**NATIONAL STATISTICAL COMMITTEE
OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS**

STRATEGY
FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF STATE STATISTICS
OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS UNTIL 2022

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STRATEGY
FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF STATE STATISTICS OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS UNTIL 2022

CHAPTER 1
INTRODUCTION

1. State statistics of the Republic of Belarus is a key pillar of the national information infrastructure. One of the main objectives of state statistics of the Republic of Belarus is to meet user demand for high-quality official statistical information.

2. The producers of official statistical information are state statistics bodies (the National Statistical Committee of the Republic of Belarus (hereinafter referred to as Belstat) and the local state statistics bodies) and government organizations authorized to produce official statistics. These government bodies constitute the national statistical system.

Belstat, as a national government authority for state statistics, pursues the state policy in the field of state statistics and exercises regulation, control and co-ordination of the activities of other government bodies and other organisations in this area.

The government organizations authorized to produce official statistics engage in state statistical activities within the scope of specific domains they are responsible for:

the National Bank of the Republic of Belarus manages banking statistics, money and credit statistics, financial market, balance of payments, international investment position, gross external debt and financial sustainability statistics;

the Ministry of Finance manages government finance statistics;

the Ministry of Architecture and Construction manages state statistics on prices in construction;

the Ministry of Health manages health statistics;

the Ministry of Culture manages culture statistics;

the Ministry of Forestry manages state statistics on game husbandry and use of forest resources;

the Ministry of Education manages education statistics;

the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection manages state statistics on environmental protection and rational use of natural resources;

the Ministry of Communications and Informatization manages state statistics on postal and telecommunication activities;

the Ministry of Transport and Communications manages state statistics on city electric transport and metro performance, transportation, shipping and logistics activities, international motor road transportation, as well as freight motor road transportation by individual entrepreneurs;

the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection manages state statistics on labour conditions and safety, registered unemployment and social protection.

3. The activities of state statistics bodies and government organizations authorized to produce official statistics are carried out within the framework of the annually adopted statistical work programme.

4. In order to identify the priority areas of state statistics development, Belstat elaborates, jointly with government organizations authorized to produce official statistics, and adopts a strategy for the development of state statistics.

The strategy for state statistics development is a basic planning document that defines the main strategic directions of development of statistical production and official statistical methodology in the Republic of Belarus for a five-year term.

5. The latest strategy for state statistics development implemented from 2011 through 2017 ensured such developments as improvement of the legal framework of state statistics, introduction of new information systems allowing for automation of all statistical business processes, improvement of the quality of official statistical information and its accessibility by users, introduction of the international statistical standards and recommendations, improvement of traditional and development of new areas in state statistics, and professional development of human resources.

6. At the same time, present-day economic processes and globalization, development of digital economy, data revolution and implementation of new standards and techniques into international statistical practice impose long-term challenges on the national statistical system, and these challenges can be addressed only through the adoption of a new strategy for state statistics development.

7. The present Strategy for the Development of State Statistics of the Republic of Belarus until 2022 (hereinafter Strategy) defines long-term objectives for further development of the national statistical system and ways of their implementation. This is the fifth strategic programme that will be implemented in Belarus. Unlike previous programmes, the Strategy has been developed taking into account the objectives and activities for state statistics development not only of state statistics bodies, but also of other producers of official statistics.

CHAPTER 2
ANALYSIS OF THE CURRENT STATE
OF THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEM

8. The mission and the legal framework of state statistics.

The mission is to pursue the state policy in the field of state statistics aimed at meeting – to the maximum extent possible – the demand of the public, the government and the international community for high-quality official statistical information.

To fulfill this mission, relevant powers and mandate have been established in the national legislation.

The basic legal act that regulates relations in the field of state statistics is the Law of the Republic of Belarus "On state statistics" of 28 November 2004 (hereinafter, Statistics Law).

On 17 August 2016 a new version of the Statistics Law came into force. Elaboration of the new version was driven by the need to bring the national legislation in line with international standards and principles of official statistics, to strengthen the coordinating role of Belstat and to improve the quality of official statistical information.

The new version of the Statistics Law complies with the Generic Law on Official Statistics developed by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.

The remits of Belstat and government organisations authorised to produce official statistics are set by regulatory legal acts.

9. In order to coordinate activities of all parties to legal relations in the field of state statistics, the Inter-agency Council for State Statistics has been established. The Council is composed of the representatives of producers of official statistics, users, respondents, and academia.

The main tasks of the Council are as follows:

- to coordinate activities of state statistics bodies and government

organizations authorized to produce official statistics, of other government bodies and other organizations in the field of state statistics;

- to review annually the outputs of state statistics bodies and government organizations authorized to produce official statistics related to revision of state statistical survey questionnaires in terms of their unification, simplification and optimization, reduction of the burden on state statistical survey respondents;

- to review selected issues pertaining to organization and conducting of state statistical surveys;

- to endorse introduction of new state statistical survey questionnaires and departmental reporting forms.

