

# Country Fact Sheet *Georgia*

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## Introduction

This Country Fact Sheet (CFS) provides an overview of the situation of waste statistics, as of 1 August 2017. The CFS has been completed by the Consultant for the project *Implementation of the Shared Environmental Information System principles and practices in the Eastern Partnership countries (SEIS East) - Waste Statistics*.

"This report has been prepared by Wim Van Breusegem and Jürgen Gonser. Its contents are the sole responsibility of ADE and Gopa and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Commission."

The CFS has been completed mainly on the basis of:

- A desk based review of existing international reports on the waste statistics situation in the country. However, the information derived from these reports has been replaced with more recent and comprehensive information obtained from the countries directly, in particular during a country visit. A list of publications that were reviewed is included as Annex 1, at the end of this CFS.
- Information resulting from the validation by the Consultant of the UNSD questionnaire that was completed by the Country. The validation resulted in a Country Data Validation Report, which is attached to the Final Report of the Project.
- Information provided by the country, during the country visit and following the review of the draft CFS by the country. The draft CFS was submitted to the country for comments following the country visit, with the request to provide additional information or to confirm information that was supplied during the country visit. The country has sent comments and additional information, which allowed the Consultant to finalise the CFS. A list of officials that were met during the country visit, is included as Annex 2, at the end of this CFS.

## Part I: Overview of existing waste surveys

Theme & topics	Description
Administrative division	
Legal basis for waste statistics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The EU-Georgia Association Agreement (signed on June 27, 2014) establishes the framework for cooperation between Georgia and the EU. Under the agreement, Georgia undertakes commitment to carry out reforms and gradually harmonize own legislation in the relevant sectors with 300 legal acts of the EU, including in the environment and sustainable development fields.</li> <li>▪ Reference source for legislation: <a href="https://www.informea.org/en/countries/GE/legislation">https://www.informea.org/en/countries/GE/legislation</a></li> </ul> <p><u>Laws and regulations governing waste management:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Waste management Code of Georgia (dated 26.10.2014; entered into force as of 15 January 2015).</li> <li>▪ A range of bylaws - technical regulations - have been adopted on rules and terms of landfill management; waste transportation, collection, processing, storage; classification and registration. For example the Decree of the Government of Georgia #421 from 11.08.2015 on “Technical Regulations on the construction, operation, closure and after-care of landfills.</li> <li>▪ When we speak about hazardous waste, it is easy.</li> <li>▪ The By-law on „hazardous waste management” provides a Hazardous Waste Identification Sheet (art. 4) which has to be prepared by producers of hazardous waste, using the form which is attached to the by-law. He must keep the HWI and annex it to the Company Waste Management Plan that he must submit to the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection (MENRP).</li> <li>▪ According to the MENRP, the Waste Management Code and all by-laws are harmonised with EU legislation.</li> </ul> <p><u>Laws and regulations governing waste data and statistics:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Law of Georgia on Official Statistics (LGOS), enacted in 2009.</li> <li>▪ Even though GeoStat, i.e. the national statistics office, is not involved in the collection of waste data, statistical legislation is relevant, as it intends to publish the data as statistics.</li> <li>▪ The by-laws relevant for waste statistics:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Decree of the Government of Georgia #426 from 17.08.2015 on “The list of wastes and waste classification by its type and properties” : The Decree provides for the rules for determining and classifying waste by its types and characteristics, in line with the European List of Waste, which is attached to the Decree.</li> <li>○ Decree of the Government of Georgia, n° 422 from August 11, 2015 “Form and content of records to be kept and reports to be made on waste.”</li> <li>○ Further legislation will be needed to fully implement the WMC. For example, Decree n°422 does not provide for the necessary</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Theme & topics	Description
	<p>record and reporting forms, which will have to be adopted by ministerial order on the “Electronic forms for record keeping and reporting and the rule for filling in the electronic forms of the waste database” by the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection (MENRP)</p> <p><u>Definitions established in the Waste Management Code (WMC):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ ‘Waste’ means any substance or object, which the holder discards, intends to discard or which he is required to be discarded (Art. 3a)</li> <li>▪ ‘Hazardous waste’ means waste, which displays one or more of the hazardous properties listed in Annex III of the Waste Management Code (Art. 3b)</li> <li>▪ ‘Non-hazardous’ waste means waste that does not fall under the definition of hazardous waste (Art. 3c)</li> <li>▪ ‘Household waste’ means waste generated by households (Art. 3d)</li> <li>▪ ‘Municipal waste’ means household waste as well as other waste, which because of its nature or composition is similar to household waste (Art. 3e).</li> </ul>
Overview of waste surveys / data sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Georgia does not yet collect and publish information on waste management on a regular basis. The legal requirement to collect data on types and amounts of municipal waste has only been introduced by the 2015 WMC.</li> <li>▪ The provisions that establish the data collection system are set out in the Articles 29 to 30 of the Waste Management Code. The text of the relevant Articles is included in Annex 1 of this CFS under the heading “Law of Georgia: Waste Management Code”.</li> <li>▪ The provisions related to the reporting requirements (Art 29) and to the waste data base (Art 30) become effective from 1 January 2018.</li> <li>▪ By that date, the reporting system will have to be developed and will have to be operational.</li> <li>▪ Both MW and industrial waste data will be compiled on the basis of the new, electronic administrative reporting system.</li> <li>▪ A draft version of an electronic data reporting system is already on-line for testing. The MENRP has held a large number of meetings with businesses to discuss and to test the draft system. The initial reaction of the companies on the proposed daily reporting obligation is negative.</li> <li>▪ No final decisions have been taken yet on what the reporting system will consist of exactly.</li> <li>▪ Given that no waste reporting system exists yet, the amount of generated municipal waste can only be estimated from generation per capita and the total population of Georgia. Quantities and composition of municipal waste was analysed in the regions of Tbilisi, Kvemo Kartli and Kutaisi, which are believed to be representative for the whole of Georgia. As such, the total quantity of MW that is generated annually is estimated to be between 0.8 million and 1 million tons.</li> <li>▪ According to the UNSD questionnaire, some 2007 data exist for MW generation and management at national level. For some cities, information is available for more years. The national data result from a one-time survey that was carried out for a few waste categories under a UNDP supported project.</li> </ul>

