

2017 PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CODE OF PRACTICE IN CROATIA

Status as off 31 December 2017

GOVERNANCE

1. The responsible Croatian authorities should promote legislative amendments laying down clear provisions for the appointment and dismissal of the Director General of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics in line with the European statistics Code of Practice. (European statistics Code of Practice, indicator 1.8.)

Improvement action 1. Submitting the proposal of changes to the national legal framework regarding the appointment of the Director General of the CBS

Status: The work has been delayed

Explanation:

In 2015 CBS launched a government legal procedure on adoption of a new Act on Official Statistics, aiming at achieving compliance with the Regulation (EC) No 223/2009. The procedure was stopped at the end of 2015 by earlier than expected parliamentary elections.

In early April 2016 CBS launched again a government legal procedure on adoption of a new Act on Official Statistics, following the constitution of a new government. Unfortunately, this procedure was once more stopped by earlier than expected parliamentary elections.

In November 2016 CBS launched once more a repeated government legal procedure on adoption of a new Act on Official Statistics, following the constitution of a new government.

Currently, this procedure still continues due to prolonged consultations, and is expected to be finalised in June 2018.

2. The responsible Croatian authorities should amend the Official Statistics Act to ensure that the Statistics Council adequately represents the voice of the users of official statistics. (European statistics Code of Practice, indicator 11.1 and Coordination)

Improvement action 2. Submitting the proposal for introduction of changes to the Official Statistics Act regarding the composition of the Statistical Council to the authorities

CBS will submit the proposal for introduction of changes to the OSA regarding the composition of the Statistical Council to the authorities. Subsequently, a new Statistics Council will be appointed, according to the changes introduced into the OSA.

Status: The work has been delayed

Explanation:

In 2015 CBS launched a government legal procedure on adoption of a new Act on Official Statistics, aiming at achieving compliance with the Regulation (EC) No 223/2009. The procedure was stopped at the end of 2015 by earlier than expected parliamentary elections.

In early April 2016 CBS launched again a government legal procedure on adoption of a new Act on Official Statistics, following the constitution of a new government. Unfortunately, this procedure was once more stopped by earlier than expected parliamentary elections.

In November 2016 CBS launched once more a repeated government legal procedure on adoption of a new Act on Official Statistics, following the constitution of a new government.

Currently, this procedure still continues due to prolonged consultations, and is expected to be finalised in June 2018.

3. The Croatian Bureau of Statistics should provide visibility for the activities of the Statistics Council by publishing Council minutes, opinions and other relevant documentation on its website. (European statistics Code of Practice, Principle 11 and Coordination.)

Improvement action 3. Improving the visibility of the Statistics Council

CBS will publish the Statistics Council minutes, opinions and other relevant documentation on its website.

Status: The work has been completed

Explanation:

All related documentation is available on the web site: http://www.dzs.hr/Hrv/important/StatistickiSavjetRH/StatistickiSavjetRH.htm as of Q4 2015

COORDINATION

4. The responsible Croatian authorities should amend the Official Statistics Act to establish a committee of producers of official statistics. (Coordination.)

Improvement action 4. Proposing the Establishment of the Committee of Official Statistics

CBS will submit the proposal for introduction of changes to the OSA addressing a number of issues requiring improvements within the legal framework for the official statistics, including the issue of establishment of the Producers Committee, aiming at improving coordination, enhancing compliance with the Code of Practice, and providing a stronger identity and greater visibility for the Croatian Statistical System.

Subsequently, a new Committee of Official Statistics will be appointed, according to the new OSA.

Status: The work has been delayed

Explanation:

In 2015 CBS launched a government legal procedure on adoption of a new Act on Official Statistics, aiming at achieving compliance with the Regulation (EC) No 223/2009. The procedure was stopped at the end of 2015 by earlier than expected parliamentary elections.

In early April 2016 CBS launched again a government legal procedure on adoption of a new Act on Official Statistics, following the constitution of a new government. Unfortunately, this procedure was once more stopped by earlier than expected parliamentary elections.

In November 2016 CBS launched once more a repeated government legal procedure on adoption of a new Act on Official Statistics, following the constitution of a new government.

Currently, this procedure still continues due to prolonged consultations, and is expected to be finalised in June 2018.

