International cooperation as a driver of sustainable development in statistics: the experience of Geostat

Almaty, Kazakhstan
December 10-11, 2014
Legal and Institutional Frameworks and Coordination Mechanisms

- Legal Coordination Mechanisms: Law on Statistics and other legal documents, Annual program of statistical activities,

- Fundamental impact produced by international cooperation
  - International assessments of statistical system (notably, WB 2010, ROSC 2011, AGA 2012)
  - International cooperation projects
  - Global agreements: EU Association with a specific chapter devoted to statistics
Integration of Recommendations into Legal Framework

- International assessments emphasized the necessity of certain legal and institutional changes

- A number of international government agreements for the first time included a number of provisions specifically related to statistics.

- Such government agreements included the Association Agenda and Association Agreement (EU), Structural Reform Program (IMF), Development Policy Objectives (WB).
The agreements with international partners thus covered virtually all significant areas of statistics ensuring that strong international commitments are in place, resulting in:

- Amendments to the Law on Statistics related to mandatory reporting, Geostat’s management mechanisms, census

- Further allocation of resources for expanding the list of labor market, poverty, economic indicators
International agreements usually reflect very specific commitments (conditionalities) with respect to statistics.

The Association Agenda of the EU was designed in a similar way stipulating a number of commitments that Georgia was willing to undertake, including specific issues related to census, management mechanisms, dissemination of statistics.
Role of EU Association Agreement in Development of Statistics (cont.)

- Association Agreement takes a more general approach to institutional development

- A separate Chapter in the AA is devoted to statistics

- The Chapter stipulates that Georgia should “take into account the EU acquis in statistics”

- The expectations reflected in the AA are that Georgia should aim at “progressive alignment of the national statistical system … with the European Statistical System”
Thus, international agreements and, in particular, the Association Agreement create a solid legal basis for statistical development.

In this regard, the main issues are related to practical implementation of the provisions:

- To which extent can we cooperate with Eurostat and other international organizations with the view of aligning the Georgian statistical system with the EU standards?
- Will any special programs be created for AA countries in statistics apart from the already existing mechanisms (e.g. TAIEX)?
- Are there any commitments expected on the part of AA countries and will certain evaluation of progress made be foreseen?
Thank you for your attention!