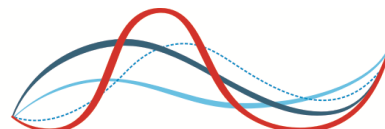




REPUBLIC OF CROATIA



CROATIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY OF OFFICIAL STATISTICS OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA 2013 – 2022

Zagreb, January 2013

INTRODUCTION

The Development Strategy of Official Statistics of the Republic of Croatia 2013 – 2022 is a development document which sets out the basic principles for producing objective, reliable and timely official data on economic and social movements in the Republic of Croatia. The Strategy refers to the direction in which we want to move and develop. It defines the mission, vision, and individual objectives focused on the development of the Croatian statistical system in the forthcoming years. It also sets priorities.

The Strategy is based on relevant regulations of the Republic of Croatia, and also on EU regulations concerning official statistics. Furthermore, it strives to create the best conditions for accepting the best international experiences in constructing the efficient, high-quality and reliable statistical system.

One of the main strategic goals of the Croatian economy in the forthcoming period is to increase international competitiveness, which will enable the achievement of faster economic growth and development, increase employment and raise living standard. The existence of high-quality and timely statistical data is necessary for creating economic and social policies measures related to the achievement of the set goals and monitoring the efficiency of individual policy measures. After joining the European Union, apart for national development goals, the Republic of Croatia also strives to achieve common strategic objectives of the EU, what represents an additional challenge in terms of quality and structural characteristics of statistical data.

The Development Strategy of Official Statistics of the Republic of Croatia 2013 – 2022 clearly defines objectives and priorities that the Croatian statistical system, with the Croatian Bureau of Statistics as the main producer, disseminator and coordinator, will with its programs conduct within the specified time frame. With the Croatian Bureau of Statistics as the main authority and representative of the national statistical system at European and international statistic authorities, the Strategy is also focused on all the other producers of official statistics, listed in the Programme of Statistical Activities of the Republic of Croatia.

Development Strategy of official statistics determines long-term goals considering current situation, needs and users requirements, as well as anticipated development dynamics. Due to society changes, which require timely development of certain statistical fields and clearly stated needs for new statistical indicators, the Strategy leaves the opportunity for eventual revisions, even before the end of the referred period.

The Development Strategy of Official Statistics of the Republic of Croatia 2013 – 2022 was accepted by the Croatian Parliament on 24 May 2013 and published in the Official Gazette 69/13 on June 10, 2013. (http://narodne-novine.nn.hr/clanci/sluzbeni/2013_06_69_1364.html).

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1. The role and importance of the Development Strategy of Official Statistics of the Republic of Croatia 2013 – 2022

Development and improvement of the statistical system

The Development Strategy of Official Statistics of the Republic of Croatia 2004 – 2012 was presented for the first time at the end of the year 2003. Along with the continuous development and improvement of the statistical system as well as with the process of harmonization of the Croatian statistical system with the EU system, a need for a new strategic document occurred. That document needs to cover existing statistical fields, as well as those, which are just about to be developed and applied, and also to outline the objectives associated with further improvement of the statistical system.

Role of the Strategy

The role of the Strategy is not unambiguous: it directs the activities of the statistical system towards achieving the most important general and individual goals during set time frame, and also represents the institution to citizens and general public. It gives answers to the general public about the role of the statistical system and its contribution to the development of society and/ or economy.

Legal basis

The Development Strategy of Official Statistics of the Republic of Croatia 2013 – 2022 is based on relevant regulations of the Republic of Croatia and international regulations, related to activities of the official statistics. The need to develop a new strategy stems from the legal basis, defined by the following documents:

- According to the Official Statistics Act¹, the Programme of Statistical Activities of the Republic of Croatia and the Annual Implementing Plan have to be based on the Strategy. Former Strategy ended with year 2012.
- The harmonization with European regulations, which have been adopted after the Development Strategy of Official Statistics of the Republic of Croatia 2004 - 2012 became valid.
 - The Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 of the European Parliament and the Council on European statistics, which repealed the Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1101/2008 of the European Parliament and the Council on the submission of confidential data to the Statistical Office of the European Communities, Council Regulation (EC) No 322/97 on the Community Statistics, and the Council Decision No 89/382/EEC, Euratom on establishing the Committee on Statistical Programs of European Communities²

¹ *The Official Statistics Act (OG No 103/03, 75/09 and 59/12)*

² *Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 of the European Parliament and the Council of 11 March 2009 on the European statistics and repealing Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1101/2008 of the European Parliament and the Council on the transmission of confidential data to the Statistical Office of the European Communities, Council Regulation (EC) No 322/97 on Community Statistics, and Council Decision 89/382/EEC, Euratom, establishing the Committee on the Statistical Programmes of the European Communities*

– Regulation on the European Statistical Programme 2013 - 2017³

- New strategic documents of the European statistics had to be incorporated into the national strategy because of expected Croatian accession to European Union on 1 July 2013, whereby Croatian statistical system should become a part of the European statistical system, what implies a change of official statistics role from national into European statistics, which is extremely important for the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of EU policies:
 - The European Statistics Code of Practice⁴
 - The European Commission announcement on methods of producing European statistics: vision for the next decade⁵
 - The European Commission announcement on strategic frame for managing quality of the European statistics⁶.

Adjustment to changes in environment

In addition to requirements based on legal regulations, the aim of the Strategy is also to redefine general and particular objectives according to changes in environment.

Croatian statistical system has been significantly improved in the preceding period and in the period of negotiations for Croatian membership in EU, as well as harmonized with EU legislation and standards. It is necessary to redefine priorities, so that Croatian statistics can continue aligning with EU requirements, and also with the best European practice through the period covered by the Strategy.

In recent years, technological progress and user requirements have significantly changed, which necessarily has to reflect on characteristics of statistical surveys, so statistics has to face, besides high data quality criterion, new challenges arising out of changes in the approach to production of statistical data and growing demands for complex multidimensional databases.

The appearance of new participants on information market enhances requirements for publishing top quality data, and also timeliness in the publication of data, in order to make official statistical data still remaining priority data source.