5. The Croatian Bureau of Statistics should provide national guidelines, in line with European standards, for the development, production and dissemination of official statistics, and should set up a system for monitoring compliance with these guidelines. (Coordination.)

Improvement action 5.1 Development and publishing of national guidelines

Following the establishment of the Committee of Official Statistics, work on national guidelines will be set as one of its priorities. National guidelines will provide standards and guidance to all producers of official statistics on quality and methodology reporting. Guidelines will include treatment of errors, handling of revisions, rules for setting up release calendars and dissemination and will be published on CBS website. The Committee will also be entrusted to assess compliance with these guidelines and monitor their compliance with the CoP.

Status: The work has been delayed

Explanation:

In 2015 CBS launched a government legal procedure on adoption of a new Act on Official Statistics, aiming at achieving compliance with the Regulation (EC) No 223/2009. The procedure was stopped at the end of 2015 by earlier than expected parliamentary elections.

In early April 2016 CBS launched again a government legal procedure on adoption of a new Act on Official Statistics, following the constitution of a new government. Unfortunately, this procedure was once more stopped by earlier than expected parliamentary elections.

In November 2016 CBS launched once more a repeated government legal procedure on adoption of a new Act on Official Statistics, following the constitution of a new government.

Currently, this procedure still continues due to prolonged consultations, and is expected to be finalised in June 2018.

Improvement action 5. 2 Setting up a system for monitoring compliance with national guidelines

CBS will set up a system for monitoring compliance with national guidelines

Status: The work has been delayed

Explanation:

Implementation of this improvement action requires previous implementation of the Improvement measure 5.1, which is delayed.

RESOURCES

6. The responsible Croatian authorities should ensure that the Croatian Bureau of Statistics has sufficient human resources, in terms of level and skills, to meet its obligations in the production of European statistics. (European statistics Code of Practice, indicators 3.1 and 7.5.)

Improvement action 6. Providing information about human resources in CBS to the relevant authorities

CBS will present the status of available human resources to responsible Croatian authorities, comparing them to increasing volume of tasks and mandatory results expected in official statistics, with the emphasis on EU statistics, i.e. on requirements set by the "acquis communautaire" in statistics. CBS will also develop a substitution plan for a number of key positions which may become vacated due to retirement. Further, CBS will continue to report its human and financial resource situation in the Annual Implementation Report.

Status: The work has been completed

Explanation:

In mid-March 2016 CBS submitted the information on human resources in CBS to the Government, following the constitution of a new government. Since 2016, Annual Implementation Report contains information about human and resource situation.

7. In order to increase the expertise required for producing quality statistics, the Croatian Bureau of Statistics should develop and implement a human resources policy covering continuous training for its staff. (European statistics Code of Practice, indicator 7.6.)

Improvement action 7.1 Development of a training programme

Founded on a strategic framework for the development of the human resources management system, CBS will develop a continuous training programme, aimed at increasing knowledge and skills both in specialist statistical domains, and in horizontal statistical areas and IT. Such a programme will be designed in such a way that it may be supplemented by ESTP and other training possibilities offered within ESS. The objective is to ensure basic general and specialist training level for new or rotating staff, and advanced training level for more experienced.

This development is highly correlated to the overall increase in human and financial resources, which depends on Croatian authorities, and it will be done stepwise.

First step will be a development of a training programme concept, structure, organisation and estimating required costs.

Status: The work has been completed

Explanation:

Final proposal for a Catalogue of internal training topics related to the necessary knowledge and skills needed to conduct statistical production at CBS concerning new staff and staff with more experience in statistical domains has been prepared and discussed by the end of December 2016, and adopted by the end of January 2017. The process of selection of trainers and other organizational and technical preconditions for the successful implementation of internal training was completed by the end of 2017.

Improvement action 7.2 Implementing pilot training programme

Next step will be implementing of a pilot training programme and obtaining funding for continuous training.

Status: The work has been delayed

Explanation:

The work on setting up sustainable organisation of internal training, dependent on the public administration setup, selection of trainers with sufficient experience in educational activities, took longer than expected. Starting the pilot training programme activities is expected in March 2018, and last for six months.

Improvement action 7.3 Implementing continuous training programme

Subsequent step will be implementing of a regular training programme.

Status: The work has been delayed

Explanation:

Following the six months duration of the pilot training programme, it is expected that the continuous training programme commences in October 2018.

