted standards.
 - 2) Continuous improvement of software of maintaining business register, aimed at the facilitation of information receiving process.
 - 3) Improvement of tools for processing information collected from direct and indirect sources to increase the quality of indicators available in the business register.
 - 4) Maintenance of quantity and “demographic” statistics on small and medium enterprises, based on business register data bank.

CLASSIFICATIONS

12. It is foreseen to implement the following measures:
 - 1) Development of national version of “Classification of Financial Assets”, based on methodology of System of National Accounts – 2008.

- 2) Development of national version of “International Standard Classification of Education”.

CHAPTER 6. FINANCES OF ORGANIZATION

13. It is foreseen to implement the following measures:

- 1) Maintenance of finance statistics of commercial organizations of non-financial economic sector, according to the Armenian Classification of “Types of Economic Activities”.
- 2) Calculation of indicators on purchasing power of organizations, financial stability, as well as profitability of products and assets.
- 3) Ensuring the derivation of financial indicators, necessary for maintenance of structural business statistics.

SECTION 2. TAX, BUDGETARY AND FINANCIAL SECTORS

14. It is foreseen to implement the following measures:

- 1) Maintenance and improvement of state finance statistics (consolidated, state, communities budgets and their elements) in accordance with the internationally adopted and applied methodologies (including maintenance of statistics, according to the classification of “Government Finance Statistics 2001” Manual and implementation of the preparatory works on Introduction of “Government Finance Statistics 2014” Manual, jointly with the authorized body maintaining relevant administrative register).
- 2) Maintenance and improvement of national debt statistics of the Republic of Armenia (jointly with the authorized body maintaining relevant administrative register).
- 3) Maintenance and improvement of statistics of financial intermediation sector (including financial intermediation of non-banking sector, jointly with the authorized body maintaining relevant administrative register).

- 4) Implementation of works on introduction of the “Financial account” statistics, in accordance with the principles of the “System of National Accounts - 2008”.

SECTION 3. EXTERNAL SECTOR

15. It is foreseen to implement the following measures:

- 1) Compilation of the article “Goods and Services” of the current account of Balance of Payments of the Republic of Armenia according to IMF methodology.
- 2) Support to the compilation of statistics on balance of payments, international investment position and external debt statistics according to the internationally adopted and applied methodologies (including maintenance of statistics according to the classifications of “Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual, 6th edition” and “External Debt Statistics” Guide with the authorized body maintaining relevant administrative register).
- 3) Collection of external and mutual trade indicators in accordance with the external and mutual trade methodology (fundamentals and definitions of “Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services, 2010”) developed by Eurasian Economic Commission.
- 4) Improvement of the registration field of foreign investments and refinement of estimation of indicators, in accordance with the internationally adopted and applied methodologies (including, jointly with the authorized body maintaining relevant administrative register).
- 5) Improvement of the registration field of international services and refinement of estimation of indicators, in accordance with the internationally adopted and applied methodologies.
- 6) Maintenance of statistics on international and internal tourism, implementation of preparatory works on introduction of tourism satellite account.

SECTION 4.

SOCIAL AND DEMOGRAPHIC SECTOR

CHAPTER 1. SOCIAL SPHERE

16. It is foreseen to implement the following measures:

- 1) Support to the formation and improvement of administrative registers with a purpose to complete the statistical registration in education, science, culture, sport, social and other social-demographic fields.
- 2) Improvement of housing stock and public utilities sphere statistics, support to the formation and improvement of administrative registers.

CHAPTER 2. HOUSEHOLD SURVEYS

17. It is foreseen to implement the following measures:

- 1) Regular conduction of Integrated Household Living Conditions Survey and improvement of methodology in line with methodological developments, elaborated by the World Bank.
- 2) Ensuring higher representativeness of sampling of Integrated Household Living Conditions Survey by regions of the Republic of Armenia and by Yerevan city with the purpose to complete and update the main indicators characterizing poverty and social situation.
- 3) Evaluation of Multidimensional Poverty Index and continuous improvement of its application as an alternative method for measuring poverty.
- 4) Ensuring the continuity and improvement of maintaining tangible and intangible poverty indicators (education, health, access to safe drinking water and housing conditions).
- 5) Implementation of in-depth poverty assessment, including the completion and improvement of content of indicators on social exclusions, food security, children needs, access to information and telecommunication technologies at individual level.

