

Strategic Partnership and needs for partnership in Georgia

High-Level Seminar on Strategic
Partnerships in Official Statistics
April 11/12, Geneva

Maia Guntsadze

Deputy Executive Director

National Statistics Office of Georgia –
Geostat

Key Partners and Needs for partnerships

➤ **Need for dialogue with policymakers/government**

- working with policy makers to discuss new demands
- Mutual understanding needs to be strengthened, including on Independence of NSO
- SDGs have statistics and politics close together – Challenge VS Oportunity
- Budget and Human recourses

Value of statistics is value of your evidence based decisions

➤ **Supplier/recipient partnership -**

- Agreements with data owners - cooperation memoranda and agreements in place with major producers of official statistics and data providers with 20 government agencies;
- Relationships with citizens, representatives of key sectors of society, and other producers of data used - MOUs signed with representing the private, non-governmental sector (13 MOE)

➤ **Open innovation/ strategic partnership**

- Academia, researchers or the scientific community - MoUs signed with all main Universities (7 MOE), also representatives from Academia/scientific community are represented in Geostat's Advisory Board.
- Expert groups are represented in Geostat's advisory board
- Representatives of international organizations are represented in advisory board - Source of advice and Advocacy

Conducted User Meetings – With Ngo's, Business Sector, Partner organizations (producers/ providers), International Organizations (18 in 2016, 28 in 2017)

Co-creation partnership and Public Relations

Media and others for mutually beneficial outcomes- Public relations are essential for raising public Awareness of Statistical products and processes.

Geostat has active cooperation with media representatives. For example:

- TV programs/Story – Geostat was mentioned 1002 times in 2016, 603 in 2017
 - Number of radio programs/Story – 577 in 2016, 293 in 2017
 - Number of press news's- 595 in 2016, 377 in 2017
 - Number of news released/used by Internet agencies – 1471 in 2016, 1041 in 2017
- Total Number of visitors of Geostat website – 478707 in 2016 (12% growth)

Data Dissemination and user friendly tools

- web-page and calendar, Newsletter subscribe service
- PC-Axis Web App, Android app for mobile devices
- Social media (Facebook)
- New tool Regional Statistical Portal/Map GIS Portal, etc.

public information access:

http://geostat.ge/index.php?action=page&p_id=1468&lang=geo

Geostat was Awarded from “Institute for Development of Freedom of Information” for assurance Transparency and Accountability

WHAT IS CITIZEN-GENERATED DATA?

"The goal of citizen-generated data (CGD) is to monitor, advocate for, or drive change around an issue important to citizens."

- This can be produced through crowdsourcing mechanisms or citizen reporting initiatives, often organized and managed by civil society groups.
- This is distinct from "big data" or social media data, which is indirectly created by citizens through interaction with media platforms.

New opportunities:

- There is much enthusiasm about the potential of CGD to raise citizens' voices and to contribute to the SDG's "data revolution", but can also be criticized for its lack of representivity or statistical strictness.
- CDG opens up opportunities for increased collaboration between government and civil society on collecting and sharing data, and using data to monitor and enhance progress on sustainable development.

Open Government Partnership (OGP)

- Many governments invest significant resources in promoting their “data performance” in international fora such as the Open Government Partnership or international rankings.
- OGP is a voluntary international initiative that aims to secure commitments from governments to their citizenry to promote transparency, empower citizens, fight corruption, and harness new technologies to strengthen governance.
- In order to participate in OGP, governments must exhibit a demonstrated commitment to open government by meeting a set of (minimum) performance criteria. Objectives: fiscal transparency, public officials’ asset disclosure, citizen engagement, and access to information.
- Georgia began participating in OGP in 2011 and was elected as a co-chair of the partnership in May 2016.
- Georgia will host the 5th OGP Global Summit in Tbilisi, on July 17-19, 2018. Representatives from more than 70 countries will discuss the challenges in upholding the principles of open government.
- Georgia developed OGP action plan and identified new steps to complete ongoing reforms, or initiate action in an entirely new area, Such as: Launch of the unified healthcare system information portal; Development of a monitoring and assessment system of the Government policy and legislative acts; Creation of spatial (geographic) data web-portal for the energy sector; Creation of electronic mechanism for local budget planning; Introduction of an electronic petition portal, etc.

Open Government Partnership (OGP)

The Independent Reporting Mechanism (IRM) carries out an annual review of the activities of each country that participates in OGP.

According to the Georgia Mid-Term Report 2016-2018:

Georgia At a Glance:

- Member since: 2011 ;
- Number of commitments: 24

Level of Completion:

- Completed: 25% (6)
- Substantial: 33% (8)
- Limited: 42% (10)
- Not started: 0% (0)

Commitment Emphasis:

- Access to information: 67% (16)
- Civic participation: 25% (6)
- Public accountability: 13% (3)
- Tech & innovation for transparency & accountability: 17% (4)

<https://www.opengovpartnership.org>

INCENTIVES, BENEFITS AND OBSTACLES TO Statistical society HOSTING OF CITIZEN-GENERATED DATA

➤ **Benefits :**

- High-quality CGD sets can be especially useful for statistical and monitoring professionals in government, offering new opportunities for National Statistical Offices (NSOs), line ministries and national development and planning agencies to validate their own data and have access to credible and complementary data in areas where data collection has been traditionally weak.
- Incorporating CGD to SDG's can significantly broaden the scope and coverage of those portals, adding depth and context in sectors where official data exists, and filling gaps in sectors where it doesn't.

➤ **Incentives:**

- Civil society fact-checking initiatives and interest in open data among government institutions
- It takes a progressive approach to hosting alternative types of data and supports collaboration between government and civil society.
- Usage of CGD improves public perceptions of government data initiatives.

➤ **The most significant substantive Obstacles to hosting CGD :**

- Quality of CGD sets, data's representivity, sustainability, methodological issues
- UN fundamental principles and COP , have been reflected in the law
- Distrust of "official" statistics- lack of confidence in official data
- General lack of statistical expertise among civil society organizations

conclusions

Prof. Hal Varian – chief economist at [Google](#), professor at the [University of California, Berkeley](#)

“The ability to take data- to be able to understand it, to process it, to extract value from it, to visualize it, to communicate it – that’s going to be a hugely important skill in the next decades.”

➤ **Role of statisticians for Data industrial revolution is complex**

plan – do – check- problem finding- solution strategy-collecting information from all source – action

➤ **Action Areas are also Complex –**

- skills & human resources
- modernization
- integrated statistics
- Quality & trust
- User engagement and investments

Statistics is public good, So let’s make it more common for people together

Thank you for your attention!

Maia Guntsadze

**Deputy Executive Director
National Statistics Office of Georgia
mguntsadze@geostat.ge**

