

**DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY OF OFFICIAL
STATISTICS OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA
2021 – 2030**

Zagreb, 2021

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	3
List of abbreviations	4
1. THE ROLE OF OFFICIAL STATISTICS	5
1.1. Basic statistical principles	6
2. ORGANISATION OF THE OFFICIAL STATISTICS SYSTEM	7
2.1. The main tasks of the Croatian statistical system.....	8
2.2) European Statistical System:	8
3. STRATEGIC DETERMINANTS OF THE STATISTICAL SYSTEM OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA.....	11
4. DEVELOPMENT NEEDS AND DEVELOPMENT POTENTIALS OF OFFICIAL STATISTICS.....	12
I Institutional environment and organisational factors	13
II Statistical processes	14
III Statistical products	14
5. STRATEGIC GOALS OF OFFICIAL STATISTICS	16
6. INDICATORS AND TARGET VALUES	21
7. INDICATIVE FINANCIAL PLAN	24
7.1. European Statistical Programme (ESP).....	24
7.2. Sources and process of planning the financing of development and regular activities.....	25
8. FRAMEWORK FOR MONITORING AND EVALUATION	26
8.1. Institutional framework for monitoring and reporting.....	28
APPENDICES	30
ANNEX I European Statistics Code of Practice	31
ANNEX II History of the Croatian statistical system	35

INTRODUCTION

The Development Strategy of Official Statistics of the Republic of Croatia 2021 – 2030 (hereinafter: the Strategy) is a development document which sets out priorities oriented towards the development of the official statistics system of the Republic of Croatia in line with the basic principles for producing objective, reliable and timely official data on economic and social movements in the Republic of Croatia. The Strategy points in the direction in which official statistics are to be developed. Proceeding from the existing situation, needs and requirements of users and the projected dynamics of development, the Strategy defines the mission, vision, priorities and objectives focused on the development of the Croatian statistical system in the forthcoming years. The Strategy also strives to provide the general public with answers to the questions about the role of the statistical system and its contribution to the development of the society and economy as a whole.

The Strategy is based on relevant legislation of the Republic of Croatia, but also on European Union regulations and international agreements related to official statistics, and it further seeks to create preconditions for adopting the best international experience in building an efficient, high-quality and reliable statistical system. In the context of dynamic changes in socio-economic processes, which are necessary for the design and adoption of economic and social policy measures and monitoring their effects, processes aimed at increasing the availability of statistics, their quality, timeliness and comparability are extremely important. In addition to national development goals, the Republic of Croatia also contributes to the achievement of common strategic goals of the European Union, which is an additional challenge in terms of the quality and structural characteristics of statistical data and their international comparability.

The Strategy clearly defines the strategic goals which the Croatian statistical system will implement in the next ten years, recognises the development needs and potentials of the official statistics system, performance indicators and target values that ensure measurability and evaluation in achieving the set goals, and it also connects financial resources with the set goals. The Strategy is targeted on the Croatian Bureau of Statistics as the main producer and representative of the national statistical system before European and international bodies responsible for statistics, as well as on all other producers of official statistics, which are determined, pursuant to the Official Statistics Act (Official Gazette, No. 25/20), by the Programme of Statistical Activities of the Republic of Croatia, a strategic document that elaborates in more detail the implementation of the defined strategic goals in the medium term and which is harmonised with the European Statistical Programme within the Multiannual Financial Framework of the European Union.

List of abbreviations

CPA	Statistical Classification of Product by Activity in the European Union
DGINS	Directors General of the National Statistical Institutes
EFTA	European Free Trade Association
ESAC	The European Statistical Advisory Committee
ESCB	European System of Central Banks
ESF	European Statistical Forum
ESGAB	European Statistical Governance Advisory Board
ESP	European Statistical Programme
ESS	European Statistical System
ESSC	European Statistical System Committee
ESTP	The European Statistical Training Programme
GPR	Annual Work Programme
ISCO	International Standard Classification of Occupations
MFF	Multiannual Financial Framework
NACE Rev. 2	Statistical Classification of Economic Activities in the European Community
SIMS	Single Integrated Metadata Structure
SMP	Single Market Programme

1. THE ROLE OF OFFICIAL STATISTICS

The fundamental role of official statistics is manifested in the production and dissemination of statistical data and the continuous development of statistics in accordance with the basic principles of official statistics. One of the main tasks of the statistical system is the efficient and timely preparation and dissemination of quality statistical indicators that reflect economic and social phenomena and processes and provide users with a reliable source for analysing the current situation and making decisions. Official statistics provide high-quality, comparable and reliable statistical data that support the formulation, monitoring and evaluation of all policies and help society as a whole to make data-based decisions and actively participate in democratic processes.

Official statistics are important both nationally and internationally because they allow for the comparison of certain aspects of social and economic development with other countries. With regard to the membership of the Republic of Croatia in the European Union, special emphasis is placed on the role of the statistical system of the Republic of Croatia in the European Statistical System (hereinafter: ESS) and on enabling comparability of statistical data of the Republic of Croatia with data of EU Member States.

Statistics need and can answer many questions, such as: Is society moving in the desired direction? Is unemployment increasing or decreasing? Are CO₂ emissions higher than ten years ago? How successful is the national economy compared to other EU Member States? Statistical data are important for objectively measuring the environment in which we live. The production of official statistics is a clear and reliable basis for decision-making, thus minimising the risk of decision-making based on erroneous assumptions or incomplete information.

The production of official statistics is regulated by a strict legal framework¹⁾ and complemented by a strong autonomous quality framework, the backbones of which are the European Statistics Code of Practice²⁾ and the ESS.³⁾

Producers of official statistics in their work are professionally independent, impartial towards all users, objective, reliable and respect the principles of statistical confidentiality and cost-effectiveness. Development, production and dissemination of official statistics are based on prescribed methodologies, best international standards and transparently documented appropriate procedures according to the following quality criteria: relevance, accuracy, timeliness, punctuality, coherence, comparability, availability and clarity of data.

1) Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:C:2016:202:FULL&from=EN> and Regulation (EC) No. 223/2009 on European Statistics as amended by Regulation (EU) No. 2015/759 http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legalcontent/hr/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:02009R0223-20150608&from=HR_2

2) European Statistics Code of Practice: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/3859598/5922169/10425-HR-HR.PDF>, https://www.dzs.hr/Hrv/international/code_of_practice_hr.pdf

3) European Statistical System: http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/64157/4392716/ESS-QAF-V1-2final.pdf/bbf5970c-1adf-46c8-afc3-58ce177a0646_3, https://www.dzs.hr/Hrv/international/Quality_Report/Quality_Report_Documents/Okvir%20za%20osiguranje%20kvalitete%20Europskoga%20statistickog%20sustava.pdf

1.1. Basic statistical principles

Official statistics are developed, produced and disseminated under the basic statistical principles defined in Regulation (EC) No. 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2009 on European statistics. The basic principles of official statistics are:

- (a) **professional independence** – official statistics are developed, produced and disseminated independently of political or interest groups, in particular as regards the choice of techniques, definitions, methodologies and data sources as well as the timing and content of all forms of dissemination.
- (b) **impartiality** – official statistics are transparently developed, produced and disseminated in order to reach all users in the same way.
- (c) **objectivity** – official statistics are developed, produced and disseminated on a systematic, reliable and impartial basis while applying professional and ethical standards.
- (d) **reliability** – official statistics reflect the observed phenomena as authentically, accurately and consistently as possible, applying scientific criteria to the selection of sources, methods and procedures.
- (e) **statistical confidentiality** – confidential data collected directly for statistical purposes or indirectly from administrative or other sources are protected and the use of collected statistical data for non-statistical purposes and their illegal treatment are prohibited.
- (f) **cost-effectiveness** – the costs of producing official statistics must be proportionate to the importance of the targeted result and benefits, resources must be used optimally and the response burden on reporting units must be kept to a minimum. Whenever possible, the requested data should be produced on the basis of already existing data sources.