CHAPTER 3. DEMOGRAPHY

18. It is foreseen to implement the following measures:

- 1) Continuous improvement of data derivation, development and production activities on population natural movement: birth, death, marriage and divorce from registration of civil status acts of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia.
- 2) Introduction of control mechanisms of statistical processing works of data received electronically on population natural movement: birth, death, marriage, and divorce from registration of civil status acts of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia, increasing data quality and ensuring the derivation of relevant input data.
- 3) Methodological support to ensure the completeness of administrative registration data banks on mechanical movements of population (migration), receiving of statistical data in accordance with internationally defined standards on registered population, persons (immigrants) registered throughout the year and persons (emigrants) taken off from register, persons in need of international protection and foreigners who received a residence status, persons who acquired citizenship of the Republic of Armenia and persons who stopped the citizenship of the Republic of Armenia.
- 4) Implementation of activities to improve data coverage and quality in administrative registration data banks on mechanical movements of population (migration), aimed at replenishing identified data.
- 5) Implementation of works towards the improvement of software development to collect output data on sex and age composition of the population, in particular, also towards the inclusion of statistical calculations in complex program of development of the natural movement of the Republic of Armenia by regions of the Republic of Armenia and Yerevan city.
- 6) Implementation of works towards planning and preparation of organizational functions of the next 2021 Population Census foreseen by RA “Law on Official Statistics” in accordance with the country’s goals, time requirements, as well as recommendations of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, including the studying possibilities of conducting a Population Census based on data of the RA State Population Register (administrative register).
- 7) Implementation of preparatory works on formation of alternative sources for the evaluation of demographic situation (including getting information on outbound migration trends and experiences through "focus" surveys).

CHAPTER 4. ENVIRONMENT STATISTICS

19. It is foreseen to implement the following measures:

- 1) Completion and maintenance of databases related to the field, given by the peculiarities of Armenia's socio-economic and regional development and vital activity, support to the improvement of relevant administrative registers.
- 2) Compilation and introduction of satellite accounts on atmospheric pollutions.
- 3) Formation and maintenance of environmental unified information data bank in accordance with the requirements of European environmental unified information system and within the framework of the ENPI project, as well as support to the formation of eco-portal of the Ministry of Nature Protection of the Republic of Armenia.
- 4) Continuous implementation of works on maintenance of statistical information data banks in accordance with the river basin management and development projects.
- 5) Implementation of preparatory works on definition and introduction of the “Green Economy” indicators jointly with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and UN European Environment Agency (EEA).
- 6) Support to defining estimation indicators of the impact of environmental factors on population health and to forming an information data bank on administrative registers.
- 7) Support to the formation of unified information data banks on emergency situations.

CHAPTER 5. QUALITY MANAGEMENT

20. The “Law on Official Statistics” ensures strong legal basis for professional independence to act by sound methodology and relevant statistical procedures, maintaining impartiality, objectiveness and confidentiality of statistical information.
21. With the purpose to meet the constantly growing requirements of users, Statistical Committee strictly follows the principles of timeliness and punctuality, accessibility and clarity, and ensures coherence and comparability of official statistics, avoiding the excessive burden on respondents as much as possible.
22. The quality policy of Statistical Committee is aimed at the systematic improvement of statistical product and processes through the development of relevant methodologies and tools, focusing on high quality services, increasing the work efficiency and cost effectiveness.
23. The quality system of Statistical Committee is based on 15 Principles of European Statistics Code of Practice:

- 1) Professional independence
- 2) Mandate for data collection
- 3) Adequacy of resources
- 4) Commitment to quality
- 5) Statistical confidentiality
- 6) Impartiality and objectivity
- 7) Sound methodology
- 8) Appropriate statistical procedures
- 9) Non-excessive burden on respondents
- 10) Cost-effectiveness
- 11) Relevance
- 12) Accuracy and reliability
- 13) Timeliness and punctuality
- 14) Coherence and comparability
- 15) Accessibility and clarity

24. The main issues of Statistical Committee in quality management sphere are:

- 1) Implementation of Quality Assurance Framework of European Statistical System.
- 2) Continuous updating and improvement of quality declarations with the purpose to present legislative bases of statistics, the goal and methodology of statistics, dissemination methods, other important information for responding to statistical users and answering their questions.
- 3) Continuous improvement of documentations of statistical processes of statistical products, based on Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM). The localized Generic Statistical Business Process Model, version 5, developed by UN European Economic Commission, describes and defines statistical processes necessary for the production of official statistics, ensures standard frames and agreed terminology to update statistical information production processes. Generic Statistical Business Process Model is also used to integrate data and metadata standards for process documentation, harmonization and ensure basis for their quality evaluation and improvement.
- 4) Continuous improvement of graph visualization of statistical processes of statistical products, based on Generic Statistical Business Process Model.
- 5) Self-assessment of implementation of indicators of the European Statistics Code of Practice of statistical products for the purpose of revealing and elimination of gaps in

the sphere through the self-assessment questionnaire for conducting internal quality audit, developed on the example of Statistics Denmark.