Budgetary limits place an additional requirement for maximum cost effectiveness of data collection and processing, which requires a review of optimizing existing methods of data collection and potential replacement of existing methods with more cost-efficient

³ Regulation (EU) No 99/2013 of the European Parliament and the Council on the European statistical programme 2013-2017

⁴ European Statistics Code of Practice for the National and Community Statistical Authorities, revised version adopted by European Statistical System Committee 28th September 2011

⁵ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on the production method of EU statistics: vision for the next decade, COM(2009) 404 final

⁶ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council: Towards robust quality management for European Statistics, COM(2011) 211 final

ones, by using modern information and communication solutions and, wherever possible, higher application of data coming from administrative sources, without reducing their quality.

New Strategy is based on the Development Strategy of the Official Statistics of the Republic of Croatia 2004 – 2012, the basis on which the Croatian statistical system was significantly improved and harmonized with EU legal framework and standards. It also introduces new objectives and requirements in line with recent and altered circumstances.

2. Legal basis, organization and fundamental principles of the official statistics

2.1. Legal basis and organization of the Croatian statistical system

Purpose and tasks of the statistical system

The official statistics purpose is continuous development of statistics as well as production and dissemination of statistical data in line with official statistics fundamental principles. One of the main tasks of statistical system is efficient and timely preparation and dissemination of high-quality statistical indicators, which reflect economic and social phenomena and processes, and also provide users with reliable source for current situation analysis and decision-making.

Comparability and coherence with EU

The official statistics is important not only in national, but also in the international context, as it enables the comparison of certain aspects of social and economic development with other countries development. Regarding Croatian membership in EU, particular emphasis is placed on the integration of the Croatian statistical system into the European Statistical System (ESS) and enabling comparability of the Croatian statistical data with EU member states data.

The official statistics main authority in the Republic of Croatia

The Croatian Bureau of Statistics⁷ is central, main authority, disseminator and coordinator of the Croatian official statistics system, and also main representative of national statistical system at European and international statistical authorities.

The Official Statistics Act

The Development Strategy of Official Statistics of the Republic of Croatia, basic principles, organization, location, activities and coordination of official statistics are regulated by the Official Statistics Act, which is in line with Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 of the European Parliament and the Council on the European statistics as well as the European Statistics Code of Practice.

Official statistics authorities

Official statistics authorities, which conduct official statistics services are:

⁷ Hereinafter: CBS

1. The Croatian Bureau of Statistics as the central institution
2. An administrative authority of the City of Zagreb in charge of Official statistics
3. The Croatian National Bank
4. Other authorities performing official statistical activities designated by the Programme of Statistical Activities of the Republic of Croatia.

2.2. Basic statistical principles

Basic principles

Basic statistical principles, on which basis, the official statistics of the Republic of Croatia is developed, produced and disseminated, are defined by the Act on Official Statistics. The same principles are defined in the Regulation of the European Parliament and the Council No 223/2009 regulating European statistics. Basic statistical principles are:

1. Professional independence - The purpose of the independent status of official statistics is the provision of professional independence, without any political pressure or pressure by interest groups, particularly in connection with the selection of techniques, definitions, methodologies and sources of data that will be applied, as well as the schedule and content of all forms of dissemination for the production of objective and impartial statistical data.
2. Impartiality - Statistical authorities develop, produce and disseminate statistical information in a transparent manner, in which all users are approached in the same way.
3. Objectivity - Statistical authorities develop, produce and disseminate statistics on a systematic, reliable and impartial basis, at the same time applying professional and ethical standards.
4. Reliability – The official statistics should truthfully, accurately and consistently reflect actual situation.
5. Statistical confidentiality - Statistical authorities are obligated to protect confidential statistical data, regardless of whether they have been obtained directly for statistical purposes or indirectly from administrative or other sources, and to use them exclusively for statistical purposes.
6. Cost-effectiveness (profitability) - Costs of statistical data production have to be proportional to the importance of targeted results and benefits. Whenever possible, information should be produced on the basis of existing data sources.

Principles

Besides basic statistical principles when developing, producing and disseminating official statistics, it is necessary to apply principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice, related to the institutional environment, statistical production processes and statistical results, and also quality criteria defined by the Official Statistics Act of the Republic of Croatia and the Regulation on the European Statistics.

2.3. The main tasks of the Croatian statistical system

Tasks

Main tasks of the Croatian statistical system are focused on following:

- The collection, processing and dissemination of statistical data, and also the availability of high-quality statistical data, in accordance to user requirements
- Protecting and strengthening the professional independence of the Croatian statistical system
- Rising confidence of domestic and international public in the official statistics
- International cooperation and active participation in the joint programmes carried out by relevant national and international institutions.

3. Strategic guidelines

3.1. Mission

High-quality and timely statistical data

The cost-effective collection, processing and timely dissemination of high-quality and internationally comparable statistical indicators of conditions and trends in economic and social processes including the fields of environmental protection, as well as natural resources, whereby giving users the possibility to base their own decisions, conclusions and actions on reliable and easily accessible information.

The Croatian statistical system produces impartial statistical data on social and economic processes through providing the high-quality statistical data necessary for implementation and monitoring of economic policies, associated with development of the Croatian society and economy, as well as European Union policies.

3.2. Vision and values

Strategy is determined by the vision

The Croatian statistical system provides availability of a broad set of internationally comparable and standardized information on socio-economic trends in Croatia by applying the best international experiences regarding methods of data collection, processing and data dissemination, as well as principles of efficiency, users' orientation and the continuous improvement of human resources.

