



## Criteria for defining

### OFFICIAL STATISTICS AND OTHER OFFICIAL STATISTICS PRODUCERS

This act establishes definition and criteria of **official statistics**, as well as criteria for definition of **official statistics producer**, with the aim to determine which competent body produces 'official statistics' and fulfils the conditions to be defined as **other official statistics producer**.

#### Definition of 'official statistics'

**Official statistics** represent numerical and representative data and information on economic, demographic, and social phenomena as well as phenomena in domain of agriculture, labour, and environment, in line with regulations governing organization and affairs of official statistical system, as well as international statistical standards.

#### Legal framework of European statistics for defining criteria:

- Article 338, the Treaty on the functioning of the European Union;
- Article 17 of the Regulation (EU) 2015/759 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2015 amending Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 on European statistics;
- The European Statistics Code of Practice;
- Guidance note concerning Other National Authorities (ONAs) for identification criteria and monitoring their compliance with CoP/UN FPOS.

#### Legal framework of Montenegro official statistics for defining criteria:

- The Law on Official Statistics and Official Statistical System;
- Official statistics principles;
- Programme of Official Statistics;
- Official Statistics Plan;
- Commitment of Confidence;
- Quality Declaration of Montenegro Statistical System;
- Quality Policy of Montenegro Statistical System;
- Dissemination Policy.

#### Criteria for defining 'official statistics'

- (i) Activities of official statistics are governed by the Law on Official Statistics and Official Statistical System, Programme, and Plan of Official Statistics;
- (ii) Official statistics principles defined by the Law on Official Statistics and Official Statistical System are respected and used in the production of official statistics.

#### Criteria for defining 'other official statistics producers'

- (i) Institution performs **public authorities** pursuant to the Law on State Administration and Decree on Organization and Manner of Work of State Administration, together with respecting criteria of official statistics.
- (ii) Activities on the production of official statistical data are governed by an appropriate main act (e.g. **legislative act or secondary legislation**, constitutive legal act, statute, statement, etc.) aimed at defining **responsibility and competence** for the production of specific or recognizable part of official statistics;
- (iii) **Organizational unit**, with staff member(s), is clearly defined for the production of official statistical data.

Official statistics producers are responsible for development, production, and dissemination of official statistics.



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**Criteria for defining  
'OFFICIAL STATISTICS' and  
'OTHER OFFICIAL STATISTICS PRODUCERS OF MONTENEGRO'  
(Explanation)**

Podgorica, March 2023



Referring to application of Article 8 and Article 9 paragraph 1 items 2, 3, and 4 of the Law on Official Statistics and Official Statistical System (Official Gazette of Montenegro No 18/12 and 47/19), and in line with the Eurostat's recommendations defined in the report on compliance with the European Statistics Code of Practice and role of national statistical institute, Statistical Office adopts the criteria for defining *official statistics* and *other official statistics' producers*.

### EXPLANATION

Normative framework for adopting the *Criteria for Defining 'official statistics' and 'other official statistics producers'* is:

#### National:

- The Law on Official Statistics and Official Statistical System (Official Gazette of Montenegro No 18/12 and 47/19) applying:
  - *Official statistical principles (Article 6);*
  - *Organization of official statistics system (Chapter III);*
  - *Programme of Official Statistics (Article 21 and 22);*
  - *Statistical quality (Article 38).*
- Commitment of Confidence;
- Quality Declaration of Montenegro Statistical System;
- Quality Policy of Montenegro Statistical System;
- Dissemination Policy;
- Peer Review Report on compliance with the Code of Practice and the Coordination Role of National Statistical Institute (Eurostat's recommendations), as it follows:
  - Recommendation 3.2.1 - Strengthen coordination within the national statistical system;
    - Recommendation 3.2.1.1 - Elaborate a clear definition of "official statistics" and criteria to qualify as 'other official statistics producer';
    - Recommendation 3.2.1.2 – Reinforce quality management of other official statistics producers;
    - Recommendation 3.2.1.3 – Improve visibility of other official statistics producers.

#### International:

- The Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, Article 338;
- Law on European Statistics Regulation No 223/2009;



- Article 17 of Regulation 2015/759 of the European Parliament and Council of 29 April 2015 on amending Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 on the European Statistics;
- The European Statistics Code of Practice;
- Definition of official statistics – criteria to define official statistics, to identify producers of official statistics and to monitor their compliance with the CoP/UN FPOS, EC-EUROSTAT, Directorate A: Cooperation in the European Statistical System; International cooperation; Resources Unit A-3: Statistical cooperation;
- Guidance note concerning Other National Authorities - ONAs (Ref. Ares(2016)6448806 - 16/11/2016);
- List of National statistical institutes (NSI) and other national authorities), Eurostat;
- Procedure to update the list of Other National Authorities, Eurostat;
- Other national authorities – practical considerations) p. 3.

*The Law on Official Statistics and Official Statistical System* stipulates the legal framework for production and dissemination of official statistics, as well as the framework for organization of official statistics of Montenegro. The European Statistics Code of Practice has been implemented in Article 6 of this Law in which the principles related to the production of official statistics are defined.

Eurostat regularly assesses the alignment of official statistics producers with the official statistics principles (Peer Review). The assessment is based on the procedures of the European Statistical System and is intended for all EU member countries, as well as candidate countries and potential candidates.

One of the recommendations in the *Peer Review Report on Compliance with the Code of Practice and the Coordination Role of National Statistical Institute* is that Statistical Office to elaborate a clear definition of ‘official statistics’ aimed at the alignment with the European definition of official statistics.

The adoption of criteria for defining ‘official statistics’ implements the Eurostat’s recommendations by which the alignment with the European Statistics Code of Practice is confirmed.

With the fulfilment of criteria for defining other official statistics producers, It enables interested institutions to be official statistics producers.

**DIRECTOR**

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