

The provisions on *Commitment on Confidence in Statistics* (CoC) were introduced in 2015 to the European Union Regulation No. 223/2009 on European statistics¹ (the Regulation). According to those provisions, EU Member States are obliged to guarantee the implementation of the European statistics code of practice² (ES CoP), which is the most important document issued on the basis of the Regulation. The ES CoP elaborates in a detailed manner the statistical principles resulting from a the Regulation. Their full implementation guarantees the elaboration of independent statistics of highest quality. The indirect objective of the ES CoP is, thus, to ensure public confidence in the European statistics by defining how the European statistics is to be developed, produced and disseminated³.

The Regulation leaves to the discretion of the Member States a decision as regards the form of their *Commitments on Confidence in Statistics*, indicating only the deadline of its publication (9th of June 2017). In the Polish statistical system, due to the fact that the Act of 29 June 1995 on Official Statistics (the Act) exists, there is no need to create a separate CoC document. According to the subsidiary principle⁴, **Statistics Poland recognizes the Act as Polish *Commitment on Confidence in Statistics*.**

The Act is the most important Polish law regulating the functioning of Polish official statistics in a comprehensive manner and giving the guarantee of preserving its full independence from political influences, which is one of the key elements of ensuring the high quality of statistical data produced. The Act should also be understood as a specific obligation for the Polish public administration to act in accordance with its and the European Union provisions to which it directly refers. As a consequence, the implementation of official statistics tasks in accordance with the Act leads to maintaining public confidence in the statistics elaborated in the country, including the statistics for European needs.

As mentioned above, the Act contains a direct obligation for Polish official statistics to act in accordance with the rules of the ES CoP, thus guaranteeing the highest level of quality of the data produced, as the Art. 25a of the Act stipulates:

The President of Statistics Poland, while performing the tasks specified in the Act, shall be guided by the principles of professional independence, impartiality, reliability and responsibility for the high

¹ Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2009 on European statistics. Full text available on: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:02009R0223-20150608&from=EN>

² Document available on: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-catalogues/-/KS-02-18-142>

³ More information on: <https://bip.stat.gov.pl/en/activity-of-public-statistics/quality-in-statistics/>

⁴ The subsidiary principle (Art. 5 point 3 of the Treaty on European Union) stipulates that in areas which do not fall within its exclusive competence, the Union shall act only if and in so far as the objectives of the proposed action cannot be sufficiently achieved by the Member States, either at central level or at regional and local level, but can rather, by reason of the scale or effects of the proposed action, be better achieved at Union level.

quality of national and international statistics, in accordance with the European Statistics Code of Practice referred to in Article 11 of the Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council (EC) No 223/2009 of 11 March 2009 on European Statistics (...)

Apart from the aforementioned reference to some of the quality principles set forth in the ES CoP, the Act directly or indirectly commits Polish public administration to adhere to the remaining principles (see an Annex to this summary).

The Act is publicly available in the Journal of Laws of the Republic of Poland and on the websites of: Statistics Poland⁵ and Sejm (the lower chamber of the Polish Parliament) in on-line legal acts system – ISAP⁶.

At the same time, the application of the ES CoP principles is monitored by Eurostat within the peer review exercise taking place every few years in the EU Member States (the last one was conducted in Statistics Poland in 2015). As its follow-up Eurostat conducted until the end of 2019 an annual monitoring of implementation of the improvement actions which were identified in the peer review exercise. The most recent state of implementation of the improvement actions from the second round in the Polish official statistics is published on the Statistics Poland website⁷.

The third round of peer reviews in European Statistical System Member States started in the first quarter of 2021 and will last until mid-2023. More information about it can be found in the Statistics Poland Information Portal in the part dedicated to it⁸.

Annex: extract from the provisions of the Act implementing the specific principles of the ES CoP

⁵ Document available on: <https://bip.stat.gov.pl/en/law/law-on-public-statistics/>

⁶ Document available on: <http://isap.sejm.gov.pl/DetailsServlet?id=wdu19950880439>
<http://prawo.sejm.gov.pl/isap.nsf/download.xsp/WDU19950880439/U/D19950439Lj.pdf> (in Polish only)

⁷ More information on: <https://bip.stat.gov.pl/en/activity-of-public-statistics/quality-in-statistics/>

⁸ More information on: <https://bip.stat.gov.pl/en/activity-of-public-statistics/quality-in-statistics/peer-review/iii-peer-review/>