Vision of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics as the main producer of official statistics is based on the following objectives:

- **Efficiency and innovation in performing tasks and application of modern technologies in statistical processes**
 - **Involvement of official statistics in social and economic activities**
 - **User oriented statistical system**
 - **Attractive workplace for experts from various fields of science.**
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Values

In order to achieve the defined mission and vision, the statistical system is based on two core values, which are:

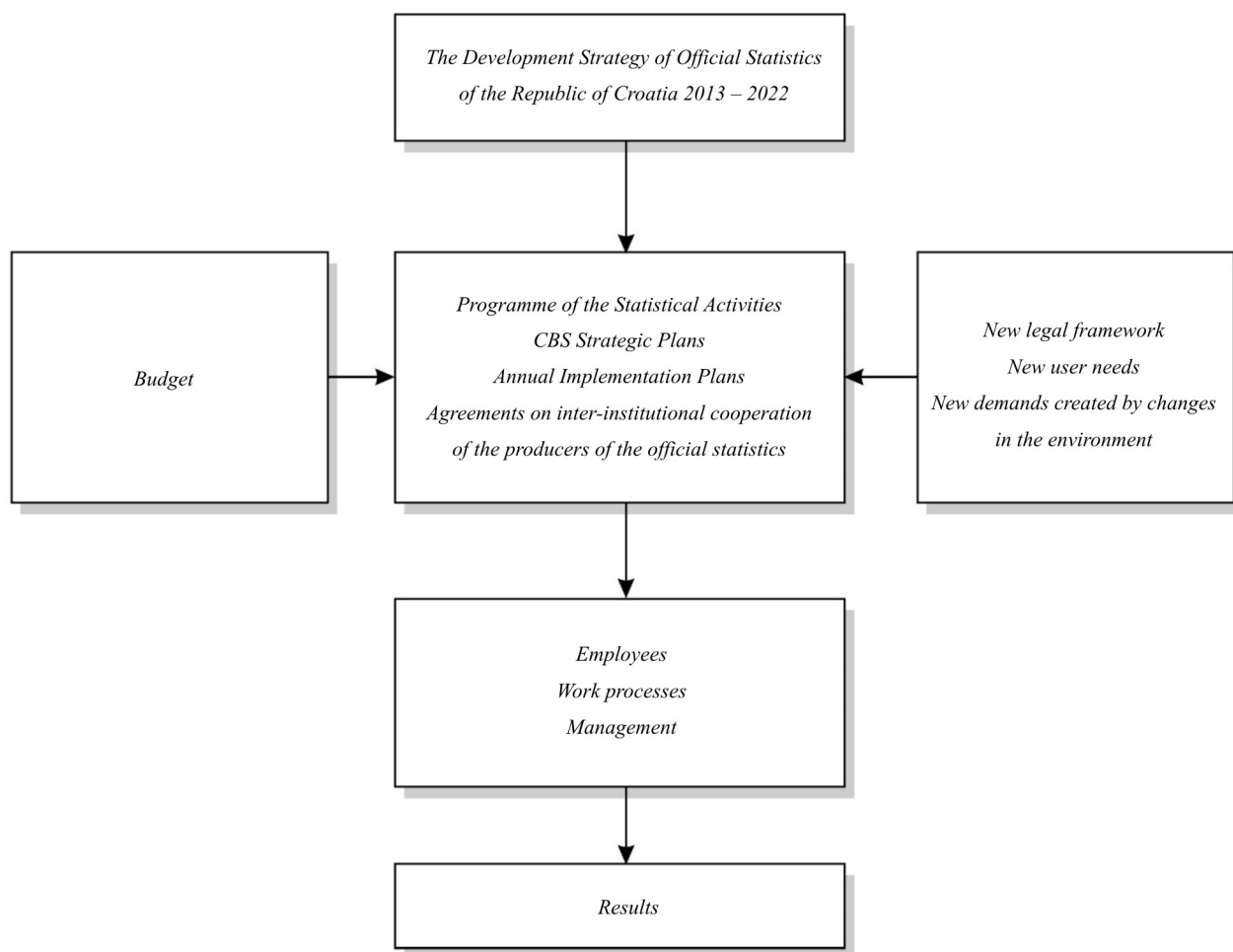
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- *Production and publication of high-quality, objective and timely statistical data*
 - *Continuous mutual cooperation of institutions included in the Croatian system of official statistics and active participation in international statistical programmes in order to achieve the best possible results.*
-

3.3. From strategy to results

An effective statistical system → results

The Development Strategy of Official Statistics of the Republic of Croatia 2013 – 2022 has to be focused on achieving concrete results in the forthcoming period.

A process of transition from goals to results has to be ensured with quality and coordinated statistical system. That system is shown in the following figure.



Strategic documents

Based on the Development Strategy of Official Statistics of the Republic of Croatia 2013 – 2022, which defines the mission, vision, as well as general and specific strategic objectives of the statistical system, for the purpose of medium-term planning, the CBS prepares the Programme of Statistical Activities of the Republic of Croatia, which states the most important infrastructure and development activities, as well as main results of the official statistics according to statistical topics. In line with the Strategy and the Programme of Statistical Activities of the Republic of Croatia, the CBS has prepared a three-year Strategic Plan, which defines ways of realization and results indicators, in order to monitor the achievement of set goals. The Annual Implementing Plan (GPP) is prepared each year. It is a short-term document that operates statistical activities to the level of statistical surveys, as well as determines authorities, manner and deadlines for data collection. Monitoring the implementation of set objectives is provided on the basis of Reports on the Execution of the Annual Implementing Plan. These documents constitute the legal basis for the implementation of statistical surveys, from which the obligation for an official statistics authority and reporting units arises to participate in the implementation of statistical surveys and the production of the official

statistics. Accordingly, the CBS concludes agreements and protocols on the cooperation with other official statistics authorities, with which, within their scope of work, develops the content and structure of statistical data, as well as models of their collection, processing and publication, as the basis for reliable decision-making. It also establishes the cooperation on mutual data exchange.

Financial rationality

Starting at the principle of financial rationality, during drafting the Statistical Activities Programme and Annual Implementing Plan, it will be respected to take into account restrictions on availability of financial resources allocated in the budget of the Republic of Croatia, in order to comply with possibilities of introducing new statistical surveys.

Compatibility

When defining activities for ensuring the achievement of desirable results, it is extremely important to take into account previous achievements and a need for further improvement of the Croatian Statistical System. The Eurostat⁸ document, which assesses the compliance of the Croatian statistical system with EU, reflects main conclusions related to the application of principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice.