Theme & topics	Description
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Waste Inventory Document: The by-law on “The list of wastes and waste classification by its type and properties” (Art.7) provides that waste producers must keep an Initial Waste Inventory Document and submit it to the MENRP. This Inventory Document must contain the following information: waste codes and name in accordance with Annex II to the By-law (which is compliance with the EU List of Wastes), hazardous properties and recovery/disposal operations in accordance with Annexes of the WMC, and If applicable, “Y” codes in accordance with the Annex I of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal.</li> <li>▪ Because of the lack of an electronic reporting system, the MENRP receives only hard copies. The MENRP states that for this reasons, it could not report data regarding source, methodology and collection of data through the UNSD questionnaire under the Project’s Pilot Data Sharing Exercise.” [UNSD-Q2016, table R7].</li> </ul>
Institutions involved	<p><a href="#">Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection</a> (MENRP), and in particular its Waste and Chemicals Management Service, is responsible for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Development and implementation of a national waste management policy.</li> <li>▪ Registration and permitting of waste management activities, in cooperation with the Dpt. for Environmental Impact Assessment and Permitting.</li> <li>▪ Keeping state register for waste and waste data base pursuant to Article 29 and 30;</li> <li>▪ Operation/maintenance of the ‘register of permits and registrations’ according to Art. 27 WMC. This register will be integrated in the ‘waste database’ under development.</li> <li>▪ Enforcement of waste management legislation.</li> <li>▪ Implementation of international obligations, mainly through control over the transboundary movement of hazardous waste according to the Basel Convention, the management of chemicals according to the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants.</li> <li>▪ The Ministry has no obligation to produce waste “statistics”. <i>(To be clarified with the Ministry whether it can produce waste “statistics” or whether it can only collect and process “administrative” data).</i></li> </ul> <p>The Service currently has seven staff members.</p> <p>„The Environmental Information and Education Centre” ( EIEC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The EIEC (a public law body with legal personality under the MENRP) provides access to environmental education and ensures access to comprehensive information on environment.</li> <li>▪ The EIEC also creates a unified data base on environmental protection and supports its publicity.</li> </ul>