10. For the purposes of coordinated decision-making on the development of scientifically sound official statistical methodology, the Scientific-Methodological Council of Belstat is functioning. The Council exercises the functions of an expert board for drafting new methodological documents and amending current documents, and is composed of highly-skilled professionals of state statistics bodies and academia.

The remit of the Council is as follows:

- to ensure compliance of official statistical methodology with the international statistical standards;

- to review proposals on introduction into statistical practice of new approaches to compilation and calculation of statistical indicators, organization and conducting of state statistical surveys;

- to define the expediency of research and development aimed to support scientifically the activities of Belstat;

- to review a draft plan of scientific and methodological work of Belstat for the upcoming year;

- to review the official statistical methodology developed and adopted by government organizations authorized to produce official statistics;

- to review annually the results of scientific and methodological activities of Belstat.

11. The official statistical information is produced in the Republic of Belarus in compliance with the principles of state statistics which are harmonized with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly and the European Statistics Code of Practice.

These principles are as follows:

- independence in exercising state statistical activities;

- confidentiality of primary statistical data;

- soundness of official statistical methodology;

- proportionality of the burden on respondents to the needs of the users; and

- relevance, timeliness, objectivity, accessibility and comparability of official statistical information.

The observance of these principles is assessed by the international expert statisticians. The Adapted Global Assessment of the National Statistical System was first conducted in 2012. The next assessment is scheduled for 2018.

12. Implementation of the Strategy for the Development of State Statistics of the Republic of Belarus for 2011–2017 allowed for achieving significant results in the development and improvement of the national statistical system:

12.1. Introduction of modern information technologies.

The Integrated Information System of State Statistics (hereinafter, IISSS) has been introduced and is functioning effectively. The IISSS was primarily designed to serve as an integrated statistical information resource with incorporated software, hardware and technological tools for implementing a single information policy in the field of state statistics.

The IISSS allowed not only for the automation of the main statistical business processes, but also for electronic collection of statistical reports from respondents.

At present about 97% of state statistical reporting forms can be submitted to state statistics bodies as an electronic document; more than 90% of respondents are using electronic format for state statistical reports submission.

The IISSS also incorporates:

- an automated electronic document flow system and a corporate e-mail system;

- a certified information security system;

- a computer and network infrastructure that ensures functioning of the information system of state statistics bodies at all levels, from district to the country level.

A cartographic data visualization tool has been implemented in statistical practice allowing for building graphic maps for statistical publications.

For the information support of respondents a software of the multi-functional web portal of Belstat has been introduced. The software is a modern-day solution for the on-line collection of state statistical reports.

Activities have been implemented to develop already operating information systems:

- a new software system for managing the statistical register has been developed and implemented, which allowed for on-line processing of the full data volume of the statistical register and for increasing automation of analytical and methodological solutions and update procedures;

- the automated electronic document flow systems of state statistics bodies have been integrated with the inter-agency electronic document flow system of government bodies;

- a complex modernization of the official websites of state statistics bodies has been carried out, which expanded significantly the information resource in terms of the scope and the content of information provided;

- an information analytical system for dissemination of official statistics has been developed and introduced. The system presents data in time series of annual periodicity for 515 indicators and is freely accessible to a wide range of users. It has user-friendly tools for efficient visual presentation of official statistical information using tables, diagrams and cartograms and is available 365/24/7;

- an information analytical system of external trade statistics has been accepted into service; the system allows for increased operational efficiency and quality of processing of external trade statistics databases;

- the information system "System of access to the 2009 final population census data of the Republic of Belarus" has been developed and is accessible from the official website of Belstat;

- the Population Statistics database has been compiled; it provides on-line access to a wide range of official statistical information on population to users;

- the software/hardware system "Electronic archive of statistical reports submitted by respondents in the form of e-document" allowing for compiling, structured storage of and access to documents has been implemented;

- the automated system for collecting and processing primary statistical data on prices using mobile devices has been implemented;

12.2. The work on improving the quality of statistical production and introduction of process approach into statistical practice has been continued:

- the quality management system for primary statistical data and official statistical information has been built; regular assessments of the quality of these data are carried out using international tools;

- the National Business Process Model for Official Statistics based on GSBPM 5.0 has been developed and approved; the main statistical business processes have been documented;

- the Indicators of State Statistics Principles, the Quality Policy, the Confidentiality Policy for Primary Statistical Data, the Policy for Official Statistics Dissemination and the Policy for Official Statistics Revisions have been developed and adopted;

12.3. Development of statistical infrastructure, standards and methods.

From 1 January 2016 the basic provisions of the 2008 SNA have been introduced into statistical practice, which are the basis for ensuring comparability of official statistics at the international level.

From 2017, the updated standards of the International Labour Organization on employment statistics have been introduced into statistical practice in compliance with the Resolution on Statistics of Work, Employment and Labour Underutilization adopted by the 19th International Conference of Labour Statisticians.