In the development, production and dissemination of official statistics, in addition to the basic statistical principles, the principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice are applied, which refer to an efficient institutional environment, optimal statistical processes and quality statistical results.

2. ORGANISATION OF THE OFFICIAL STATISTICS SYSTEM

In accordance with the Official Statistics Act (Official Gazette 25/20), the producers of official statistics are the following:

1. Croatian Bureau of Statistics, as the central body,
2. Croatian National Bank, and
3. other authorised bodies of official statistics determined by the Programme of Statistical Activities of the Republic of Croatia, a medium-term strategic document that monitors the development goals and needs of statistical production at the ESS level.

The Croatian Bureau of Statistics is the central body, the main producer, disseminator and coordinator of the official statistics system of the Republic of Croatia as well as the main representative of the national statistical system before European and international bodies responsible for statistics. The basic principles, organisation, position, tasks and coordination of the official statistics system are regulated by the Official Statistics Act, which refers to the statistical activities of all producers of official statistics. The Official Statistics Act is harmonised with Regulation (EC) No. 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2009 on European statistics and the European Statistics Code of Practice.

The Croatian Bureau of Statistics concludes agreements and protocols on cooperation with other producers of official statistics with which it develops the content and structure of statistical data and models of their collection, processing and publication, and also establishes cooperation in the field of mutual data exchange. Other producers of official statistics are defined in the Programme of Statistical Activities of the Republic of Croatia, a medium-term strategic document that monitors the development goals and needs of statistical production at the level of the ESS as well as national needs. In addition to statistics based on international obligations, national producers of official statistics also produce official statistics for the needs of users in the Republic of Croatia in order to regularly improve and/or amend and introduce new surveys as well as monitor the needs for official statistics in various fields.

For the purpose of good coordination at the operational, planning and programme level, the **Committee for the Official Statistics System of the Republic of Croatia** was established as a coordinating body composed of representatives of the producers of official statistics. Its role is to enable efficiency and quality in the development, production and dissemination of official statistics, especially in relation to determining the methodological basis for conducting statistical surveys. The Croatian Bureau of Statistics coordinates the work of this Committee and convenes regular sessions.

The **Statistical Council of the Republic of Croatia**, as an expert and advisory body for strategic issues of official statistics, was established to increase the impact of users, science and the general public on official statistics activities and to provide expert opinions and proposals on issues important for official statistics. The members of the Statistical Council are appointed to represent a wide range of users and participate in its work by strengthening the independence and reputation of official statistics.

The basic feature of official statistics is their methodological coherence and comparability among the EU Member States. In this sense, the long-term and medium-term development of official statistics is based on the guidelines agreed by the EU Member States in the statistical bodies of the United Nations. The ESS, together with Eurostat and the national statistical institutes of the EU Member States, systematically participates in the development of these guidelines, which are primarily based on the requirements of users of official statistics and the need to follow changes in areas monitored and measured by statistics.

2.1. The main tasks of the Croatian statistical system

The main tasks of the Croatian statistical system are:

1. collection, processing and dissemination of statistical data as well as their availability and high quality, tailored to user requirements
2. preserving and strengthening the professional independence of the Croatian statistical system
3. maintaining and increasing the confidence in official statistics of the domestic and international public
4. international cooperation and active participation in the work of relevant domestic and international institutions.

2.2) European Statistical System

The European Statistical System (hereinafter: ESS) is a partnership between Eurostat and the national statistical institutes of all EU Member States and the European Free Trade Association (hereinafter: EFTA). The common mission is to obtain independent and high-quality statistics at European, national and regional level and to make these data available to users for research, debate and decision-making. Therefore, it continuously implements activities aimed at improving existing and introducing new official statistics, which enables further provision of quality, comparable and timely official statistical data.

Accordingly, about 200 meetings of working groups within the comitology system are held annually on the preparation of the *acquis communautaire* and other expert meetings in which all EU Member States are required to participate in order to improve existing official statistics and to prepare and implement the *acquis* for introduction of new and/or amended official statistics.

Consequently, monitoring of the changes is mandatory for all EU Member States, in accordance with the relevant documents of the *acquis communautaire*. It is a continuous process that requires constant engagement of human resources and the use of financial and other resources.

The ESS has about a hundred working groups and expert teams whose task is to cooperate with EU Member States on the development, production and dissemination of European statistics. Expert representatives of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics and other producers of official statistics in the

Republic of Croatia participate in all working groups (organised according to thematic statistical domains) and in individual working teams.

Within the ESS, there are several bodies which ensure that its purpose is met and that European statistics progress.

At the heart of the ESS is the European Statistical System Committee (hereinafter: ESSC), established by Regulation (EC) No. 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2009 on European statistics, whose task is to provide expert guidance to the ESS for the development, production and dissemination of European statistics. The ESSC consists of the heads of the national statistical institutes and is chaired by the Commission (Eurostat). The Commission consults with the ESSC on the measures it intends to take for the development, production and dissemination of European statistics, their justification in terms of cost-effectiveness, ways and deadlines for achieving the set objectives, response costs for data providers, proposed developments and priorities in the European Statistical Programme (hereinafter: ESP), the further development of the European Statistics Code of Practice, etc. The ESSC also acts as a committee within the Regulation (EU) No. 182/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 February 2011 laying down the rules and general principles concerning mechanisms for control by Member States of the Commission's exercise of implementing powers.

The Partnership Group (hereinafter: PG) is a group of heads of national statistical institutes, usually meeting three times a year between ESSC meetings, whose mission is to promote the development of the ESS at the highest level, in particular through the effective operation of the ESSC. The members are the elected PG President from among the heads of national statistical institutes, the Director General of Eurostat and his Deputy, the Head of the national statistical institute of the Member State currently holding the Presidency of the Council of the European Union, the Member State previously holding the Presidency of the Council of the European Union and four elected members from among the heads of national statistical institutes. As President of the Council of the European Union, the Republic of Croatia, i.e. the Director General of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics, was a member of the PG from July 2019 to December 2020.

The conference of Directors General of the National Statistical Institutes (hereinafter: DGINS) is organised once a year to discuss ESP-related topics as well as methods and procedures for producing official statistics. Every year, the host is another EU Member State, and the head of the national statistical institute of the host country chairs the conference.

European Statistical Governance Advisory Board (hereinafter: ESGAB) was established in 2008 to provide an independent overview of the ESS, with particular emphasis on the application of the European Statistics Code of Practice, on which it prepares an annual report to the European Parliament and the Council. The aim of the ESGAB is to increase the professional independence, integrity and accountability of the ESS, and the quality of European statistics. It has seven independent members, experts in the field of statistics who usually meet six times a year. Users, respondents and other participants in European statistics are represented by the European Statistical Advisory Committee (hereinafter: ESAC). ESAC helps the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission to take into account user requirements and the costs borne by data

providers as well as those producing statistics when coordinating the strategic objectives and priorities of the Community's statistical information policy.