8. The Croatian Bureau of Statistics should develop a mid-term plan for the replacement of the system of branch and regional offices, for example by a system of home-based interviewers or teleworkers. (European statistics Code of Practice, indicators 3.1, 10.2 and 10.4.)

Improvement action 8. Development of a mid-term plan for reorganisation of the Regional Offices

CBS will develop a plan for reorganisation of its regional and branch offices. Current idea is to gradually reduce the number of branch offices in order to accommodate needs of planned CAPI and CATI interviewing. CBS plans to set up a permanent network of interviewers and keep its major regional offices, with revised functions.

Mid-term plan will be developed by the end of 2016 at the latest, to be fully implemented subsequently starting in 2017. Full implementation is related to changes in the Croatian public administration system. CBS does not possess instruments for ensuring necessary conditions for full implementation of the mid-term plan.

Status: Partially implemeted

Explanation:

CBS is gradually reducing the number of branch offices in order to accommodate for needs of CAPI and CATI interviewing mainly introduced in the year 2016. Simultaneously, CBS is engaged in discussions with Ministry of Public Administration on the status of CBS interviewers, which may precondition future reorganisation of CBS regional offices, and the corresponding network of interviewers.

CBS prepared a revised Ordinance on the internal organisation, which is still negotiated with the Ministry of Public Administration, which includes a final reduction of branch offices to minimum possible, while still maintaining the required level of interviewer network's efficiency.

9. The Croatian Bureau of Statistics should introduce a system of procedures and tools to allow the estimation of costs of statistical products and processes. (European statistics Code of Practice, indicator 10.1.)

Improvement action 9.1 Adjusting the existing time-recording system to GSBPM

CBS will adjust the existing time-recording system for EU funded projects to statistical business processes, based on GSBPM, and develop a cost-accounting model.

Status: The work has been delayed

Explanation:

Preparations for extending the existing time-recording system for EU funded projects to statistical business processes, based on GSBPM, have been carried out. Business processes have been mapped, public procurement documentation has been prepared, as it was foreseen to outsource the corresponding IT solution, due to lack of CBS IT resources.

Delay occurred due to limited budgetary funding. It is expected to continue these activities in 2018.

Improvement action 9.2 Trial implementation of cost-accounting system

CBS will implement the cost-accounting model and run a trial implementation, with the emphasis on the allocation of costs per statistical survey and overhead costs,

Status: The work has been delayed

Explanation:

Trial implementation of cost-accounting system is due after adjusting the time-recording system for all statistical business processes. In the meantime, preparations for adjusting the existing accounting system for cost-accounting system requirements are in progress.

Improvement action 9.3 Introduction of cost-accounting system

CBS will introduce the cost-accounting model on a regular basis.

Status: The work has been delayed

Explanation:

Introduction of cost-accounting system is due after implementing the Improvement measure 9.2.

10. The responsible Croatian authorities should take steps to allow the Croatian Bureau of Statistics to retain earned income. (European statistics Code of Practice, indicator 3.1.)

Improvement action 10. Submitting the proposal for introduction of changes to the Official Statistics Act regarding retention of earned income by the CBS to the authorities

CBS will submit the proposal for introduction of changes to the OSA addressing a number of issues requiring improvements within the legal framework for the official statistics, including the issue of retaining earned income, aiming at using these financial resources as incentives for CBS staff, development activities for a range of additional services to the public, and for improving data dissemination and overall visibility of official statistics.

Subsequently, earned income may be retained and used by CBS directly, according to the new OSA.

Status: The work has been delayed

Explanation:

In 2015 CBS launched a government legal procedure on adoption of a new Act on Official Statistics, aiming at achieving compliance with the Regulation (EC) No 223/2009. The procedure was stopped at the end of 2015 by earlier than expected parliamentary elections.

In early April 2016 CBS launched again a government legal procedure on adoption of a new Act on Official Statistics, following the constitution of a new government. Unfortunately, this procedure was once more stopped by earlier than expected parliamentary elections.

In November 2016 CBS launched once more a repeated government legal procedure on adoption of a new Act on Official Statistics, following the constitution of a new government.

Currently, this procedure still continues due to prolonged consultations, and is expected to be finalised in June 2018.