Provisions were made for moving to the new national classifications of economic activities and products harmonized with the classification of economic activities and the classification of products by activity in the European Economic Community (NACE Rev.2 and CPA 2008 respectively).

The statistical classification CK 17.008-2016 "Household Expenditures" has been adopted. It is based on the Classification of Individual Consumption by Purpose endorsed by the United Nations Statistical Commission.

New versions of the following national classifications of the Republic of Belarus has been developed and implemented:

ОКРБ 019-2013 "Legal Organizational Forms" (OKOPF); and

ОКРБ 004-2014 "Government and Administrative Bodies" (OKOGU).

The information base of the statistical register has been expanded through the inclusion of information on individual entrepreneurs. Thus, starting from 1 January 2017, state statistics bodies carry out processing of information records of individual entrepreneurs received via the AIS "Interaction", record individual entrepreneurs with state statistics bodies and issue corresponding notifications;

12.4. Work on building relations with respondents.

Within the framework of the elaborated policy for working with respondents the following activities have been undertaken:

- annual revisions of statistical tools the main purpose of which is to reduce the reporting burden on respondents; the burden is routinely monitored;

- moving to electronic format of state statistical reports submission; the information support is provided to respondents on a continued basis;

- wider use of administrative data received under data sharing agreements with other government bodies (32 such agreements are currently in effect);

- an individual list of state statistical survey forms to be submitted to state statistics bodies has been compiled for respondents;

12.5. Complex activities have been implemented to ensure the openness and accessibility of official statistics.

As a result of modernization of Belstat's website, its traffic has increased 1.5 times and reached 2.5 million unique visits per year.

The sites of local state statistics offices have been substantially modified. The uniform style of layout and structure of the home pages, their improved design, higher functionality and speed of data loading, and simple navigation ensure fast access to the information resources of the sites and boost their traffic. The average number of unique visits to the sites of the local state statistics bodies was 83 thousand per year.

A dialogue with users has been organized to improve the dissemination of official statistical information, study consumer demand and satisfaction, take measures to improve the quality of official statistical information, increase confidence in official statistics.

The user calendar is published on the website of Belstat, providing for the date and the exact time of release of the official statistical information.

A series of multi-domain and specialized data books has been expanded to cover specific statistical domains and socio-economic aspects of development.

In order to increase statistical literacy and popularize statistics, the data book *"Exploring Belarus: Statistics for Schoolchildren"* has been integrated in the educational process, with methodological recommendations on the use of this book developed by the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Belarus.

Methodological provisions for statistical domains and a short glossary of terms used in statistics have been developed and made available for wide use;

12.6. New methodological developments and approaches have been introduced introduced, new state statistical observations and surveys have been conducted:

- annual and quarterly indicators of the system of national accounts have been calculated backward to 2009 (in connection with the introduction of the 2008 SNA);

- the national accounts of the Republic of Belarus by economic sectors have been developed; the production account and the income generation account have also been calculated by economic activity;

- the methodology for calculating final energy consumption and energy efficiency indicators by economic sectors has been developed and introduced;

- the official statistical methodology for smoothing time series for climatic factor has been introduced in energy statistics;

- the environmental information system has been compiled in conformity with the guidelines of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (SEIS);

- the system of statistical indicators of decent work, harmonized with the ILO Framework on the Measurement of Decent Work endorsed by the 18th International Conference of Labour Statisticians, has been developed;

- experimental Tourism Satellite Account of the Republic of Belarus has been constructed;

- the official statistical information on the distribution of commodity exports and imports by economic activity based on correspondence tables of the Commodity nomenclature of foreign economic activity of the Eurasian Economic Union and the Statistical Classification of Products by Activity in the European Economic Community (CPA 2002 and CPA 2008) has been produced;

- moving to the use of the monthly web-based reporting system (CPIGI form for consumer price index) developed for the Integrated Collection System of the International Monetary Fund has been performed;

- moving to the unified network of household survey specialists has been performed.

New state statistical surveys have been conducted:

- the fourth round of the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey for monitoring the situation of children and women in the Republic of Belarus (MICS4);

- time use survey;

- one-time survey of household energy consumption; one-time survey of household expenditures on selected utility services;

- modular surveys on various aspects of the level and quality of living (accessibility of the social infrastructure facilities, health status and medical services, public attitudes towards a healthy lifestyle);

- labour force survey; a modular survey of labour migration; a pilot sample survey of volunteer work and work related to production of goods and services for own use;

- one-time sample survey of personal subsidiary plots of temporary rural residents;

- sample survey of individuals at the State Border motor road checkpoints;

12.7. An effective framework for strengthening human resource capacity has been created.

The activities for strengthening human resource capacity aim at the improvement of the system of staff recruitment and placement, professional development, and implementation of modern human resource technologies.