Theme & topics	Description
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ As regards its role in the waste reporting system, the EIEC only provides technical assistance.</li> </ul> <p><a href="#">National Statistics Office of Georgia</a> (GeoStat)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Geostat and National Bank of Georgia are the only producers of official statistics. Regarding official environmental statistics, the only producer is Geostat.</li> <li>▪ GeoStat does not collect environmental data, which is a responsibility of the MENRP and the Ministry of Energy.</li> <li>▪ However GeoStat conducts activities which are relevant for environmental statistics. As such, GeoStat: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ produces several indicators which are used for environmental indicators, such as: Use of fertilizers and pesticides; Import-export data; Livestock; Population or GDP.</li> <li>○ Conducted in December 2016 the first Survey on Water Supply Enterprises (a pilot survey) which covered every active enterprise providing water supply service in Georgia. Data were collected on water supply, wastewater collection and wastewater treatment. In May 2017 Geostat conducted a regular survey, so there is available official data for 2015 and 2016. Based on the data obtained from the Survey on Water Supply Enterprises, Geostat calculated 4 indicators of water component of environmental indicators elaborated by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE): Household water use (C-4), Water supply industry and population connected to water supply industry (C-5), Water losses (C-7), and population connected to wastewater treatment (C-14).</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Geostat's objective is to publish statistics on waste generated by households and by industry, per NACE sector. AN assessment was made by Geostat and MENRP together with Swedish experts under the cooperation project between Geostat and statistics Sweden. According to GeoStat, this objective cannot be fully met by the waste reporting system as it is currently conceived by the MENRP. The system does not comprise all information that is necessary to produce comprehensive waste statistics.</li> </ul> <p>Relationship between the MENRP and GeoStat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ GeoStat prepares an annual electronic publication on environment statistics, based on statistics from Ministries and covering the topics Land Resources, Forest Resources and their protection, Protected areas, Water Resources, Ambient air protection and Natural hazards. When Geostat validates and published, the data become official statistics.</li> <li>▪ Geostat and MENRP are closely cooperating to improve reporting system. Geostat is also cooperating with Statistics Sweden to start producing some official waste statistics.</li> <li>▪ In the new reporting system, the main roles of MENRP will be to ensure that all obligated organisations report and to validate the data. Geostat will use the reporting system as an administrative source to produce and publish some official waste statistics.</li> </ul>
Classifications used	<p><u>Economic activities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Business Register developed by Geostat currently uses NACE Rev.2 codes. These codes are regularly updated based on the information received from different surveys conducted by Geostat. Companies can find their codes in the list of codes provided by</li> </ul>

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	<p>Geostat. If companies would have difficulties in defining their NACE codes, they can call a statistician from Geostat, which will help the company in choosing the right code. Thus, no company is left without a code.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ GeoStat would like to receive waste data from MENRP by waste category and by economic activities.</li> <li>▪ Under the new waste reporting system, the waste generating companies that will have to report will have to identify their economic activities according to NACE. It is important that the data on waste generation can be allocated to the source of waste, i.e. either to the economic activity by which the waste is generated (characterised by NACE code) or to households. This is important because: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Reporting of waste generation by NACE is a legal requirement of the European Regulation on waste statistics (WStatR);</li> <li>○ The allocation to economic activities is a prerequisite for grossing up data from the reporting companies to the total number of companies.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><u>Waste types:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The waste classification is defined in Governmental decree No. 426 and is fully based on the European List of Wastes (Commission Decision 2000/532/EC) and on Annex III to Directive 2008/98/EC.</li> </ul> <p><u>Hazardous waste:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Hazardous waste is defined by the WMC (Art. 3b) as “waste, which displays one or more of the hazardous properties listed in Annex III of the Waste Management Code”. Annex III sets out hazard properties H1 to H15.</li> </ul> <p><u>Waste treatment:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ R and D-codes of the EU Waste Framework Directive are established by Annex I and II of the WMC.</li> </ul>
Waste indicators	<p>Under the new reporting system, information will be produced on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ municipal waste collection and treatment, by treatment methods.</li> <li>▪ hazardous waste generation (according to economic activities), collection and treatment, by treatment methods.</li> </ul> <p>The general information on the generation of waste by the companies is provided in their waste management (1 and 3 years) plans. The submission of waste management plans is obligatory - if the amounts generated exceed any of the following waste generation thresholds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● &gt;200 tonnes of non-hazardous waste</li> <li>● &gt; 1 000 tonnes of inert waste (mainly construction and demolition waste)</li> <li>● &gt; 120 kg of hazardous waste</li> </ul>

