

# **National Statistical Institute of the Republic of Bulgaria**

## **DESCRIPTION OF THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEM**

The mission of the National Statistical System is effective production and dissemination of qualitative statistical information satisfying the users' needs with data on the state and changes in the economy, demography, social sphere and environment.

The National Statistical System consists of the National Statistical Institute (NSI) and other bodies of Statistics – the respective structural units within the ministries, administrative bodies and other state bodies.

The statistical activity is coordinated by NSI.

The basic legal acts regulating the statistical activity in the country are the following: Law on Statistics, Law for the Population, Housing Fund and Farms Census in the Republic of Bulgaria in 2001, Law on statistics of trade with goods inside EU.

According to the Law on Statistics, the statistical activities shall be carried out in compliance with the principles of legality, impartiality, reliability, efficiency, adequacy, publicity and protection of statistical secrecy.

The NSI is a first degree dispositor with budget resources and consists of Head Office (HO) and 28 regional statistical offices (RSOs). There are 9 departments in CO (7 specialized and 2 general administration). RSOs are second degree dispositors with budget resources and are situated in regional cities. They perform mainly collection and primary processing of statistical data. The number of the staff in the NSI as of the end of 2006 was 1 494 employees, 418 of them in HO and 1076 in RSOs. About 70% of the staff are university graduates.

The National Statistical Institute is managed by a President and two Deputy Presidents, appointed by decision of the Council of Ministers for a period of 7 years, but for no more than two mandates. The President and the Deputy Presidents are appointed by the Prime Minister.

The National Programme for Statistical Surveys (NPSS) is elaborated by NSI for each calendar year considering the proposals of the bodies of statistics. The Programme is adopted by the Council of Ministers. It is financed from the NSI's budget and from the budgets of the institutions responsible for carrying out the surveys, and also from the PHARE programme. About 70-80% of the statistical surveys and statistical infrastructure activities are realized by commitments with ESS.

The annual average number of the surveys and activities in NPSS for the period 2001 – 2007 r. is 254, 177 of them NSI carries out independently and 42 jointly with other statistical bodies. The latter themselves realize 35 surveys and activities.

The High Statistical Council is a consultative body to the President of the National Statistical Institute, which gives opinions and recommendations on the National Statistical Institute plan for statistical surveys, on drafts of normative acts in the field of statistics, national statistical standards, national classifications, nomenclatures and methods. The President of the National Statistical Institute appoints as members of the High Statistical Council 20 to 35 well-known experts in the field of the statistical theory and practice and representatives of the main users of statistical information.

The National Statistical Council is a body, attached to the President of NSI, responsible for the drafting and implementation of the NPSS. It consists of 20 members and NSI president, who is also the chairman of the council. The members of the National Statistical Council are appointed and dismissed by order of the Prime Minister, based on a

proposal made by the heads of the respective institutions. The council has following functions: adopt a long-term strategy for development of the statistical activities; discuss the proposals of the Bodies of Statistics for including statistical surveys of inter-institutional significance in the draft version of the NPSS and present a statement related to its financial provision to the Minister of Finance; approve a list of the structural units in the state administration, which are Bodies of Statistics.

The NSI provides information to the users in accordance with the Law on Statistics, the Rules for Dissemination of Statistical Information Products and Services, the Plan for dissemination and the Calendar for presenting the results of the statistical surveys. In 2006 the total number of publications was 410, of which 197 were printed issues and 213 – electronic. The number of press-conferences held was 48. The NSI's web site was visited 830 073 times. Information is exchanged with almost all ministries and other central institutions on the basis of 27 agreements

The confidentiality and data protection are legally regulated in the Law on Statistics and in the Rules for Dissemination. A Council for Protection of Information has been created at NSI.

For more information: [http://www.nsi.bg/Index\\_e.htm](http://www.nsi.bg/Index_e.htm)