The following efforts are undertaken for these purposes:

- qualification examination of persons for first-time employment in government service;

- ensuring effectiveness of the managerial staff reserve;

- continuous professional education;

- arrangements for foreign language study by state statistics personnel;

- professional training;

- qualitative staff analysis;

- assessment testing for public servants;

- psychological computer-administered testing of public servants;

- creation and updating of the integrated staff database and organizational staff structure of the state statistics system;

- monitoring of staff satisfaction, including survey specialists.

CHAPTER 3
STRATEGIC GOAL, OBJECTIVES
AND PRIORITY DEVELOPMENT AREAS

13. In their development, the society and the economy, facing new challenges, impose increasingly high requirements to the scope and the quality of official statistical information. In this regard, a comprehensive system approach is required, providing for improvement of the total statistical business process management system.

The strategic goal of the development of state statistics of the Republic of Belarus until 2022 is to ensure efficient functioning of the national statistical system to meet information demands of all categories of users.

14. To achieve the strategic goal, the following objectives have to be addressed:

- creation of the effective quality management system;

- increasing the efficiency of the work with state statistical survey respondents;

- improvement of approaches to dissemination of official statistical information;

- development and modernization of statistical infrastructure;

- development of the official statistical methodology and the statistical production;

- expanding of possibilities of the efficient use of modern information and communication technologies;

- strengthening of statistical intellectual capacity;

- expanding of the international cooperation in the field of statistics.

15. To solve these tasks, the state statistics bodies and government organizations authorized to produce official statistics identify the following priority development areas:

15.1. Creation of the effective quality management system.

In order to improve the quality of official statistical information and to ensure the efficiency of statistical production processes, Belstat implements the quality management system in compliance with the СТБ ISO 9001-2015 standard that provides for:

- coordination of activities to maintain and improve the quality management system;

- use of risk-based thinking in the planning and implementation of the quality management system processes;

- introduction of internal audits;

- monitoring, analysis and assessment of effectiveness of the quality management system processes;

- analysis of the quality management system by Belstat's management;

- introduction of the quality management system in statistical production of the local state statistics bodies;

- improvement of statistical production based on statistical business process model for official statistics (GSBPM).

The creation of the quality management system covering all areas of Belstat's activities will allow for ensuring compliance of the official statistical methodology with user requirements, improving the skills of the staff, optimizing the organizational, legal and institutional environment.

Within the framework of the national statistical system, a model of efficient interaction between all producers of official statistics will be built up, including through the development and strengthening of the role of the Interagency Council for State Statistics;

15.2. Raising of efficiency of the work with respondents of state statistical surveys.

In order to reduce the burden on respondents and to improve the quality of primary statistical data the following developments have been planned:

- the reporting burden on respondents will be reviewed on a regular basis to simplify state statistical survey forms and instructions for filling them (optimization of the composition of indicators, periodicity, structure and content);

- simplified statistical tools for small business and further development of sample state statistical surveys to monitor the main performance indicators of micro-entities;

- ensuring that primary statistical data under decentralized state statistical survey forms are submitted electronically (today, only 5% of decentralized state statistical survey forms can be submitted in the form of electronic document);

- expanding of the use of administrative data from various sources in statistical estimations and calculations, applying a mechanism of the quality assessment of such data;

- implementation of optional capabilities for respondents when working with the multi-functional web portal of Belstat.

The implementation of measures to improve the effectiveness of work with respondents will ensure the fulfillment of one of the tasks of the five-year plan envisaged in the Programme of the Socioeconomic Development of the Republic of Belarus for 2016-2020, approved by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus No. 466 of December 15, 2016, on reducing business costs related to all types of reporting.

The emphasis in achieving this objective will be made on the expansion of the use of administrative data accumulated by government bodies. The use of administrative data has several advantages: respondents do not spend a lot of

time filling out state statistical reports; duplication of indicators is eliminated; the integration and partnerships with government agencies and organizations are enhanced. At the same time, increased use of administrative data for the production of official statistical information will require the creation of the quality management system for such data;

15.3. Improvement of approaches for dissemination of official statistics.

The fulfillment of this task will be based on the identification of user needs and joint work with stakeholders. Modern tools will be used to monitor demand and disseminate official statistical information based on modern information and communication technologies, taking into account best practices and international recommendations in this field:

- establishment of a feedback channel in the process of information interaction with users;

- regular user surveys to assess the credibility of and satisfaction with official statistical information, creating and maintaining of a database of user requests for official statistical information;

- active use of geospatial information system, application of data visualization tools;

- development and implementation of tools for the development of statistical literacy of users (conducting training seminars, conferences, presentations, posting useful information (instructions, videos) on Belstat's website for training various groups of users to work with databases (databanks);

- dissemination of the most complete information on metadata – statistical methods and procedures applied;

- implementation of the open data concept to increase the number of users while reducing the costs of provision of official statistical information on requests;

- ensuring access to microdata for research and analysis in compliance with the requirements for the protection of primary statistical data and confidentiality;

- updating the system of statistical indicators that comprehensively characterize the social and economic development of the Republic of Belarus and its regions;

- collection and accumulation of official statistical information on foreign countries and preparing publications on international comparisons.