## Part II: Waste Data Management System (MENRP)

Theme & topics	Description
(MW) management system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Policy: Waste management did not receive much attention from the Government, but has meanwhile become a priority. This is reflected by the fact that for the first time a national waste management strategy has been prepared: the National Waste Management Strategy 2016-2030 and the 2016-2020 Action Plan.</li> <li>▪ Responsibilities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Local self-governments are responsible for the collection, transport and disposal of municipal waste.</li> <li>○ The services are provided by waste companies, which are 100 % owned by the corresponding municipalities.</li> <li>○ In the attempt to support development of private waste management services, municipalities are required to select a servicing company by tender. But the potential benefits of competition generated by a tender process are practically disabled due to municipal waste collection being limited to urban areas (which results in large variations in the size of serviced populations from town to town), the short contract period of one year (which does not allow financial planning in private companies), low user fees (which means cheap service is preferred over quality service) and municipalities' potential preference for their "own" company.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Waste collection coverage: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The delivery of effective waste management services is still largely limited to major cities.</li> <li>○ Collection of municipal waste is provided only in urban areas, while rural areas remain unserved.</li> <li>○ It is estimated that about 70% of generated municipal waste is collected by regular services and delivered to local disposal sites.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Waste disposal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The Government established in 2012 the Solid Waste Management Company of Georgia (SWMCG), which is responsible for the construction of new landfills and closure of existing landfills that do not meet the established environmental and health standards throughout Georgia. The activities of SWMCG cover all of Georgia, with the exception of Tbilisi and the Autonomous Republic of Adjara (chapter 5). SWMCG operates under the umbrella of the Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure.</li> <li>○ Although the operations of large disposal sites were transferred to the Solid Waste Management Company of Georgia (SWMCG), smaller towns continue using their dumpsites. Collection of municipal waste is funded by a mix of user fees and subsidies from the state budget.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Prevention, reuse and recycling is very limited in Georgia. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Reliable data on these activities and on the amounts of recycled materials are also very limited due to the lack of reporting obligations for companies and treatment facilities.</li> <li>○ Practically all collected waste is transported directly to disposal sites. Material recovery from municipal waste is not performed, except in the sorting plant at Rustavi city landfill.</li> <li>○ Separate collection has not yet been introduced in Georgia.</li> <li>○ Waste is recovered for recycling mainly through informal activities.</li> <li>○ Recycling is only carried out by – a limited number of- private companies.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Recyclers are focusing on waste that has a market value, i.e. mainly PET bottles, scrap metal, glass and paper.</li> <li>○ There is some capacity for processing recyclables in Georgia: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ JSC Mina Glass factory in Ksani has a capacity of 28,000 tons/year;</li> <li>○ Paper waste is processed in paper plants in Tbilisi and Tserovani.</li> <li>○ PET bottles are collected and compacted by several small companies, and then the plastic waste is exported.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Waste management planning</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Businesses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Legislation: Order of the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia N211 (August 4, 2015) on The rule for discussion and approval of company waste management plans. The rule defines the procedures and conditions for setting up a waste management plan by the persons determined in Article 14 of the Waste Management Code and its submission, discussion and approval in the MENRP.</li> <li>○ Currently, all companies that generate waste must submit each year a waste management plan in paper form to the MENR, which receives annually approximately 2000 hard copies. The plan shall cover a period of maximum 3 years.</li> <li>○ However, under the new system established by the WMC, as of 2018: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Only companies that exceed any of the following waste generation thresholds have to submit a waste management plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ &gt;200 tonnes of non-hazardous waste</li> <li>▪ &gt; 1 000 tonnes of inert waste (mainly construction and demolition waste)</li> <li>▪ &gt; 120 kg of hazardous waste.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ The companies will have to submit their plan must electronically, by completing a form under the electronic reporting system which is under development. The plan will be stored in the 'waste database ' under development.</li> <li>▪ The company can choose whether the plan covers of period of 1, 2 or 3 years.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Municipalities: Municipalities must prepare 5 year MW plans. Their first plan must be submitted to the MENRP before 2018. The plan must be submitted in paper form, and submission is not integrated in the new reporting system under development.</li> </ul>
Purpose and use of the data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ MENRP is developing and will maintain a waste database, according Art 30 WMC, for the management of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ waste data reported by obligated parties according to Art. 29 WMC (see description under 'data sources/reporting units')</li> <li>○ information on permits of waste management activities according to Art 24 WMC</li> <li>○ information on registrations of waste management activities according to Art 26 WMC.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>MENRP will also integrate the corporate waste management plans into the reporting system and the waste database. The MW plans will not be integrated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The data will be used by:</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o MENRP: The primary objective is to allow for monitoring and enforcement. A secondary objective is to allow for the development of knowledge based waste policies.</li> <li>o Other stakeholders, such as prospective investors in the waste management area.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Geostat will use the reporting system as an administrative source to produce and publish some official waste statistics. Geostat will validate the data provided by the administrative source under its competence. The 1-2 years will be difficult to validate as there is no any other source and previous years data to compare.</li> </ul>
<b>Definition and scope</b>	
Existing definition(s)	See above under 'Legal basis for waste statistics'
Scope of data collection: Waste types	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ All waste types which are listed in the European List of Waste, except mining waste and radioactive waste, will be covered.</li> <li>▪ Mining waste and radioactive waste are excluded from the scope of the Waste Management Code. Radioactive waste is regulated by the law on Radioactive Waste. Mining waste will regulated by a law based on the relevant EU Directive, and once regulated, mining waste will be covered by the reporting system.</li> </ul>
Scope of data collection : Origin of waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Waste from all sources/activities will be covered, namely waste from economic activities (classified according to NACE), from households and waste managed by/from waste treatment facilities.</li> <li>▪ Municipal waste: The MW data reported in the UNSD-Q2016 at city level (tables R5, R5(2) and R5(3)) include waste from other sources than households, such as waste from small businesses and public institutions.</li> </ul>
Data / information collected	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The WMC (Art. 29(4) provides that the form and content of keeping a record of waste and reporting shall be defined by a Decree of the Government. The Decree has been adopted, but does not include a form, which will be adopted by a Ministerial Order. A draft Ministerial Order has been prepared under a Twinning Project.</li> <li>▪ Companies that generate waste will have to report : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o The quantities of waste generated per type of waste (waste generated waste but temporarily stored on site will be covered by the reporting system).</li> <li>o The collector/transporter of waste (all waste transporting companies are registered), with types and quantities.</li> <li>o The final destination (location) and treatment method (using the EU R&amp;D codes) for the waste that is collected.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Collectors and treatment facilities will have to confirm (i.e. accept) the data that are reported by the waste generators.</li> <li>▪ Municipalities will have to report on the origin of the waste that they collect. The reporting system will thus produce precise information on the coverage of their MW collection system.</li> </ul>
