



THE POLISH SYSTEM OF OFFICIAL STATISTICS

The Polish system of official statistics is one of the major, public information systems of the state, the objective of which is to provide reliable, objective and systematic information for the society, the state and public administration bodies and entities of the national economy on the economic, demographic and social situation and the environment.

The system of official statistics in Poland functions on the basis of the Law on official statistics of 29 June 1995 (as amended). Its regulations, regarding official statistics, fully comply with international standards, including the European ones.

The Law determines the principles and creates the basis for reliable, objective, professional and independent conducting of statistical surveys, the results of which have the character of official statistical data, and it determines the organisation and procedures of conducting those surveys as well as the scope of responsibilities related to them.

The Polish system of official statistics is formed by *two types of organisational units*:

- The Central Statistical Office and the subordinate statistical offices at regional level,
- Other central bodies of state administration and the National Bank of Poland carry out official statistical surveys on the basis of the regulations of the Council of Ministers on the Programme of Statistical Surveys of Official Statistics.

The main tasks of official statistics are specified in the *annual survey programmes of official statistics*. A draft survey programme is prepared by the CSO's President, after recognising the needs of main groups of the users and on the basis of broad consultations. The draft is submitted for an examination to the Statistical Council, which presents the document for approval to the Council of Ministers.

The document contains, *inter alia*, information on the subject and type of survey, subject and object scope, source of data, types of statistical output information, forms and dates of their dissemination, as well as costs.

The statistical surveys of official statistics shall be financed from the resources of the state budget up to the amount specified (by the Parliament) each year in the budgetary law.

In 2006 the statistical surveys programme included 211 topics, of which 155 were implemented by the President of CSO or in co-operation with other competent bodies.

The *Statistical Council* acts in statistical matters as an advisory and opinion-making body for the Prime Minister. The term of office of the Council is five years. The main tasks of the Council are:

- establishing each year, on the basis of proposal prepared by the President of CSO, a draft statistical surveys programme for the next year and presenting it to the Council of Ministers by 30 June each year.

- recommending new and periodic surveys to be conducted, including the methodological and preparatory activities related to them.
- evaluating the statistical surveys programme for official statistics, issuing opinions on draft of budgetary expenditures for statistical surveys and formulating opinions on other issues relevant for the development of official statistics.

It consists of persons appointed by the Prime Minister, representing: government administration bodies, self-government participating in the Joint Central and Local Government Committee, the National Bank of Poland, social organisations, professional and economic self-governments, trade unions organisations, experts in social and economic sciences. The President of CSO participates in the activities of the Statistical Council.

The President of the Central Statistical Office is the *central body of public administration in the field of statistics*. The President of CSO is supervised by the Prime Minister. The President manages the CSO and is supported by vice-presidents, Civil Service Director and directors of organisational units.

The tasks of official statistics defined in detail in the Law on official statistics are implemented by:

- *the President of the Central Statistical Office,*
- *Directors of regional statistical offices* operating in each voivodship as official administration bodies, subordinate to the President; Directors of regional statistical offices manage the offices, which are set up and dissolved by the President of CSO.
- *units servicing official statistics*, created by President of CSO on the basis of article 27 of the Law on official statistics. They include: *Central Statistical Computing Centre, Statistical Staff Training Centre in Jachranka, and Statistical Publishing Establishment (Printing House).*

The tasks of the Central Statistical Office are performed by the organisational units, as well as commissions and groups appointed by the President of the CSO as standing or temporary advisory and opinion-making bodies, particularly: *The Collegium, The Programme and Methodological Commission* – in the area of programming and methodology of statistical surveys, *The Editorial Committee (the Editorial Board)* – in the area of publishing activities.

The *Scientific Statistical Council* acting as an advisory and opinion-making body for the President of CSO on issues related to methodology of statistical surveys. The tasks of the Council include presenting opinions and recommendations of methodological activities to ensure the improvement of the system of statistical surveys.

The *Central Statistical Library* housed in the same building as the CSO was established in 1918, and has the status of a central scientific library in Poland in the area of: statistics, demography and related areas. It has gathered approximately 440 000 volumes (main collections). The library has an assembly of Polish and foreign, current and retrospective statistical publications (the oldest ones were published at the beginning of the 19th century) which is the largest collection in the country.

For more information please consult the CSO web site: <http://www.stat.gov.pl>