Satisfaction of the constantly growing demand for official statistical information will be addressed through the use of innovative statistical methods

and tools for data integration, complex software solutions, optimizing the deadlines of provision of official statistical information, implementation of functional optionalities of the websites.

The dissemination of more complete metadata is important for users to understand how statistical indicators are computed. The methodological guidelines for statistical domains prepared and published by Belstat and a short glossary of terms used in statistics will be continuously updated.

In complince with the *Policy for Dissemination of Official Statistical Information*, notifications on changes in methodology and revisions of official statistical information will be published.

We have to to ensure the development of regional statistics in order to maximize the scope of statistical indicators compiled both at the macro level and in a regional breakdown (region, district). This is also relevant for ensuring the production of disaggregated statistical indicators and availability of an appropriate information base to monitor progress in the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals indicators;

15.4. Development and modernization of the statistical infrastructure.

The completion of this task will be based on the improvement of the system of statistical classifications and the development of the statistical register and will particularly encompass:

- the development and implementation of a new version of the national classification of types of ownership – with a view to updating it on the basis of the current legislation and to provide a basis for determining sectors of the economy according to the 2008 SNA methodology;

- the development and implementation of a classification of environmental protection activities – for harmonization with the internationally agreed classification of environmental protection activities and environmental protection expenditure (CEPA 2000);

- the development of a statistical classification of the main industrial groupings - for harmonization with the internationally agreed Main industrial groupings (MIGs) and ensuring the comparability of official statistical information by commodity groups, i.e. capital, intermediate, consumer, and energy goods;

- the development and implementation by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus of a new version of the classification of waste generated in the Republic of Belarus;

- the integration of geo-information modules in the statistical register;

- establishment of the business demography statistics on the basis of the data from the statistical register.

The introduction of classifications harmonized with their international analogues in statistical practice will improve the consistency and comparability of official statistical information.

Data and metadata structures will be further unified within the framework of the work on the creation of the Integrated Information System of the Eurasian Economic Union, which will ensure the integration of the national information resources and systems with the information resources and systems of the Eurasian Economic Commission.

The introduction of geoinformation modules in the statistical register will allow for geospatial visualization and analysis of data based on the data of the statistical register and georeferenced using geographic coordinates.

The establishment and maintenance of business demography statistics will allow for the development of internationally comparable statistical indicators describing the dynamics and growth trends of entrepreneurial structures in the Republic of Belarus;

15.5. Development of the official statistical methodology and statistical production.

Efficient work to improve the system of statistical indicators of statistical domains results in the development of official statistical methodology and practice of statistical production, the identification of new data sources for the compilation of official statistical information.

The main area of activity in demographic statistics for a five-year term will be the preparation and conducting of the population census of the Republic of Belarus in 2019.

This statistical domain will be developed with a focus on:

- further cooperation with government bodies and improvement of ways of receiving administrative data, that is moving to receiving the data on migration electronically;

- development of the methodology to re-calculate demographic statistics indicators based on the results of the 2019 population census of the Republic of Belarus.

The results of the population census will make it possible to obtain, along with the data on the population and its characteristics (demographic, economic and other), the information necessary for comparisons with official statistical information from other sources, including sample surveys, which will allow for revision of many socio-economic indicators of the country's development.

The labour market statistics will be developed in compliance with the resolution concerning Statistics of Work, Employment and Labour Underutilization adopted by the 19th International Conference of Labour Statisticians. In particular, a Methodology for unpaid work activities will be developed.

In order to obtain official statistical information on labour statistics taking into account employment and payroll in housing construction and housing cooperatives, garage cooperatives and cooperatives operating parking lots, owners' associations, work will be undertaken to update the flows of such information from administrative sources.

In order to implement the Recommendations on the establishment of common approaches to the investigation of injuries to workers' health while performing labour (professional) duties in the member states of the Commonwealth of Independent States adopted at the 46th plenary meeting of the Interparliamentary Assembly of the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of the Republic of Belarus envisages to improve the system of statistical indicators on labour conditions and safety.

The main activity for the development of education statistics will be pilot testing of the possibility of compiling an internationally comparable Satellite Account for Education and Training in the Republic of Belarus – to detail the costs of vocational training and education, including the definition of mechanisms for financing these expenditures.

The Ministry of Education of the Republic of Belarus plans to establish a register of students in institutions of preschool, general secondary, specialised, vocational and higher education. This will make it possible to form a single information system for recording such students in the Republic of Belarus.

In health statistics provisions are made for studying new methods and approaches in computing the indicators of life tables for their further applicability at the national level.

