

# REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

## LAW

Adopted on 15 December 2015

### ON ADOPTION OF THE THREE –YEAR STATE STATISTICAL WORK PROGRAM OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA FOR 2016-2018

Article 1. To approve the Three-year State Statistical Work Program of the Republic of Armenia according to the Annex.

Article 2. This Law shall enter into force on 1 January 2016.

**President of the Republic of Armenia**

**S. Sargsyan**

29 December 2015

Yerevan

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# **THREE –YEAR STATE STATISTICAL WORK PROGRAM OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA FOR 2016-2018**

## **INTRODUCTION**

Three-year state statistical work program of the Republic of Armenia for 2016-2018 (hereinafter three-year program) comes from the requirements of the Article 11 of the RA Law “On State Statistics” and defines the directions of the statistical activity for 2016-2018 by economic, demographic, social and environmental fields of statistics. Three-year program includes the directions of activity for formation of statistical information necessary for observation of the economic, demographic, social and environmental situation of the country, taking into account restrictions of the available resources, burden on statistical information providers and cost-effectiveness. According to the RA Law “On State Statistics” directions and measures of activity foreseen by the three-year program take into consideration the comparability of country indicators with international statistical standards, ensure the possible stable periodicity to reveal long-term trends and proportion of resources foreseen for the state statistics on annual basis.

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

## **PART 1.**

### **GENERAL STRATEGY**

1. The directions and measures of the activity foreseen by the given three-year program are also derived from the strategic directions defined by the three-year programs of previous years aimed at ensuring of their continuity.
2. The strategy adopted in the field of state statistics is aimed at ensuring of implementation of main tasks defined by the Article 4 of the RA “Law on State Statistics” and based on 10 Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics adopted by the 47 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 (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.

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 needed that users consider the National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia as an organization radically differing from certain policy-oriented state institutions. It is necessary to form guarantees avoiding the involvement of the official statistics in the existing conflicts between political, administrative and similar interests.

4. To ensure the main tasks and fundamental principles of state statistics, it is foreseen:

1) to continue the implementation of relevant changes in legal acts regulating statistical relations in the context of keeping internationally adopted principles of statistics. In particular, to develop a new draft law on the basis of the model law named "General Statistical Law" developed for the Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asian countries, which regulatory framework will not only include the activity of the National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia, but also the other producers of official statistics of the Republic of Armenia by integrating the system of official statistics in the Republic of Armenia. All stages of the statistics process (development, production and dissemination of the results), all participants of the official statistics (respondents, producers and users) and relations between them, as well as the toolset for the production of official statistics, from information sources to information dissemination methods, will be described according to the United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and Principles defined by the European Statistics Code of Practice.

To develop a new draft RA Law “On censuses (population census, agricultural census and economic census)” according to the above mentioned requirements.

2) to continue and expand the international cooperation of the National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia 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,

3) 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 a purpose to ensure statistical data quality and transparency, which imply uninterrupted operation of the official website of the National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia and regular updating of information composition and quality, as well as methodological data,

4) 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,

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 use and expansion of sampling methods of information collection,

6) to form a statistical register of economic units engaged in agriculture, based on the results of the Agricultural Census conducted in 2014 in the Republic of Armenia,

7) 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,

8) to extend 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 work program,

9) 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 passports of communities),

10) to expand the set of statistical indicators maintained by gender,

11) to implement measures towards the information electronic collection by introducing and applying information technologies with a purpose to ensure the timeliness of indicators development, as well as to increase the work efficiency,

12) to promote the increase of confidence to statistical information by studying in depth the users' requirements and needs, and improving the relevant legal framework of statistics and data dissemination,

13) 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 sectoral and regional peculiarities,

as well as to improve their composition, contents and thematic coverage to fully meet the needs of statistical information users,

14) to improve the methods of summary information dissemination from the official website of the National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia in the real time regime for users of statistical information.

