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## **The State Program on Improvement of the Official Statistics in the Republic of Azerbaijan in 2013-2017**

### **1. Introduction**

Economic reforms realized in the Republic of Azerbaijan during last 20 years as well as strengthening of Azerbaijan international relations have enabled quality improvement of statistics science and statistical data as in other fields.

Since 1993 the activity of state statistical bodies has stepped into new stage of development. Rules and standards used in statistical practice of the State Statistical Committee were gradually brought up to international and market economy requirements, the special attention was paid to the carried out reforms. In 1993-2012 the state statistical reports, guidelines on their filling in were prepared in accordance with international standards in official language, over 600 methodological materials were redeveloped and put into practice. The “State Program on transition to recording and statistics system accepted in international practice in the Republic of Azerbaijan”, the “State Program on carrying out of reforms in the state statistical system of the Republic of Azerbaijan in 1998-2002”, the “State Program on improvement of official statistics in the Republic of Azerbaijan in 2003-2007” and the “State Program on improvement of official statistics in the Republic of Azerbaijan in 2008-2012” played an important role in the realization of above-mentioned activities.

The “State Program on improvement of official statistics in the Republic of Azerbaijan in 2013-2017” (hereafter referred to as the State Program) has been prepared for the purpose to provide more development of reforms carried out in the field of statistics in the Republic of Azerbaijan, timely to solve challenges to be occurred related to the country economy and society processes.

### **2. Goals and duties of the State Program**

The main purpose of the State Program is to improve reforms carried out in the field of statistics and data provision, and fully to bring up national statistical indicators to world standards level. Along with positive changes and achievements in official statistics during last years, the modernization of the country economy and adequate reflection of community processes in official statistics put new obligations on the state statistical bodies.

Changes in the system of statistics will be implemented according to the requirements of the System of National Accounts 2008 (hereafter referred to as the SNA 2008) developed by United Nations by the way of improvement of the system of national accounts, statistical directions reflecting social-economic development of

the country, more development of economic-statistical classifications system, development and improvement of “E-statistics” as well as unified information system of the state statistical authorities, reduction of statistical burden on respondents, quality management in statistical activity and creation of metadata systems, enhancement of staffs potential of official statistics and widening of international relations in the system of statistics.

Taking into account the importance of the main statistical indicator for management of economy at macro level - the system of national accounts, the record of new social-demographic indicators enabling to determine social development factors, the minimizing direct contact between officials and citizens, as well as more efficient organization of works with data users and reduction of statistical burden on respondents the execution of the following duties will be provided in the framework of this State Program:

- more development of the system of national accounts that comprehensively provides Azerbaijan economic development and comparability of macroeconomic indicators at international level;
- monitoring of population living standards and living conditions, analysis of main inclinations of the change of population welfare, statistical study of social inequality level by incomes and purchasing of main social goods by low-income group of population;
- application of new methods of data collection on population employment and unemployment taking into account international standards and recommendations;
- application of space modulation methods on presentation and analysis of information using geographic information system;
- improvement of mutual correspondence system with summary statistical data users and respondents;
- more development of entrepreneurship statistics for obtaining of more detailed information on development of separate types of economic activity;
- improvement of statistical indicators system and statistical observation programs in the field of service for obtaining of detailed information on the sphere of service and “E-trade”;
- modernization of national economic and social classifications adapted to international versions;
- development of “E-statistics” – extension and quality improvement of official statistical e-reporting by the respondents, the processing and analysis possibilities of statistical data as well as the types of statistical e-services;
- statistical data quality improvement due to making unique the technological schemes used for all stages of formation of statistical data resources and reduction of statistical burden on respondents;
- quality management and creation and improvement of statistical metadata systems.

