

## Data Initiative 2007

### Background

The Data Initiative (DI) is a cross-border effort initiated by the Caucasus Research Resource Centers (CRRC) to collect data on a wide variety of social, political and economic indicators in the South Caucasus (SC) region. The CRRC teams in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia have been collecting reliable data on the region annually since 2004. While the survey in 2004 was carried out only in the capitals of the SC countries, the survey of 2005 encompassed also an internal region in each country, and, since 2006 the survey had been carried out in all<sup>1</sup> regions of the mentioned countries, in both urban and rural areas.

### Survey Instrument

The survey instrument – questionnaire was developed by the teams of researchers from three SC countries, and it has been revised year after year. As the survey gathers information about household characteristics (household size, socio-demographics of household members, economic status/conditions, as well information on current/past migrant members) and individuals sampled within those households (their employment, education, health, political views, social capital, etc.), in 2007 the questionnaire had significant changes with the introduction of new questions and elimination of some ineffective questions, and it was split into two parts - individual and household questionnaires to be easy to administer them. The average time for completing either household or individual interview was about 30 minutes.

### Survey Methodology

The surveys in all countries have been implemented using a unified sampling methodology – multistage cluster sampling with preliminary stratification. While the CRRC centers in Georgia and Azerbaijan have been using Census data (addresses of surveyed households) as sampling frames, the CRRC-Armenia used the database of Armenian household electricity users as a frame to sample households for the interview<sup>2</sup>. To be able to compare various geographic areas in the SC countries the CRRC centers in 2007 introduced preliminary stratification of the sampling frames, which included 9 strata: North-East, North-West, South-East, South-West, each of them having both urban and rural areas, and the capital cities. Clusters of about 500 households were formed in each strata based on geographical proximity, and 50 households were randomly sampled in each selected cluster for interviewing. In parallel with or after the household interview, an individual interview was conducted with one adult member in the household, which was randomly selected using the last birthday method. Taking into account the design effects of clusterization and expected non-response rates, 3250 households were sampled in Armenia, of which approximately 2500 completed the interviews.

### Data

The survey instruments (questionnaires), show cards, the detailed sampling methodology document, the survey databases (in SPSS format) and some preliminary findings are posted on the CRRC regional website at [www.crrccenters.org](http://www.crrccenters.org). For more information please contact CRRC-Armenia at [crrc@crrc.am](mailto:crrc@crrc.am).

The Caucasus Research Resource Centers (CRRC) is a network of resource and training centers established in the capital cities of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia with the goal of strengthening social science research and public policy analysis in the South Caucasus. A partnership between the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the Eurasia Partnership Foundation, and local universities, the CRRC network offers scholars and practitioners stable opportunities for integrated research, training and collaboration in the region. Offering advanced training in research methodology, CRRC also funds research fellowships and conducts a comprehensive annual Household Survey.

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<sup>1</sup> The survey was not carried out in Nagorno Karabakh, Nakhijevan, Abkhazia and Osetia.

<sup>2</sup> The last sampling frame (database of Armenian household electricity users) was generously provided by Armenian Electric Networks Company. The database was updated as of April 2007, and it included addresses of all households in Armenia that had access to electricity supply.