QUALITY

11. The Croatian Bureau of Statistics should establish a unit to support quality management within the organisation and to reinforce coordination within the national statistical system on quality issues. (European statistics Code of Practice, Principle 4.)

Improvement action 11. Submitting the proposal for changing the organisational structure regarding establishment of the quality management unit to the authorities

Upon acceptance of the proposal for changing the organisational structure, CBS will establish a specific unit, whose task will be supporting quality management within CBS and participating in coordination activities within the national statistical system on quality issues.

Status: The work has been completed

Explanation:

Proposal for changing the organisational structure of the CBS has been submitted to the Ministry of Administration in November 2017.

12. The Croatian Bureau of Statistics should make arrangements for the participation of external experts, where appropriate, when key statistics are being audited. (European statistics Code of Practice, indicator 4.4.)

Improvement action 12.1 Development of a plan of internal audits which may require inclusion of external experts

In the last quarter of 2015, based on a risk assessment, CBS/internal audit department will prepare a Strategic Plan for 2016-2018 and Annual plan for 2016. Based on the existing time, finances and human resources, it is estimated that five internal audits may be carried out per year. According to ranking of statistical processes in relation to their risk level CBS may include external experts for key statistical processes. It is estimated that engagement of one external expert per year is feasible. Internal audits will include external experts provided that they available, funding ensured, and need for their engagement justified in relation to the existing CBS knowledge and skills.

CBS/internal audit department will develop a plan of internal audits which may require inclusion of external experts, alongside with ensuring needed funding for this purpose, by the end of 2016.

Status: The work has been completed

Explanation:

Internal Audit Strategic Plan for 2017 – 2019 has been adopted. It was planned for 2017 to include external experts in revision of the Statistical survey on Research and Development.

Improvement action 12.2 Inclusion of external experts to internal audits, where appropriate

It is expected that the first audits including external experts will take place by the end of 2017 at the latest.

Status: The work has been completed

Explanation:

In 2017 external experts were included in for Revision of the Statistical survey on Research and Development.

13. The Croatian Bureau of Statistics should commission a comprehensive security audit of its information technology infrastructure taking international standards into account. (European statistics Code of Practice, indicator 5.5.)

Improvement action 13. Involvement of external IT Security Audit

CBS plans, in cooperation with Croatian Information Systems Security Bureau, to perform an external IT security audit, based on international standards. Audit is planned before 2021 Census of population.

CBS will develop a plan for involvement of external IT Security Audit, alongside with ensuring needed funding for this purpose, by the end of 2016. It is expected that involvement of external IT Security Audit will take place by mid-2018 at the latest.

Status: The work has been completed

Explanation:

CBS has already conducted the first step in October 2015. The first audit was conducted by Microsoft Digital Crime Unit positioned in Finland, and has covered malware hits that can be identified through Microsoft's malware data and publicly available information. Results of that audit were presented in November 2015. In September 2016 an audit was carried out involving an expert from Microsoft Hungary: Offline Assessment for Windows Server Security.

CBS continued with additional audits focused on different aspects of IT security in 2017 and intends to do the same in 2018.

USER SERVICES

14. The Croatian Bureau of Statistics should redesign its website to improve layout, navigation and usability. (European statistics Code of Practice, indicator 15.2.)

Improvement action 14. CBS website Redesign

CBS will redesign its website, with the objective of improving layout, navigation and usability.

Status: The work has been delayed

Explanation:

The work on redesigning the CBS website started in 2016. The graphical layout prototype has been developed. Contents revision has been successfully carried out. Due to turnover of key IT personnel and a complexity of the work involved, the work was delayed, but continues and it is expected that a completely new website will be functional in 2018.

15. The Croatian Bureau of Statistics should extend the coverage of its web databases so that they contain, at least, all of the data in its statistical releases; the data should be available as soon as possible after the release is published, and ideally at the same time. (European statistics Code of Practice, indicator 15.2.)

Improvement action 15.1 Development of a plan for extending web database coverage, and ensuring funding

CBS will continuously extend the coverage of its web databases, with the aim of providing to users all data in statistical releases, and as far as practicable in other statistical publications, in web database form. Whenever applicable, material in the releases and databases will be released simultaneously so that users could use the data from either source at the time of publication, according to their needs.