The Ministry of Health of the Republic of Belarus envisages a set of measures that will improve the quality and efficiency of obtaining official statistical information:

- move to receiving medical death (stillbirth) certificates electronically;

- implementation of the automated information analytical system "Trauma" in health care facilities at all levels of health care delivery;

- creation of a single national electronic medical data bank to obtain information on all cases of medical care;

- creation and implementation of the Integrated Electronic Medical Card to create a database of patients' personal data based on examinations, diagnostic and laboratory tests, medicinal prescriptions, hospital admissions, diagnoses, vaccinations, prophylactic medical examinations;

- creation of electronic databases containing a list of health facilities and medical personnel;

- creation of a full-scale system for the circulation of electronic prescriptions in the Republic of Belarus using an electronic digital signature for the collection, processing, storage, generation of information on the use of prescription medicines;

- implementation of the Single Information System of the Sanitary and Epidemiological Service.

The income and consumption statistics will be developed through the transition to electronic collection of primary statistical data of sample surveys using tablet computers. This will improve the quality of primary statistical data, reduce the time of interviewing respondents and processing of results.

In order to informatize cultural statistics, the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Belarus is expected to collect, store, process and transfer data on the status and activities of cultural institutions through the state information system "Integrated Databank of Cultural Institutions" .

Developments in the system of national accounts will encompass:

- building the system of input-output tables through expanded detailing of goods and services and development of new methodological approaches in compiling the cost structure;

- producing, in accordance with the provisions of the 2008 SNA, of estimates of insurance services using the correction factor of insurance payouts and reinsurance services by estimating the output of direct insurance services;

- producing experimental estimates of illegal activities and analysis of reliability of estimates for a number of previous years;

- participation in the rounds of the International Comparison Program and producing of the main macroeconomic indicators;

- integration of the financial account in the system of national accounts, which will allow for estimating the financial state of the national economy in terms of the movement of financial assets and liabilities. As part of the compilation of statistical indicators of the national wealth, an assessment will be made of the value of certain types of assets.

The development of the system of national accounts in accordance with the key provisions of the 2008 SNA methodology, expanded detailing of supply and use tables, participation in the rounds of the International Comparison Program will contribute to the formation of an information basis for analyzing the socioeconomic development of the country and ensuring international comparability of data.

The international comparability of business statistics will be improved through harmonizing periodicity, the methodology for determining statistical indicators, statistical units, and other approaches with international standards and Eurostat recommendations. To reduce the burden on small business, organizational and methodological approaches will be introduced to conduct state statistical survey of the main performance indicators of micro-enterprises using a sampling method (an exhaustive state statistical survey will be conducted once every five years).

The most important task in agriculture statistics for the forthcoming period is to obtain official statistical information on the characteristics and structure of farming in household subsidiary plots, their resource potential (land, crops, livestock and others) within the framework of the 2019 population census of the Republic of Belarus.

The collection of data on agriculture within the framework of the 2019 population census of the Republic of Belarus will:

- cover the statistical indicators included in the main block of questions recommended by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) under the World Programme for the Census of Agriculture 2020;

- allow for obtaining qualitatively new data on agriculture in the household sector, establish the basis for sample surveys on agriculture statistics, and ensure comparability with current statistics of agriculture.

The development priorities in industry and energy statistics are as follows:

- revisiting of organizational and methodological approaches to compiling the volumes and indices of industrial production taking into account recommendations of international experts;

- adaptation of the methodology for constructing fuel and energy balance for transformed energy flows, development of the system of energy efficiency indicators, development of the system of sustainable energy indicators;

- modeling of household energy consumption;

- expansion of procedures for statistical analysis of industrial development trends using modern statistical research methods and graphical visualization formats.

In order to obtain more complete official statistical information on transport activities of all categories of motor road carriers, work will be undertaken to conduct a one-time survey of individual entrepreneurs engaged in non-scheduled passenger transportation by buses and passenger transportation by taxicabs. To refine the official statistical methodology for determining the average travel distance of one passenger, the Ministry of Transport and Communications of the Republic of Belarus will organize surveys of the average distance of trips in municipal organizations engaged in passenger transportation.

The introduction in statistical practice of the Tourism Satellite Account of the Republic of Belarus makes it necessary to expand reliable sources of information characterizing the structure of tourist spending of visitors. This objective will be achieved through the development of tourism statistics by improving organizational approaches to ad hoc monitoring of inbound and domestic tourism with a view to study tourist expenditure of visitors.

It is planned to develop a system of financial statistics indicators in conjunction with the key provisions of the methodology of accounting and tax recording and reporting, as well as with the requirements of the legislation to bring national accounting and reporting standards in line with the International Financial Reporting Standards.

The Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Belarus will ensure the development of an automated system of registration and accumulation in a single information center of information on concluded insurance contracts, insured events and associated payouts. This will increase the accessibility, reliability and efficiency of obtaining data on insurance activities in the Republic of Belarus.

In domestic trade statistics, a system of sampling methods for conducting state statistical surveys of retail and wholesale turnover and catering turnover will be further developed. Work will be undertaken to improve the system of classification of retail goods through harmonization with the Classification of Individual Consumption by Purpose (COICOP).

