



POLICY

OF OFFICIAL STATISTICS DISSEMINATION

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1. PURPOSE

The Policy of Official Statistics Dissemination defines the main principles, rules and general framework for disseminating statistical data with a view to ensure their timely, transparent, impartial presentation tailored to users' needs.

This document governs the manner of making statistical products accessible to the public, in line with the Law on Official Statistics, Code of Practice of Official Statistics of the Republic of Serbia, European Statistics Code of Practice, UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and relevant international standards and initiatives.

The Policy represents the framework for harmonised action of all responsible official statistics producers and their organisational units involved in the process of official statistics dissemination.

2. SCOPE

This Policy is applied in all activities related to the dissemination of official statistics results, including the publication of statistical releases, publications, databases, infographics, as well as content on the website and in other digital communication channels. It also covers communication with users as well as other activities related to providing accessibility and use of statistical data, including, when applicable, allowing access to individual data with identifiers for scientific research purposes.

3. DISSEMINATION PRINCIPLES

Dissemination of official statistics results is driven by the principle of professional independence, meaning that the decisions on the content, time and method of release of statistical data refer exclusively to professional criteria, free from political, institutional or other external influences. This way user trust in the integrity and credibility of official statistics is ensured.

The principle of impartiality and objectivity ensures that equal and simultaneous access to official results is given to all users. Privileged access to statistical results before the official release to external users is justified, controlled and publicized.

The publication is done according to a pre-defined and publicly accessible Release Calendar, ensuring thus transparency and predictability. Statistical data are presented in a neutral and objective manner, while clearly distinguishing facts from interpretation. Selectivity or biased data presentation is avoided in communicating with the public. Appropriate measures are undertaken in the case of detected errors or misinterpretation, including timely corrections and public explanations, with a view of maintaining trust in official statistics.

Timeliness and punctuality are achieved through planning statistical data release, primarily via the Release Calendar, which enables users to plan the use of data. Should there be any deviation from the schedule, the reasons are transparently publicized.

Accessibility and clarity are the key elements of dissemination quality. Statistical data are released in a clear form adapted to different user groups, while providing methodological explanations and metadata allowing proper result interpretation.

Relevance of statistical products is ensured by continuously monitoring user needs, processing their requests and carrying out consultations and satisfaction surveys, thus adapting dissemination to users' needs.

Statistical confidentiality is one of the main principles in dissemination. Individual data are not published, and all procedures respect the rules ensuring anonymity and protection of data on individuals and business subjects.

Coherence and comparability of statistical data are ensured by applying standardized methodologies and clearly defined procedures for revision management, while documenting all amendments to data and presenting them transparently to users.

Dissemination efficiency is reflected in the rational use of available resources and modern technologies allowing wide accessibility of data with optimal costs.

4. DISSEMINATION PLANNING AND ORGANISATION

Dissemination planning of official statistics results is based on activities defined in the annual Plan of Official Statistics and Release Calendar, which is the central tool for managing the publication of statistical products. The Calendar contains a schedule of statistical products release, providing transparency, predictability and equal access to all users.

Different channels are used for the dissemination of official statistics results, including the official website, databases, publications, press/statistical releases as well as digital platforms and social media. The choice of dissemination channels and methods is adapted to the type of statistical data and user needs in terms of their relevance, accessibility and clarity of presentation.

Official statistics results are made accessible to all users at the same time, as defined in the Release Calendar, and under the same conditions and free of charge.

5. STATISTICAL PRODUCT QUALITY

Dissemination quality is provided by implementing the standards that define the content and structure of statistical products. In addition to statistical products, users are provided with clear key messages, methodological notes, relevant metadata and contact information for additional explanations, according to the type and purpose of the statistical product.

Metadata are prepared, maintained and published in line with applicable standards to ensure proper interpretation and comparability of statistical data.

Adequate quality controls are applied on data and statistical products before publishing to ensure their accuracy and consistency.

Should any errors be detected, defined procedures are applied for correcting them, while making them known to users in a transparent manner.

Data revisions are performed according to the rules fixed by responsible official statistics producers, while providing transparency and clear indication. Planned revisions are made known in advance to users.

6. RELATIONSHIPS WITH USERS

Relationships with users are based on the principles of openness, availability and cooperation.

Cooperation with users is an important mechanism for continuous improvement of official statistics dissemination. Responsible official statistics producers constantly monitor what information is needed by different user groups to make statistical products relevant, accessible and to present them in a clear and understandable form, while fully respecting the principle of professional independence.

User requests and feedback information, as well as the results of the User Satisfaction Survey, are recorded and analysed. Information thereof is used to enhance statistical products, dissemination processes and communication with users.

Different forms of consultations with users are organised, including the Statistical Council, counselling and working groups and bilateral meetings, while ensuring continuous dialogue about relevance and way of presenting statistical products. Obtained information is used to constantly improve the quality of statistical data, dissemination processes and communication with users.

7. ACCESS TO INDIVIDUAL DATA WITHOUT IDENTIFIERS FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH PURPOSES

Access to individual data without identifiers for scientific research purposes is allowed under clearly defined conditions, while applying appropriate measures of confidentiality. Data are anonymised prior to being made accessible. Users are committed, through corresponding contractual arrangements, to use data exclusively for the authorised purpose, ensure their confidentiality, limit data access to authorised persons and handle data in accordance with regulations.

8. COMMUNICATION WITH THE PUBLIC

Communication with the public is based on the principle of objectivity, impartiality, accuracy and timeliness. Statistical products are presented in a clear, understandable and neutral manner, with corresponding explanations and relevant metadata.

Decisions related to the content, way and time of publishing statistical products are made while respecting professional independence, free of political or any external influence.

Statistical releases are based exclusively on statistical results and relevant methodological information and do not contain political views or political interpretations.

Communication with the public covers informing users about official statistics results using different channels, including websites, digital platforms, social media and other forms of electronic communication.

To enhance the access to and understanding of statistical data, AI tools, including natural language search and chatbot solutions, can be used in communicating with the public. These tools must be based exclusively on official statistical data and metadata, while respecting the principle of professional independence, impartiality and official statistics integrity.

In case of misinterpretations or wrong presentation of statistical data appropriate measures are undertaken to ensure their proper interpretation.

9. MONITORING AND IMPROVEMENT

The implementation of this policy is continuously monitored by analysing the use of statistical data, monitoring user requests and carrying out internal assessments. The results of these activities are used to enhance the process of official statistics dissemination and to adapt it to modern information user needs.

Responsible official statistics producers continuously enhance dissemination by developing new channels, tools and methods of data presentation, according to technological development, user needs and international recommendations.

The policy is periodically reviewed and updated to be harmonized with international standards and recommendations.

10. FINAL PROVISIONS

This policy shall enter into force on the day of its adoption by the National Coordination Committee of Official Statistics and is mandatory for all responsible official statistics producers.