CBS will develop a plan for extending the web database coverage, alongside with ensuring needed funding for this purpose, by the end of 2016.

Status: The work has been completed

Explanation:

Based on previously carried out internal training, statisticians are now increasingly able to produce PC-Axis datasets. Number of published datasets exceeds 400.

Improvement action 15.2 Extending the web database coverage

It is expected that databases intended for web inclusion will be developed by mid-2017, published by the end of 2017 and filled with data before the end of 2018.

Status: The work has been completed

Explanation:

Based on the results of the activities carried out within the Improvement action 15.1, the work on extending the web database coverage has been carried out, with the objective to be continued with each newly developed database.

16. The Croatian Bureau of Statistics should provide improved commentary in its statistical releases, and should ensure that all releases have a well-chosen headline. (European statistics Code of Practice, indicator 15.1.)

Improvement action 16. Modernisation of statistical releases

CBS will work on improving its statistical releases in order to make them more informative. CBS plans to include more extensive commentaries in its most important releases, thus making them more understandable to general public. Commentaries will include careful examination of presented data and contain interesting facts about growth contributions, structure and relations to past periods. CBS will also introduce a practice of putting understandable headlines to statistical releases, with the aim of capturing attention, encourage users to continue reading and make it more likely that a release to get media attention. As a precondition, CBS will introduce training to staff involved in writing releases.

Status: The work has been completed

Explanation:

CBS engaged an external expert which assisted in work on development of improvements in statistical releases. Examples are available at: http://www.dzs.hr/Hrv_Eng/publication/2016/01-02-01_01_2016.htm

http://www.dzs.hr/Hrv_Eng/publication/2016/01-01-13_01_2016.htm

http://www.dzs.hr/Hrv_Eng/publication/2016/05-01-07_03_2016.htm

17. The Croatian Bureau of Statistics should extend the release calendar to cover the publication of data in its web databases. In cases where there is a delay, an explanation should be provided. (European statistics Code of Practice, indicators 6.5 and 13.4.)

Improvement action 17.1 Development of a plan for extending the web database coverage, and ensuring needed funding

CBS will publish the data in statistical releases and web databases simultaneously, and when that is not the case will extend the release calendar to cover the publication of data in web databases.

CBS will develop a plan for extending the web database coverage, alongside with ensuring needed funding for this purpose.

Status: The work has been completed

Explanation:

Release Calendar for 2017 already included exact dates for release of data on databases, as available on the following link: http://www.dzs.hr/Hrv_Eng/kalendar/2017/Kalendar2017.pdf

Improvement action 17.2 Extending Release Calendar to Databases

Relying on the CBS Revision policy, and criteria defined there, CBS will provide an explanation in case of a delay.

Following the Improvement action 17.1, it is expected that the Release Calendar will be extended to databases.

Status: The work has been completed

Explanation:

The improvement action was completed ahead of the deadline, as available on the following link: http://www.dzs.hr/Hrv/publication/calendar_changes.asp?pYear=2016

Improvement action 17.3 Provision of explanation in case of a delay

In parallel with the Improvement action 17.2, CBS will provide explanations in case of delays.

Status: The work has been completed

Explanation:

Functionality regarding providing explanations in case of a delay is already implemented in the Release Calendar and available on CBS web site (updates overview with explanation available on: http://www.dzs.hr/Eng/Publication/calendar_changes.asp?pYear=2016)

18. The Croatian Bureau of Statistics should publish its policy documents (dissemination policy, confidentiality policy, revisions policy) on its website. (European statistics Code of Practice, indicators 5.4, 8.6 and 15.1.)

Improvement action 18. Publication of major policy documents

Upon completion, CBS will publish its policy documents on dissemination policy, confidentiality policy and revisions policy, on its website.

CBS will publish each document separately, as finalized. Specific deadlines will meet by the end of 2016 at the latest. All documents are currently available in drafts. As they are closely related and connected, they need to be published in the same time.

Status: The work has been completed

Explanation:

Dissemination, revision and confidentiality policies are completed and available on CBS website: http://www.dzs.hr/Hrv/about_us/about_us.htm#

19. The Croatian Bureau of Statistics should provide quality reports on its website for all of its statistical products; these reports should conform to international standards, and links to the reports should be provided on the relevant statistic pages. (European statistics Code of Practice, indicators 4.3, 15.6 and 15.7.)