## **PART 2.**

### **MEASURES PROGRAMS ENSURING THE DEVELOPMENT OF FUNCTIONAL SPHERES**

5. The sphere of statistics is characterized by the need of permanent improvement of the methodology that is based 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 2016-2018 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, 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.
- 8) Improvement of the estimation methodology of indirectly measured services on financial intermediation jointly with the Central Bank 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) Implementation of the evaluation on “conventionally calculated rental value of owner-occupied dwellings” by applying “the user-cost approach” and including in the National Accounts of Armenia.

## **CHAPTER 2.**

### **BUSINESS STATISTICS (INDUSTRY, AGRICULTURE, 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 and Classification of Products by Types of Activity.
  - 2) Continued improvement of collection and processing methodology of statistical data and ensuring its comparability according to the international criteria and standards.
  - 3) Methodological improvement of toolkit applied for the evaluation of non-observed (underreported) field with a purpose to improve the quality of statistical data and ensure the integrity.
  - 4) Formation and continuous updating of statistical register of economic units by types of economic activities.
  - 5) Continuous extension of the tool of sample observations of collection, processing and summarizing of sample population information and sizes determined by the number of employees, and their regular updating with the aim to ensure the representativeness of the sample observation field.
  - 6) Implementation of works of collection and summarizing of information on licenses and permits issued by bodies having relevant administrative authorities to implement activities.
  - 7) Extension of the scope of application of administrative registers as a source of statistical information.
  - 8) Formation of necessary information database on primary and secondary energy resources production, imports, consumption, stocks, etc. with the purpose to compile

an energy balance of the Republic of Armenia in accordance with the International Energy Commission standards.

- 9) Preparation of the introduction of innovation statistics within the framework of the European Union Twinning project.

### **CHAPTER 3.**

#### **PRICES AND PRICE INDEXES**

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 calculation, recalculation of weights of goods-services included in the basket, transition from revision of weights for 3 - 5 years frequency to annual frequency.
  - 2) Implementation of one time price observation instead of 3 times a month in each unit of trade and services in order to optimize the price observation works, except the fuel and high seasonal fruit and vegetable commodity groups.
  - 3) Continuous improvement of sampling of trade and service providing organizations implemented for the price observation according to the representativeness factor and continuous implementation of monthly price observations of consumer goods and services in the selected organizations.
  - 4) Extension of works of price information collection by applying small (portable) computers and other technical means as well as on-line (in case of on-line shopping), receiving of price information by electronic devices or other technical means according to the commodity codes in cooperation with the organizations providing trade and services.
  - 5) Continuous improvement of estimation methodology of industrial and agricultural products, external and mutual trade prices, goods transportation tariffs, enlargement of the observation field, revision of the sampling of observed industrial organizations and farms, organization of the prices survey according to the international standards and classifications.
  - 6) Implementation of the sampling and classification of products in compliance with the nine digit level of Armenian Classification "Classification of Products by Types of Activity" for the calculation of price index of industrial production.
  - 7) Implementation of works of the international comparisons program on calculation of GDP and national currency PPP by 2014 indicators, implemented in CIS region and publication of the final results. Preparatory works implementation to participate in the next stage of the International Global Comparisons Program.

## CHAPTER 4. LABOR MARKET

10. It is foreseen to implement the following measures:

- 1) Continuous improvement of information collection and summarizing methods and toolkit on employment and salary (especially under the tool for labor force survey) and ensuring its comparability with international norms and standards.
- 2) Enlargement of the frame of the data application of administrative registers, including the use of personalized database of hired employees of the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Armenia for statistical purposes.
- 3) Possible harmonization (approximation) of labor statistics methodology and composition of output indicators of the Republic of Armenia, unification with the methodology (definitions, concepts), classifications and necessary indicators proposed by the International Labor Organization and the European Union, taking into account also the compliance with the provisions of the System of National Accounts. In particular, it is foreseen:
  - a) Review of data collection strategy on labor market, transition from former standards to provisions of the Resolution on "Statistics of work, employment, labor underutilization" adopted on 19<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Labor Statisticians in 2013 and "System of National Accounts - 2008", revision and extension of composition and framework of labor market indicators according to the existing international criteria and standards;
  - b) Improvement of statistics on salary, earnings, labor cost, working hours within the framework of the EU Twinning project and introduction of calculation of labor cost index;
  - c) Improvement of statistics on vacancies, new created jobs, labor migration, vocational training of workers, working conditions.
- 4) Provision of the necessary statistical key indicators for the evaluation of "Decent work" proposed by the International Labor Organization, which implies the import of new variables and on their basis the calculation of indicators in accordance with international standards.
- 5) Improvement of labor force sample surveys in households and small trade organizations aimed at deepening of detailed indicators.