The European Statistical Forum (hereinafter: ESF) was established in 2013 to provide strategic guidance in the relationship between the ESS and the European System of Central Banks (hereinafter: ESCB). It consists of one representative of Member States from ESSC and one from the ESCB Statistics Committee. The Forum meets once a year.

In order to improve the quality and confidence in European statistics, the ESS regularly conducts peer reviews on a multiannual basis – a kind of expert revision of all statistical systems of the EU Member States and EFTA assessing the compliance of national statistical systems with the principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice.

The peer review covers ESS statistical bodies (Eurostat, national statistical institutes (NSIs) and statistical services of selected other national authorities (ONAs) that develop, produce and disseminate European statistics. Based on the recommendations of peer-reviewers and improvement measures, a period of annual monitoring of the implementation of measures developed to address the recommendations submitted in the expert evaluation reports follows. The peer review of the statistical system of the Republic of Croatia was last conducted in 2015, after which the process of improving and implementing the recommendations of the ESS auditors continued. A new cycle of peer review of the statistical system of the Republic of Croatia is planned for 2023.

3. STRATEGIC DETERMINANTS OF THE STATISTICAL SYSTEM OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

MISSION: The Statistical System of the Republic of Croatia produces unbiased statistical data on social and economic phenomena, providing the factual basis necessary for monitoring and analysing the state of society and the economy and directing policies related to the development of European Union policies.

VISION OF DEVELOPMENT: Relevant, modern and innovative statistics that credibly show the state of social and economic phenomena.

The Croatian Statistical System ensures the availability of a wide range of internationally comparable and standardised information on socio-economic trends in the Republic of Croatia by applying best international experience regarding methods of collecting, processing and publishing data as well as the principles of efficiency, focus on users and continuous improvement of human resources.

4. DEVELOPMENT NEEDS AND DEVELOPMENT POTENTIALS OF OFFICIAL STATISTICS

Rapidly growing changes in the fields of global economy, agriculture and food, environment, climate, energy, transport, tourism, trade, digitalisation of the economy, social rights, employment, wealth distribution, migration and population structure as well as health care are necessarily reflected in statistical surveys, that is, in the ability of official statistics to respond by monitoring all these changes. Thus, in addition to the criteria of high-quality data, statistics are faced with new challenges arising from the change in the approach to the production of statistics. The information market is strengthening the requirements for publishing quality data, but also the timeliness of their publication, to ensure that official statistics remain the most important source of data. Budget constraints are an additional challenge to maximising cost-effectiveness in data collection and processing, which requires reviewing the optimality of existing data collection methods and potentially replacing them with more cost-effective methods using modern information and communication solutions and, wherever possible, greater use of administrative data sources.

Taking into account the upcoming needs of users and at the same time modernising the production of statistics to meet the challenges of rapid environmental change and potential global crises in the future, the official statistics system seeks to direct its resources to respond more quickly to growing trends in user needs: use new types of data sources and tools for collecting and processing statistical data, develop staff skills, improve statistical literacy of the general public and improve dissemination methods and enter into partnerships with a wide range of stakeholders.

The focus on the quality of official statistics, which is determined by the European Statistics Code of Practice and binding on all ESS members, significantly determines the directions in which the system will make efforts in the future multiannual period.

The complete system of development and quality of the statistical system is based on the following three priority pillars:

- I Institutional environment and organisational factors
- II Statistical processes
- III Statistical products.

I Institutional environment and organisational factors

The institutional environment and organisational factors significantly affect the efficiency and credibility of the statistical system that develops, produces and disseminates official statistics. Professional independence of the system, good coordination and cooperation of all stakeholders inside and outside the system, authorisation for data collection, availability of adequate resources, continuous commitment to quality, statistical confidentiality, impartiality and objectivity of statistical results are elements that build and strengthen the statistical system and that are important in development of official statistics, and therefore require the continued commitment of all participants in the environment in which the system operates. The official statistics system of the Republic of Croatia, as a full partner of the ESS, participates in the development, production and dissemination of European statistics and has the obligation to systematically participate in defining international standards and legal frameworks, and their application at the national level.

The Official Statistics Act ensures full transparency in the process of appointing, acting and dismissing the Director General of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics, thus strengthening the professional independence of the national statistical institute. Furthermore, the coordination of the statistical system has been strengthened by establishing the Committee for the Official Statistics System of the Republic of Croatia as a coordinating body, composed of representatives of producers of official statistics, in order to coordinate and ensure efficiency and quality in the development, production and dissemination of official statistics, particularly concerning the defining methodological basics for carrying out statistical surveys. The Statistical Council of the Republic of Croatia, as an expert and advisory body for strategic issues of official statistics, was established to increase the impact of users, science and the general public on the activities of official statistics.

In the future period, it is necessary to further strengthen and improve institutional coordination and communication at the implementation level in the areas of defining methodologies, monitoring and implementing quality control of statistical products, audit procedures, ensuring statistical confidentiality, international cooperation and application of the European Statistics Code of Practice.

Resources available to the statistical system should meet the requirements to fulfil all obligations set at national and international level. Respecting the principle of cost-effectiveness, the resources available to the statistical system must be used economically. The level of expertise of available human resources is a key element that affects the quality of official statistics. Insufficient number of adequate human resources is a potential risk for the production and sustainability of official statistics.

The analysis of the human resources situation of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics identified a risk of a lack of appropriate and quality experts who, in times of globalisation and digitalisation, can respond to the challenges of keeping statistics at the high-quality level and timely (e.g. methodologists, macroeconomists, experts in modelling and innovative practices). The existing human resources management system is focused on strengthening the expertise required for the production of quality statistics and the system of education of employees in internal workshops and training, participation in the European Statistical Courses Program (hereinafter: ESTP), training organised by the State Public Administration School, participation of employees on study visits as a part of certain projects and the like.

In the future, it will be essential to make efforts to continuously increase the number of appropriate and quality experts and to maintain and further improve the achieved level of human resources

expertise. In order to achieve a general level of expertise within the system, it is necessary to strengthen the strategic approach to human resources development within the system.

II Statistical processes

In the statistical processes used by the official statistics system in the development, production and dissemination of statistical data, it is necessary to follow established methodologies, standards, guidelines and good practices and, at the same time, strive for innovation and improvement, while taking into account cost efficiency. The statistical processes defined in this way ensure the credibility of statistical data and the reputation of the statistical system, which is accomplished by good management and efficiency. Continuous improvement of statistical processes is an important element in the development of official statistics. In striving for the innovation of the system aimed at better responding of official statistics to user needs, statistical processes are also modernised by introducing experimental statistics into the official statistics system.

In order to improve the appropriate data sources and reduce the burden on reporting units in the process of producing official statistics, the Official Statistics Act defines provisions related to access to administrative data sources and data collected by using the observation and monitoring method. The provisions of the said Act have strengthened the role of administrative data sources in the production of official statistics and ensured the harmonisation of administrative data with statistical definitions. Modifying data collection methods and introducing modern technologies in data collection have significantly improved traditional surveys conducted on printed questionnaires.

Further improvement of statistical processes is aimed at modernisation, increasing the efficiency and quality of statistical products and reducing data processing costs.

To this end, it is necessary to encourage the development and application of new data sources that become available to official statistics, the development of new methodologies for calculating statistical data with a step into experimental statistics by introducing new standards in production processes and using new modern information and communication solutions to further reduce burden on reporting units.

