

Seminar on the Use of Administrative Data Sources in Statistics
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**Use of Administrative Data Sources for Statistical
Purposes
in the Republic of Moldova**

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General characteristic of the statistical system of the Republic of Moldova

In the Republic of Moldova the statistical system is centralized.

Department of Statistics and Sociology (DSS) coordinates all statistical activity in the country and plays a role of the main producer of statistical data. A number of state bodies also have functions to produce statistical data in some statistical spheres, e.g. the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Home Affairs, the National Bank.

The organizational structure of the DSS includes the Central body (CB) and 32 regional statistical bodies (RSB). The main RSB's functions are: review, check, analysis, processing, summary of primary data at regional level and its transmission to the CB for further processing and development of statistical data on national level.

Statistical activity in the Republic of Moldova is based on the 1990 Statistics Act (with amendments) and the Regulations "about Department" authorized by the Cabinet's Decision. Both documents define the activity sphere and main tasks of the DSS. In order to harmonize the national legislation with the basic principles of official statistics (the 1994 UN Statistical Committee Decision) and with the EU legislation, a new Statistics Act is developed and now it is being discussed in the Moldavian Government.

Every year the Government of the Republic of Moldova adopts a program of statistical works, which defines the list of statistical surveys and researches as well as the time limits of transmission of the data to the users.

Administrative Data Sources Used for Statistical Purposes

According to information contents we can represent administrative data sources used by the DSS in the following way:

Administrative Data Sources	Holder	The DSS access to ADS
Administrative data sources of general economic character		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The "State Register of Legal Units (SRLU)" – contains registration data about enterprises and establishments. 	Information Technologies Department (DTI)	Electronic format, personal data
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data on the Consolidated Budget – contains data about incomes and charges of the state and local budgets. 	Ministry of Finances (MF)	Summary data on paper
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tax Register. 	Main State Fiscal Inspection	Electronic format,

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Database of income declarations of natural and juridical persons – provides data on natural and juridical persons (annually), which are used for comparisons of the existing information in the RENIM and RENU, registers supported by the DSS. 	(MSFI) „ – „	personal data „ – „
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial reports – provide data of accounting reports. 	Reports are processed in the DSS by the order of MF	Personal data
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Customs declarations – play a role of a base for foreign trade statistics development. 	Customs Department (CD)	Electronic format, personal data
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Database of the state control for rational use of natural resources and environment protection. 	Ministry of Environment	Paper format aggregated data
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State Budget of social insurance – contains data on incomes and charges on to basic items. 	National Cash Department of Social insurance	Paper format, aggregated data
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Register of non-commercial organizations. 	Ministry of Justice	Paper format, personal data
Demographic and employment administrative data sources		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Register of Population” – contains data on births, deaths, divorces, marriages and internal and external migrations. 	Information Technologies Department (DTI)	Paper format, no access to personal data
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Register of unemployed persons. 	Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, Employment Agency	Paper format, aggregated data
Agricultural administrative data sources		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Land cadastre” – contains data on the size of land areas, including agricultural areas, in the whole and in exploitation categories, on regional level. • • “Register of households” in agricultural areas contains data on every household with a piece of land. 	National Cadastre and Land Resources Agency Administrations of villages (communes) and towns, (no centralized database)	Paper and electronic format, aggregated data Paper format, no access to personal data (no centralized database)
Vehicles administrative data sources		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “State Vehicles Register” – contains database on registered vehicles. 	Information Technologies Department (DTI)	Electronic format, Personal data

• “State Register of Vehicles Owners”	„ – ”	„ – ”
• “Database on the vehicles passed checkup”	The Ministry of Home Affairs’ Traffic police	Aggregated data. Electronic database is in stages of creation.

In addition to the above-mentioned basic administrative sources the DSS uses other ADS, those holders are:

- State Forestry Agency “Moldsilva” – provides data on manufacture and executed works on forestry, data on hunting facilities.
- “Apele Moldovei” Concern – provides data on use of water for irrigation of agricultural areas.
- National Real Estate Commission – provides data on transactions on the real estate market.
- “Hidrometeo” Agency – provides data on weather and climatic conditions, air and water pollution.
- Transport Inspection provides data on enterprises, which have permission to execute international transport transportations.