## CHAPTER 5. BUSINESS REGISTER

11. It is foreseen to implement the following measures:

- 1) Ensuring the completeness of the business register database on legal units and individual entrepreneurs based on databases maintained by administrative registers (in particular, State Register of Legal Units of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia, Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Armenia, etc.) and regular updating of indicators included in it in accordance with internationally accepted standards.

- 2) Continuous improvement of software of business register base aimed at the extension of the application of sample observation mechanisms of the state statistics.
- 3) Improvement of tools of the processing of information collected from direct and indirect sources to increase the quality of indicators available in the business register base.

## **CHAPTER 6. FINANCES OF THE ORGANIZATION**

12. It is foreseen to implement the maintenance of finance statistics of commercial organizations of non-financial sector according to the Armenian Classification of “Types of Economic Activities”.

### **SECTION 2**

#### **TAX, BUDGETARY AND FINANCIAL SECTORS**

13. It is foreseen to implement the following measures:
  - 1) Maintenance and improvement of state finance statistics (consolidated, state, communities and their elements) according to 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 2013” Manual jointly with the relevant authority implementing administrative statistics)
  - 2) Maintenance and improvement of state debt statistics of the Republic of Armenia (jointly with the authority implementing administrative statistics),
  - 3) Maintenance and improvement of statistics of financial intermediation sector (including financial intermediation of non-banking sector jointly with the relevant authorized body implementing administrative statistics),
  - 4) Implementation of works on introduction of the “Financial account” statistics according to the principles of the “System of National Accounts -2008” .

### **SECTION 3**

#### **EXTERNAL SECTOR**

14. It is foreseen to implement the following measures:
  - 1) Maintenance of statistics on external and mutual trade of goods according to the provisions of the Handbook “International merchandise trade statistics: concepts and definitions, 2010” and unified methodology of maintenance of external trade customs statistics and mutual trade statistics of member states of the Eurasian Economic Union, and classification “Merchandise Nomenclature of External Economic Activity of the Eurasian Economic Union”.
  - 2) Compilation of the articles “Goods and Services” of the current account of Balance

of Payments of the Republic of Armenia according to the methodology of International Monetary Fund`s “Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual, 6th edition”.

3) Maintenance of 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 jointly with the relevant authority implementing administrative statistics).

4) Improvement of the registration field of foreign investments made in the real sector and estimation of indicators according to the internationally adopted and applied methodologies (including, jointly with the relevant authority implementing administrative statistics).

5) Maintenance of statistics of international trade in services according to the provisions of the “Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services, 2010” .

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**

15. It is foreseen to implement the following measures:

1) Methodological support to formation of administrative registers with a purpose to complete the statistical registration in education, science, culture, sport, social security and other social and demographic fields and the extension of the use of administrative data.

2) Improvement of housing stock and public utilities sphere statistics, methodological support to the formation of administrative registers and extension of the use of data of administrative registers.

#### **CHAPTER 2. HOUSEHOLD SURVEYS**

16. It is foreseen to implement the following measures:

1) Regular conduction of households sample surveys and improvement of methodology under the methodological developments by the World Bank.

2) Ensuring of higher representativeness of sampling of household surveys by regions with a 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) The ensuring of continuity and improvement of maintaining tangible and intangible indicators of poverty (education, health, access to drinking water and housing conditions).
- 5) Implementation of poverty deep assessment through the special modules (module questionnaires) during the households sample surveys, including the completion and improvement of composition and content of indicators on social exclusions among children, child needs, anthropometric measurements of children, poverty mapping, access to information and communication technologies at individual level.

