COORDINATION OF THE NSS IN THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

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Workshop on NSI internal & external organisation with focus on administrative data and registers
Tirana, 5 – 6 July 2018
Contents

1. Basis: legislative, non-legislative requirements – national, EU
2. NSS of the SR – composition
3. Previous activities, experience
4. Vision of the SOSR, strategic objective for the NSS
5. Concept on NSS coordination
6. Survey on ES CoP implementation in NSS, additional initiatives
Basis

Regulation (EC) No 223/2009
of the European Parliament and the Council

Article 5:
1. The **national statistical authority** designated by each Member State as the body having the responsibility for **coordinating all activities at national level for the development, production and dissemination of European statistics**, which are determined in the European statistical programme in accordance with Article 1, (the NSI) shall act in this regard as **the sole contact point for the Commission (Eurostat)** on statistical matters.

The **coordinating responsibility** of the NSI shall **cover all other national authorities** responsible for the development, production and dissemination of European statistics, which are determined in the European statistical programme in accordance with Article 1. The NSI shall, in particular, be **responsible** at the national level for **coordinating statistical programming and reporting, quality monitoring, methodology, data transmission and communication on ESS statistical actions**.
Article 5a
2. To that end, the heads of NSIs shall:
(f) coordinate the statistical activities of all national authorities that are responsible for the development, production and dissemination of European statistics, as set out in Article 5(1);

(g) produce national guidelines, where this is necessary to ensure quality in the development, production and dissemination of all European statistics within their national statistical system and monitor and review their implementation; while being responsible for ensuring compliance with those guidelines solely within the NSI; and

(h) represent their national statistical system within the ESS.

3. Each Member State shall ensure that other national authorities responsible for the development, production and dissemination of European statistics carry out such tasks in accordance with the national guidelines produced by the head of the NSI.
§ 4: (3) The **NSS of the SR** is created by the **SOSR and ministries** that conduct the **European statistical programme** or **Programme of State Statistical Surveys**

§ 4: (4) The Office manages and on its web site **publishes and updates list** of authorities creating NSS.

§ 5: (1) The Office is a central state administration authority for the field of State statistics, it is the **contact point for the European Commission** within the European Statistical System and **coordinator of the National statistical system**.

Provisions concerning the tasks of the SOSR in relation to:

- **development** (in cooperation with ministries and state organisations) and **monitoring implementation** of the **Programme of State Statistical Surveys**
- development (in cooperation with ministries and state organisations) of **characteristics of stat. surveys; determination the way of obtaining data** for statist. purposes
- **consultation on data collection content** (national level) from the efficiency & duplicity point of view
- development (in cooperation with ministries and state organisations) of **classifications and code lists** (in conformity with the EU legal acts and internat. standards) – obligatory for authorities producing state statistics
Provisions concerning:

- **Statistical Council** - permanent expert advisory body for the President of the SOSR in the field of state statistics (representatives of Ministries and other state authorities)

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**ESGAB Recommendation 2017/8**
- exchanging good practices -

„Member States should give further consideration to extending the coordination role of NSIs to include national statistics, in addition to European statistics, to support the credibility of official statistics in general.“
Authorities creating the National Statistical System of the SR

- Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the SR*)
- Ministry of Environment of the SR*)
- Ministry of Economy of the SR*)
- Institute of Informatics and Statistics

**Authorities conducting ESP**

- Statistical Office of the SR
- Ministry of Agriculture & Rural Development of the SR*)
- Ministry of Interior of the SR*)
- State Material Reserves of the SR*)

**Authorities conducting PSSS**

- Ministry of Transport & Construction of the SR
- Ministry of Culture of the SR
- Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the SR
- Ministry of Health of the SR
- Government Office of the SR
- Regulatory Authority for Electronic Communications and Postal Services

Ministries *) – not directly, via their agencies, ➔ there are 10 ONAs
Previous activities in brief

ES CoP – previous version
- seminars on the ES CoP for the key data producers in the SR
- national version of ES CoP questionnaire – to assess the level of the implementation in key data producers, self-assessment of other producers, 100 improvement actions
- presentations to the Statistical Council (SC) on the ES CoP and its implementation in other producers

Use of coordination tools / instruments.
- use of PSSS (3-years period, published as a decree of the SOSR), discussed in the SC, also a tool for division of work within NSS
- provision other producers with the basic infrastructure - statistical classifications, code lists
- collaboration in methodological questions, provision of the SOSR documents (for inspiration)
- provision of the SOSR expertise (confidentiality, response burden reduction, ...) and of consultations
- presentations in the SC meetings on important ESS (and own) actions / issues influencing other producers

Coordination of the NSS in the Slovak Republic
Experience

Positive
NSS members
• willing to cooperate; positive quality awareness, awareness of the ES CoP

The SOSR:
• awareness of the need to coordinate the NSS

Less positive:
NSS members:
• statistical unit – more the rule in agencies, less in ministries - several units (lower org. level) deal with statistics – usually a single coordinator for NSS exists (not always statistician)
• the staff – statistical activity usually not the only activity they perform, statistical activity = supporting activity to their main activity
• Missing a stronger legislative support

The SOSR:
• extending and broadening coordination (in addition to present one) with existing resources (no additional) – pressure on experts
Basis for further development

Vision of the SOSR
We are professionally independent, customer-oriented, information and knowledge institution.

We are co-creator of the European statistical system, co-ordinator of the national statistical system and important creator of the official statistics acknowledged at national and international level.

We achieve this position by developing and using knowledge of our staff and of co-operating partner organisations, as well as by intensive use of the latest scientific achievements and modern information and communication technologies.

