

# Coordination of the production of official statistics: good practices, mechanisms and tools

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# Content

- Why coordination of official statistics?
- How coordination: Mechanisms and tools?
- What are the issues:
  - What can improve coordination?
  - What can impede coordination?

# What and why coordination?

- Coordination means that activities, responsibilities, command and control structures are synchronized and integrated
- In statistics: to ensure that statistics is produced in an efficient way, according to common standards, norms and principles.
- Why:
  - To use public money in the most efficient way
  - To ensure synergy of competences and resources
  - To avoid duplication and reduce response burden
  - To provide users maximum oversight and accessibility



# What is the scope and borderline of official statistics – to be coordinated?

- Many countries have an unclear definition and delimitation of official statistics or what can be called national/state/governmental statistics – and administrative statistics/data.
- Thus also the scope and borderline of the national statistical system (NSS) might be unclear
- Should all statistical work be coordinated – or only what is part of the national statistical infrastructure?

# Coordination in statistics – several levels:

- Supranational/international
- Within states – at national level
- Within statistical organizations

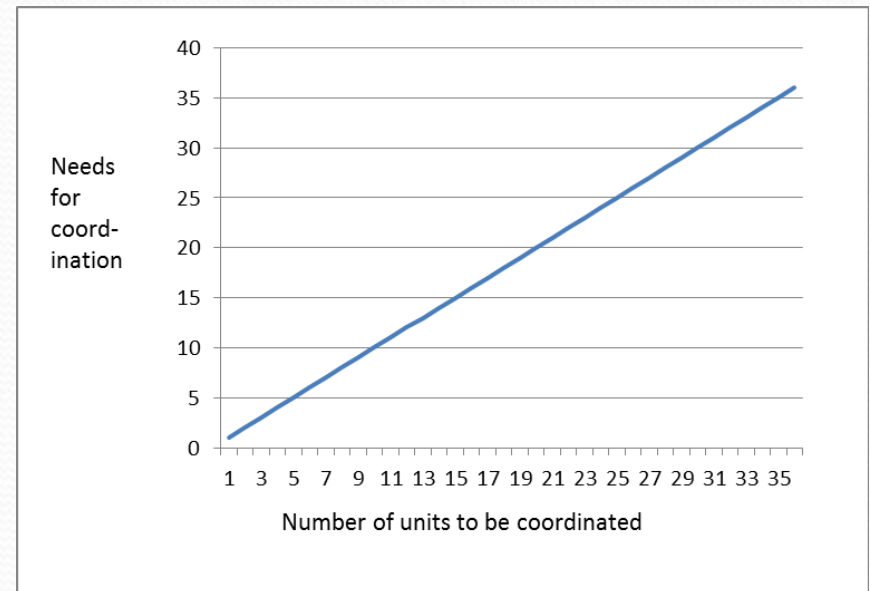


# Supranational/international coordination in statistics

- A long tradition for common standards, classifications and norms (UN)
- UN Fundamental principles
- IMF GDDS/SDDS and reviews
- The European statistical system:
  - Strong coordination through a set of legal acts and a number of meetings and projects
  - European Statistics Code of practice, followed up by peer reviews

# Coordination at national level

- Partly a requirement from the international level
- Depends on the complexity of the national statistical system:
  - Degree of centralization
  - Number of actors/units





# Coordination at national level: The legal, cultural and social framework for coordination

- Is there a state policy for cooperation and coordination?
- Is there a clear legal framework for coordination in the field of statistics?
- What are the incentives for cooperation?
- Is there a tradition for cooperation and coordination  
- the cultural aspect?



# Mechanisms and tools for coordination at national level

- Formal:

- An organization (often the NSI) is given a strong formal basis for coordinating the statistical system
- A long-term program comprising the National Statistical System- NSS
- An annual program for the NSS
- A board/council supporting planning and follow up for the NSS planning
- A clear role of the chief statisticians as representing the system of official statistics

# Coordination: formal tools

	Mandate	Long term Plan for NSS	Annual plan NSS	NSS Board/council
Armenia	Yes NSI	Yes - 3 years	Yes	Council , 7 m
Georgia	Yes NSI	No	No	No
Kyrgyz rep.	Yes NSI	Yes, not i law	Yes, not in law	Not in law
Moldova	Yes NSI	Yes 3-5 years	Yes	Council, 15 m
Tajikistan	Yes NSI	Yes 5 years	Yes	Council
Turkmenistan	Cabinet?	Yes	Yes	Council
Ukraine	Yes NSI	Yes, 5 years	Yes	No, not in law
Uzbekistan	Yes NSI	Yes	Yes	Council



# Coordination - issues

- Mandate for coordination:
  - How strong is the mandate in relation to other public authorities?
- Long term plan:
  - What should be the time perspective?
  - How is the process for establishing the plan?
  - How are the needs of users/stakeholders mapped?
  - Are all producers of official statistics involved?
  - How are priorities established?
  - What should be the level of detail?
  - Is the plan realistic and is implementation monitored?

