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***Title of Paper: Use of administrative data for production of business register in Georgia***

### **Abstract**

Administrative data are very important for update of business register. In addition, for update of business register Geostat conducts also various surveys. In business register Geostat collects approximately 25 variables and of which approximately 80% comes from administrative sources;

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

Geostat receives administrative data from National Agency of Public Registry and Revenue Service (Tax Office). Based on received administrative data entities are registered in BR.

Business register in Georgia is updated using administrative sources from National Agency of Public Registry (NAPR) and Revenue Service (Tax Office). The update procedures are automated. The information is received from NAPR weekly 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.

Geostat assess regularly applicability of administrative sources for the production of statistics. Besides update of business register, 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.

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.

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 production of business statistics 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 should be 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.