

Description of the National Statistical System



Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic *Brief description*

I. GENERAL INFORMATION:

• *Mission of the NSI*

The mission of the SOSR is to provide high-quality and objective statistical products and services with the aim to support growth of information and intellectual capital of its customers. In this way the office wants to contribute to reduction of risk in their decision-making processes and so to support sustainable development of Slovakia.

• *Status of the NSI in public administration system of the country*

The status, tasks and competencies of the Statistical Office are defined in the Act No. 540/2001 Coll. on State Statistics (further statistical law) that entered into force on 1 January 2002. The Office is an independent central body of state administration. It is financed from the state budget through its own separate budget chapter. The budget and also the final financial report of the SOSR are approved by Parliament. The income goes back to the state budget.

• *Procedure of appointment of Director-General of the NSI*

The head of the Statistical Office is the President, appointed by the President of the Slovak Republic upon nomination made by government for a fixed five-year term (renewable once). The President of the SOSR is independent from the Cabinet, but he may still participate in Cabinet sessions as a non-voting member. He can be dismissed exclusively under very specific circumstances specified in the statistical law.

• *Location of seat of the NSI, regional offices*

The location of the SO SR seat is Bratislava, capital of the Slovak Republic. The regional offices, integral organisation units of SOSR, are located in regional capitals (Bratislava, Trnava, Trenčín, Nitra, Žilina, Banská Bystrica, Prešov and Košice).

The SOSR has 1130 employees in total, 731 of them in regional offices.

• *Organisational structure of the NSI*

The SOSR is directed by the President who is deputised by the Vice-President and assisted by the President's Office. In line with the Act on Civil Service (2002) a Civil Service Office has been established at the SOSR.

The SOSR further consists of 4 core statistical sections covering various fields of statistics and methodology and informatics section. There are 3 departments subordinated directly to the President and 3 departments under the Civil Service Office. 8 regional offices report to the President. They are responsible for data collection and processing related to specific fields and provision of information services to customers. The SOSR's contributory organisation, the Institute for Informatics and Statistics (Infostat), is partially subordinated to the Office.

(See the Organigram under: http://portal.statistics.sk/files/Onas/org_struk/Organizational-Structure-Chart.pdf)

• **Main legal act(s)**

The main legal act regulating the production of official statistics in the SR is Act No. 540/2001 Coll. on the State Statistics (in force from January 1, 2002).

There is also a special Act related to census of population, housing and dwellings (the last one Act No 165/1998 Coll. on Census of population, housing and dwellings in the year 2001).

Other relevant legislation:

- Act No. 428/2002 Coll. on Protection of Personal Data as amended
- Act No. 199/2004 Coll. on Customs and on Amendment and Supplementation of Certain Laws as amended

• **Statistical programme(s)**

The SOSR is in charge of the Programme of State Statistical Surveys, which is designed for a three-year period. The Programme is discussed and approved by the Statistical Council. It is published as Decree of SO SR issuing the Programme of State Statistical Surveys for the relevant 3-year period (the last one for 2006-2008). Amendments are also issued by Decrees of SO SR.

The Programme includes surveys carried out by the SOSR, by ministries and other central administration bodies and covers all the surveys that are mandatory. The scope and use of administrative sources for statistical purposes are also regulated by the Programme.

II. SYSTEM OF OFFICIAL STATISTICS IN THE COUNTRY

• **The role of the NSI in the system, other major players**

The NSS of Slovakia is semi-centralised. The main actor and coordinator of official statistics is the Statistical Office. It is responsible for development of official statistical concepts, for methodology of statistical surveys managed and executed by the Office, for SOSR data collection and processing and statistical information providing, for statistical classifications, nomenclatures and registers. In collaboration with the ministries and state agencies it drafts and publishes the Programme of State Statistical Surveys.

The other major players in the national statistical system are: Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Transport, Post and Telecommunications, National Bank of Slovakia, Social Insurance Agency, Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre Authority, Customs Directorate and Tax Directorate.

The co-operation with the ministries is regulated by the statistical law but also by several bilateral agreements, focused mainly on data exchange.

III. ADVISORY BODY/STATISTICAL COUNCIL (or its equivalent)

• **Composition, main tasks**

The Statistical Council is a permanent expert advisory body for the President of the Office in the field of state statistics. It is chaired by the President of the SOSR and has 26 members representing various ministries, the Slovak Academy of Sciences, trade unions, employers' associations and the National Bank of Slovakia. The Council holds plenary sessions twice a year. It discusses the strategy of state statistics and proposal for the statistical survey programme. It also comments on national and European legislative issues in the field of statistics.

Position, tasks, structure of the Council and the rights and obligations of its members are specified in the Status of the Statistical Council. Procedure, preparation and the way of discussion of the Council are specified in the Rules of Procedure of the Statistical Council.

IV. PUBLICATIONS AND DISSEMINATION

The dissemination policy and strategy focuses on improving communication with users and free-of-charge dissemination via internet.

The SOSR publishes wide range of statistical information, both in paper and electronic form. Each publication is backed up with methodological explanations, containing basic characteristics of published data and definitions of basic indicators.

Publications are issued according to Catalogue of Publications (covering 2-year period, now 2007-2008).

The release dates of selected data categories are specified in the Calendar of the First Release (for the forthcoming four months), which is in line with the principles of the IMF Special Data Dissemination Standard. The Calendar is available on the SOSR website and in the monthly published comprehensive publications.

Data and information are disseminated especially via on-line form (which covers the public databases Slovstat and Regstat – free of charge).

For more information: www.statistics.sk

V. OTHER RELEVANT REMARKS (e.g. major policies)

The SOSR management system is designed and implemented according to the international standard ISO 9001:2000 through internal documents consisting of basic strategic documents, process documentation and documented procedures required by ISO standard.