Use of statistical data in the elaboration of the North Regional Development Strategy
Regional policy. The need for evidence

• Regional development policy is one of the most important and complex policies in EU.

• Regional policy is addressed to all EU regions and cities, supporting job creation, business competitiveness, economic growth, sustainable development and improved quality of life.
"Evidence-based" regional policymaking

- "Evidence based policy":
an approach that helps people make well informed decisions about policies, programs and projects, putting development and implementation of policies based on the best available evidence.

- Contrast with:
policies based on opinions
  untested views of groups and individuals, often inspired by ideological standpoints, prejudices, or speculative conjecture.
North Regional Development Strategy (RDS) 2016-2020

- North RDS is a mid-term policy document, developed under the legislation of the Republic of Moldova and according to the strategic framework on regional development. It serves to guide the development of the region within the period 2016-2020.

- North RDS was developed respecting general principles of policy documents: consistency with national strategic documents, participation of regional actors in developing the strategy and transparency of decision-making process, based on socio-economic analysis of the region.
North Regional Development Strategy (RDS) 2016-2020

North RDS is related to the main policy documents on regional development:

- **National Development Strategy of the Republic of Moldova 2012-2020.**
- **National Strategy for Regional Development 2016-2020** – main sectoral policy planning document under the responsibility of the Ministry of Regional Development and Construction.
- **Sectoral strategies in the priority areas of regional development.**
Steps in the development of North RDS

- Establishing the methodology for regional policy development;
- Establishing regional vision and strategic objectives;
- Coordination with MRDC / other relevant institutions the North RDS draft;
- Establishing the Regional Committee to coordinate the strategic planning process until 2020;
- Conducting Working meetings (6 sessions) to establish the socio-economic profile of the region and SWOT analysis;
- Public consultation of the North RDS 2016-2020;
- Data collection and processing;
- Development of the socio-economic analysis of the NDR.
- Approval of the North RDS by North RDC.
The role of socio-economic analysis in developing North RDS

THE ANALYSIS:

- **documented** - based on good knowledge and understanding of current situation and development factors
- **relevant** - appropriate needs and problems, strengths and development opportunities
- **comprehensive and consistent**
- **realistic and feasible**
- **efficient** - to be able to achieve its goals and **have a real impact** on development processes

- One of the main components of the planning document
- One of the main steps in the planning process
- It provides answers to questions like:
  - Where are we?
  - Why are we there?
  - What is the development potential and what are the opportunities?
  - What are the problems and causes?
Elaboration of the socio-economic analysis for the NDR

Data collection

Data processing

Data analysis and identification of problems
The analysis was structured in 5 compartments

- General characteristics of NDR
- Economy
- Society, human capital
- Transportation and communications
- Public utilities
Sources of data collection
Tools for regional statistics dissemination

Databank "Statbank" - regional datasets (over 20 areas, time series beginning with 2005)
**Tools for regional statistics dissemination (2)**

**Statistical publications**

The publication «*Territorial statistics*», available from 2013.
Tools for regional statistics dissemination (3)

Statistical publications

Regionally disaggregated data within statistical publications: "Statistical Yearbook“, "Moldova in figures“, etc.

Analytical notes on specific topics from the perspective of strategic objectives in regional development
Other sources of regional data

• The Ministry of Economy
  
  *SADI* (small areas of deprivation index) - aggregated indicator constituted under a set of relative indicators grouped into socio-economic areas, which offers a comparative view on the level of development of the research units (rural localities)

• Ministry of Health

• Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family

• Other related ministries
The analysis justification was based on 3 types of sources:

- **Documents** (projects, analyzes, reports, records, books, portfolios, etc.);
- **Views** of people involved (questionnaires, interviews, focus groups);
- **Direct observation** (guide observation, observation sheet).
The analyzed evidence were:

**Valid**: evidence are significant and support the identified strengths or weaknesses;

**Quantifiable**: internal and external performance indicators are used, both numbers and percentages are used, clear, unambiguous and verifiable;

**Sufficient**: evidence is complete and sufficient to cover all needs;

**Ongoing**: recent enough evidence to provide a precise picture of the situation at the time of writing the analysis;

**Exact**: the evidence is allocated to identifiable and verifiable sources
North Regional Development Strategy (RDS) 2016-2020

**Overall Objective:**
Effective cooperation for balanced and sustainable development of the North Development Region

**Specific objectives:**
1. Ensured access to quality public utilities and services.
2. Sustainable economic growth in the North Development Region.
3. Improved governance on regional development.
Data collection risks and issues

• Analyzing a considerable number of strategy development processes at local and regional levels, it has been proved that data collection is a critical stage in the planning process and it is one of the most difficult to control.

• Collecting information tends to exceed the initial term, and using resources from subsequent stages can turn into a handicap for the planning process. Involvement in excess of the planning team in the collection of data does not allow focusing on the most essential issues of the strategy - the problems and needs, goals, actions or organizing its implementation.
Data collection risks and issues

Typical problems and risks include:

- *Lack of data* or *limited available data*, or (more commonly) *ignorance* of possible sources of information;
- Using available and easily accessible data, yet mismatched or *outdated*;
- *Collecting too much data*, much of which is superfluous to strategy and not used in the analysis;
- *Collecting information takes so long* that when the analysis is done, the situation has changed already.
Conclusions

• The analysis serves as a basis for formulating objectives and strategic actions by assessing the current situation, identifying trends, highlighting the main problems, needs and opportunities.

• The quantity and quality of information affects the quality of the analysis and conclusions, respectively – the quality of strategy.
Thank you!