Time schedule of survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The new reporting system, which will be an online waste tracking system and all companies must report daily.</li> <li>▪ The new system should be operational as of 1 January 2018.</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ All companies involved in the transport (generator, transporting company and final destination) will not only have to report in the electronic system, but will also have to sign a movement form. This will allow the MENRP to monitor generation and movement, by cross-checking between what is being reported and what is stated on the movement form.</li> <li>▪ The movement forms will be electronic only and all persons involved in these activities should be equipped with the necessary electronic devices. But they can also print a movement form from the database.</li> </ul>
Documentation on survey methodology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The methodology has not yet been defined in detail and has not yet been documented in writing.</li> <li>▪ GeoStat will validate and publish the data, as statistical data, but does not yet have a concept how to use and compile the data for statistical purposes, because the proposed system is not yet clear or sufficiently developed. GeoStat does not yet have a full understanding of the future design and content of the system.</li> </ul>
<b>Data collection</b>	
Data sources(s) / reporting unit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The reporting units are defined by the WMC, Article 29, which imposes the obligation to keep a record of waste and to report to the Ministry on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Persons performing activities provided for in Articles 24 and 26 of the WMC (i.e. physical and legal persons dealing professionally with collection, transport and/or treatment of waste).</li> <li>b) companies that exceed any of the following annual waste generation thresholds: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ &gt;2 tonnes of non-hazardous waste (except for municipal waste)</li> <li>▪ &gt; 120 kg of hazardous waste.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>All companies dealing with waste must be either registered or permitted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Activities subjected to environmental expertise and permitting include (WMC, Art 24) : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) waste recovery, except for the pre-treatment of non-hazardous waste;</li> <li>b) waste disposal, except for the pre-treatment of non-hazardous waste;</li> <li>c) pre-treatment of hazardous waste;</li> <li>d) construction of a facility for the temporary storage of more than 10 tonnes of hazardous waste.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Activities subjected to registration include (WMC, Art. 26.): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) collection and/or transportation of waste;</li> <li>b) construction and operation of facilities for the temporary storage of more than 50 tonnes of non-hazardous waste;</li> <li>c) pre-treatment of non-hazardous waste;</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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	<p>b) construction and operation of facilities for the temporary storage of not less than 2 tonnes and not more than 10 tonnes of hazardous waste; e) construction and operation of waste transfer stations.</p> <p>Information on registered and permitted companies will all be entered in the single waste database.</p> <p>Geostat has developed the Business Register, which is available for every data user for free. According to the Register (which is updated quarterly), there are currently 172 206 active companies. Given that not every company is obliged to report to the MENRP (whether a company is obliged depend on the type and amount of waste generated by the company), it is not possible to determine the number of companies subject to reporting. Geostat and MENPR estimated that approximately 2000 companies will have to report under the new system.</p>
Data collection methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The existing data that have been used to complete the UNSD Q2016, are administrative data.</li> <li>▪ The data that will be collected under the new reporting system by the MENRP, will be used by GeoStat as an administrative source to produce official statistics.</li> </ul>
Frequency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ As it currently stands, companies must complete and submit reporting forms into the waste database on a daily basis, and the system will automatically generate annual reports (integrating all information and adding up all figures).</li> <li>▪ However, the MENRP is considering changing this frequency, as it may represent a significant burden for the reporting units. The original intention of the MENRP was to request annual report.</li> </ul>
Data collection tools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ An electronic reporting system (SQL), for which the MENRP will adopt through a Ministerial Order electronic reporting forms and instructions to complete these forms.</li> <li>▪ Registration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The organisations that are subject to the reporting obligation are obliged to register in the waste database, by completing an electronic registration form on the official webpage of the MENRP.</li> <li>○ Within 5 days, the MENRP will send a registration confirmation note to the electronic mail address indicated in the registration form, which will be considered as official confirmation of registration.</li> <li>○ After confirming registration in the waste database, the registered person is granted a user name and a password.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ The waste database will only contain primary data, i.e. data reported by the reporting units. The MENRP will not use secondary data (which could be source from for example research studies, census and population statistics, literature review of government documents, internet sources).</li> </ul>
Data collection process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Informing the reporting units of their obligations: The MENRP still needs to decide how to inform all companies of their reporting obligation and of the new system. The MENRP has had already a large number of meetings with companies, at which a test version of the system was discussed. The MENRP also works with trade associations; however there are few representative associations in Georgia.</li> <li>▪ Support to reporting units: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The Ministry has not yet developed guidance or instructions for the reporting units, but will do so, once the system is sufficiently developed.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Also, the MENRP must decide still which support will be provided during the data collection and is considering establishing a help-desk.</li> <li>○ Currently, there are consultancy firms that support companies in the preparation of their waste management plans, and the MENRP anticipates that they will also support companies in the daily reporting.</li> <li>▪ The MENRP will have to consider measures to ensure a high reporting rate. Such measures may include specific fines for non-reporting. Article 44 of WMC provides that violation of reporting and record keeping obligations will result in a fine of 200 GEL.</li> <li>▪ Follow-up of non-responses: The MENRP has not decided on how the follow-up of non-responses will be organised</li> <li>▪ Only the waste generator must report. All other operators in the management chain must confirm (i.e. accept). As such, double-counting will be avoided, as it is the generator that must report the types and quantities of waste collected for treatment. The receivers of waste (collectors/transporters, treatment companies) must confirm in the system the data which were reported by the waste generator.</li> <li>▪ If a given shipment is not confirmed by either the transporting company or the treatment facility, the quantity will be regarded as not reported.</li> </ul>
<b>Data processing</b>	
Data entry	The reporting system will be electronic. The reporting units will enter the data manually on a daily basis.
Data validation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The MENRP will have to consider the development of a validation plan, i.e. a set of defined validation checks/procedures that aims at identifying possible errors in a systematic way. Checks commonly include formal, logical and arithmetical checks.</li> <li>▪ The MENRP may have to check (potentially) incorrect or incomplete information by contacting the reporting unit concerned. However, it is unclear that this could be done with the limited number of staff currently working for the Service.</li> <li>▪ The MENRP hints that the importance of its validation will be relatively minor, given that the obligated companies will control each other's data, i.e. the waste transporters and treatment companies must confirm the data that are reported by the waste generating company.</li> <li>▪ GeoStat will also have to consider what validation checks it will apply prior to publication of the data. GeoStat will consider applying among other the following checks: comparison between municipalities with similar characteristics; comparison between different years.</li> </ul>
Data compilation	<p>The MENRP will have to consider the following</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ How non-responses (unit and item non-responses) and other missing data will be handled.</li> <li>▪ How missing codes (such as waste codes and R &amp; D treatment codes) will be handled.</li> </ul>
<b>Data quality</b>	

