Project No. 1-1a

Region: Europe
Country: Moldova

Project:
Statistical measurement of employment in the informal economy in the Republic of Moldova

Donors:
Donor coordination between the EU and the ILO, managed by the Department for Statistics and Sociology (DSS) of the Republic of Moldova.

Project Description:
As no statistics on the informal economy were previously available in the Republic of Moldova, policy-makers were confronted with various (gu)estimates, which were confusing, contradictory and of doubtful quality. Also, there was a lot of misunderstanding in the country regarding the concept of informality and its relation with illegal activities, the underground economy or household production for own consumption.

The objectives of the project were: (i) To assist the Department for Statistics and Sociology (DSS) of the Republic of Moldova in the development of statistics on employment in the informal economy. (ii) To test the statistical definition of informal employment in one of the former Soviet Union countries prior to the submission of the definition to the 17th International Conference of Labour Statisticians in 2003.

The objectives were achieved through close cooperation between statistics producers (DSS) and users (the Ministry of Labour, other ministries, employers and trade unions) at the national level, with support by the ILO.

As a result, statistics on employment in the informal economy are collected and disseminated by the DSS on a regular basis since 2003. The information is obtained as part of the quarterly labour force survey. A number of other countries have already used the Moldavian methodology as a model for development of their own statistics on the topic.

The DSS prepared a report entitled ‘Employment in the informal economy in the Republic of Moldova’ and available in Romanian and English, which presented detailed results for the second quarter of 2003. The English version of the report has been published by the ILO as an INTEGRATION Working Paper. Results for 2004 and onwards will be published in the DSS annual publication ‘Economically active population, employment and unemployment’.

The project helped to gain valuable methodological experience concerning the operational criteria to be used for defining informal employment, the formulation of survey questions,
reduction of non-sampling errors, data editing, and presentation of the results. The methodology developed can serve as a model for other countries.

**Gender and Ethnic Components:** All data were disaggregated by sex, and gender differences were highlighted in the above-mentioned report.

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