### **3. Main directions of the State Program**

The activities on the State Program covered the following main directions:

### **3.1. System of National Accounts and macroeconomic indicators statistics**

The actions foreseen in this section are directed to improvement of the system of national accounts. Thus, re-processing of accounts and tables where the improvement is foreseen based on “SNA-2008” is considered one of the main priorities of official statistics in the country, used for description and analysis of macroeconomic processes and enables complex, continuous and coordinated assessment of economic transactions and indicators. For implementation of these actions the followings are foreseen: practical application of the factors affected on the volume, structure and increase rate of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) indicator in “SNA-2008”, compilation of use and supply tables and provision of mutual correspondence of “SNA-2008” other indicators, formation of public sector accounts in accordance with renewed requirements of “SNA-2008”, obtaining of accurate information on assets and liabilities, preparation of methodology for formation of supplementary accounts of tourism, information and communication technologies (hereinafter - ICT) and energy, creation of satellite accounts for the first time ever in national statistical practice in the framework of “SNA-2008”.

### **3.2. Social-economic statistics**

This section is dedicated to development and improvement of social-economic statistics. The development strategy of official statistics in the field of agriculture, forestry and environment statistics consists of implementation of complex activities directed to qualitative data provision of wide range of users. For more efficient implementation of this duty it is foreseen the preparation for and conduction of agriculture census in Azerbaijan on 2014-2015 in accordance with the Program of World Census of Agriculture (“WCA-2010 round”), creation and improvement of complex indicator system on environment statistics and “green economy” according to international standards. Some activities will be also carried out in order to harmonize national indicators on environment protection with UNECE recommendations.

Taking into account modern requirements in the field of service statistics the tourism statistics responding to international standards will be developed. In order to study youths participation in the country economy there will be conducted sample statistical surveys on their transition from education to work and provision with the job taking into account modern development of information and communication technologies, and on the use of such technologies by the country population. There will be organized census of railways and sample statistical survey in the field of freight transportation with the aim to study the sphere of transport in more details; the methodology for carrying out the calculations will also be prepared. Science, technology and innovation statistics will be improved.

For the purpose to obtain information on infant and child mortality corresponding to WHO methodology there will be conducted the statistical survey on registration of infants and children mortality under 5 years old and database will be

created. One of strategic duties of the government development is to improve population welfare and living standards. Taking it into account there will be conducted some activities on statistical study of child poverty.

### **3.3. Reduction of statistical burden on respondents and work with statistical data users**

This section is dedicated to reduction of statistical burden on respondents and work with statistical data users and that is the continuation of the purposeful activities carried out by the State Statistical Committee (hereafter referred to as the Committee) during last years. Moreover, the mutual correspondence system with statistical data users will be improved within the section.

### **3.4. Unified statistical information system**

This section is directed to development of unified information system. The following issues will be reflected in this section: creation and improvement of electronic data exchange system, development of “E-documents turnover-clerical works” system in the Committee, online provision of all published summary statistical data in primary databases, conduction of State Register of Statistical Units in local statistical bodies by electronic information systems, exchange of administrative data from state authorities and improvement of actualization (renewal) of statistical register, conclusion of receiving of e-reports from small entrepreneurship subjects as well as economic subjects including private entrepreneurs, improvement of classification section in the web-page of the Committee, creation of classification base with search and downloading functions, creation and development of geographic information system and etc.

### **3.5. Quality management in the system of statistics and application of metadata systems**

This section is dedicated to quality management and application of metadata system in official statistics. In the result of activities foreseen in this section the analysis of observations on quality management standards in all sections of statistics in accordance with standard models, the creation of metadata systems on statistical reporting forms and indicators and its integration into the databases, receiving of certificate of correspondence of data quality with international standards will be gained, as well as the integration of summary information placed in the Committee web-page into databases will be provided. Besides that, the more development of correspondence of national classifications system with international standards would stay one of priority duties of the country statistics over next 5 (five) years.

Taking into account UNECE recommendations the classifications of education, types of economic activity, types of products and industrial products will be re-developed and that will enable newly coding of available statistical data resources.

All of those will be resulted with provision of statistical data comparability at international and national level, improvement of statistical data processing quality and provision of mutual correspondence of information system and resources.

