



Peer Review of the Czech Statistical Office on the Implementation of the European Statistics Code of Practice

General information

The State Statistical Service, with the Czech Statistical Office in its core, is responsible for official statistics in the Czech Republic. The State Statistical Service Act provides the legal basis for the State Statistical Service and for the Czech Statistical Office (CZSO) which is an independent body of the state administration with its own legal personality (having an independent chapter in the state budget). The CZSO is headed by its President who is appointed by the President of the Czech Republic on a proposal made by the Government. President of the CZSO reports to the Government and to the Parliament of the Czech Republic. The seat of the central office is in the capital city – Prague. There are 14 regional offices in the regions.

The CZSO employs (as of March 2006) 1835 persons, excluding external interviewers, of which 735 are in the central office in Prague and 1100 in the 14 regional offices. 38,1 % are university graduates. In addition, 4075 interviewers are employed on a temporary basis during 2006.

As the system of official statistics in the Czech Republic is decentralised, some parts of official statistics are conducted by other central authorities (ministries). The CZSO is responsible for its co-ordination and development. This Office is also responsible for statistical classifications and nomenclatures, and lays down the methodology of statistical surveys. It has also the duty of preparing, with the Ministries and institutions involved, the Programme of statistical surveys covering both the surveys by the CZSO and the surveys by the Ministries.

Other statistics, such as the balance of payments accounts, draw on data available under other legislation. The CZSO has formal agreements on mutual collaboration and data exchange with most of the institutions in the State Statistical Service, and with other institutions, notably with the Czech National Bank (responsible for monetary and balance of payments statistics) and the Ministry of Finance (responsible for government financial statistics).

The State Statistical Service Act established also the Czech Statistical Council, as the CZSO's advisory body. The Council includes members from Ministries, academic institutions and business. It advises on the Programme of Surveys and other statistical issues.

The work of the CZSO's 14 Regional Offices is primarily focussed on dissemination and statistical support to the regional authorities (plus field-work involving interviews). The Regional Statistical Offices are part of the Regional Authority Branch. Other CZSO staff

located in the regions are working in the nation-wide processing departments. Each of these departments has responsibility for data processing in relation to specific topics and forms a part of Statistical Development Sector.

The CZSO publishes wide range of statistics, both in paper and electronic form. News and press releases become available on the CZSO's web-site at pre-announced dates. Providing of statistical information and services is characterized by the continuing trend towards increasing volumes of information available in electronic form – either over the Internet or on electronic carriers. All information presented on the CZSO web pages is free. The statistical web pages attract increasing numbers of users (1.1 million visited the CZSO main page in 2005).