



ევროკავშირი  
საქართველოსთვის  
The European Union for Georgia



# Twinning Project

Contract: GE 16 ENI ST 06 18

## Strengthening the Capacity of the Georgian Statistical System

**Component 1: “Development of External Sector Statistics”**

### STUDY VISIT MISSION REPORT

**Activity: 1.3.SV “Inspiration from MS experience”**

Mission carried out

February 26<sup>th</sup> – February 28<sup>th</sup> 2020

Version: Draft no 1.0



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**Hosting Organization:** Statistics Denmark

**Country:** Denmark

**Purpose of the visit:** Introduction to the Danish experience on Unit Value Indices focusing on data, quality, metadata, users and IT issues of UVI in Denmark

**Financing:** All costs were covered by the Twinning project

### Study visit participants

Maka Kalandarishvili – *Head of External Trade and Foreign Investments Department*

Otar Bunturi – *Acting head, External Trade Statistics Division, External Trade and Foreign Investments Statistics Department*

Bachuk Bokuchava – *Senior Specialist, External Trade Statistics Division, External Trade and Foreign Investments Statistics Department*

Beka Benidze – *Senior Specialist, External Trade and Foreign Investments Statistics Department*

Giorgi Kartvelishvili – *Chief Specialist, Software and Geoinformation Systems Development Division Information Technology Department*



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## 1. General comments

This Study visit mission report was prepared within the EU Twinning Project "Strengthening the Capacity of Georgian Statistical System". The study visit was carried out within component 1 of the project „Development of External Sector Statistics” under sub-component 1.3 „Foreign trade (Export - Import) Unit Value Indices in IMTS”.

The purposes of the study visit were:

- To get introduced to the Danish experience on Unit Value Indices focusing on data, quality, metadata, users and IT issues of UVI in Denmark.

The participants would like to express their gratitude to all officials and individuals met for the valuable information which they received during the stay in Copenhagen.

## 2. Lessons learned

The study visit started with an introduction during which a brief overview of main functions, activities, goals and strategy of Statistics Denmark were presented by Chief Consultant of International Relations Mr. Jesper Ellemose Jensen.

Major part of study visit was conducted by main experts of sub-component 1.3 Ms. Anette Morgils Hertz and Mr. Dawit Sisay Temere. The experts have explained microdata processing for UVI and statistical data cleaning practice at Danish Statistics. Besides several representatives of various directions shared Danish experience in general methodological and practical issues related to focusing on uses of UVI data, importance of quality and metadata reports.

Staff of External Trade Statistics Division of Geostat presented experimental calculation of example index on Mineral water “Borjomi” and wine. The mentioned goods were selected as well as relevant materials on index theory and calculation example were provided by Danish experts within the first mission organized in Georgia during November 26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

The necessity of using a special software was obvious while working on a simple example in excel. External trade database consists of very detailed and large amount of information and it is essential that the data is stored and regularly updated in a way that is conducive for the development of unit indices. The experts have demonstrated constructing unit values in the statistical package R as wells as data analysis, presentation and documentation techniques. Presented statistical package is quite impressive, user friendly, available for free and requires less help from IT staff. Despite the pros of R package mentioned above External Trade Statistics staff of Geostat needs some time and trainings to require necessary knowledge and skills for using new software.

Creation of a program in Structured Query Language (SQL) was decided at current stage because of time limitations and high SQL skills of IT specialists of Geostat. The experts gave some explanations to Mr. Giorgi Kartvelishvili (Chief Specialist of IT Department of Geostat) related to future software background.

While creating the program certain decisions are made on what to include in the index data such as number of observations available, the outlier filtering criteria, value intervals, limits of the duration of export/import in months etc. Geostat representatives were advised to start documenting these decisions simultaneously.

Representatives of Geostat also expressed some interest related to Seasonal Adjustment due to future development plans of External Trade Statistics. Therefore Mr. Temere described main techniques and presented software JDemetra+ used for seasonal adjustment.

A special session was devoted to sub-component 1.2 Statistics on International Trade in Services (ITS) in order to recap and highlight main tasks.

The Study visit to Denmark was overall interesting and fruitful. Obtained information and knowledge is very helpful for further improvement of building UVI compilation framework.

### 3. Conclusions and follow up

- During the study visit some major tasks were agreed to be accomplished before the planned expert mission in June in Tbilisi.

Actions needed for moving forward:

Action	Deadline	Responsible person
A program in either SQL or R that can compute a unit value index is created.	Before June 2020 mission	Geostat
while creating the program, certain decisions are made on what to include in the index data. A short paper documenting these decisions are prepared.	Before June 2020 mission	Geostat
A month before the June-mission a status on the progress on the above two tasks are sent to sub-component experts.	Before June 2020 mission	Geostat



## Annex 1. Agenda

### Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup>

Time	Agenda item	Participants
09:15– 09:30	Welcome	DSI, AHZ
09:30 – 10:30	Statistics Denmark – who are we and what we do	JEJ
10:30 – 10:45	Coffee break	
10:45 – 12:00	Status of UVI mission goals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Status on the work on a microdatabase for UVI</li> <li>- Preparation of example index</li> </ul>	GEOSTAT
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch	
13:00 – 13:30	Uses of Unit Value index	LAG
13.30-14-15	Microdata for UVI	GEOSTAT, AHZ, DSI
14:15 – 14:30	Coffee break	
14:30 – 15:30	Microdata for UVI	GEOSTAT, AHZ, DSI

### Thursday 27<sup>th</sup>

Time	Agenda item	Participants
09:15 – 10:45	Asymmetry/ITS recap	Geostat, SFB, SRI
10:45 – 11:00	Coffee break	
11:00 – 12:00	Hands on datawork	AHZ, DSI, Geostat
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch	
13:00 – 14:15	Importance of quality and metadata reports	KWB
14:15 – 14:30	Coffee break	



14:30 – 15:30	Statistical data cleaning at DST	AHZ
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## Friday 28<sup>th</sup>

Time	Agenda item	Participants
09:30– 10:30	R – introduction	AIH
10:30 – 10:45	Coffee break	
10:45 – 12:00	R – introduction	AIH
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch	
13:00 – 14:15	Hands on datawork	Geostat, AHZ, DSI
14:15 – 14:30	Coffee break	
14:30 – 15:30	Summary/Next steps	Geostat, AHZ, DSI

## Annex 2. Persons met

### Statistics Denmark:

Ms. Anette Morgils Hertz, *Senior Adviser, External Economy*

Mr. Dawit Sisay Temere, *Head of Section, External Economy*

Mr. Jesper Ellemose Jensen, *Chief Consultant, International Relations*

Mr. Stefan Anbro, *Head of Section on Collection and Control, External Economy*

Ms. Selma Mulalic, *Senior Advisor on External Trade in Services, External Economy*

Ms. Helene Feveile, *Senior Advisor on Method, Methodology and Analysis*

Mr. Lars Gustafson, *Senior Advisor, National Accounts*

Mrs. Karin Blix, *Chief Consultant, Methodology and Analysis*

Ms. Anne V. Hansen, *PhDFellow, Methodology and Analysis*



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