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## **Economic Commission for Europe**

### **Conference of European Statisticians**

#### **Sixty-fourth plenary session**

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Item 3 of the provisional agenda

#### **Strategic partnerships**

### **Strategic partnerships within the National Statistical System of the Republic of Belarus**

#### **Note by the National Statistical Committee of the Republic of Belarus**

##### *Summary*

The document gives a brief overview of strategic partnerships between the producers of official statistics within the National Statistical System of the Republic of Belarus.

It describes the legal framework of such cooperation, the tools ensuring coordination of activities of other producers of official statistics and practices of receiving data from administrative sources as well as provides examples of designated uses of these data.

This document is presented for discussion to the Conference of European Statisticians seminar on “Strategic partnerships”.

## I. Background

1. The official statistics of Belarus is a key player in the national information infrastructure, one of the main objectives of which is meeting the needs of all users for high-quality official statistical information.
2. The information compiled within the national statistical system on the basis of conducted statistical surveys and data drawn from administrative sources makes up an integrated resource of official statistics in the Republic of Belarus.
3. The national statistical system of the Republic of Belarus includes:
  - *The system of state statistics bodies* which comprises the National Statistical Committee of the Republic of Belarus and regional statistical offices;
  - *Other producers of official statistics* – government bodies and organisations that maintain official statistics as relates to the organizations subordinated to them as well as on specific domains within their remit.

## II. Legal framework of cooperation

4. In accordance with the State Statistics Law of the Republic of Belarus Belstat is the national government authority in the field of official statistics; it pursues state policy in the field of statistics, exercises regulation and control as well as coordination of activities of other government bodies in this field.
5. The tools ensuring coordination of activities are as follows:
  - Mandatory endorsement by Belstat of draft laws, legal acts of the President of the Republic of Belarus and resolutions of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus concerning the issues of state statistics;
  - Endorsement of the official statistical methodology developed by other producers of official statistics;
  - Approval of statistical survey tools;
  - Drawing up a statistical work programme.
6. In carrying out state statistical activities, Belstat pays special attention to the choice of data sources. With this in view, statistical surveys are carried out and official statistical data are compiled with maximum use of administrative data of other government bodies.
7. The capacity of receiving and using administrative data by the state statistics bodies is enshrined in the State Statistics Law of the Republic of Belarus.
8. In particular, the Law specifies that the state statistics bodies receive information from:
  - The Unified State Register of Legal Entities and Individual Entrepreneurs, other registers and databases maintained by government bodies and other state organisations;
  - Government bodies, other organisations as regards information required for the organisation and conducting of statistical surveys and compilation of official statistics.

### III. Partnership practices

9. The bodies of state statistics receive administrative data in two ways, through:
- (a) **adoption of joint legal acts** regulating data sharing between Belstat and specific government bodies.
10. Thus, for the compilation of indicators for migration and external labour statistics, the regulation of the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) specifies the procedure of submission by the MIA units to the state statistics bodies of:
- Migration record cards that are a part of arrival and departure address record sheets;
  - Statistical record cards of migrant workers entering Belarus and migrant workers leaving the country to work abroad.
11. The regulations of the National Statistical Committee and the Ministry of Justice establish the rules of submission of duplicate copies of vital registration records to the state statistics bodies;
- (b) **conclusion of data exchange agreements** which specify the lists, volumes, schedules, ways and formats of submission of administrative data required by the state statistics bodies as well as the lists of official statistical data provided by Belstat.
12. To date, Belstat has 32 effective agreements with government bodies/ organisations.
13. The main partners in terms of information exchange are the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Economy, the National Bank and other government agencies.
14. Administrative data received by Belstat are used for the maintenance of the statistical business register and for the compilation of the national accounts and indicators of specific statistical domains.
15. Most of the information required for the maintenance of the business register are received from registration authorities whose responsibility is the registration and liquidation (closing down) of economic entities.
16. The information is received within the framework of cooperation between the registration authorities, taxation authorities, state statistics bodies, Social Protection Fund of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection and insurance authorities through the exchange of electronic documents within the automated information system '*Interaction*'.
17. The national accounts are compiled using the data on budget execution (the Ministry of Finance), data on expenditure from the employment assistance fund on social support of the unemployed (the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection).
18. In 2015, Belstat held working meetings with the specialists of the National Bank where the data sources for the compilation of the financial account were discussed. For the evaluation of non-produced assets, provision of the information on cadastral appraisal is negotiated with the State Committee on Property.

### IV. Uses of administrative data in official statistics

19. Administrative data are used for the production of official statistics practically in all statistical domains: finance statistics, population, living standards and household surveys, education, agriculture, environment, culture, transport, external trade statistics.

- So, for example, in finance statistics used are administrative data of the Ministry of taxation on arrears to the budget; data of the Ministry of Finance on budget execution, on issue, placement and repayment of government securities;
- In external trade statistics, administrative data of the State Customs Committee are used for the compilation of trade balance of the Republic of Belarus and international merchandise trade statistics;
- In labour market statistics, for the monthly estimation of employment and compilation of the labour force balance administrative data of the Ministry of Taxation on the number of individual entrepreneurs and persons employed by them are used; data of the Ministry of Internal Affairs on the average payroll number of imprisoned persons and persons in occupational therapy centres engaged in paid employment, and so on.

20. It should be noted that Belstat is continuously reviewing new sources of administrative data.

21. Thus, Belstat has been currently using the information on the activities of individual entrepreneurs engaged in retail trade and catering from the Trade Register compiled in 2015. This information resource is maintained by the Ministry of Trade. The use of another information resource – the Register of Personal Services of the Republic of Belarus – is now being negotiated.

22. In this way, the data sources for statistical activities are selected by Belstat taking into account the good quality of data to be used for the timely production and dissemination of the official statistical information.

23. The scope of the use of administrative data directly depends on the availability of relevant sources (registers, databases). Where such data sources of required quality are available, Belstat aims to make maximum use possible of the administrative resource.

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