Revision of the Georgian Statistical Law: Lessons Learnt

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Tengiz Tsekvava
Deputy Executive Director
National Statistics Office of Georgia - Geostat
Outline

- Background
- Changes in the Law: process and results
- Lessons learnt and conclusions
The Law on Statistics adopted in December 2009 defines Geostat as an independent organization accountable to the Parliament and the President (now the Prime-Minister).

After a few years of the Law being in operation there emerged a need for certain changes in the Law.

Recommendations provided in a number of international assessments, most importantly, the IMF’s ROSC (2011) and the Eurostat/UNECE/EFTA’s AGA (2012-13) also suggested legislative changes.
Changes in the Law: Key Challenges

- The most challenging is the process itself: a lengthy process of discussing the draft amendments within the Government;

- Submission to the Parliament took more than 6 months from the first official submission to the Government administration;

- The Law was amended and entered into force on June 1, 2015
Changes in the Law: Key Challenges (cont.)

The principal amendments comprised the following:

- Mandatory statistical reporting by businesses
- Removal of one-term eligibility limit for Board members (and hence Executive Director)
- Creation of Statistical Council
- Definition of adequate census preparation time
Changes in the Law: Role of International Cooperation

- International Assessments were important for justification of the amendments among different stakeholders

- Crucial support to Geostat in the process was provided by the IMF: the mandatory reporting issue was set as one of the benchmarks in the Government’s letter of intent
Lessons Learnt and Conclusions

- It is relatively easy to remove certain norms from legislation;

- However, it is much more difficult to add legislative norms back;

- The process of legislative changes may last long:
  - Objections/questions/queries from each stakeholder (government agencies) need to be cleared to move along;
  - Without strong government coordination delays are inevitable;
Lessons Learnt and Conclusions (cont.)

☑️ NSO is not an institution that can easily negotiate legislative changes with executive and legislative powers;

☑️ The role of international organizations turned out to be tremendous, if not decisive in adoption of changes in the law;

☑️ Impact of international organizations increases substantially when working (apart from the NSO itself) with different stakeholders, first of all, with the government;
Thank you for your attention!