### **3.6. Management of the state statistical bodies activity and strengthening of material and technical facilities**

Management of the state statistical bodies activity and strengthening of material and technical facilities is foreseen in this section. For this purpose the following activities will be implemented: creation of administrative database presented by the Committee and received from other state bodies, creation and implementation of automated system of record of statistical works labour capacity, review of organizational structure of statistical departments of the Baku city regions and other local statistical bodies in the framework of reforms realized in the country, improvement of activity mechanism of the regional agencies, renewal of ICT equipments of the statistical system, purchasing and application of more modern standard software packages, information bases, databases management system. At the same time for the purpose of improvement of working conditions of local statistical authorities the construction of new administrative buildings for statistical divisions of Baku city, Goygol, Oguz, Fuzuli, Zardab and Shamakhi regions will be provided.

### **3.7. Enhancement of international cooperation and human capacity**

This section is dedicated to organization of international cooperation and enhancement of human capacity in the field of official statistics. European Neighborhood Policy, cooperation in the framework of contracts concluded with statistical services of other countries, participation in international seminars, conferences, participation of Azerbaijan in new rounds of international comparison Programs organized by the World Bank are foreseen and that would serve correspondence of the country official statistics with European standards and its development. Moreover, in order to gain development of personnel qualification and capacity, and the efficient use of available human capacity it will be paid special attention to creation of continual qualification and occupational training system in the state statistics and development of personnel training and skills; training of managerial staff and specialists of the Committee structural divisions within and outside the country.

## **4. Expected results**

The following results are expected from implementation of the State Program:

- compilation of complete set of annual and quarterly national accounts based on “SNA-2008”, regular (once every five years) compilation of “input-output” macro tables, improvement of methodological basis on evaluation of other types of assets (securities, natural resources, financial assets and etc.) in market value terms,

building up and development of mutual correspondence system with statistical data users and respondents, enabling the development and improvement of statistical indicators system reflecting social-economic development of the country, preparation of continuous accounts and balances system and macroeconomic indicators developed in accordance with “SNA-2008” recommendations;

- enabling the modernization of science, technology and innovation statistics, as well as population and enterprises statistics and social and labour statistics based on consistency of administrative data;

- gaining the facilitation of statistical observations of activities of small entrepreneurship subjects for the purpose to reduce their reporting burden;

- taking into account particular importance of comprehensive study of application of information and communication technologies in economy, social sphere and households the formation of statistical monitoring of information society in this field;

- increasing of summary statistical data objectivity and quality, formation of mutual correspondence channels of statistical data users and respondents, protection of data resources, determination of statistical data users requirements particularly providing the protection of databases from illegal access;

- involvement of the Committee to take more active part in creation of the state information system considered to meet online the users’ needs, to provide users with exhaustive opportunities for use of statistical indicators, metadata, guidelines, classifications and other necessary data resources;

- more development of online presentation of official statistical data on citizens and organizations inquiries and gaining automated provision of this service;

- precise of available data on the volume of plants and livestock production, size of sown areas, livestock and poultry available in citizens own farms, and data on own farms of individuals residing in cities and settlements;

- obtaining of official statistical information on living standards and quality of several social-demographic groups of population;

- gaining of time spent for compilation of reports by enterprises and organizations, increasing of data quality, simplification of reports, strengthening of interactive relations with statistical units, timely prevention of errors and inconsistencies in reports received by statistical bodies from enterprises and organizations, prevention of indicators duplication and thus reduction of respondents burden;

- gaining the increasing of trust in statistical information, improvement of the process of statistical data delivery for users and provision of all users with reliable statistical information corresponding to international standards;

- creation of several databases in statistical portal and as a result the increasing of efficiency of statistical data dissemination;

- realization of construction of new administrative buildings for Baku city, Goygol, Oghuz, Fuzuli, Zardab and Shamakhy regional statistical divisions and improvement of employees’ working conditions;

- creation of qualified human resources who have modern skills in the field of statistics.

### **5. Financial maintenance of execution of the State Program**

The Program will be funded at the expense of means considered in the state budget for the Committee and other inside and outside sources not contradicting the legislation. Financial means will be mainly used for organization of surveys foreseen in the Program, arrangement of training of managerial staff and specialists of the structural divisions in foreign countries and within the country, updating and modernization of computing techniques, telecommunication and other equipments, software in the system of the Committee.