In foreign trade statistics, a set of organizational and methodological measures will be implemented with a view to:

- ensure comparability and minimize data asymmetry in mutual trade in goods between the Eurasian Economic Union member states;

- develop methodological approaches to computing unit value indices and volume indices of foreign trade in goods by groups of countries to produce statistical indicators that characterize price and volume terms of foreign trade by groups of countries;

- optimize approaches to sample survey of individuals at motor road checkpoints of the State Border of the Republic of Belarus.

Development prospects in price statistics aim to:

- improve organizational and methodological approaches to the compilation of price indices in production and consumption sectors of the economy taking into account international recommendations for statistics;

- increase the scope and coverage of the sampled population of reference organizations and surveyed goods, more widely use national classifications of the Republic of Belarus when constructing price indices.

In innovation statistics, it is planned to switch to the use of international recommendations for innovation statistics, based on the Eurostat's harmonized survey (the Community Innovation Survey) applied by the European Union member states. It is envisaged to expand the system of statistical indicators for assessing the level of technological development of the branches of the economy.

To improve the quality of official statistical information on the state of the environment, it is expected to improve the system of indicators of the Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) in compliance with international recommendations and the official statistical methodology for their compilation; to introduce environmental-economic accounts in statistical practice; and to improve the quality of dissemination of official statistical information on environment statistics.

The list of environmental indicators will be expanded in compliance with the recommendations of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and other international organizations.

The environmental-economic accounts will build on the international standard of the United Nations Statistics Division – the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting Central Framework (SEEA-CF). This will allow for studying the structure and dynamics of supply and use of natural resources, as well as for assessing the economic burden on the environment.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection plans to:

- provide technical support, maintain and develop the software of the national flora and fauna inventories to ensure quick access to the information stored in them for all users;

- create a platform for sharing information on the state of the environment as part of the National Environmental Monitoring System of the Republic of Belarus.

Living standards statistics, gender statistics and statistics of selected population groups will be further developed through the implementation of the following measures:

- development of the official statistical methodology for multidimensional poverty assessment and computing of multidimensional poverty indices;

- implementation of statistical-mathematical models for the assessment of the low-income rate at the level of districts and cities of regional subordination;

- expanding of the system of modular household sample surveys on various aspects describing the level and the quality of living of the population;

- creation on Belstat's website of the statistical module "Gender statistics" that will accumulate statistical indicators of gender equality and women's rights. The scope of statistical indicators of the national gender statistics database will be expanded on the basis of the indicator framework of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe;

- conducting of a household sample survey for the comprehensive assessment of the situation of persons with disabilities that will allow for studying the integration of persons with disabilities in the economic, social and cultural life of the society (their social inclusion), as well as discrimination on the grounds of disability;

- conducting of the 6th round of the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey to monitor the situation of children and women.

In information and communication technology statistics, a system of statistical indicators of the digital economy is planned to be developed in line with international approaches.

An important stage in the development of the national statistical system for the next five years will be the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by the United Nations General Assembly Resolution No. 70/1 of September 25, 2015.

The 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda is a United Nnations global plan of action for people, the planet, and prosperity, according to which the United Nations member states develop an action plan to transform the world for the better for the sustainable development of the society, the economy and the environment. It encompasses 17 goals and 169 targets for achieving sustainable development. The implementation of the Agenda will be monitored through a mechanism of reporting of 244 indicators.

Belstat, jointly with government agencies authorized to produce official statistics, through the cooperation with the UN agencies, has undertaken a

function to ensure the monitoring the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators at the national level.

Within the framework of the work of the Council for Sustainable Development – a consultative and advisory body under the National Coordinator for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (appointed by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus of May 25, 2017, No. 181) – Belstat jointly with government bodies will have to ensure the implementation of a set of organizational and methodological measures included in the roadmap on the generation of official data to monitor the Sustainable Development Goal indicators.

The monitoring will be carried out through the national reporting platform for the Sustainable Development Goals. The platform will enable us to collect data and maintain databases in conformity with international approaches.

In 2017, Belstat joined the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators established at the 46th session of the United Nations Statistical Commission to develop and implement a global indicator framework for the Goals and targets of the Agenda for Sustainable Development. Participation in its work will allow for implementing initiatives of the Republic of Belarus as regards the indicators of sustainable development;

15.6. Enhancement of capabilities for the efficient use of modern information and communication technologies.

It is planned to improve the processes of statistical production through the introduction of modern information technologies, to develop technological support of state statistics bodies and to improve information security, which will be aimed at:

- software development and technological equipment for the 2019 population census of the Republic of Belarus;

- expanding of electronic interaction with respondents;

- standardization of the processes of collection, processing, accumulation and storage of administrative data used for calculation of statistical indicators;

- increase in the volume, quality and accessibility of official statistical information.