Theme & topics	Description
General aspects	The MENRP will have to consider the development of a quality policy, which encompasses all measures aiming at a high data quality during the whole production chain, i.e. starting with the planning of data collection and ending with dissemination of data and related meta-information.
Relevance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The reporting system under development will allow the collection of waste management data by the various activities, according to NACE.</li> <li>▪ Geostat and MENRP are closely cooperating to develop a system which will increase the available administrative data that are needed to produce waste statistics.</li> </ul>
Completeness	
Accuracy	<p>Coverage errors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Municipal waste: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ MW that is being recovered from the containers prior to collection by informal collectors, will not be accounted for.</li> <li>○ Geostat and the MENRP will work together on a methodology to estimate coverage rate of the population. Household survey which is conducted by Geostat could be one of the source of this kind of estimation.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Measurement errors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ MW: The collected amounts of MW are determined by volume-based estimation of the weight. Some of the landfills at which MW is disposed of have weigh bridges, and at these landfills the amounts will thus be weighed.</li> <li>▪ Industrial waste: The amount of industrial waste collected, and most of the industrial waste disposed of, is being determined by volume-based estimation of the weight.</li> <li>▪ There are no agreed national conversion factors, for the conversion from volume (m3) to weight (tonnes). The fact that reporting units use their own conversion factors, may have a significant impact on the quality of the data.</li> <li>▪ There are no incentives for the stakeholders for over- or under-reporting (e.g. for tax reasons).</li> </ul> <p>Non-response errors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Industrial waste: The MENRP does currently not know which companies will be exceeding the waste generation threshold and which will thus have to report. The MENRP relies on the companies identifying and meeting their reporting obligation. The MENRP will thus not actively check whether all companies that should report, are actually reporting.</li> </ul> <p>Processing errors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The MENRP will have to consider how it will deal with processing errors (such as data entry errors or coding errors for waste type, type or treatment operation).</li> </ul>
Timeliness and punctuality	The MENRP will have to consider how to deal with companies that do not respect the reporting frequency and any related due-dates.