### **CHAPTER 3. FOOD SECURITY**

17. It is foreseen to implement continuous improvement of the system of indicators characterizing the food security situation (food availability, access and utilization) and based on them the regular compilation of the National Food Balance according to the methodology recommended by the UN FAO and European Commission

### **CHAPTER 4. DEMOGRAPHY**

18. It is foreseen to implement the following measures:

- 1) Continuous improvement of statistical processing works of data on population natural movement: birth, death, marriage, divorce involved in civil status acts, including the introduction and ensuring of receiving of electronic data transmitted through the territorial units of registration of civil status acts of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia in the data processing system.
- 2) Methodological support to ensure the completeness of administrative registration databases of mechanical movements of population on migration, receiving of statistical data according to the internationally defined standards on persons in need of international protection and foreigners who have received a residence status.
- 3) 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.
- 4) Implementation of works towards the planning and preparing of organizational functions of the next 2021 Population Census foreseen by RA Law "On Population Census" 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).
- 5) Implementation of preparatory works on formation of alternative sources for the evaluation of demographic situation, including outbound migration trends and with the purpose to get information on experiences (including, through "focus" surveys).

## CHAPETER 5. 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 bioactivity, support to improve the relevant administrative registries.
- 2) Introduction and maintenance of Water satellite sub-accounts. Continuation of preparatory works on introduction of satellite sub-accounts related to the other environmental spheres.
- 3) Formation and maintenance of environmental unified information database in accordance with the requirements of European environmental unified information system within the framework of the ENPI - SEIS (Shared Environment Information System) project. Support to form an eco-portal.
- 4) Continuous implementation of works on maintenance of statistical information databases in accordance with the river basin management and development projects.
- 5) Participation in improvement works on index system of evaluation of the United Nations Sustainable Development.
- 6) Implementation of preparatory works on definition and introduction of the "Green Economy" indicators jointly with the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and European Environment Agency (EEA).
- 7) Support to define estimation indicators of the impact of environmental factors on population health and form an information database of administrative registers.

### PART 3

#### MANAGEMENT OF INFORMATION RESOURCES AND INTRODUCTION OF TECHNOLOGIES

20. 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 System of the National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia within the framework of the concept of development of common statistical information system of the National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia.
- 2) Ensuring the continuity of replenishment works to provide structural and separate units of the National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia with modern computer equipment and relevant technical means.
- 3) Organization and implementation of works on updating of local computer networks, replenishment by optical cables, modern hardware and software. Continuation of works to provide with an optical cable internet connection between the territorial units of Regional Agencies and Central Office of the National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia. To continue works on creation of a corporative

network, introduction and operation of updated software with a purpose to ensure the anti-virus security in the existing networks.

4) Introduction of cloud technologies in the internal working network of the National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia.

5) Continuous archiving of the official website and statistical information databases of the National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia.

6) Continuation of works on updating of the NSS RA's official websites [www.armstat.am](http://www.armstat.am), [www.armstatbank.am](http://www.armstatbank.am) and [www.armdevinfo.am](http://www.armdevinfo.am) as well as internal office intranet, implementation of works on combining of three mentioned websites in one website, extension of statistical indicators databases, introduction and development of interactive contact system for respondents and users, including implementation of preparatory works towards the online reporting to the NSS RA.

7) Continuation of works on extension and development of databases through the PC-AXIS software at [www.armstatbank.am](http://www.armstatbank.am) website.

8) Continuation of development and updating work within the framework of the "ArmeniaInfo" project, in particular, enlargement of Armenia Millennium Development Goals indicators and main statistical databases at [www.armdevinfo.am](http://www.armdevinfo.am) website.

9) Continued improvement of software applied for the statistical observation works.

10) Introduction and operation of new software.

11) Creation of micro, macro and metadata bases, as well as creation of corporative data warehouse that will include the whole list of published statistical indicators.

12) Continuation of works on information security of common statistical information system and uninterrupted activity of the National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia, guaranteeing the statistical confidentiality and anonymity of data.