III Statistical products

The main task of official statistics is to provide quality, comparable and timely official statistics to users. The production and dissemination of quality, comparable and timely official statistics ensures the availability of impartial statistical data to the Croatian society and the economy. Adjustments to the requirements of the statistical system of the European Union regarding the number of statistical indicators, deadlines for publication and applied methodologies are continuously carried out.

Available statistical data must be of satisfactory quality and meet the needs of different users (the Government of the Republic of Croatia, local and regional self-government units, research institutions, the economy and the general public). The quality of official statistics is measured in terms of its relevance, accuracy, reliability, timeliness, coherence, international and regional comparability and easy accessibility to users. Focus on the quality of official statistics is guaranteed

by the Official Statistics Act, which prescribes the basic principles of official statistics, and the European Statistics Code of Practice. The established framework for the development of the quality system strengthens the coordination of activities related to the quality of the official statistics system. An organisational structure for quality management has been defined, as well as instruments and tools for improving the quality of statistical processes and products in accordance with the recommendations of the European Union.

In the future, it is necessary to strengthen the quality management system at the implementation level and expand the scope of quality control of statistical products. Permanent focus on user satisfaction and further work on improving the dissemination of official statistics are key areas in the future development of official statistics.

Improving the dissemination of official statistical data and relations with users is reflected in the implementation of numerous development activities and projects that seek to popularise official statistics and bring statistical data closer to users in a simpler and more understandable way, promote statistical literacy, involve users more in defining activities, introduce new ways of dissemination using new technologies and expand the scope of available statistical data. In line with international standards, it is necessary to ensure greater availability of documentation and metadata of certain statistical products.

Given that the Croatian Bureau of Statistics at the national level has a specific horizontal role of producer of official statistics, in the context of the implementation of the Strategic Planning and Development Management Act of the Republic of Croatia (Official Gazette, No. 123/17; hereinafter: the Strategic Planning Act), it provides support and ensures a wide range of reliable statistical data used by public administration bodies and public authorities in planning, formulating and implementing public policies as well as monitoring their effects in the future. The Croatian Bureau of Statistics and Eurostat represent a significant source of data used as indicators in measuring the track record of individual public policies, which are listed in the Library of Indicators, a register of all indicators used in national strategic planning documents established and maintained by the Ministry of Regional Development and European Union Funds, as the Coordinating Body in the implementation of the Strategic Planning Act.

5. STRATEGIC GOALS OF OFFICIAL STATISTICS

The vision of the development of the Croatian statistical system as modern, relevant and innovative statistics that credibly shows the state of social and economic phenomena will be achieved by synergistic action of strategic goals defined within the following three priority areas:

Priority 1. Further strengthening of the national statistical system and successful cooperation with the European Statistical System

Priority 2. Modernisation and development of statistical processes

Priority 3. Ensuring quality, comparable and timely official statistics and their improvement

Priority 1. Further strengthening of the national statistical system and successful cooperation with the European Statistical System

The development of the official statistics system is a complex process that requires constant cooperation with users, producers of official statistics and reporting units through systematic monitoring and application of international standards. Sustainability and development of the official statistics system of the Republic of Croatia is achieved by timely and continuous development of human resources through professional training, establishing a positive organisational structure and efficient organisation of a comprehensive official statistics system in accordance with user needs and requirements. Starting from the principle of financial rationality, the restrictions related to the availability of financial resources provided in the State Budget of the Republic of Croatia will be taken into account in order to introduce new statistical surveys in accordance with the possibilities.

In order to further strengthen and improve institutional coordination and communication at the implementation level, the achievement of the defined priority will be ensured by the realisation of the following strategic goals:

Strategic goal 1.1. Effective integration and coordination of the national statistical system

Good and effective coordination and communication between the producers of official statistics contributes to strengthening and improving the quality of the system and, ultimately, the quality of statistical data. At the implementation level, it includes work on harmonisation of methodologies between producers of official statistics, exchange of data within the system, synchronisation of positions in requests for administrative data sources, improvement of existing and establishment of new public registers in communication with Eurostat and other external institutions, holding coordination meetings in the governing body (Committee for the Official Statistics System of the Republic of Croatia) and in various working groups, as well as monitoring the implementation of the European Statistics Code of Practice. The goal of integrating statistical data into the national statistical system is the rational use of resources of different institutions and reducing the burden on data providers. The aim of all this is to ensure better communication and improve the quality of

statistical products as well as to achieve better consistency in the data collected, published or used within the statistical system.

Strategic goal 1.2. Active cooperation with the ESS in the development and harmonisation of statistical processes and data

The official statistics system of the Republic of Croatia is an integral part of the ESS and participates in the development, production and dissemination of European statistics through partnership. It has an obligation to systematically participate in the definition of international standards and legal frameworks as well as in their application at the national level. As part of the broader ESS, the Croatian statistical system provides harmonised and comparable official statistics that enable the comparison of certain aspects of social and economic progress at the international level.

Strategic goal 1.3. Development of human resources through continuous training, improving the quality of work, motivation and active participation in international statistical activities

The level of expertise of available human resources affects the quality of official statistics. Expansion of knowledge and skills, development of competencies of human resources, planned human resources management system, permanent education and motivation system aimed at providing adequate resources guarantee the development, production and dissemination of official statistics and long-term sustainability of official statistics system.

Priority 2. Modernisation and development of statistical processes

Strategic goal 2.1. Modernisation and improvement of the process of collection, processing and dissemination of statistical data using modern information and communication solutions

Efficiency is achieved by introducing information and communication technologies into statistical processes, standardising statistical processes and by mutual exchange and acceptance of standards within the system, establishing systematic monitoring of resource use within the system and strengthening the potential of administrative and other data sources.

Directing the available resources of the statistical system into the optimisation of statistical processes and innovation activities that modernise and improve statistical processes and the development of automated techniques based on common standards applicable to a number of statistical products is carried out using new information and communication solutions. The development of innovative methods and tools and their application in statistical processes are aimed at increasing the relevance and overall value of statistical results.

Strategic goal 2.2. Increasing the efficiency of statistical processes by reducing the burden on reporting units and introducing new data sources

The burden on reporting units is proportional to the user needs for statistical data and is subject to continuous monitoring and control within the statistical system. Application of appropriate sampling and data collection methods, introduction of administrative and other data sources in statistical surveys, linking data from different sources in the production of official statistics, establishment and use of statistical registers and exchange of statistical data within the system are activities aimed at reducing the burden on reporting units and increasing the efficiency of the statistical system.

Priority 3. Ensuring quality, comparable and timely official statistics and their improvement.

In accordance with the European Statistics Code of Practice, available statistics must meet the needs of users. The statistics meet European quality standards and serve the needs of European institutions, governments, research institutes, businesses and the general public. The quality of results is measured in view of the extent to which they are relevant, accurate and reliable, timely, coherent, comparable at the level of regions and countries and easily accessible to users.

The production and dissemination of quality, comparable and timely official statistics ensures the availability of impartial statistical data to the Croatian society and the economy. The harmonisation with the requirements of the statistical system of the European Union regarding the number of statistical indicators, deadlines for publication and applied methodology will be continuously carried out.

Official statistics are based on the principles of professional independence, impartiality, objectivity, reliability, statistical confidentiality and cost effectiveness. Consistent application of the basic principles of official statistics will increase the quality of statistical data and the harmonisation of the Croatian statistical system with European requirements.