Improvement action 19. Quality Reports on CBS Website

CBS will provide quality reports on its website for all of its statistical products, and these reports will conform to international standards, and links to the reports will be provided on the relevant statistic pages.

CBS will finalize the existing draft plan for providing quality reports to general public on CBS website, by the end of 2015. Realization of this plan will be done stepwise, as quality reports will be prepared, checked and verified, cumulatively as follows: 20% by the end of 2016, 45% by the end of 2018, and 100% by the end of 2019.

Status: The work has been completed

Explanation:

Quality reports are being prepared successively as planned and made available on CBS website.

Work is continuing with each new quality report, when available.

20. The Croatian Bureau of Statistics should improve the service for authorised researchers by providing a remote access facility to microdata, and by supplying appropriate standardised documentation on the datasets and variables. (European statistics Code of Practice, indicators 15.4 and 15.5.)

Improvement action 20. Improved Services to Authorized Researchers

CBS will continuously work on improving metadata on the datasets at researcher disposal, thus providing them with appropriate standardised documentation on the datasets and variables. CBS will put a required security infrastructure in place. Thus CBS will be in a position to enable remote access to microdata for researchers in a secure way.

Status: The work has been completed

Explanation:

CBS has put a required security infrastructure in place. Remote access to microdata for researchers is organised in a secure way.

21. The Croatian Bureau of Statistics should establish standing user groups for key statistical areas. (European statistics Code of Practice, indicator 11.1.)

Improvement action 21.1 Investigating possibilities for setting up standing user groups

CBS will set up standing user groups, which may meet once or twice a year, for key statistical areas.

CBS will investigate possibilities for setting up a realistic number of standing user groups, according to specific statistical areas, by the end of 2015.

Status: The work has been completed

Explanation:

CBS investigated possibilities for setting up standing user groups, and concluded that general user groups, and specialised user groups should be established. General user groups are as follows: Researchers and scientists, Media, Public administration institutions, Students, and Enterprises. Specialised user groups are as follows: Population statistics users, Foreign trade in goods statistics users, National Accounts users, Tourism statistics users, Administrative Business Register Users, Agricultural statistics users, and Employment, salaries and wages statistics users.

Improvement action 21.2 Setting up standing user groups

Consultations with users and setting up of standing user groups are expected to be finalized by the end of 2016, at the latest.

Status: The work has been completed

Explanation:

Standing user groups are meeting regularly or according to any open issue. All related documentation is kept internally due to confidentiality reasons.

Improvement action 21.3 User Consultation made functional

Standing user groups are made functional and user consultations are expected to be carried out regularly by the end of 2017, at the latest.

Status: The work has been completed

Explanation:

Standing user groups are meeting regularly or according to any open issue. All related documentation is kept internally due to confidentiality reasons.

RESPONSE BURDEN

22. The Croatian Bureau of Statistics should extend web-based data collection to all business surveys, where appropriate. (European statistics Code of Practice, Principles 9 and 10.)

Improvement action 22. Web-based Data Collection

CBS will extend web-based data collection to all business surveys, where appropriate.

Status: The work is ongoing

Explanation:

The response burden already has been significantly reduced by using Poisson and Bernoulli sampling method. Beside that CBS has started to use new administrative sources like JOPPD (unique form of tax, surtax and contributions), VAT and other administrative sources, and finally many surveys are now organised on web. Filling out questionnaires on web is very well accepted by respondents.

Currently, work on business surveys is completed, while work on surveys in social statistical area is ongoing.

23. The Croatian Bureau of Statistics should systematically measure the response burden for all surveys and report annually on the trend. (European statistics Code of Practice, Principle 9.)

Improvement action 23. Response Burden Measuring

CBS will extend the scope of surveys in which there is measured the response burden to all statistical surveys, where applicable. Information on response burden will be made available on CBS website.

Status: The work is ongoing

Explanation:

The response burden already has been significantly reduced by using Poisson and Bernoulli sampling method. Beside that CBS has started to use new administrative sources like JOPPD (unique form of tax, surtax and contributions), VAT and other administrative sources, and finally many surveys are now organised on web. Filling out questionnaires on web is very well accepted by respondents.

Currently, work on business surveys is completed, while work on surveys in social statistical area is ongoing.