



State Committee on Statistics of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Updating the Law on Official Statistics of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Geneva, 9 April 2019



Introduction

- The current Law on Official Statistics of the Republic of Azerbaijan was adopted on 18 February 1994.
- The law regulates legal relations in the field of official statistics, defines the powers and functions of state statistics bodies.
- In order to improve legal regulation in the field of production and dissemination of official statistics, adaptation to new conditions and requirements, the Law was amended 14 times.
- The latest additions and changes to the Law were made on 12 October 2018.

Introduction (continued)

- In general, the current Law on Official Statistics provides the necessary basis for the State Committee on Statistics of the Republic of Azerbaijan (GKS) to produce high-quality, international standards-compliant statistical information.
- At the same time, the need to improve the national system of official statistics in order to improve information support for making decisions in the context of global political, economic and social processes led to a revision of the legislation in the field of official statistics.

The main disadvantages of the current law

- There are no clear differences between official statistics and administrative data
- The term “official statistics” requires a more specific definition
- Other producers of official statistics are not identified
- The role of the GKS in coordinating activities in the production of official statistics is not clearly defined
- The basic principles of official statistics are not reflected
- Not all terms and concepts are covered by definitions
- The forms, rules and sources of data collection and processing are not fully defined
- Principles of confidentiality of statistical information are not fully regulated

Recommendations on the improvement of the Law, based on the Global Assessment of the National Statistical System of Azerbaijan

As a result of the Global Assessment of the National Statistical System of Azerbaijan, carried out by Eurostat, UNECE and EFTA in 2017, the following recommendations were formulated to improve the national Law on Official Statistics:

- Revision of the Law in accordance with the Generic Law on Official Statistics (GLOS) approved by the Conference of European Statisticians at the plenary meeting on 29 April 2016
- Revise the definition of the term “official statistics”
- Ensure the application of the statistical law to all aspects of the production and dissemination of official statistics in the country, regardless of who its producer is and what methodologies and sources are used

Recommendations on the improvement of the Law, based on the Global Assessment of the National Statistical System of Azerbaijan (continued)

- Establish the right of the GKS to participate in consultations on the design of new sources of administrative data or on making changes to existing sources of administrative data
- Define the boundaries of the National Statistical System, because the Law and the current program do not provide complete clarity of which institutions provide official statistical information, and which are the providers of administrative data
- In the revised Official Statistics Law, provide direct recognition of the key role that the Population Register can play in supporting the development of statistics based on administrative sources

New draft law on official statistics of the Republic of Azerbaijan

- The draft Law on Official Statistics of the Republic of Azerbaijan was developed on the basis of the Generic Law on Official Statistics (GLOS), taking into account the recommendations of the Global Assessment of the National Statistical System
- The draft law contains 12 chapters and 35 articles.

New draft law on official statistics of the Republic of Azerbaijan (continued)

○ Comparison of the GLOS structure and the draft law

GLOS	Draft law
Chapter I - Objective and Scope of the Law	Chapter I - General Provisions
Article 1 - Objective and Scope of the Law	Article 1 - Basic Terms
Article 2 – Parties to the Law	Article 2 - Legislation of the Republic of Azerbaijan on official statistics
	Article 3 - Scope of the Law
Chapter II - Main principles and definitions of official statistics	Chapter II - Objectives and Main Principles of Official Statistics
Article 3 - Main Principles of Official Statistics	Article 4 - Objectives of official statistics
Article 4 - Definitions	Article 5 - Main Principles of Official Statistics

New draft law on official statistics of the Republic of Azerbaijan (continued)

○ Comparison of the GLOS structure and the draft law

GLOS	Draft law
Chapter III - Organization of the National Statistical System	Chapter III - Organization of the National Statistical System
Article 5 - National Statistical Office	Article 6 - National Statistical System
Article 6 - Chief Statistician	Article 7 - Other producers of official statistics
Article 7 - Other producers of official statistics	
Chapter IV - Statistical Council and other advisory bodies	Chapter IV - Coordination of the National Statistical System and Statistical Programs
Article 8 - Statistical Council	Article 8 - Coordination of National Statistical Activities
Article 9 - Other Advisory Bodies	Article 9 - Statistical Work Program

New draft law on official statistics of the Republic of Azerbaijan (continued)