Strategic goal 3.1. Improving the coverage and quality of statistical products

Due to the increased needs of users for official statistics at more detailed levels and the growing need for additional indicators that will be useful for decision makers in policy making, the statistical system improves the coverage and quality of statistical products by procedures that analyse and increase data sets collected from reporting units, enlarge the coverage of surveyed reporting units and introduces alternative data sources. Systematic quality monitoring and management of statistical products is carried out in all segments of the statistical system, according to the principles defined in the European Statistics Code of Practice.

Strategic goal 3.2. Development and improvement of methodologies of statistical calculations and standards with emphasis on stepping into the field of experimental statistics

Development of new methodologies and standards as well as participation in the development of standards such as SIMS 2.0 (Single Integrated Metadata Structure) for reporting on quality, participating in the development of economic, social, geographical and other classifications (NACE – Statistical Classification of Economic Activities in the European Community, CPA – Statistical Classification of Products by Activity, ISCO – International Standard Classification of Occupations) and methodologies at the international level and within the ESS is a constant process in the development of official statistics. The overall methodological framework applied for the development, production and dissemination of official statistics follows European and other international standards, guidelines and good practice, but at the same time focuses on innovation, such as experimental statistics, which uses new data sources and methods to better respond to user needs. In the development of methodologies and standards, cooperation is established with the scientific community in order to improve the methodology, the effectiveness of the applied methods as well as to promote the use of new tools. The development and improvement of statistical registers that serve as a data source in different statistical areas contributes to better integration of administrative and other data sources for statistical purposes.

Strategic goal 3.3. Improving data dissemination and customer relationship quality

One of the main tasks of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics is the efficient and timely preparation and dissemination of quality statistical data that are a reliable source for users to make decisions and harmonise their views based on facts. So far, the emphasis has been on harmonising the production of official statistics with European standards, which has been met to the great extent, thus creating the preconditions for focusing on improving data dissemination and the quality of customer relations.

Since the needs of users are most important for the further development of the statistical system, activities must be focused on meeting these needs, which is achieved through joint cooperation of users and producers of official statistics, and building a quality relationship with users.

Improving the dissemination and quality of customer relations encompasses a wide range of options applied in the EU Member States. In order to get closer to the good practice of European countries in the near future, it is necessary to create a quality foundation with the possibility of systematic upgrades. Ways of achieving the goals for this period include the development of a system for monitoring the use of official statistics and the results obtained. This will provide data on the characteristics of users, the intensity/frequency of use of certain statistics, the quality of services provided to users and their satisfaction with these services. A quality relationship with customers is also achieved through their training and increasing the volume and quality of services that will be made available to them.

Access to microdata is determined by rules and protocols that clearly define all conditions of access. In doing so, appropriate measures are taken to protect confidential statistical data and new technologies that enable cost effectiveness are used. The development of new methods of protecting confidential statistical data, the introduction of new ways of accessing microdata, which implicitly

includes the use of modern technologies and the expansion of a set of data for which access can be provided, will contribute to strengthening the role of official statistics.

Strategic goal 3.4. Development and introduction of new statistical activities and products into the Croatian statistical system

Systematic monitoring and identification of users' needs for statistical data, taking into account the possibilities and limitations of official statistics, result in the development and introduction of new statistical activities in the official statistics system. The development and introduction of new surveys take into account international and ESS commitments, identify national needs, define priorities in work programmes, monitor strategic directions set out in strategic documents and analyse available resources and benefits from new statistical products. New statistical activities increase the relevance of official statistics.

Strategic goal 3.5. Shortening deadlines for publishing statistical data

Official statistics should respond to the needs of users in a timely manner and, in order to increase relevance, data must be available in accordance with planned and published deadlines known to the general public (the Calendar of Statistical Data Issues is available on the website of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics www.dzs.hr). Deadlines for publishing data are harmonised with Eurostat release calendar and are also relevant for other EU Member States. Shortening the deadlines for publishing data is limited in the part of data processing, but only after all inputs are sufficient and ready for further processing in accordance with the given methodology of official statistics, according to which control and validation of data are performed.

Activities aimed at improving the timeliness and shortening the deadlines for publishing statistical data relate mainly to modernisation in data collection and processing, which results in shortening certain stages of processing and thus contributes to the overall increase in timeliness of final publication of statistical results.

6. INDICATORS AND TARGET VALUES

This Strategy provides a long-term framework and direction for the development of official statistics, sets strategic goals and defines the corresponding indicators that measure the results and impact of set goals. Achieving strategic goals is planned by implementing a series of measures and activities that are defined in more detail in medium-term and short-term documents and accompanied by reports on their implementation.

In order to achieve the set strategic goals as successfully as possible, the strategic planning process has been carefully developed and harmonised with a logical framework that connects long-term, medium-term and short-term planning with equivalent levels of goals and performance indicators with target values.

An overview of strategic goals, relevant performance indicators and target values that are planned to be achieved in the reference ten-year period is given below.

Priority 1. Further strengthening of the national statistical system and successful cooperation with the European Statistical System		
Strategic goal 1.1. Effective integration and coordination of the national statistical system		
Outcome indicator	Initial value in 2020 (t)	Target value in 2030 (t + n)
1.1.1. Increased intensity of cooperation between the producers of official statistics by establishing the Committee for the Official Statistics System – number of Committee meetings	0	20
1.1.2. National guidelines for the development, production and dissemination of official statistics, developed and implemented	0	1
1.1.3. Increased intensity of cooperation with users of official statistics – number of meetings of the Statistical Council of the Republic of Croatia	15	35
1.1.4. Increased number of data exchange agreements with administrative data sources	73	105
Strategic goal 1.2. Active cooperation with the European Statistical System in the development and harmonisation of statistical processes and data		
Outcome indicator	Initial value in 2020 (t)	Target value in 2030 (t + n)
1.2.1. Number of the ESS professional teams (Task Forces) in which representatives of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics participate	17	19
1.2.2. Number of implemented projects financed by the European Union	128	198
Strategic goal 1.3. Development of human resources through continuous training, improving the quality of work, motivation and active participation in international statistical activities		
Outcome indicator	Initial value in 2020 (t)	Target value in 2030 (t + n)

1.3.1. Increased share of employees who attend some form of training (internal workshops, ESTP courses, seminars at the State Public Administration School, training programmes and other programmes)	7%	50%
Priority 2. Modernisation and development of statistical processes		
Strategic goal 2.1. Modernisation and improvement of the process of collection, processing and dissemination of statistical data using modern information and communication solutions		
Outcome indicator	Initial value in 2020 (t)	Target value in 2030 (t + n)
2.1.1. Number of innovative methods as well as information and communication tools that have been introduced into regular application in statistical processes	17 (in 2020)	83
2.1.2. Number of statistical activities that have improved data collection	35	61
2.1.3. Number of new databases used in the statistical production process	50	62
Strategic goal 2.2. Increasing the efficiency of statistical processes by reducing the burden on reporting units and introducing new data sources		
Outcome indicator	Initial value in 2020 (t)	Target value in 2030 (t + n)
2.2.1. Number of statistical activities in which the number of reporting units or the burden on them have been reduced	0	13
2.2.2. Number of reporting units for which the burden has been reduced	0	16 000
2.2.3. Number of statistical activities for which the response rate of reporting units has increased	0	4
2.2.4. Number of statistical activities in which a new data source has been introduced	0	40
2.2.5. Number of new administrative/innovative data sources	0	32
2.2.6. Number of established/improved statistical registers	0	6
Priority 3. Ensuring quality, comparable and timely official statistics and their improvement		
Strategic goal 3.1. Improving the coverage and quality of statistical products		
Outcome indicator	Initial value in 2020 (t)	Target value in 2030 (t + n)
3.1.1. Number of statistical activities in which coverage has improved or quality has improved	61	104
Strategic goal 3.2. Development and improvement of methodologies of statistical calculations and standards with emphasis on stepping into the field of experimental statistics		
Outcome indicator	Initial value in 2020 (t)	Target value in 2030 (t + n)