## **PART 4.**

### **INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL COOPERATION**

21. In the field of statistics the international cooperation, being one of the United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics covers the exchange of information and experience, as well as with a purpose to build capacity their dissemination for further use of statistical data. The scope of implementation of statistical cooperation is enough wide, ranging from informal contacts in international working groups and meetings to comprehensive programs to improve statistics.

The main goals of cooperation are:

1) Increased and better use of improved statistical data in key areas with a purpose to create the basis for policy-making, programming, decision-making and monitoring in the development of economic, social, environmental and demographic fields, as well as in the sphere of investments.

2) Strengthening statistical capacity and capabilities to produce statistical data in priority key areas of international cooperation, as well as to publish them.

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

22. The main tasks of the National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia within the 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 products, namely 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 standards and rules,

6) taking into account the relation of statistics to all spheres of public life, the imperative to act exceptionally with international standards, recognizing the 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.

23. National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia within the framework of international cooperation 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 contents and types this the most important and multilateral activity will be implemented in the following main directions:

1) Participation in the activity of international organizations:

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

b) IMF

c) The WB,

d) Eurostat,

e) OECD,

f) ILO,

g) ISI,

h) other international organizations.

2) Development and implementation of cooperation projects with foreign experts' participation with a purpose to solve important problems towards the reforms of state 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 within the framework of statistical activity on modern issues.

4) Development of traditional relations and cooperation with statistical offices of CIS countries by participating in the activity of CIS Interstate Statistical Committee.

24. The following statistics areas are the cooperation priorities of the National Statistical Service of RA:

1) Strengthening statistical capacity,

2) Statistical Infrastructure. Classifications, standards and statistical registers,

3) Statistical systems management issues. statistical law, statistical data production efficiency,

4) quality management,

5) macro-economic statistics,

6) external trade statistics,

7) business statistics,

8) energy statistics,

9) agriculture statistics,

10) social, demographic and labor market statistics,

11) poverty statistics,

12) gender statistics,

13) environment statistics,

14) post-2015 Development Agenda. Sustainable Development Goals indicators,

15) international comparisons program,

16) horizontal areas: work with respondents (reduction of the response burden) and users (proactive policy implementation), dissemination of user-aimed information, management and coordination of the national statistical system, staff training,

17) institutional infrastructure: information and communication technologies, budgetary and human resources.

25. National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia 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 Republic of Armenia.

26. National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia will participate in the EU-Armenia Action Plan on statistics within the European Neighborhood Policy.

27. Using EU Twinning and TAIEX tools, the National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia will continue the activity towards the institutional strengthening, formation and further improvement of statistical system in compliance

with the European Union standards, approximation to the European Union regulations, harmonization with the European Union legislation and standards.

28. National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia will continue its activity towards the compliance with EU legislation in statistics, implementing an approximation of EU legislation in statistics according to the Statistical Requirements Compendium within the framework of cooperation between the Republic of Armenia and European Union.

29. National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia will participate in works related to the membership of Armenia in the Eurasian Economic Union on statistics.

## **PART 5.**

### **STAFF TRAINING**

30. The training policy of the National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia is based on the training programs oriented to staff needs and requirements, and aimed at the exchange of knowledge, skills, experience and information.

31. National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia will continue the process of staff training by covering employees from structural, as well as separate units. The participation in training courses, seminars and workshops organized by the international organizations and national statistical services will be continued.

32. Guided by the requirements of the RA Law “On Civil Service”, the processes of training and attestation will be continued with a purpose to continuously improve the professional knowledge and working skills, and determine conformity with positions of civil servants of the National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia.

## **PART 6.**

### **FINANCING OF STATISTICS SPHERE**

33. Financing of the implementation of the following and other measures in the sphere of state statistics for 2016-2018 is envisaged to implement through the following main ways (sources):

1) State budget funds of the Republic of Armenia (including, funds provided by non-taxpayers) to implement works foreseen by annual state statistical work programs.

2) State budget funds of the Republic of Armenia, as well as funds provided by non-taxpayers for additional works implemented out of annual state statistical work programs.