The data exchange between the DSS, the Main State Fiscal Inspection, the Information Technologies Department and the Customs Department is based on bilateral agreements. In other cases the access and development of specific data is carried out according to the Annual program of statistical works, authorized by the Government. At the same time the DSS plans to sign bilateral agreements with all the Ministries and Departments that supply the DSS with administrative data.

Creation of Statistical Registers on the Base of Administrative Data Sources

On the base of the above-mentioned administrative data sources DSS creates and uses the main part of internal registers. the key registers are:

- Complex RENIM (National Inter-Administration Register of Moldova)– RENU (National Register of Statistical Units)
- Register of Farming Households
- Register of Cargo Vehicles

National Register of Moldova’s Enterprises (RENIM) contains data on economic agents (juridical and natural persons), private non-commercial organizations and budgetary organizations. The data comes from the State Chamber of Registrations, the Ministry of Finances and the Ministry of Justice.

The National Register of Statistical Units (RENUS) is formed on the base of RENIM and statistical surveys data. In the future RENUS should become the main tool for economic and statistical surveys. Now RENUS is on the first stage of creation and it covers enterprises with juridical right and economically active. At the moment, RENUS covers some 27% of all economic agents registered in Moldova (including the enterprises with juridical right).

The Register of Farming Households is an electronic version of the account of farms and is formed on the base of local households registers.

The Register of Cargo Vehicles is a new task for DSS. It is used as a base for survey samples of freight turnover in the Republic of Moldova.

Together with statistical registers the DSS uses local catalogues in order to find units subjected to statistical surveys. Here we distinguish the following works:

- 1) Households' Budgets Survey (HBS)
- 2) Labor Force Questionnaire (LFQ)
- 3) Set of Agricultural Surveys (SAS)

Sample plans for HBS and LFQ are developed on the base of lists of households, based on the lists of voters, formed by local authorities in 1996, 2001 and 2003 for election campaigns. At this stage, with formation of Register of Population and Information Cadastres System, the principles of creation and control of these lists are being reviewed.

Sample plans for SAS are based on the data of households registers, produced by local administrations.

At the same time the DSS meets a number of problems when using administrative data sources for statistical purposes:

- Poor quality of some register's data, because input or updating of primary data is not fulfilled at a sufficient level;
- Differences in definitions used in administrative data sources and in statistics;
- Overdue updating and transmission of data to the DSS;
- Different (often narrower) coverage in comparison with statistical practice;
- Sometimes the DSS doesn't have access to personal administrative data (because of lack of electronic databases and in some cases according to legislative norms the ADS holders can reject data transmission to the DSS).

The above-mentioned problems are caused by a number of objective and subjective reasons:

- Lack of financial assets, highly skilled staff and necessary experience.
- Poor cooperation between the holders of registers.
- Imperfect legislation, which limits external access to ADS at individual level (including for statistical bodies).

Further Development

In order to further develop the national statistical system, a project of strategy of statistical development of the Republic of Moldova (till 2006) is adopted. The Strategy provides priority directions and actions on improvement of statistical activity, in particular:

- to improve methods of statistical data diffusion in order to better inform the population;
- to improve the quality of statistical data, its comparability on international level;
- to improve methods of data gathering in order to provide good quality of information and to advance the efficiency of statistical activity, etc.

The project of strategy pays a special attention to:

a) Attraction of more alternative data sources:

- administrative ones, those holders are central and local governmental bodies;
- from public and trade unions and associations.

б) Creation of databases and its wide usage for statistical purposes (as well as for production and diffusion of statistical data).

The realization of the above-mentioned tasks will improve the quality of statistical data, minimize budget expenses and reduce the information burden on economic agents.

RENUS will become a core of economic statistics and will become the main instrument for statistical surveys.

In social statistics we should improve survey of employees and life level of population on the basis of:

- a new unique net of sample surveys of households “Master”;
- for development of sample plans we should use data of the population Census, which will take place this October, and new modules. It will improve the quality (representation) of received data and will help to get new statistical data necessary for a complete survey of life level of population.

In order to improve the ADS use the Strategy provides the following:

1. To improve technical facilities of Ministries and Agencies for administrative data production and effective usage in statistics.

2. To advance coordination with the ADS holders in order to:

- improve the ADS quality;
- better updating and transmission of ADS (including personal data) to the DSS;
- rapprochement of definitions used in ADS and their coverage to the statistical needs;

3. Wider use of ADS in statistical development (especially the Register of Population, the Cadastre Register (objects of real estate) and the Register of vehicles passed checkup, etc).