3.2.1. Number of statistical activities in which new or improved existing methodology/standard has been introduced	0	46
Strategic goal 3.3. Improving data dissemination and customer relationship quality		
Outcome indicator	Initial value in 2020 (t)	Target value in 2030 (t + n)
3.3.1. Number of new/improved network databases intended for users	29	42
3.3.2. Number of available databases for scientific purposes	8	15
3.3.3. Increasing the number of processed titles available in the online library catalogue on the website	50	550
Strategic goal 3.4. Development and introduction of new statistical activities and products into the Croatian statistical system		
Outcome indicator	Initial value in 2020 (t)	Target value in 2030 (t + n)
3.4.1. Number of new statistical activities/data sets introduced into the statistical system	0	62
Strategic goal 3.5. Shortening deadlines for publishing statistical data		
Outcome indicator	Initial value in 2020 (t)	Target value in 2030 (t + n)
3.5.1. Number of statistical activities in which the data publishing deadline has been shortened	0	7

7. INDICATIVE FINANCIAL PLAN

The financial framework for the implementation of this Strategy is contained in the State Budget of the Republic of Croatia, i.e. the budgets of the producers of official statistics.

Funds for performing activities within the competence of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics prescribed by the Official Statistics Act (Official Gazette, No. 25/20) are provided from the State Budget of the Republic of Croatia and from other sources in accordance with the said Act. The Croatian National Bank is financed with its own funds, while other producers of official statistics, mainly state administration bodies, are also financed from the State Budget of the Republic of Croatia.

Other sources of funding, especially those related to the development and improvement of the system, are most often Eurostat grants and EU structural funds.

The availability of financial resources and the implementation of strategic objectives will be elaborated in more detail in medium-term and short-term plans and, in accordance with Article 21 of the Act on Strategic Planning and Development Management System of the Republic of Croatia (Official Gazette, No. 123/17), in four-year implementation plans, which are prepared by individual producers of official statistics within the system of state administration bodies.

7.1. European Statistical Programme (ESP)

In accordance with Regulation (EC) No. 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2009 on European statistics, ESP provides for a framework for the development, production and dissemination of European Statistics, setting out the main areas and objectives of activities planned for the period that corresponds to the period of a Multiannual Financial Framework (hereinafter: MFF¹). The aim of the ESP is to focus European statistics on the information needed to plan, implement, monitor and evaluate EU policies, and at the same time to make statistical information harmonised, comparable, reliable, user-friendly and accessible. It also establishes a financial framework for the provision of high-quality, comparable and reliable European statistics to support the planning, monitoring and evaluation of all EU policies. In the first part of the period covered by the Strategy in question, during the next MFF for the period from 2021 to 2027, the ESP² is part of the Single Market Programme (SMP³), the competitiveness of enterprises, including small and medium-sized enterprises, and European statistics, establishing a financial framework for the provision of high-quality, comparable and reliable European statistics to encourage the design,

¹ The Multiannual Financial Framework (hereinafter: MFF) has become a legally binding instrument by the Treaty of Lisbon. In addition to setting out "annual ceilings on commitment appropriations by category of expenditure and annual ceilings on payment appropriations", Article 312 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) states that the MFF also determines all other provisions that are necessary for the annual budget procedure to run smoothly. The MFF Regulation is accompanied by an inter-institutional agreement covering areas of budgetary discipline, cooperation in budgetary matters and sound financial management. In order to strengthen budgetary discipline and improve budget execution through better planning, the concept of a multiannual financial perspective has been developed.

² The aim of the ESP is to ensure that European statistics focus on the information needed to design, implement, monitor and evaluate European Union policies and that statistical information is harmonised, comparable, reliable, accessible and user-friendly.

³ Regulation (EU) No. 2021/690 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing programme for the internal market, competitiveness of enterprises, including small and medium-sized enterprises, the area of plants, animals, food and feed, and European statistics (Single Market Programme) EUR-Lex - 32021R0690 - EN - EUR-Lex (europa.eu)

monitoring and evaluation of all European Union policies and accounting for 14% of the Programme's budget of EUR 552 000 000. Funding will also be provided to national statistical institutes for the purpose of producing and disseminating high-quality statistics intended to monitor economic, social, environmental and territorial conditions.

In line with the Single Market Programme, the Commission prepares an annual work programme that plans and ensures effective prioritisation, including reviewing, reporting on statistical priorities and allocating funding to national statistical institutes, which then carry out development activities and initiatives.

7.2. Sources and process of planning the financing of development and regular activities

The Croatian Bureau of Statistics is using significant funds from the European Union for the purpose of developing official statistics and is expected to continue using them in the next period, from 2021 to 2030.

In addition to own funds from the national budget, the predominant sources planned to be used are the following funds:

- European Structural and Investment Funds (hereinafter: ESI Funds)
- European Commission grants (Eurostat)
- other funds.

Budget planning for the use of Eurostat and ESI Fund grants, due to the large number and variety of programmes and resources, is certainly a significant challenge. The chosen method of planning is from the bottom-up, i.e. from individual projects to the total.

Planning consists of the following basic steps:

1. preparatory actions (records of concluded contracts, records of projects in preparation, records of announced projects (potential projects))
2. analysis of planning instructions of the Ministry of Finance and the Croatian Bureau of Statistics for budgeting
3. retrieval of historical data (on concluded contracts, projects in preparation for which financial data are known and announced projects)
4. preparation of the Annual Plan for Implementation of EU Projects, which is coordinated with the expert departments of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics.

The basic information for planning Eurostat grants is as follows:

- it is planned three years in advance on the basis of a Eurostat call
- the amount financed by Eurostat is not known in advance, but generally ranges from 70 to 90%.

In the initial period covered by this Strategy, the Croatian Bureau of Statistics will continue to implement development projects within the ESI Funds, i.e. the Operational Programme Effective Human Resources 2014 – 2020, and plan in accordance with the funding programmes and frameworks of future financial perspectives.

8. FRAMEWORK FOR MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Monitoring and reporting is based on the principles of strategic planning and development management in accordance with the Act on Strategic Planning and Development Management

System of the Republic of Croatia (Official Gazette, No. 123/17; hereinafter: the Strategic Planning Act).

The objectives of monitoring and reporting are:

- systematic monitoring of the success of the implementation of objectives
- effective management of the implementation of activities and continuous improvement using the results of monitoring and reporting
- providing timely and relevant bases for decision-makers
- ensuring transparency and accountability of the use of public funds and informing the public about the effects of spending public funds.