The development of technological support of state statistics bodies and the improvement of information security will be directed at:

- keeping updated the software used by state statistics bodies;

- building and certification of the information security management system;

- increasing the level of fault tolerance and productivity of the software and hardware infrastructure of state statistics bodies;

15.7. Strengthening of statistical intellectual capacity.

Professional competence of employees, improvement of their qualifications, creation of conditions for development and interest in achieving high performance results are planned to be implemented in the following areas:

- creation of a flexible system for recruitment, placement and adaptation of personnel;

- improvement of personnel planning and drawing up of long-term plans for personnel development taking into account the needs of state statistics bodies;

- application of new forms and methods of personnel management, introduction of modern personnel technologies;

- establishment of a bank of innovative knowledge containing best international statistical practices;

15.8. Expanding of international cooperation in the field of statistics.

Cooperation with statistical offices of foreign countries and international organizations is the basis for the modernization of the national statistical system, ensuring standardization and comparability of official statistical information. This activity contributes to the development of the national statistical system and the strengthening of its image in the international statistical community.

The development of international cooperation will be built around several interrelated areas. The main one is further harmonization of the national official statistical methodology and practice with international standards and recommendations in the field of statistics. This task will be realized through the development of bilateral and multilateral cooperation.

It is planned to continue active work through broad representation of the country at international statistical conferences, sessions, seminars, meetings, meetings, as well as membership in committees, subcommittees, working groups, councils within integration associations (the Eurasian Economic Commission, the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Union State and others).

The experts of Belstat, the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Belarus, the National Bank of the Republic of Belarus, the State Customs Committee of the Republic of Belarus and the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Belarus are members of the Advisory Committee on Statistics of the Eurasian Economic

Commission, subcommittees and working groups that coordinate the implementation of activities under the Program for the Development of Integration in Statistics of the Eurasian Economic Union for 2016-2020.

The Republic of Belarus was elected a member of the United Nations Statistical Commission for 2017-2020 and will participate in the adoption of fundamental decisions in the field of statistics at the highest level. In the work of the Governing Board of the International Comparison Program of the UN Member States and the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators, Belstat will represent not only the interests of the Republic of Belarus, but also the interests of the region as a whole.

In order to achieve the results defined by the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for 2016-2020, as well as in country programs with UNICEF and UNFPA, several international technical assistance projects are planned to be developed and implemented. In addition, it is planned to expand the project activities within the framework of the World Bank's Programmatic Multilateral Trust Fund (ECASTAT).

The practice of hosting and facilitating international statistical meetings and events will be continued.

Information exchange with statistical offices of foreign countries and international organizations in the field of statistics will be further developed.

CHAPTER 4
EXPECTED RESULTS

16. Implementation of the Strategy will enable us to:

- create an efficient system of the quality management of statistical production compliant with the STB ISO 9001-2015 requirements and ensure its effectiveness at all levels of the system of state statistics bodies;

- optimize information flows and avoid duplication within the national statistical system;

- use, to the maximum extent possible, information technology and equipment that meet modern technical requirements in statistical production;

- optimize statistical tools and approaches to using administrative data to reduce reporting burden on respondents;

- ensure continuous work on increasing statistical literacy and awareness of users;

- use international practices and modern communication tools in the development of multi-channel approaches to the dissemination of official statistics;

- build a system of statistical indicators that meets the needs of a wide range of users;

- ensure a high level of qualification and competence of human resources.

CHAPTER 5
SUPPORT OF THE STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION

17. The Strategy implementation will be financially supported through the the republican budget funds envisaged for the ongoing financing of state statistical activities and financing of state programs; international technical assistance; and other sources not prohibited by the legislation of the Republic of Belarus.

18. The Strategy will be implemented by state statistics bodies and government organisations authorized to produce official statistics.

CHAPTER 6
MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION

19. A continuous process of monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the activities envisaged by the Strategy will be an effective tool for monitoring progress in their realization and an indicator for taking anticipatory decisions by making adjustments to the stages of achieving the set objectives.

The Strategy is implemented in accordance with the plan of activities aimed at achieving the envisaged tasks, which specifies activities, implementation deadlines and responsible implementers.

The data of monitoring and evaluation of the interim results of the implementation of the plan of activities are documented in the form of an annual report.

20. The results of the assessment of the undertaken work will be measured by the target indicators of the Strategy according to the Annex.

21. Coordination of work, monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the Strategy activities and target indicators are carried out by the Statistical System Coordination and Development Department of Belstat.

Annex
to the Strategy for the
development of state
statistics of the Republic of
Belarus until 2022

Target indicators of the Strategy for the Development of State Statistics of the Republic of Belarus until 2022

	Target indicator	Year				
		2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
1.	Effectiveness of the quality management system, %	90	91	92	94	95
2.	Index of user satisfaction with official statistics, %	73	75	77	78	80
3.	Index of user confidence in official statistics, %	73	75	77	78	80
4.	Number of visits to the official website of Belstat (mln)[*]	2.4	2.6	2.7	2.9	3.0
5.	Proportion of data completed in questionnaires of international organizations, %	77	80	80.5	82	83
6.	Number of global indicators for monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals	71	87	90	91	93

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[*] According to Google Analytics.