The main conclusions of the document⁹ are as follows:

- The CBS is recognized as an impartial and objective institution.
- Data collection is based on principles of quality, timeliness and cost-effectiveness.
- The principle of statistical confidentiality is respected, i.e. data are used for statistical purposes only.
- The dissemination of statistical data is conducted in an easy and understandable way, with an accompanying methodological support.

Continuous upgrade

The main activities for upgrading the statistical system should be aimed at⁹:

- Reinforcement of the role of administrative data sources for statistical purposes
- Removing restrictions related to a lack of human and financial resources required for the implementation of specific statistical activities
- Reinforcement of the role of information and communication technologies related to statistical procedures.

⁸ Eurostat is the statistical office of the EU

⁹ Light Peer Review of the Implementation of the European Statistics Code of Practice in Croatia, Final Report, Eurostat, 2010

4. General strategic objectives and sub-objectives of the Croatian statistical system

4.1. To strengthen the statistical system through the systematic application of legal framework and continuous coordination with national and international needs and requirements

Reinforcement and harmonization

- Strengthening the national statistical system by improving cooperation and coordination of all institutions involved in the collection, processing and dissemination of data
- Continuous implementation of international and national standards in the field of professional independence of the official statistics system
- Active participation in development of the EU legislation in the field related to the statistical system and timely harmonization of Croatian standards according to changes on the EU level
- Developing partnership with data users and units embraced by statistical surveys
- Maintaining professional independence of the official statistics.

4.2. To ensure quality and harmonized official statistical data for all users, which will enable the formulation, monitoring and evaluation of the policies measures carried out by Croatia and the European Union

Quality

- Ensuring the availability of statistical data for the Croatian society and economy for the purpose of effective monitoring the effects of economic policy measures and other governmental activities aimed at the achievement of sustainable development according to objectives defined in the Europe 2020 strategy¹⁰
- Developing a new set of statistical information, relevant for the decision-making of Croatian and EU institutions, required for managing economy and strengthening the supervision associated with principles defined by the Agreement on Stability and Growth
- Fully complying with requirements of the EU statistical system in terms of a number of statistical indicators, deadlines and applied methodology by the end of the period comprised by the Strategy
- Taking into consideration requirements of domestic data users, in respect to the introduction of new surveys, as well as expansion of the existing ones, considering the cost aspect and potential benefits for the Croatian economy

¹⁰ *Europe 2020: The European Strategy for Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive growth COM(2010) 2020 final*

- Introducing additional indicators, which connect economic trends with various aspects of globalization, quality of life, environmental protection, population welfare, health conditions and social cohesion
- Increasing efficiency of the activities of collection, processing and data publishing
- Providing quality statistical basis that monitors activities of entrepreneurs, such as business statistics, short-term indicators, investments in human capital, research and development as well as globalization process. Pay special attention to expand monitoring of sectors with high added value.

4.3. Efficient organization of the Croatian official statistics system and improving the system of collection, processing and publishing data, based on recent methods

Improvement and efficiency

- Introducing the quality management system into the Croatian statistical system, based on the revised European Statistics Code of Practice
- Base the system of collection, processing and publishing data on the best practices, which are applied by the most advanced statistical systems
- Introduce working technology that will simplify requirements against reporting units and increase flexibility of the statistical system, as well as its adaptation to new requirements, taking account not to increase the respondents burden
- To intensify the integration of statistical surveys through harmonization and standardization of statistical processes and databases, as well as establishing statistical bases, which enable multi-dimensional analyses
- To increase the CBS participation in forming the administrative data sources, which will enable their wider use for statistical purposes and reduce costs of statistical data collection in the field of registers, which enclose legal entities and in respect to population registers
- To develop and implement flexible IT infrastructure as well as technical standards for easier and more efficient data collection and processing
- To increase the use of contemporary IT tools in statistical business processes
- Introduction of new technologies, which enable users to access broader dataset in a simple and cost-effective manner, taking account about technologies development, which protect the confidentiality of data.

4.4. To increase the users involvement level in the process of defining activities and the availability of statistical activities results with the consistent application of confidential data protection

Increasing users involvement

- To intensify the cooperation with domestic and foreign data users in order to identify their needs in a more quality way, and also raise the awareness of possibilities and limitations on the official statistics
- To cooperate with reporting units and data users in order to achieve a balance between users requirements and the burden of the reporting units
- To increase an offer of databases containing micro-data for scientific research purposes in line with the terms of use for that kind of data, as defined within the European Statistical System
- To increase the offer of publicly available data, which are necessary to satisfy needs of different users
- To develop appropriate technical solutions, procedures and organizational policies, which prevent an unauthorized data access.

4.5. To intensify the cooperation with relevant national and international institutions, to improve the reputation of institutions included in the Croatian statistical system

Cooperation reinforcement

- To enhance the cooperation with international statistical institutions and their statistical offices, as well as statistical offices of other countries, especially EU Member States, in order to improve statistics and accept the best international practice
- To intensify the cooperation with domestic and foreign scientific institutions

4.6. Increasing quality and timeliness of statistical data publishing

Dissemination and customer services

- To improve the perception of official statistics as a fundamental source of reliable and timely data by increasing the availability and quality of statistical data
- To strengthen and expand the dialogue between users and official statistics authorities in order to meet user needs
- The application of new informatics technologies in the process of official statistical data dissemination
- To establish the cost-effective and integrated infrastructure for users access to data, while ensuring the statistical data confidentiality.

Development of human resources

4.7. To gain sustainability and development of the official statistics system of the Republic of Croatia through timely and continuous development and assurance of human resources, as well as functionality of the working organization through:

- The planned human resources management system based on quality principles
- Expanding knowledge and skills that contribute to the development of human resources competencies within the scope of operations
- Continuous training and systematic motivation
- Establishing the positive organizational culture
- Develop the system of monitoring and documenting internal productivity and efficiency
- Improvement of working organization towards resumption of the development, production and dissemination of the official statistics in line with needs and requirements.