- 6) Localization and introduction of Generic Activity Model for Statistical Organizations (GAMSO), developed by United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), that describes and defines activities implemented among statistical organizations. It expands and supplements Generic Statistical Business Process Model with additional measures, necessary for promoting statistical product.
- 7) Introduction and implementation of standards and tools (General Statistical Information Model (GSIM), Common Statistical Production Architecture (CSPA)) for statistical production and updating of services, introduction of metadata system.
- 8) Updating of statistical glossary.

PART 3.

MANAGEMENT OF INFORMATION RESOURCES AND INTRODUCTION OF TECHNOLOGIES

25. In the process of information resources management and technology introduction the following measures will be continued:
 - 1) Implementation of the development process of information technologies in the Statistical Committee System; within the framework of the concept of development of common statistical information system of Statistical Committee.
 - 2) Ensuring the continuity of replenishment works to provide the units of Statistical Committee with modern computer equipment and relevant technical means.
 - 3) Maintenance and updating of software systems existing in Statistical Committee, establishing new systems.
 - 4) Introduction of primary data collection processes through CAPI system.
 - 5) Improvement of National Reporting Platform for Sustainable Development Goal (hereafter SDG) indicators.
 - 6) Organization of works on creation of online system for presentation of statistical reporting forms.
 - 7) Organization of works on creation of information system for complete storage and processing of data (Warehouse).
 - 8) Improvement of corporate network between structural and separate units of Statistical Committee.

- 9) Continuous archiving of official web-pages and statistical information databanks of Statistical Committee.
- 10) Continuation of works on updating official and internal use web-pages of Statistical Committee.
- 11) Continuation of works on extending and developing databases on official web-page www.armstatbank.am through PC-Access software.
- 12) Implementation of preparation works on introduction process of Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange (SDMX) international standard and Data Documentation Initiative (DDI) systems in Statistical Committee.
- 13) Continuation of works on information security of common statistical information system and uninterrupted activity of Statistical Committee, guaranteeing the statistical confidentiality and anonymity of data.

PART 4.

INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL COOPERATION

26. In the field of statistics the international cooperation, defined as one of the United Nations Fundamental Principles and principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice, covers the exchange of information and experience, as well as their dissemination for further use of statistical data for the purpose of building capacity. The scope of implementation of statistical cooperation is wide enough, ranging from informal contacts in international working groups and meetings to comprehensive programs to improve statistics.
27. The main goals of cooperation are:
 - 1) Broader and more efficient use of improved statistical data in key spheres in demographic, social, economic and environmental fields, as well as with a purpose to create basis for policy-making, programming, decision-making and supervision in the sphere of investments.
 - 2) Strengthening statistical capacity and capabilities to produce statistical data in priority key spheres of international cooperation, as well as to publish them.

3) Ensuring long-term capacity programs to support and expand systems and capacity capabilities.

28. The main tasks of Statistical Committee in the frameworks of international cooperation are:

1) To significantly strengthen statistical capacity to produce and disseminate high quality statistical data necessary for evidence-based decision-making processes.

2) To enhance the quality of statistical product, namely the relevance of statistical data, accuracy and reliability of estimates, timeliness and punctuality, data accessibility and clarity, coherence and comparability, and completeness in line with modern information requirements.

3) To increase data urgency by ensuring the consideration and satisfaction of users' needs.

4) To ensure data international comparability.

5) To operate in accordance with international statistical criteria, rules and standards.

6) Taking into account the relation of statistics to all spheres of public life, the imperative to act exceptionally with international standards, recognizing statistician's responsibility with respect to society: users, respondents and other partners, as well as the uniqueness of statistician's profession, to follow UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, Principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice, Principles of the Declaration on Professional Ethics, Principles Governing International Statistical Activities and apply them in its activities.

7) To enhance and ensure the reputation of official statistics in the world.

29. Within the framework of international cooperation, Statistical Committee foresees to continue the active participation in the work towards the improvement, unification and harmonization of statistical methodology and practice, and ensuring comparability of indicators officially published by national statistical services on social and economic development and population living standards of their countries. By its content and types this most important and multilateral activity will be implemented in the following main directions:

1) Participation in the activity of international organizations:

a) UN: United Nations Statistical Commission, UNECE and Conference of European Statisticians, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNESCO, UNESCAP, UNFAO and other specialized bodies of the system

b) International Monetary Fund (IMF)

c) World Bank

- d) Eurostat
- e) Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
- f) International Labour Organization (ILO)
- g) International Statistical Institute (ISI), etc.