○ Comparison of the GLOS structure and the draft law

GLOS	Draft law
Chapter V - Coordination of the National Statistical System and Statistical Programs	Article 10 - Multi-year state programs for the development of official statistics
Article 10 - Coordination of National Statistical Activities	
Article 11 - Programming of national statistical activities	Chapter V - Statistical Council and Other Consultative Councils
Article 12 - Multi-Year Statistical Programme	Article 11 - Statistical Council
Article 13 - Annual Statistical Programme	Article 12 - Other Advisory Councils and Working Groups
Article 14 - Approval of statistical programmes	

New draft law on official statistics of the Republic of Azerbaijan (continued)

○ Comparison of the GLOS structure and the draft law

GLOS	Draft law
Chapter VI - Data Collection	Chapter VI - Data Collection
Article 15 - Mandate for data collection	Article 13 - Mandate for data collection
Article 16 - Respondents	Article 14 - Respondents
Article 17 - Access to administrative data	Article 15 - Access to administrative data
Article 18 - Censuses	Article 16 - Censuses
Article 19 - Statistical registers	Article 17 - Statistical registries and classifications

New draft law on official statistics of the Republic of Azerbaijan (continued)

○ Comparison of the GLOS structure and the draft law

GLOS	Draft law
Chapter VII - Statistical Confidentiality	Chapter VII - Statistical Confidentiality
Article 20 - Data subject to statistical confidentiality	Article 18 - Data subject to the principle of statistical confidentiality
Article 21 - Exclusive use for statistical purposes	Article 19 - Statistical Use
Article 22 - Secure data processing and storage	Article 20 - Secure data processing and storage
Article 23 - Access to individual data of the national statistical system	Article 21 - Access to individual data of the national statistical system
Article 24 - Access to confidential data for research purposes	Article 22 - Access to confidential data for research purposes

New draft law on official statistics of the Republic of Azerbaijan (continued)

○ Comparison of the GLOS structure and the draft law

GLOS	Draft law
Article 25 - Confidentiality commitments	Article 23 - Confidentiality commitments
Article 26 - Subcontracting	Article 24 - Transfer of part of the statistical work performed to outside contractors
Chapter VIII - The Quality of Official Statistics	Chapter VIII - The Quality of Official Statistics
Article 27 - Quality commitment	Article 25 - Quality commitment
Article 28 - Quality assessment	Article 26 - Quality assessment
Chapter IX - Dissemination	Chapter IX - Dissemination of Statistics
Article 29 - Statistical releases	Article 27 - Statistical releases
Article 30 - Dissemination policy	Article 28 - Dissemination policy

New draft law on official statistics of the Republic of Azerbaijan (continued)

○ Comparison of the GLOS structure and the draft law

GLOS	Draft law
Chapter X - Statistical Services	Chapter X - Additional Statistical Services
Article 31 - Provision of statistical processing services	Article 29 - Performance of work not provided for in the program of statistical work
Article 32 - Provision of data collection services	Article 30 - Collection of additional data not provided for in the statistical work program
Chapter XI - International Cooperation	Chapter XI - International Cooperation
Article 33 - Participation in international cooperation	Article 31 - Participation in international cooperation
Article 34 - International transmission of data	Article 32 - International transmission of data

New draft law on official statistics of the Republic of Azerbaijan (continued)

- Comparison of the GLOS structure and the draft law

GLOS	Draft law
Chapter XII - Infringements	Chapter XII – Consequences of violation of the Law on Official Statistics
Article 35 - Violation of statistical confidentiality	Article 33 - Consequences of violation of the Law on Official Statistics
Article 36 - Failure to fulfil the obligation to provide data	Article 34 - Responsibility for violation of the procedure for providing statistical data
Chapter XIII - Relationship with other legislation	Article 35 - Violation of the principle of statistical confidentiality
Article 37 - Articles on statistics in other legislation	
Chapter XIV - Entry into Force	
Article 38 - Transitional arrangements and entry into force	

Discussion and coordination in the process of preparing the draft law

- The draft law was discussed at the Statistical Council and, at their suggestion, GKS created a working group with representatives of the GKS, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Justice, the State Customs Committee and the Central Bank
- The latest version of the draft law was agreed after making changes proposed by the Working Group
- At the same time, within the framework of the project “EU Assistance to the State Committee on Statistics of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Achievement of European Standards”, an international examination of the draft Law was also conducted

Thank you for attention!