5. The strategic objectives by individual fields of the Croatian statistical system

5.1. Demographic and social statistics

Quality and timeliness

The fundamental objective of Croatian and EU economic policy is to increase welfare and living conditions of the population. In order to monitor the results of such policies, it is necessary to continuously improve social statistics. Within social statistics, it is particularly important to ensure monitoring of changes and progress of social and health protection of the most vulnerable categories in the population. In order to provide an insight into expected dynamic changes in the society, statistical monitoring will complement the existing data on population, labour market, education, culture, research and development, innovation, health, safety and consumer protection, personal consumption, inequalities in the distribution of income, poverty, social cohesion and social protection. Social indicators, defined by Eurostat, which will govern the calculation on a national and regional level, enable the periodic monitoring of country's progress towards set goals.¹¹ Within the full set of indicators, there is a division on monetary, non-monetary and structural indicators. The monetary indicators rely on data on earnings and expenditures of the population for personal consumption, highlight the poverty problem with a number of demographic, financial and other aspects, and are accompanied with the structural indicators on economic activity of the population,

¹¹ http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/statistics_explained/index.php/Statistics_for_European_policies

health, education and housing conditions, and also provide a complete picture of the society. In relation to the economic statistics, efforts will be directed towards the development of a coherent and comprehensive dataset on income and household consumption level in the entire economy and by individual regions, as well as redefine data sources and methods of data collection in order to achieve the goal of increased financial efficiency. New statistical measurements and development of new research instruments poses a considerable challenge due to the impact of globalization on migration flows, occupations and qualifications of labour force, inequality in the society and security, as well as development of innovation and adults' participation in education outside the regular educational system.

Objectives and activities

The objectives in demographic and social statistics fields are as follows:

- Modernization of methods of data collection, particularly on household surveys (Labour Force Survey, Survey on Income and Living Conditions, Households Budget Survey, Time Use Survey and Survey on Security)
- Reducing the burden on reporting units
- Improvement of data content on gender statistics
- Production of population projections by age and sex
- Production of household projection
- Improvement of the content of migration statistics data and data on asylum (general rate of migration and specific migration rates by age and sex)
- Improvement of data content on living conditions and measuring social progress (data on amount and structure of expenditures for personal consumption, data on income, social engagement and living conditions of households)
- Improvement of data content in the field of labour market statistics (data on labour costs, earnings structure, vacancies, active employment measures, measurement of volunteer work)
- Improvement of the data content on education statistics (data on adults participation in education and indicators on hosts and participants of various training programs outside the regular education system)
- Improvement of the content of data on culture statistics
- Production of indicators on annual receipts and expenditures as well as social welfare beneficiaries
- Improvement of the content of data in the fields of research and development statistics (indicators of budget allocation for research and development, indicators of high technologically developed industries and knowledge-intensive services, indicators of human resources in science and technology, data on patents and innovations)

- Development of safety, health and disability indicators
- Improvement of the content of data in the field of public health statistics (financial and non-financial health indicators, death causes, morbidity and disability)
- Development of indicators based on surveys (the European Health Survey)
- Preparing and monitoring the impact of environmental factors (air, water, food, noise, etc.) on health of the Croatian population.

5.2. Macroeconomic statistics

Quality and timeliness

During the period covered by the Strategy, activities on the process of further harmonization of the Croatian National Accounts with the aim of complete compatibility with EU standards and transmission program will continue. In line with Eurostat recommendations, the CBS will take over the role of the Ministry of Finance and be in charge of drafting the Fiscal Report, whereat the cooperation of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics, Croatian National Bank and the Ministry of Finance will continue. In line with the EU strategic objectives defined in the Europe 2020 strategy, the efforts will be made for continuously replenishment of the macroeconomic statistics in order to ensure monitoring of macroeconomic trends and achievement of the objectives defined in that document. The economic crisis has highlighted necessity for increased supervision of certain economic processes in the EU and Croatia, as well as demand for continuous development of statistical basis, that economic authorities and general public require, so they can evaluate the achievement of objectives defined by The Stability and Growth Pact. Within macro-economic statistics, efforts will be made on a continuous harmonization of data on economic activity and related statistics, especially in the fields of monitoring the case of environmental protection and sustainable development, as well as other social phenomena. Within the efforts to increase cost-efficiency, it will be persisted on continuous improvement of cooperation with other official statistics producers, as well as adjustment and better reliance on administrative data sources.

Objectives and activities

Strategic objectives in the field of macroeconomic statistics are as follows:

- We will continuously insist on expanding the coverage and the quality of national accounts statistics to ensure the database necessary for monitoring economic trends and leading economic policies. Full application of Eurostat transmission program in terms of data coverage and timeliness of publication will enable the comparison of all macroeconomic indicators with other EU member states.

- Monitoring and active participation in working groups in the field of national accounts will ensure timely methodological preparation (review of all major changes from the 1995 SNA 1993/ESA to SNA 2008/ESA 2010) and their impact on the basic macroeconomic indicators (gross domestic product, gross national income, rate of inflation), re-defining the data source and application of advanced international standards in the field of national accounts SNA 2008/ESA 2010. Methodological guidelines and analytical materials will provide an insight into effects of methodological changes to professional public.
- Coordination and communication of all related sectors within the CBS will be established (macroeconomic statistics, structural business statistics, agricultural statistics, social statistics, registers and classifications, IT sector) for coordinated implementation of international methodological standards (SNA 1993/ESA 1995 on the 2008 SNA / ESA 2010) for the purpose of production and dissemination of statistical data in line with obligations of the Republic of Croatia according to the Eurostat transmission program.
- Institutional coordination and communication will be established in order to enable the data consistency in all institutions of the Croatian statistical system, which means in all institutions that collect, publish or apply macroeconomic statistics.
- Adapting the administrative data sources according to new requirements will ensure the application of new methodology in the field of macroeconomic statistics, increasing financial efficiency of the statistical system and reducing burden on reporting units.
- Continuous education of employees responsible for the development of macroeconomic statistics will be conducted through various forms of education, participation in trainings, seminars and workshops organized by Eurostat and other international and national institutions as well as within the CBS itself.
- Quality statistical basis for monitoring of implementation of the Europe 2020 strategy will be ensured. It is based on the request for achievement of "smart, sustainable and comprehensive development". New statistical surveys will be developed and existing statistical basis, important for decision-makers from EU, economy policies authorities in Croatia, and also for the professional public in the context of objectives defined in the Agreement on the Stability and Growth, will be improved.
- The statistical data and analyses will provide decision makers with reliable statistical data and indicators, which will be used for administrative and regulatory purposes, including supervision of data, which determine EU own funds - own funds of gross national income - GNI - and VAT, data necessary for determining the payment of funds in EU budget and the structural funds share.

