# Publishing policy

Producers of official statistics are obliged to undertake all determined administrative, technical and organizational measures that are necessary for confidential data protection from unauthorized accessing, publishing or using. Responsible producers of official statistics enjoy complete protection rights of data providers and statistical units. Producers of official statistics are professionally responsible for the activities, statements and opinions that can menace impartiality and objectivity of official statistics.

# The Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia (SORS) is the main producer and disseminator of official statistical data.

# Data availability

SORS provides advices and instructions to users regarding availability of results within the whole statistical system, posts and maintains data bases that are the result of official statistics operations, produces statistical releases and publications which contain data from all statistical areas.

Website, also involving the database, presents the main channel of statistical data dissemination, based on official statistics results.

All statistical products (results of statistical surveys, accessed by final users) are prepared in electronic form and are published on the website free of charge. Printed publications are available to users in SORS library.

Results of official statistics are simultaneously obtainable to all users under equal conditions, and any privileged access by external users is not possible before the moment of publishing.

Electronic data storage should be in forms suitable for easy approach, dependable on no special applications.

Access to individual data without identifier (anonymized micro data) can be provided in accordance with law regulations, applying particular procedures.

Information on methods and classifications applied in the process of official statistics production (meta data) and information on quality of statistical products and services should be available and accessible to general public, and in accordance with European statistics’ criteria.

# Calendar and time of publishing

Responsible producers of official statistics maintain and update the Publications calendar, available to public.

The calendar should be accessible to public before the beginning of the calendar year, referring to the following year. It provides the review of all statistical releases and publications with precisely stated title, referent period and date of publishing.

Deviations from the Calendar are published and explained. In case it is necessary to postpone the data publishing due to sudden occasions (e.g. technical reasons), the new date of publishing, with the stated reason, is to be provided in scope of the Calendar.

Official statistics data are published at determined time during the working day, so as to provide consistency and impartiality in statistical data publishing.

# Presentation and data publishing

Official statistics producers should present, on unbiased basis, the statistical data in form of comments, tables and graphs, also providing sensible data comparisons. The principal aim of statistical data presentation and comments is to be helpful to users.

Periodicity of statistical data publishing is defined in the Annual plan of official statistics and can be semi-monthly, monthly, quarterly, semi-annual, annual and multi – annual.

Results of statistical surveys can be published as *preliminary / first data*, and *final data*, as projections, estimates and *flesh* estimates.

Following the principle of timeliness, time limits between the referent period, data collecting, processing, publishing and disseminating should be minimal.

Data from the statistical surveys are published on the internet presentation, in the statistical releases, publications and databases.

Contents of statistical releases should be clear and impartial. Statistical releases should contain:

* Clear identification of the published statistical area;
* Clear identification of the data (preliminary data, estimates, projections, flesh estimates, final data);
* Short comment, involving only key messages;
* Tables and/ or graphs, maps;
* Available meta data or information where they can be found;
* Methodological notes or hyperlink to the relevant methodology.

Changes in contents, formats and time of publishing should be avoided due to consistent comparisons in time, and also, flexibility to explain or present new concepts and trends should be enabled.

Name and contact details of the responsible person should be provided, wherever it is possible, in scope of the statistical issues.

All errors in the published material must be corrected in the shortest possible period, with clearly marked corrections.

Planned changes in contents, structures, methods and classifications that can influence the presentation of the statistical results are to be issued in advance, in scope of the publications preceding the one that is changed. Users are to be provided with explanations and influences of the forthcoming changes.

Information regarding the questions such as when and why the data were revised must be provided to users, as well as the explanations on key influences of the revision.

Current revisions should be published simultaneously with new data publishing (e.g. together with new data, revised data for the previous month is published as well). Revised data should be explained within regular issues, and in methodological explanations, the reason for the revision should be specified. Revised data in published materials must be marked, starting with the period of the revision accomplishing.

Huge revisions should be announced in revisions calendar. After huge revisions, together with the published revised data, appropriate documentation should be issued as well, providing the users with the possibility of estimating new time series. Documentation should contain detailed explanation of the reasons for conducting the revision, estimate of the revision influences on aggregates, presenting comparative review of old and new data and explaining the length of the revised time series and level of revision details.

Irregular revisions, according to definition, should not be announced since they are the result of unexpected events (errors and omissions). If the error does not affect substantially the interpretation of the published data, it can be corrected in the next publishing or in scope of annual revision. In case the significant errors are discovered later (and relate to data from the previous periods, even very distant past), the correction can be conducted in the next issue, and referring to politically relevant data, it should be carried out as soon as possible, with the previous announcement. In case the error from the distant past influences more time series observations, for example, due to incorrectly applied methodology, the corrections should be considered as huge revision.