# Coordination issues (cont.)

- Annual plan:
  - How is the link to the multi-annual programme?
  - How is the process for planning and follow up?
  - How are priorities set?
  - To what extent possible to adapt to new needs – especially in a decentralized system
- Statistical council:
  - How strong is the mandate – only advisory?
  - How many members – and who should be there?
  - How often meet and how much workload?
  - What is the motivation of participants to be active?
  - To what extent does the council contribute to coordination?



# Non formal tools

- National system of statistics:
  - Peer reviews/global assessments
  - Structured system of topical producer/user groups
  - Seminars on official statistics – users/producers
  - Bilateral cooperation agreements
- Within NSI:
  - Streamlining organization:
    - Clarifying roles and division labour
    - Based on a Business Process model?
  - System of internal audits/reviews?

# Coordinated dissemination of official statistics:

- Users ask for consistent and trustworthy information across different areas of society
- Thus the ambition of a national statistical system should be that all statistics, that is considered to be official, should be easy to find and retrieve, and with explanations and documentations in a standard form
- What are the mechanisms and tools to achieve this?
  - A common database with metadata for all official statistics
  - A portal covering all official statistics with links to all sites/databases with official statistics



# Examples; dissemination

The screenshot displays a web browser window with two tabs. The left tab shows the website of the National Bureau of Statistics of the Republic of Moldova, and the right tab shows the Geostat Database website.

**Left Tab: National Bureau of Statistics of the Republic of Moldova**

- URL: <http://statbank.statistica.md/pxweb/Database/EN/databasetree.asp>
- Page Title: Moldova statistics
- Logo: STATISTICA MOLDOVEI
- Text: National Bureau of Statistics of the Republic of Moldova
- Date: Monday, 03 November 2014
- Navigation: Main page | Contacts
- Section: Statistical databank
- Buttons: Open all | Close all
- List of categories:
  - Statbank of the National Bureau of Statistics of the Republic of Moldova
  - Environment
  - Population
  - Labour force
  - Earnings statistics
  - Living standard of the population
  - Prices
  - Dwellings
  - Education
  - Health protection
  - Population social assistance
  - Culture and sport
  - Tourism
  - Justice
  - National accounts
  - Industry
  - Agriculture
  - Investments in long term tangible assets
  - Construction
  - Transport
  - Information technologies
  - External trade
  - Domestic trade
  - Entrepreneurship
  - Millennium Development Goals
  - Territorial statistics

**Right Tab: Geostat Database**

- URL: [http://91.208.144.188/Menu.aspx?nid=c8ca81e9-2824-4c5b-a46a-c80202913531&px\\_db=Dat](http://91.208.144.188/Menu.aspx?nid=c8ca81e9-2824-4c5b-a46a-c80202913531&px_db=Dat)
- Page Title: Geostat Database
- Language: English
- Section: Home
- Database categories:
  - Agriculture
  - Business Statistics
  - Construction
  - Demography
  - Environment
  - External Trade
  - FDI
  - Gender Statistics
  - Hotels and Restaurants
  - Industry
  - National Accounts
  - Price Statistics
  - Social Statistics
  - Trade
  - Transport and Communication

# Cooperation and coordination

- Issues:
  - Is it possible to enforce cooperation and coordination?
  - In case; what are the mechanisms for follow up?
  - What if the coordinating agency has equal and lower rank than those being 'coordinated' in the state hierarchy?
  - Is cooperation and coordination more dependent on cultural traditions than formal mechanisms?



# What are the important areas for coordination of statistics production?

- Scope/coverage of official statistics:
  - Does statistics cover all important areas with sufficient quality?
- Data collection:
  - Does the NSI have legal access to all necessary data?
  - Is the NSI informed about new data and can influence?
  - Are data collection tools harmonized and used efficiently (eg. Web forms)?
  - Duplication of data collection – high response burden?
  - Are administrative registers/data used efficiently?

# Challenges (cont.)

- Data editing/quality control:
  - Are common standards and norms known and used?
  - Are common tools and methods used efficiently?
- Dissemination:
  - Are users well served through common and harmonised access to statistical databases?
  - Are data well documented and is this documentation accessible for users
  - Are there harmonised rules and practices for access to microdata?



# Issues for discussion

- What are the experiences with the statistical councils contribution to coordination?
- What are the experiences with the annual plan and the multi-annual plans as tools for coordination?
- Experiences with other tools of coordination?
  - Ad hoc meetings, seminars, bi-lateral agreements....
- What have been the major obstacles in relation to coordination?