- Statistical monitoring of transactions associated with intensive economic globalization process will be improved – the emphasis is laid on improvement of statistical monitoring of international enterprises production and expansion of existing set of indicators (data from input-output tables, foreign trade, structural business statistics) – because of financial crisis impact and significant increase of cross-border flows, as well as fragmentation of production processes.
- High-quality statistical data, required for leading economic and social policies will be provided. The aim is to ensure multi-dimensional databases, which enclose consistent information from different statistical sources and provide a detailed insight into complex socio-economic processes. Such bases will integrate macroeconomic statistics with other important indicators of social welfare, such as indicators related to quality of life, sustainable development, environmental protection, health, income and household spending, unemployment, welfare, etc.
- The importance of individual sectors (tourism, environmental protection, health care system, energy industry) for the national economy requires increased statistical monitoring through producing satellite accounts based on input-output tables.
- The production and publication of statistical data will be ensured in line with EU Council Directive No 2011/85 on requirements regarding budgetary frameworks of Member States.

5.3. Business statistics

Quality and timeliness

The system of business statistics should provide up to date, reliable and comparable statistical information on business and business actors within the national market economy and enable their comparison with European and other international economies. Besides statistical data related to economic development, for the adoption of measures and action plans in the field of energy policy, it is strategically important to provide up to date and quality indicators for monitoring energy efficiency and renewable energy sources.

Improvement of statistical process

The strategic objectives of business statistics in the next period refer to improvement of overall statistical process while producing, processing and disseminating business statistics, in terms of harmonization of methodological framework and methods used in statistical surveys, continuously reducing burden of the reporting units and increasing efficiency in all phases of surveys, while taking into account the quality of results.

Reducing the burden of the reporting units

One of the most important strategic goals of the Croatian business statistical system is to reduce the respondents burden and the statistical system itself, by complete modernization of the statistical system of business statistics in order to improve efficiency and quality

of statistical product by replacing classical methods of statistical data collection with an online collection (the CAWI method) and/ or by processing administrative data sources instead of implementing statistical surveys.

Business indicators, in the context of this Strategy and in line with the current definition by Eurostat, refer to the following statistics:

- Annual Business Statistics (structural business statistics and their development, FATS statistics of foreign affiliates in the country, PRODCOM statistics on industrial production and annual construction statistics)
- Short-term business statistics (for activities in industry, construction, retail trade and other services)
- Energy statistics (structural and short-term statistics, energy prices, specific statistics for support the new national / EU energy policy and energy informatics system)
- Transportation, postal and telecommunications services statistics
- Tourism statistics.

Objectives and activities

Strategic goals of business statistics are:

- Developed and improved consistent system of structural business statistics harmonized with the European Statistical System and its development, which will enable collection, production and dissemination of reliable, comparable and timely indicators of the market economy structure, business activities of enterprises (business entities), size of enterprises (especially small and medium ones), their business, efficiency and competitiveness on national, regional and international level
- Better quality and complete compliance of domestic FATS statistics on the structure and activities of foreign affiliates operating in the country with EU requirements, which provides indicators for evaluating the extent of globalization impact on the national and EU economy, as well as efficiency of national and EU markets
- Continuous harmonization of PRODCOM statistics on industrial production, which provide indicators for competitiveness evaluation of national production in EU and on the world markets, as well as building a common database for industry statistics and foreign trade on the product level, in order to automatically calculate available consumption, and its publishing on the website due to availability to users
- Continuous development and improvement of the system of annual construction statistics, production and dissemination of reliable, comparable and timely indicators on the behaviour and trends in the construction industry, which will enable analysis of the present situation and decision-making
- The improved and comprehensively harmonized national system of short-term business statistics with the European

Statistical System, which ensures the production of a whole set of updated, relevant and high-quality short-term business indicators for rapid and reliable analysis of business cycles and correction of current economic policies through analyses of individual economic activities within the major sectors of economy and in the economy itself

- Developed and improved information system of energetic statistics of the Republic of Croatia according to EU concept, which will provide structural and short-term information on production, consumption and prices by the type of energy, renewable sources of energy, efficiency of national energy sector and restructuring, entities involved in the supply, trading and distribution of energy, up to the calculation of statistical energy balance in line with EU requirements and the national strategy for energetic sector development
- Improving tourism statistics system harmonized with the European Union that will enable collection, production and dissemination of reliable, comparable and timely statistical data on status and trends of supply and demand in the Croatian touristic market required by users
- Developed and improved consistent system of Transport and Communications Statistics, harmonized with the European Statistical System, which will enable the collection, production and dissemination of reliable, comparable and timely indicators on market structure, all forms of transport as well as postal and telecommunications services.

Statistics on foreign trade in goods

Intrastat/Extrastat

With the accession of the Republic of Croatia to the European Union, the Croatian statistical system has introduced a new statistical survey Intrastat – a regularly collection of data on trade in goods within EU Member States on the basis of report of selected business subjects, which participate in that exchange. The Intrastat data collection from selected business subjects is conducted by the Ministry of Finance - Customs Administration. At the same time, a regular data collection and statistical analysis of trade in goods with third countries (Extrastat) continues. It is based on the Unique Customs Declaration that the CBS receives from the Ministry of Finance - Customs Administration.

Statistics on foreign trade

The result of collection, processing and integrating data from Intrastat and Extrastat is the statistics on total amount of trade in goods of the Republic of Croatia with other countries, regularly and timely disseminated to numerous domestic and international users.

New activity in the field of statistics on foreign trade is the collection of data on trade by business characteristics of companies. The conduct of survey began with the Croatian accession to the EU. The data is delivered to Eurostat on annual basis.