Strategic goal – related to the NSS
Strengthen further partnership relations with partners within NSS. Based on the previous experience conduct coordination role within NSS with the aim to develop a consistent and coherent NSS providing statistics that meet user and applicable statutory and regulatory requirements.
Organisational Support

Working group on implementation of the strategic goal - representatives from:

- Dept. General Methodology and registers
- QM (Dept. Strategy & IMS)
- Office of the SOSR Head

Direct reporting to the Head of the Office
The concept on NSS coordination – main AREAS

Planning
- Maintain existing process of the PSSS development, focus on the PSSS implementation monitoring and reporting
- Review the Statistical Council position, mandate and composition

Production
- Develop further the cooperation in the field of methods and methodology in order to standardise the use of agreed concepts, terms, definitions, codes, classifications in NSS
- By coordination of work develop methods and implement them into statistical areas concerned.

Dissemination
- Create a unified platform to ensure access to NSS statistical outputs as well as to inform on NSS activities.

Support
- Create a common platform for communication, sharing knowledge, documents within NSS.
- Strengthen mutual relations between the SOSR and other NSS members by discussions, working groups and other activities focusing i.a. on: ES CoP, use or IT tools, sharing information from EU working group meetings (focus on legislation), projects, etc.
The concept on NSS coordination – \textit{INITIATIVES} in brief

\textbf{Planning}

- PSSS development maintained (good practice), monitoring and reporting on PSSS implementation introduced, regularly conducted (on annual basis), communicated to SC and published on the web site
- Amended \textit{Statistical Council Statute and Rules of Procedure} adapted, in the Statute the coordination role of the SOSR strengthened (one of 3 priorities of the SC)

\textbf{Production}

- Task Forces in priority areas within NSS established and started to conduct coordination work - focus on areas of business and social statistics (statistical infrastructure, methods, methodology, quality)
- Official contact persons (the SOSR) for communication with NSS partners appointed for statistical areas

\textbf{Dissemination}

- Temporary (short-term) solution implemented in the SOSR to ensure access to NSS statistics (final solution - within central portal of public administration of the SR).
Support

- **Common platform for communication** – extranet in preparation, documents for sharing collected
- The SOSR internal directives (ID) and instructions related to statistics – as inspiration: ID VAP – Production of statistical outputs as inspiration (*preliminary guidelines*)
- **Survey on current status of the ES CoP implementation** in the NSS conducted (via special questionnaire) – the results are the basis for subsequent initiatives
- **Sharing information** on ESS actions (focus legislation) and projects – via Task forces and Statistical Council
- **Project on development and implementation of Data Collection Reform** in the NSS (based on the SOSR ISIS) in preparation (within Operation Programme – Effective Public Administration)
Survey on current status of the ES CoP implementation in the NSS

Questionnaire

- based on the ES CoP – light version suitable for NSS members
- 39 questions + improvement suggestions concerning cooperation with the SOSR
- Elaborated by the General Methodology Dept., QM (Strategy & Integrated Mgnt System Dept.) and statistical process owners
- Common Introductory seminar for NSS members explaining the aim of the survey, the questionnaire questions, discussion
Survey results

Equal access to statistics ensured; statistics are coherent, consistent, comparable; tailored made statistics provided; confidentiality of data ensured; statistics published on internet; monitoring of output quality, - of processes conducted; regular review & update of survey design conducted; communication with experts

Description on production process; info on methods and procedures used publicly accessible; communication on user needs implemented; provision of microdata; use of AD or other data to reduce direct surveys; response burden monitored; info on product quality provided to users; Quality mgnt implemented; Quality training conducted; info on revisions of released statistical information or on methods used published; release date published in advance; regular user satisfaction survey conducted; deviation from release calendar made public in advance (0)

Problem – subjectivity
Additional initiatives

• **Re-train** the NSS members on the current version of the ES CoP
• **Conduct on-site visits** (target - all NSS members) – focus on:
  • compliance with ES CoP, methodological support / assistance
  • compliance of outputs (focus on ES, then on other statistics) with statistical principles and quality criteria
• Prepare in cooperation with the NSS members **training programme** (based on the survey results)
• Elaborate common **National Quality Guidelines** as a tool for assuring quality suitable for NSS (instead of the SOSR directive on VAP Production of statistical outputs and partial guidelines of some NSS members)
• **Amend the Statistical Act on State Statistics**
Legislative support – intended amendments to the Statistical Act (preliminary status) - selection

**NSS**
The NSS of the SR is created by the SOSR, ministries and state organisations that conduct the European statistical programme or Programme of State Statistical Surveys

**Coordination role**
Within execution of the coordination role the SOSR is responsible for:
- coordination of development of PSSS and for monitoring and reporting on its fulfilment
- monitoring of quality; coordination of the methodological framework development
- coordination of development of the statistical outputs portfolio, their transmission and dissemination
- communication of the ESS (and the SOSR) measures and actions

**Quality assurance**
The NSS authorities develop, produce and disseminate state statistics in conformity with statistical principles and quality criteria based on ES CoP and follow the guidelines of the SOSR; the implementation of the guidelines is monitored by the SOSR
Sharing, providing data

The NSS members may share confidential data needed for the production of state statistics and/or European statistics in the way ensuring confidentiality protection of the data.

The NSS members may, if it is strictly necessary for fulfilment of tasks of the state statistics, provide with confidential data other person who ensures - on the basis of a contract - processing of the data for statistical purposes.

Note:
plus other provisions related to ESS QAF changes – in progress (as reaction to ES CoP amendments)
Thank you for your attention