Theme & topics	Description
Accessibility and clarity; dissemination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The data will be made available to the users/to the public through regular and ad-hoc publications, by among other GeoStat.</li> <li>▪ The online waste database will be made accessible to the general public.</li> <li>▪ The MENRP will have to consider whether it will make the following available: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Documents/information on the methodology.</li> <li>○ Quality reports that document the assessment of the data quality.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Cost and burden	The draft system currently foresees daily reporting, which would be a significant burden to the reporting units. However, the MENRP is considering changing this frequency to annual reporting.
Confidentiality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Geostat can not release the individual data which is collected for the purpose of producing official statistics.</li> <li>▪ One of the rules that is applied by Geostat is the following: the data which are an aggregation of less than 3 individual data, are confidential.</li> </ul>
<b>Data management and storage</b>	
Data management	A waste database (Waste Data Management System) maintained by the MENRP
Data storage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The data that are reported, and other relevant data on waste management, such as the permitted/registered waste management companies and the corporate waste management plans, will be stored in a single waste database.</li> <li>▪ Overtime, the waste database will build up, and data from previous data collections will easily be available and usable for data comparison with previous years.</li> </ul>

## Part IV: Key potential activities

Theme & topics	Activities for improving data availability and quality
Coverage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Under the draft system, waste that is generated, but not collected, will not be reported. This should be changed.</li> <li>▪ It has to be decided how to estimate the amounts of recyclable waste that is recovered by the informal sector, before the waste is collected.</li> <li>▪ A range of estimations will have to be made (see below), but neither MENPR nor GeoStat have experience in waste statistics, and in making such estimations. Geostat and MENRP are cooperating with Statistics Sweden under the project "raising institutional capacity of National Statistics Office of Georgia".</li> </ul>
Information	<p>The electronic reporting system will not produce some of the information that would be useful for policy purposes. As such, only information about the total quantities of waste will be produced. However, also the following information would be needed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The different MW fractions (sources): Small companies that do not report, but have their waste collected by the municipalities (using the</li> </ul>

	<p>same bin as the households). The system will not allow determining how much waste is generated by households and how much by other sources of MW.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Specific waste streams, such as waste electric and electronic equipment. GeoStat has data for E-equipment: import and in use in the households (from the annual household budget survey). With these data GeoStat may make an estimate of the types and quantities of E-waste generated.</li> </ul>
Reporting units	Only companies that generated waste quantities above the reporting thresholds must report, but it is not known what percentage of the total number of companies these companies represent. It will thus be difficult to estimate the amount of waste that is generated, but not reported.
Conversion	Volume to weight conversion factors will have to be adopted and applied by all.
Human resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The MENRP will have to increase the number of staff involved in waste statistics, as it currently lacks the required number of staff to validate the data that are being reported and to manage the waste data base.</li> <li>▪ MENRP has hired external IT expertise to develop the report system, but does not have the necessary IT capacity in-house to maintain the system.</li> </ul>

## **Annex 1: Law of Georgia: Waste Management Code**

The following citation is based on the consolidated version of the law as published at the „Legislative Herald of Georgia“ (<https://matsne.gov.ge/en/document/view/2676416?impose=translateEn&publication=3>)

### **Article 24 - Waste treatment activities subject to environmental expertise**

1. The following shall be subject to environmental expertise as determined by the Law of Georgia on Environmental Impact Permits:

- a) waste recovery, except for the pre-treatment of non-hazardous waste;
- b) waste disposal, except for the pre-treatment of non-hazardous waste;
- c) pre-treatment of hazardous waste;
- d) construction of a facility for the temporary storage of more than 10 tonnes of hazardous waste.

### **Article 25 - Information to be provided to obtain a permit for carrying out waste treatment activities**

In addition to the information defined by the Law of Georgia on Environmental Impact Permits and subordinate normative acts adopted and issued on its basis, the following information shall be additionally submitted to the Ministry in order to obtain a permit for carrying out waste treatment activities:

- a) the type of waste to be treated (waste code and name according to the ordinance adopted on the basis of Article 2(3) of this Code);
- b) the quantity and origin of waste to be treated;
- c) the codes and description of waste recovery and disposal operations according to Annexes I and II to this Code;
- d) the means and equipment to be used, and its capacity;
- e) information on a landfill to be constructed, provided for by the legislation of Georgia.