In order to ensure up to date, reliable and comparable statistical data in the field of statistics on foreign trade in goods, it is necessary to monitor and apply the implementation of the European legislation, regulations and methodology, as well as recommendations from Eurostat and the Statistical Office of the UN, and also successful collaboration between the CBS and Ministry of Finance - Customs and Tax Administration. Also, the CBS will continuously improve quality, control and data processing, as well as regular update of files and databases in the CBS and the Ministry of Finance - Customs Administration.

5.4. Statistics on agriculture, forestry and fisheries

Quality and timeliness

Statistics on agriculture, forestry and fisheries comprises very heterogeneous fields: crop production, livestock, forestry, fisheries, agri-monetary statistics. The main strategic goal of agricultural statistics is to ensure quality and timely data on structural characteristics of agricultural production, which will enable quality monitoring over implementation of the Croatian agricultural policy and the EU Common Agricultural Policy.

Objectives and activities

The strategic objectives of agricultural statistics are as follows:

- We will continuously monitor the development of statistical legislation and users' needs. We will also continue to coordinate Croatian agricultural statistics with the European statistical system and, in that way develop, coordinate and complete the existing data on structural surveys, crop production, livestock, fisheries and forestry and agri-monetary statistics.
- Quality, reliable and internationally harmonized data are necessary for agricultural policy requirements, as well as planning and implementation of sustainable development policies on regional and national level
- Complete integration of agricultural statistics into the national statistical system requires coordination with other official statistics authorities. This will be achieved by concluding agreements with institutions and providing methodological support, and also increased use of administrative data for statistical purposes (replacement and supplementation of surveys and/or imputations). The mentioned complementary activities will reduce the burden of business subjects and family farms, and also achieve more rational use of budgetary funds.
- Timeliness of the Statistical Register of Farms (SRPG) will be increased. SRPG is a common framework for selecting the samples for agricultural statistics data collection. Increasing the SRPG timeliness will improve the system of official statistics implementation – it will increase data quality in the fields of structure of farms, livestock, crop production and agri-monetary statistics, and also rationalize the survey conduct, as a part of data will be downloaded from the SRPG.

- The agricultural census will provide a detailed insight into capacity and structural characteristics of agricultural production. Besides the statistical base required for performing different analysis and leading economic policy, data obtained from agricultural census enable the quality improvement of regular annual surveys in the field of agriculture, by updating the SRPG as a framework for the selection of sample for conducting agricultural survey.
- Further development and integration of national system for monitoring agri-environmental statistics continues - all necessary indicators as well as agri-environmental indicators will be introduced. The cooperation with other institutions involved in the system of agri-environmental statistics will also proceed.
- Establishing more efficient way of data collection, processing and dissemination, application of more up-to-date information and communication solutions.

5.5. Multi-domain statistics

Statistical surveys integration

As a part of the development of the multi-domain statistics, special attention will be dedicated to surveys in the fields of business cycle analysis, regional and urban statistics, statistics of environmental protection and climate change, science statistics, technology, innovation and information society statistics. The main objective of multi-domain statistics is to provide a set of relevant, up to date and comparable inter-annual indicators from different statistical surveys. The entire set of inter-annual Euroindicators/ priority European economic indicators and Eurotrend, just as indicators for monitoring the Europe 2020 strategy for sustainable development of environmental protection and climate change, as well as indicators of science, technology, innovation and the information society will be complemented and enhanced. One of the main goals is also to establish database for improved use for policy makers and other users of statistical data. Preserving natural resources for future generations is one of the EU key policies, thus it is necessary to make additional efforts to ensure as quality statistical basis, related to monitoring of environmental situation and changes, as possible,.

Objectives and activities

Strategic objectives of development of multi-domain statistics are as follows:

- The improvement and coordination of activities related to the production, dissemination and analysis of Euroindicators/ priority European economic indicators
- The development of statistical and econometric techniques for quality improvement of Euroindicators/ priority European economic indicators
- The production and dissemination of data related to regional and urban statistics from various fields, which enclose indicators of economic and social development

- The production of selected structural business indicators, transport indicators and information society indicators for annual regional statistics
- The production of new indicators for tourism accommodation statistics by types of destination according to the degree of urbanization (rare, medium and densely populated areas) and maritime ones (coastal and non-coastal resorts) in line with the EU Regulation No 692/2011 of the European Parliament and the Council, which are significant for development of policies in the field of tourism (especially for rural and maritime development policies)
- Development of statistics on the use of informatic and communication technologies in enterprises and households
- Strengthening and developing partnership relations with national regulatory authorities in the field of postal and telecommunications services and upgrading postal and telecommunications services statistics
- The development of indicators on information society for the Digital Agenda 2011 - 2015, the Europe 2020 strategy and e-Croatia
- Improving and integration of environment statistics, particularly water and waste statistics. Establishing environmental accounts: accounts for emissions in the air, energy, natural resources, biological diversity. Systematic monitoring of sustainable development indicators.

5.6. Support for statistical outputs

Contemporary statistical methods

The Croatian statistical system is facing major challenges, arising from request for a wider set of statistical indicators, along with simultaneous requirement for increasing financial efficiency. Therefore, further development of statistical infrastructure, which will enable greater reliance on contemporary methods of data collection and processing, reliance on administrative data sources, as well as increased cooperation among all participants of the statistical system for the redefinition and harmonization of statistical surveys is extremely important.

Objectives and activities

Strategic objectives for the development of statistical infrastructure are:

- To timely harmonize classification standards of official statistics in line with changes on the EU level and/ or other international authorities, organizations and institutions

Continuously monitoring of changes of international classifications, timely adjusting and developing revised national versions. Defining all necessary methodological and other tools, necessary for their use in statistical surveys registers and monitoring the usage of statistical classification for possible correction.

- Enabling an access to comprehensive, reliable and regularly updated source of information on classification standards of the official statistics to all users

Developing and upgrading of classification database, which will contain all available information on statistical classifications that are applied in the collection, processing and dissemination of statistical data of the official statistics. In line with changes of classification standards, databases will be regularly updated and replenished.

- Developing the Geographic Information System (GIS) and the National Dimensional Data Infrastructure (NSDI).