The strategic documents that are the basis of the development, production and dissemination of official statistics and the official statistics system of the Republic of Croatia are defined in the Official Statistics Act (Official Gazette, No. 25/20) and divided into three levels:

1. **The Strategy for the Development of Official Statistics of the Republic of Croatia 2021 – 2030** is a long-term strategic document that determines the mission, vision as well as general and individual goals aimed at developing the official statistics system of the Republic of Croatia.
2. **The Programme of the Statistical Activities** is a medium-term strategic planning document that set statistical activities for a multiannual period in accordance with national needs and obligations arising from Croatia's membership in the European Union and determines other producers of official statistics not specified in the Official Statistics Act. It is planned for a period identical to the ESP, i.e. the period of the MFF of the European Union. The Programme of Statistical Activities 2021 – 2027 is the first of the programmes that will cover the time span of the Strategy (2021 – 2030).
3. **The Annual Implementation Plan (GPP)** is a short-term strategic planning document for statistical activities, which is the legal basis for collecting data required for the implementation of statistical surveys and is, in order to implement the Programme of the Statistical Activities of the Republic of Croatia, adopted for each year covered by the Statistical Programme. It determines specific statistical activities, manner and deadlines for data collection and it is also the legal basis for the implementation of statistical activities that sets the obligations of the producers of official statistics as well as of reporting units to participate in statistical surveys and production of official statistics.

The system of monitoring and reporting on the work of the official statistics system is implemented at several levels.

8.1. Institutional framework for monitoring and reporting

In accordance with the Strategic Planning Act, the institutional framework for monitoring and reporting on the implementation of strategic planning documents important for the official statistics system consists of the following public bodies: the Croatian Parliament, the Government of the Republic of Croatia, the Croatian Bureau of Statistics as the main producer of official statistics, the Coordinating Body within the implementation of the Strategic Planning Act, and coordinators for strategic planning and monitoring.

In addition, the framework for monitoring and reporting within the official statistics system of the Republic of Croatia also includes other producers of official statistics, the Committee for the Official Statistics System of the Republic of Croatia and the Statistical Council of the Republic of Croatia.

In accordance with the Strategic Planning Act, the Croatian Bureau of Statistics, as the main producer and coordinator of official statistics, established an internal organisational unit to perform strategic planning activities and appointed a strategic planning coordinator. The strategic planning coordinator cooperates with the Coordination Body within the implementation of the Strategic Planning Act and is included in the national network of coordinators in order to achieve harmonisation of the methodology for strategic planning and managing of the development of the Republic of Croatia.

In order to coordinate, monitor and improve the quality of development, production and dissemination of official statistics as efficiently as possible, the Croatian Bureau of Statistics established the Committee for the Official Statistics System of the Republic of Croatia as the coordinating body composed of representatives of producers of official statistics, which, among other tasks, participates in creating of strategic documents and monitoring of their implementation.

The Statistical Council of the Republic of Croatia is an advisory and expert body for strategic issues of official statistics, which was established to increase the influence of users, science and the general public on official statistics activities and to provide its expert opinions and suggestions in adopting all strategic issues significant in the work of official statistics, and also plays a key role in monitoring the implementation of statistical activities.

Key documents in the monitoring and reporting system are the following:

1. Report on the Implementation of Strategic Objectives and the Achievement of Performance Indicators

In accordance with the Strategic Planning Act, the Croatian Bureau of Statistics submits a Report on the Implementation of Strategic Objectives and Achievement of Performance Indicators to the coordinating body within the implementation of the Strategic Planning Act.

2. Report on the Execution of the Annual Implementation Plan of Statistical Activities of the Republic of Croatia

Monitoring of the achievement of set goals is also ensured on the basis of the Report on the Execution of the Annual Implementation Plan of Statistical Activities of the Republic of Croatia (hereinafter: the Report), which reports in detail on the implementation of all statistical activities in a given year.

Pursuant to the Official Statistics Act, all producers of official statistics submit a report on the implementation of statistical activities in their scope of work to the strategic planning department of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics. The Croatian Bureau of Statistics coordinates and prepares the Draft Report, which is also presented to the Committee for the Official Statistics System of the Republic of Croatia and the Statistical Council of the Republic of Croatia. With the prior opinion of the Statistical Council, the Croatian Bureau of Statistics submits the Draft Report to the Government of the Republic of Croatia. The decision to accept the Report is made by the Croatian Parliament.

Data on the implementation of strategic planning documents are publicly available. The Croatian Bureau of Statistics, as the main producer of official statistics of the Republic of Croatia, publishes reports on the implementation of strategic planning documents on its website.

APPENDICES

- I. European Statistics Code of Practice
- II. History of the Croatian statistical system

ANNEX I European Statistics Code of Practice

The European Statistics Code of Practice is the basis of the common quality framework of the European Statistical System. It is an autonomous instrument based on 16 principles that include the institutional environment, statistical production processes and statistical results. For each of the principles, a set of indicators of good practice and standards provides guidelines for assessing the application of the Code, thus increasing the transparency of the European Statistical System.

Statistical authorities, which include the European Union Statistical Office (Eurostat), national statistical institutes and other national authorities responsible for the development, production and dissemination of European statistics, undertake to comply with the Code of Practice.

The current, second revised edition of the European Statistics Code of Practice, which was originally passed in 2005, was adopted by the European Statistical System Committee on 16 November 2017.

The European Statistics Code of Practice is based on 16 principles, which can be grouped into the following areas:

- institutional environment,
- statistical processes, and
- statistical results.

Institutional environment

Institutional and organisational factors have a significant influence on the effectiveness and credibility of a statistical authority developing, producing and disseminating European Statistics. The relevant Principles are professional independence, coordination and cooperation, mandate for data collection, adequacy of resources, quality commitment, statistical confidentiality, impartiality and objectivity.

Principle 1

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.

Principle 1bis

Coordination and cooperation

National Statistical Institutes and Eurostat ensure the coordination of all activities for the development, production and dissemination of European statistics at the level of the national statistical system and the European Statistical System, respectively. Statistical authorities actively cooperate within the partnership of the European Statistical System, so as to ensure the development, production and dissemination of European statistics.

Principle 2

Mandate for Data Collection and Access to Data

Statistical authorities have a clear legal mandate to collect and access information from multiple data sources for European statistical purposes. Administrations, enterprises and households, and the public at large may be compelled by law to allow access to or deliver data for European statistical purposes at the request of statistical authorities.

Principle 3

Adequacy of Resources

The resources available to statistical authorities are sufficient to meet European Statistics requirements.

Principle 4

Commitment to Quality

Statistical authorities are committed to quality. They systematically and regularly identify strengths and weaknesses to continuously improve process and output quality.

Principle 5

Statistical Confidentiality and Data Protection

The privacy of data providers, the confidentiality of the information they provide, its use only for statistical purposes and the security of the data are absolutely guaranteed.

Principle 6

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.

Statistical Processes

European and other international standards, guidelines and good practices are fully observed in the statistical processes used by the statistical authorities to develop, produce and disseminate European Statistics, while constantly striving for innovation. The credibility of the statistics is enhanced by a reputation for good management and efficiency. The relevant Principles are sound methodology, appropriate statistical procedures, non-excessive burden on respondents and cost effectiveness.

Principle 7

Sound Methodology

Sound methodology underpins quality statistics. This requires adequate tools, procedures and expertise.

Principle 8

Appropriate Statistical Procedures

Appropriate statistical procedures, implemented throughout the statistical processes, underpin quality statistics.

Principle 9

Non-excessive Burden on Respondents

The response 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.

Principle 10

Cost Effectiveness

Resources are used effectively.

Statistical Output

Available statistics meet users' needs. Statistics comply with the European quality standards and serve the needs of European institutions, governments, research institutions, business concerns and the public generally. Output quality is measured by the extent to which the statistics are relevant, accurate and reliable, timely, coherent, comparable across regions and countries, and readily accessible by users, i.e. the Principles of Statistical Output.