### **Article 26 - Registration of waste management activities**

1. The following waste management activities shall be subject to registration:

- a) collection and/or transportation of waste;
- b) construction and operation of facilities for the temporary storage of more than 50 tonnes of non-hazardous waste;
- c) pre-treatment of non-hazardous waste;
- b) construction and operation of facilities for the temporary storage of not less than 2 tonnes and not more than 10 tonnes of hazardous waste;
- e) construction and operation of waste transfer stations.

### **Article 27 - Register of permits and registrations**

Permits issued and registrations made on the basis of this Code shall be recorded in a database of waste according to Article 30 of this Code.

### **Article 29 - Obligation for keeping records of waste and reporting**

1. The obligation to keep a record of waste and to report to the Ministry shall be imposed on:

- a) persons performing activities provided for in Articles 24 and 26 of this Code;

b) a waste producer, whose entrepreneurial activity results in production of more than 2 tonnes of non-hazardous waste (except for municipal waste), or any amount of hazardous waste during a year.

3. The obligation to keep a record of waste and to report shall not be imposed on the population.

4. The form and content of keeping a record of waste and reporting shall be defined by an ordinance of the Government of Georgia.

#### **Article 30 - Database of waste**

The Ministry shall maintain and update a database of waste that includes:

a) data under Article 29 of this Code;

b) information about the persons who have been issued permits according to Article 24 of this Code;

c) information about the persons who received registration according to Article 26 of this Code.

#### **Annex 2: List of publications**

The following publications have been reviewed for the preparation of the country mission and the completion of the Country Factsheet:

1. EU, EEA (2014) European Neighborhood and Partnership Instrument – Shared Environmental Information System: How existing municipal solid waste data in ENPI East countries can be used for the development of waste indicators, Final Report. European Environment Agency, Denmark
2. UN, UNECE (2015) Advancing the production and sharing of an extended set of 14 environmental indicators in the countries of the Eastern European Neighbourhood. European Environment Agency, Denmark
3. EU, EEA (2015) ENPI-SEIS East Region Synthesis Report - Building a Shared Environmental Information System with the Eastern Neighbourhood - Outcome of cooperation, 2010–2014. Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union, 2015
4. Third Environmental Performance Review of Georgia Environmental Performance Reviews Series No. 43, UNECE, New York and Geneva, 2016
5. UN, UNECE (2012) Conference of European Statisticians: Review of Waste Classification Procedures and Identification of Alternative Approaches
6. UN, UNECE (2012) Desk Study: Assessment of the capacity of countries of EECCA to produce statistics on sustainable development and environmental sustainability – Topic 1 – waste statistics (under the UN Development Account project.)
7. UN, UNECE (2015) Progress in the production and sharing of core environmental indicators in countries of South-Eastern and Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia. Geneva: United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
8. EU, EEA (2013) Georgia Country Report – Towards a Shared Environmental Information System in the European Neighborhood; ENPI-SEIS implementation of priority data flows, December 2013, Tbilisi, Georgia
9. EU, EEA (2011) Georgia Country Report - European Neighborhood and Partnership Instrument, Shared Environmental Information System. European Environment Agency, Denmark
10. EUROSTAT, EFTA, UNECE (2013) Adapted Global Assessment of the National Statistical System of Georgia, Final version 18. April 2013

11. Gurguliani, I. (2016) Waste Management Code of Georgia / EU Association Agreement. Presentation held at the 1. Regional SEIS East workshop, 6./7. June 2016, Batumi, Georgia
12. UNSD-Q2016: UNSD/UNEP Questionnaire 2016 on Environment Statistics, Section Waste,.
13. Georgia, Country Environmental Analysis, WORLD BANK GROUP report number ACS13945, June 2015,

**Annex 3: List of stakeholders met during the country mission (13-14 July 2017)**

**Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection, Waste and Chemicals Management Service**

1. Alverd Chankseliani, Head of Service
2. Tamar Loladze, Senior Specialist
3. Venera Metreveli, Chief Specialist

**Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection, Department of Environmental Policy and International Relations, Division of Sustainable Development and EU Integration Policy**

4. Maia Javakhishvili, Chief Specialist,

**National Statistics Office of Georgia (GEOSTAT), Agricultural and Environmental Statistics Division**

5. Vasil Tsakadze, Head of Division

**LTD "Tbilservis Group" :**

6. Lasha Qajaia - Head of Administration;
7. Zurab Gventsadze -Head of the Tbilisi Landifill;
8. Davit Chankseliani - Head of Legal Service

**Solid Waste Management Company of Georgia:**

9. Vakhtang Baramiya, Deputy Director
10. Lasha Mchedlidze, Leading Specialist
11. Madona Txelidze, Leading Specialist
12. Akaki Kakubava, Leading Specialist