- 2) Development and implementation of cooperation projects with the participation of foreign experts with a purpose to solve important problems concerning the reforms of official statistics system at the funds of national and regional technical assistance programs of international organizations.
 - 3) Bilateral cooperation with national statistical services of foreign countries concerning the actual issues on statistical activity.
 - 4) Bilateral development of traditional relations and cooperation with statistical offices of Commonwealth of Independent States (hereafter CIS) countries by participating in the activity of CIS Interstate Statistical Committee.
 - 5) Bilateral cooperation with national statistical services of Eurasian Economic Union member-states by participating in the activity of Statistical Department of Eurasian Economic Commission.
30. The following areas in statistics are the cooperation priorities of Statistical Committee:
- 1) Strengthening statistical capacity
 - 2) Statistical Infrastructure; classifications, standards and statistical registers
 - 3) Statistical systems management issues; statistical law
 - 4) Statistical data production efficiency
 - 5) Modernization of statistics: Generic Activity Model for Statistical Organizations (GAMSO), standards and tools for statistical production and modernization of services, Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM), General Statistical Information Model (GSIM), Common Statistical Production Architecture (CSPA), standards for exchange and documentation of data and metadata; Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange (SDMX), Data Documentation Initiative (DPI)
 - 6) Metadata system
 - 7) Economic (macro-economic, financial and price) statistics
 - 8) External trade statistics
 - 9) Business statistics
 - 10) Transport statistics
 - 11) Agriculture statistics

- 12) Energy statistics
- 13) Tourism statistics
- 14) Innovation statistics, research and development statistics
- 15) Information and telecommunication technology statistics
- 16) Social, demographic and labor market statistics
- 17) Poverty statistics
- 18) Gender statistics
- 19) Environment statistics
- 20) Sustainable Development Goals statistics
- 21) International comparisons program
- 22) Horizontal areas: quality assurance and management, work with respondents (reduction of the response burden) and users (initiator policy implementation), dissemination and communication of user-oriented information, management and coordination of the national statistical system, staff training,
- 23) Institutional infrastructure: information and telecommunication technologies, budgetary and human resources.
31. Statistical Committee will continue its activity towards the integration into the European Statistical System within the framework of the implementation of the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) signed between the European Union and the Republic of Armenia.
32. Statistical Committee will participate in the EU Eastern Partnership program on statistics.
33. Statistical Committee will participate in the EU-Armenia Action Plan on statistics within the framework of European Neighborhood Policy.
34. Using EU Twinning and TAIEX tools, Statistical Committee will continue the activity aimed at institutional strengthening, formation and further improvement of statistical system in compliance with the European Union standards, approximation to the European Union regulations, conformity with the European Union legislation and standards.
35. Since January 1, 2018 the temporary application of EU-Armenia Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement has started. The provisions that do not appear under temporary application, the PCA provisions will continue to apply for the application of those spheres. In the framework of EU-Armenia Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement (Part IV, Chapter 3, Statistics, Article 30-35), Statistical Committee will continue the cooperation with EU on statistical issues by

contributing to the long-term goal of providing timely, internationally comparable and reliable statistical data. Sustainable, efficient and professionally independent national statistical system will produce information for citizens, business and decision-makers in EU and the Republic of Armenia, which will allow them to make informed decisions on those bases. National statistical system will be guided by the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, EU Legislation in statistics sphere, including the Principles of European Statistics Code of Practice to conform national statistical product to European norms and standards.

36. Statistical Committee will continue its activity towards the compliance with EU legislation in statistics, implementing an approximation of EU Legislation in statistics in accordance with the Statistical Requirements Compendium within the framework of cooperation between the Republic of Armenia and European Union.

PART 5.

STAFF TRAINING

37. The training policy of Statistical Committee is based on the training programs oriented to staff needs and requirements, and aimed at the exchange of knowledge, skills, experience and information.
38. Statistical Committee will continue the process of staff training by covering employees from both structural and separate units. The participation in training courses, seminars and workshops organized by international organizations, national statistical services and other organizations will be continued.
39. Guided by the requirements of the RA Law “On Civil Service”, the processes of training will continue with a purpose to continuously improve the professional knowledge and working skills of civil servants of Statistical Committee staff.
40. Assessment of internal training needs of employees will be carried out in Statistical Committee, according to which training program, schedule and list of trainers for civil servants will be developed. The reports of employees sent on a business trip to participate in inter-state conferences, seminars and workshops will also be included in that program.

PART 6.

FINANCING OF STATISTICS SPHERE

41. Statistical Committee is financed from the state budget, as well as from other funds not prohibited by the law.