Principle 11

Relevance

European Statistics meet the needs of users.

Principle 12

Accuracy and reliability

European Statistics accurately and reliably portray reality.

Principle 13

Timeliness and Punctuality

European Statistics are released in a timely and punctual manner.

Principle 14

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 data sources.

Principle 15

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.

The full text of the European Statistics Code of Practice is available at:
https://dzs.gov.hr/UserDocImages/dokumenti/code_of_practice_en.pdf?vel=468459

Common Quality Framework of the European Statistical System

The Common Quality Framework of the European Statistical System consists of the European Statistics Code of Practice, the European Statistical System Quality Assurance Framework and general principles of quality management (such as continuous interaction with users, commitment to leadership, partnership, employee satisfaction, continuous improvement, as well as integration and harmonisation).

This autonomous common quality framework complements the comprehensive legal framework of the European Statistical System based on Regulation (EC) No. 223/2009 on European statistics resulting from the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. Therefore, European statistics and high-quality services are developed, produced and disseminated within a very strong legal and quality framework.

An independent advisory committee, the European Statistical Governance Advisory Committee (ESGAB Committee), provides an overview of the European Statistical System with regard to the implementation of the Code of Practice. Each year, the Committee analyses the overall implementation of the Code of Practice in the European Union Statistical Office (Eurostat) and the European Statistical System and makes recommendations on appropriate measures to facilitate the implementation of the Code of Practice, suggestions on how to inform users and providers about it and recommendations on its possible updates.

Statistical authorities, which include the Commission (Eurostat), national statistical institutes and other producers of official statistics, undertake to comply with the Code and the basic principles.

The Heads of national statistical institutes and the Director General of Eurostat adopted the Quality Declaration of the European Statistical System, as proof of the awareness level of the quality of the European Statistical System and the commitment of all its members to continuous development, production and dissemination of high-quality European statistical data and services, thus providing value to users in a sustainable way.

ANNEX II History of the Croatian statistical system

The first census on the territory of the Republic of Croatia was conducted in 1357 in the area of the Dubrovnik Republic, for military purposes.

In 1380, a second census took place, both on the islands and in the area of Astarea (within today's Župa Dubrovačka), which, unlike the first, enumerated women as well. The data from these censuses are considered to be the oldest in Croatia. The censuses that followed in the area of Dubrovnik were conducted in 1429 and 1463 and aimed at obtaining data for the organisation of public works.

In the area of today's Croatia, statistical data were collected even before 1875, the year of the establishment of the official statistical office of the Royal Land Government in the Kingdom of Croatia, Slavonia and Dalmatia.

On 2 August 1875, the statistical office established a specialised library and map collection, created by storing its own publications, publications obtained in exchange from other offices and publishing houses, purchased publications, etc. The library also has statistical publications of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy, Hungary and Italy, which is very important because all these countries were by destiny connected with the Croatian territory. The library is public.

In 1874, statistics were introduced as an optional subject at the Faculty of Law in Zagreb.

In 1875, Statistički ured Zemaljske vlade Kraljevine Dalmacije, Slavonije i Hrvatske (the Statistical Office of the Land Government of the Kingdom of Dalmatia, Slavonia and Croatia) was established in the Kingdom of Croatia, Slavonia and Dalmatia.

In 1876, Statistički ured Zemaljske vlade Kraljevine Dalmacije, Slavonije i Hrvatske (the Statistical Office of the Land Government of the Kingdom of Dalmatia, Slavonia and Hrvatska) in Zagreb published the Statistical Yearbook for 1874 on a total of 613 pages.

In 1882, the first census results were published in a special booklet entitled "Some Census Results of 31 December 1880".

In 1883, a large publication was published entitled "Census of Population and Livestock of 31 December 1880".

In 1902, the 34th publication of the Statistical Office entitled "Census of 31 December 1900 in the Kingdoms of Croatia and Slavonia, Main Results by Administrative Municipalities" was published.

In 1922, Kraljevski zemaljski statistički ured za Hrvatsku i Slavoniju (the Royal National Statistical Office for Croatia and Slavonia) was renamed and operated as Statistički ured u Zagrebu (the Statistical Office in Zagreb). In 1929, the Office completely lost its financial and professional independence and was formally subordinated to the management of state statistics of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia.

Since 1939, the Statistical Office had been responsible to the Presidential Office of the Ban's Government of the Banovina of Croatia (Banate of Croatia).

In 1945, the Statistical Office of the People's Republic of Croatia was established. In 1951, the name was changed to the Bureau of Statistics and Records, in 1956 to the Bureau of Statistics of the People's Republic of Croatia and in 1963 to the Republic Bureau of Statistics of the Socialist Republic of Croatia. The Bureau was independent in financial and personnel terms, but was obligated to apply the programmes and methodologies prescribed by the Federal Bureau of Statistics in Belgrade.

In 1992, the Republic of Croatia established the Central Bureau of Statistics that was completely independent in its work, while the Croatian statistical system was significantly improved and harmonised with EU requirements.

In 2005, on the occasion of the 130th anniversary of the Croatian statistics, the publication "One Hundred and Thirty Years of the Croatian Statistics 1875 – 2005" was published.

Censuses of Agriculture on the territory of the Republic of Croatia

- in 1960, the full-coverage Census of Agriculture was conducted
- in 1969, the Census of Agriculture was conducted using the sample method
- in 1971, 1981, 1991 and 2001, agricultural censuses were included in the population censuses
- in 2003, the full-coverage census of agriculture was conducted
- in 2007, 2010, 2013 and 2016, a structural survey of agricultural holdings was conducted on the sample basis
- in 2020, the last complete and independent census of agriculture on the territory of the Republic of Croatia was conducted.

Ten extensive books of the population census entitled "Census of the People in 1849" are kept in the Croatian State Archives. This is the "census of the people" in Croatia and Slavonia dating from 1849, which was conducted for military purposes.

In 1849, 1850 and 1851, the Census of Population and Livestock in Croatia and Slavonia was conducted.

The year 1850 marked the beginning of modern statistics in Croatia and Slavonia, thanks to legal and institutional factors.

In 1857, the first general modern census was conducted in Croatia and Slavonia.

Population censuses on the territory of the Republic of Croatia

- in 1971, punched cards were used for the Census of Population, Households and Dwellings
- in 1981, for the Census, the entry was made via the IBM terminal
- in 1991, external collaborators worked on the Census using OCR technology
- in 1997, the PC platform took the place of the IBM terminal
- in 2001, the IBM's IFP Optical Sign Recognition System was acquired for the Census of Population, Households and Dwellings

In 2013, the Croatian Bureau of Statistics opened its official Twitter account, which regularly publishes the latest statistical data, while it has also been active on Facebook since 2015, and on Instagram since 2016.

During the school year 2017/2018, the first Statistical Competition was organised, as the national phase of the European Statistical Competition (ESC). It is intended for all high school students and aimed at promoting statistical literacy. In four school years, the competition gathered 1 751 teams, or 5 315 participants (students and their mentors).

In 2019, Stedy – a unique statistical educational portal – was presented. It aims to bring statistics closer to the general public in a different and more popular way.

The website of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics is accessed by between 2 000 and 3 000 visitors on weekdays and by about 850 on weekends.

In 2020, the CBS took over the implementation of field price recording in the City of Zagreb from the administrative body of the City of Zagreb in charge of official statistics.