**Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan and ADB: Knowledge and Experience Exchange Program**

In 2013, the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) have approved a joint Knowledge and Experience Exchange Program (KEEP). They signed a Memorandum of Understanding to expand political dialogue through demand-driven, forehanded, and cutting-edge research, as well as capacity development.

The program strengthens the role of the ADB as a knowledge institution that promotes the exchange of international experience, best practices, and innovations. In accordance with the approach to interaction with countries that have above-average income levels.

Under the Memorandum, the Government and ADB commit to share costs equally (50/50) and jointly manage program activities.

Applications for research in the areas of policy and capacity building under KEEP are developed by sectoral ministries and agencies of the Government. It is for submission to the Ministry of National Economy (MNE), and for the review according to established procedures to the ADB Resident Mission in Kazakhstan (KARM).

The Statistical Bureau of the Agency of Statistics of the Republic of Kazakhstan has successfully cooperated with the ADB for many years, including within the framework of KEEP.

In 2022-2023, a series of training events for Bureau staff were held as part of the Data Literacy initiative, aimed at improving the data literacy of government officials.

The essence of the initiative lies in the development of mass open online courses, that aimed at various levels of knowledge and participants' needs. They range from basic to advanced levels of data analysts, and eventually become mandatory for all government officials.

The basic level of training covers a wide range of citizens, teaching them how to work with published data, how to work with sources of information, and how to verify their accuracy. The role of the national statistical office in the data ecosystem is also explained. Today the first level of the training program has been developed jointly with the UN and is available on the Bureau's website, as well as on the open training platform Data literacy hub (www.dataliteracyhub.stat.gov.kz) with user certification capabilities.

The next level of training is directed to statistical office staff and key government agencies responsible for decision-making based on data, as well as experts who wish to delve deeper into the statistical system.

A more advanced level is intended for more advanced users, including a two-stage course on descriptive statistics and predictive analysis. By the end of 2022, 50 Bureau staff members underwent training in advanced business analytics tools, data visualization, including BI tools, and data analysis skills using Qlik Sense.

30 Bureau staff members were trained in programming in Python and Data Science skills in 2023.

Trained staff have learned to develop interactive dashboards for various statistical areas, which are published on the official website www.stat.gov.kz. Based on this knowledge, Bureau staff have also implemented a series of analytical cases and models in 2023, that allow simulations based on microdata.