The GIS-supported database of the official statistics will be developed for entire Croatia; graphic data will be joined by statistical data from the field of demography, industry and energy, construction, catering and tourism, trade in goods, agriculture, forestry, fisheries, environment, health and other statistics. Working with databases from various registers will be integrated and led by the CBS and other official statistics authorities. The Directive INSPIRE will be applied, and dataset from the scope which could be included in the NIPP, that includes a set of measures, standards, specifications and services with an aim, within the scope of establishing an e-government, to enable efficient management, exchange and the use of geo-referenced dimensional data.

- Administrative business register will be developed.

A new application of the Administrative business register, which will improve the operations of CBS, will be established, whereby integrating with other registers and databases in the CBS and Republic of Croatia will be provided, efficiency, effectiveness and operations efficiency, reliability, completeness of information and business efficacy will be increased. The principles set out in the European Statistics Code of Practice will also be fulfilled. The consolidation of the RPS and OIB application will accelerate the procession of data from the OIB system; processing applications from the Hitro HR system will be expanded and optimized along with time and material resources savings, as well as minimizing possibility of making errors while data entering. The introduction of digital records will accelerate the search of archival records. It will be easier to find requested information and communication with parties will be faster and more quality. Besides improvement of operations with documents and reducing their number, in line with the legislation, mandatory documents shall be saved in a digital form. The introduction of functional incorporated solution will ensure the use of new services for Croatian Citizens through the Internet.

- The high quality and up to date database of enterprises will be ensured within the Statistical Business Register, as an initial framework for the implementation of statistical surveys, which include enterprises in Croatia and also for purposes of statistical analysis of the business entities population and their demography.

The Statistical Business Register will be developed in line with the EU regulations and guidelines, which define the scope, characteristics and data quality of statistical business registers. In technical terms, the base of the Statistical Business Register will be updated, in line with requirements of monitoring the enterprises and use of data for conducting of statistical surveys. The acceptance of data from administrative sources will be upgraded and to the fullest possible extent automatized, and also their appliance for updating data from the Statistical Business Register will be increased. We will continuously work on coverage and data quality improvement, in order to update consistency and coherence of the statistical data relating to the enterprises' business.

APPENDIX I – The history of the Croatian statistical system

- The first census, on the territory of the Republic of Croatia, was conducted in 1357 at the area of the Dubrovnik Republic for military purposes.
- In 1380, the second census was conducted at the area of present Parish of Dubrovnik, which, unlike the first one, also listed women.
- In 1875, the National Statistical Office was founded in the Kingdom of Croatia, Slavonia and Dalmatia.
- In 1924, it was renamed into the Statistical Office in Zagreb. In 1929, the Office completely lost its financial and professional independence, and since, was formally subordinated to the State Statistics Directorate of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia.
- The Statistical Office was, in 1939, annexed to the Presidential Office of the *Banovina* (/Duchies) of Croatia.
- In 1945, the Statistical Office of the People's Republic of Croatia was established.
- In 1951, the name was changed again into the Department of Statistics and Records. In 1956, again in the Department of Statistics of the People's Republic of Croatia and, in 1963, to the Institute for Statistics of the Socialist Republic of Croatia. The Department was independent in financial and personnel terms, but was obliged to apply unique programs and methodologies, regulated by the Federal Statistical Office.
- In 1992, the Republic of Croatia established the Croatian Bureau of Statistics, which still operates under the same name. The CBS works completely independently. In recent years, the Croatian statistical system has been significantly improved and harmonized with the EU requirements.

APPENDIX II – The European Statistics Code of Practice

The European Statistics Code of Practice is based on 15 principles, which comprise institutional environment, statistical production processes and statistical results¹².

Code of Practice principles, together with the general quality management principles; represent a common quality framework in the European Statistical System.

Statistical authorities, comprising the Commission (Eurostat), National Statistical Institutes and other national authorities commit themselves to adhere to the Code and basic principles.

1. Principle: Professional independence - Professional independence of statistical authorities from other policy, regulatory or administrative departments and bodies, as well as from private sector operators, ensures the credibility of European Statistics.
2. Principle: Mandate for data collection – Statistical authorities have a clear legal mandate to collect information for European statistical purposes. Administrations, enterprises and households, and the public at large may be compelled by law to enable access to or deliver data for European statistical purposes at the request of statistical authorities.
3. Principle: Adequacy of resources – The resources available to statistical authorities are sufficient to meet European Statistics requirements.
4. Principle: Commitment to quality – All members of European Statistical System are obliged to work and cooperate in line with the principles defined in the Declaration on European Statistical System quality.
5. Principle: Statistical confidentiality – The privacy of data providers (households, enterprises, administrations and other respondents), the confidentiality of the information they provide and its use only for statistical purposes is absolutely guaranteed.
6. Principle: Impartiality and objectivity – Statistical authorities develop, produce and disseminate European Statistics respecting scientific independence and in an objective, professional and transparent manner in which all users are treated equitably.
7. Principle: Sound methodology – Sound methodology underpins quality statistics. This requires adequate tools, procedures and expertise.

¹² The entire text of the European Statistics Code of Practice is available at:
http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/quality/code_of_practice

8. Principle: Appropriate statistical procedures - Appropriate statistical procedures implemented from data collection to data validation, underpin quality statistics.
9. Principle: Non excessive burden on respondents – The reporting burden is proportionate to the needs of the users and is not excessive for respondents. The statistical authorities monitor the response burden and set targets for its reduction over time.
10. Principle: Cost effectiveness – Resources are used effectively.
11. Principle: Relevance - European Statistics meet the needs of users.
12. Principle: Accuracy and reliability - European Statistics accurately and reliably portray reality.
13. Principle: Timeliness and punctuality - European Statistics are released in a timely and punctual manner.
14. Principle: Coherence and comparability - European Statistics are consistent internally, over time and comparable between regions and countries; it is possible to combine and make joint use of related data from different sources.
15. Principle: Accessibility and clarity – European Statistics are presented in a clear and understandable form, released in a suitable and convenient manner, available and accessible on an impartial basis with supporting metadata and guidance.