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Administrative data are very important for production of statistical business register. In business register Geostat collects approximately 25 variables and approximately 80% of them comes from administrative sources; That underlines quality of administrative data, which is very essential and directly linked to the quality of business register.

The use of data from administrative sources is obvious alternative to data collection from the respondents. The access to the data from administrative sources for statistical purposes is granted to the Geostat by the Law "On Official Statistics" and by special government decrees which oblige other public institutions to cooperate with the Geostat.

Business register in Georgia is updated using administrative sources from National Agency of Public Registry (NAPR) and Revenue Service (Tax Office). From Public Registry Geostat receives information about newly registered and liquidated companies, also information on changes. From Revenue Service Geostat receives monthly information on active taxpayers. In addition, for update of business register Geostat conducts also various surveys.

The update procedures are automated. The information is received from NAPR and from Revenue Service monthly using automatic interfaces that the Geostat has with the databases of these institutions. The received data is cleansed and structured. The statuses for the companies are identified.

In database received from administrative sources, actual address and kind of economic activities are indicated only for limited number of enterprises. Sometimes indicated information on economic activities are incorrect, which is huge problem for business register and for production of business statistics.

That's why Geostat conducts every month computer assisted telephone interviews (CATI) for the companies in the business register to update information about status, kind of economic activities and actual addresses by each local units of the companies.

In cooperating with experts from Statistics Sweden maintenance strategy has been developed by Geostat, which covers the following aspects: use of administrative sources, use of survey results, needs of users, planning of the updates and rules for dealing with BR information.

High quality of statistical products in most cases is received by combining administrative and survey data. Therefore Geostat conducts specific surveys and investigations on regular basis, which are used for update of register.

Geostat assess regularly applicability of administrative sources for the production of statistics. Consequently administrative sources are very important for production of various statistical products and economic indicators, especially when it comes to short-term statistics. By combining administrative sources and statistical business registers with social and business statistics data is possible to derive new indicators.

Administrative sources are used for production of demographic statistics, transport statistics, construction statistics, external trade and Foreign Direct Investments statistics, education and social protection statistics etc.

The role of Business Register is huge, because all business surveys are based on the business register and Geostat uses only one sampling frame for all business surveys; In addition the business register is continuously updated during the year and the structural data and all statistical information are integrated;

Some issues are still challenging. Of which quality of data, methodology and not sufficient recourses are in the top of the list.

In terms of quality of statistical data, which is very essential, it is necessary to pay particular attention to the quality of administrative sources, as well as to take into account international standards, recommendations and experience of developed countries.

It is also important to investigate requirements of data users; asses data sources, use more and more administrative data for the production of business register and identify challenges as well as approaches to face current problems.

In terms of methodology - differences between administrative and statistical processes, namely: definition for status (enterprise is active or non-active); in some cases there are differences between methodology - for calculation some variables (turnover, wage).

In terms of not sufficient recourses - it is worth to mentioned that economic census has never been carried out in Georgia, because of not sufficient financial recourses. Also not enough experts working on BR is challenging: 7 persons are working on BR, however it's necessary

to enlarge number of statisticians, who will work on maintenance of BR and for improve its quality.

At the moment well established cooperation between Geostat and owners of administrative sources is in place, which allows Geostat improved access on administrative sources. We have complete metadata on business register, database and structure which is in compliance with international standards, flexible software, automated procedures for updating of business register, and improved knowledge of staff.

It is worth to mention that since August 2017, Geostat has developed business demography indicators, which is already available on Geostat's web-page and is accessible for any interested users.