STATISTICAL OFFICE

Report on Implementation of the 2019-2023 Programme of Official Statistics

Podgorica, March 2024

Overview of implemented statistical surveys pursuant to the Programme of Official Statistics 2019 - 2023

I INTRODUCTION

Provisions of the [Law on Official Statistics and Official Statistical System](#) (Official Gazette of Montenegro No 18/12 and 47/19) envisage that the official statistics activities are based on the five-year official statistics programme and official statistics annual plans. Programme and plans are adopted by the Government of Montenegro, and released in the Official Gazette of Montenegro. The [2019 – 2023 Programme of Official Statistics](#) was published in the Official Gazette of Montenegro No 7/19, and available at the Statistical Office's official website (hereinafter referred to as the "Programme"). Pursuant to the Law on Official Statistics and Official Statistical System and the Programme, the official statistics annual plan is adopted for every calendar year separately. Statistical Office, as the coordinator of statistical system prepares the programme and the plan in cooperation with other official statistical producers, competent for certain statistical domains. Pursuant to the obligation referred to in Article 26 of the Law on Official Statistics and Official Statistical System, Statistical Office has prepared the *Report on Implementation of the 2019-2023 Programme of Official Statistics.*

Report on Implementation of the 2019-2023 Programme of Official Statistics has been prepared by the Statistical Office in cooperation with other official statistical producers: Ministry of Finance, Central Bank of Montenegro, Ministry of Science, Tax Administration, Customs Administration, Public Health Institute of Montenegro, Pension and Disability Insurance Fund, Health Insurance Fund, and Capital Market Authority.

Report on Implementation of the 2019-2023 Programme of Official Statistics provides information on:
  - ➢ Achieved development objectives of official statistics planned within the five-year period;
  - ➢ Implemented official statistical results by statistical domains;
  - ➢ Completed development activities which cannot be distributed by statistical domains;
  - ➢ List of official statistical producers, as well as overview of expected problems related to the implementation.

Pilot surveys implemented during the pilot period defined by the Programme are assigned with status "*not implemented"*, because the assessment of data source quality did not meet the statistical criteria for the production of official statistical data. Due to this reason, the data collected by these surveys cannot be used for the production of official statistics, pursuant to Article 33 of the Law on Official Statistics and Official Statistical System. For these surveys, the period of pilot statistical production continued and/or ended until the data source quality becomes improved.

The situation caused by the COVID - 19 pandemics created a significantly different environment for production and dissemination of official statistics, what impacted the implementation of statistical activities.

II PROGRAMME OF OFFICIAL STATISTICS 2019 - 2023

At the level of Montenegro statistical system, within the Programme, there are defined 234 statistical activities of different implementation periodicity, out of which 175 statistical activities (75%) are under competence of Statistical Office, while 59 (25%) are defined by other statistical producers, planned at the annual level and implemented through the annual plan of official statistics.

During the reporting period, out of the total number of defined statistical activities, 197 (84%) were implemented, and 37 statistical activities (16%) were not implemented. A detailed overview of statistical activities is presented in Table 1, on the level of Montenegro statistical system, planned statistical surveys pursuant to the 2019 – 2023 Programme of Official Statistics, and their implementation at the annual level pursuant to the annual plan of official statistics. The situation due to the COVID - 19 pandemics created significantly different environment for production and dissemination of official statistics, which impacted the implementation of statistical activities.

Table 1. Overview of total number of statistical activities defined by Programme and implemented at the annual level through the Annual Plan of Official Statistics[1]

No	Name of official statistical producer	Planned statistical activities by five-year Programme	Annual Plan of Official Statistics 2019	Annual Plan of Official Statistics 2020	Annual Plan of Official Statistics 2021	Annual Plan of Official Statistics 2022	Annual Plan of Official Statistics 2023
1.	Statistical Office	175	177	167	158	155	162
2.	Ministry of Finance	7	5	5	5	5	5
3.	Ministry of Science	2	2	1	0	0	0
4.	Central Bank of Montenegro	13	9	11	13	14	15
5.	Tax Administration of Montenegro	7	6	6	5	7	6
6.	Customs Administration	1	1	1	1	1	1

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[1] **Source:** Report on Implementation of Annual Plan of Official Statistics for 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022

No	Name of producer official statistics	Planned statistical activities by Five-year Programme	Annual Plan of Official Statistics 2019	Annual Plan of Official Statistics 2020	Annual Plan of Official Statistics 2021	Annual Plan of Official Statistics 2022	Annual Plan of Official Statistics 2023
7.	Pension and Disability Insurance Fund	2	2	2	2	2	2
8.	Health Insurance Fund	2	2	2	2	2	2
9.	Public Health Institute of Montenegro	14	12	10	11	10	12
10.	Public Health Institute of Montenegro, Medical Chamber of Montenegro	1					
11.	Public Health Institute of Montenegro, Health Insurance Fund, Ministry of Finance	1					
12.	Capital Market Authority	3	3	3	3	3	3
13.	Statistical Office in consortium with scientific and research community	1					
14.	Statistical Office in cooperation with scientific and research community	5					
TOTAL		**234**	**219**	**208**	**200**	**199**	**208**

Statistical activities defined by the 2019 - 2023 Programme of Official Statistics are classified in four statistical domains (234):

> ➤ Demographic and social statistics (77);
> ➤ Macroeconomic statistics (81);
> ➤ Business statistics (70), and
> ➤ Environment and multi-domain statistics (6).

More details on the implementation by statistical domains are given under Chapter IV – Overview of expected official statistical results.

Graph 1. Overview of statistical activities by statistical domains
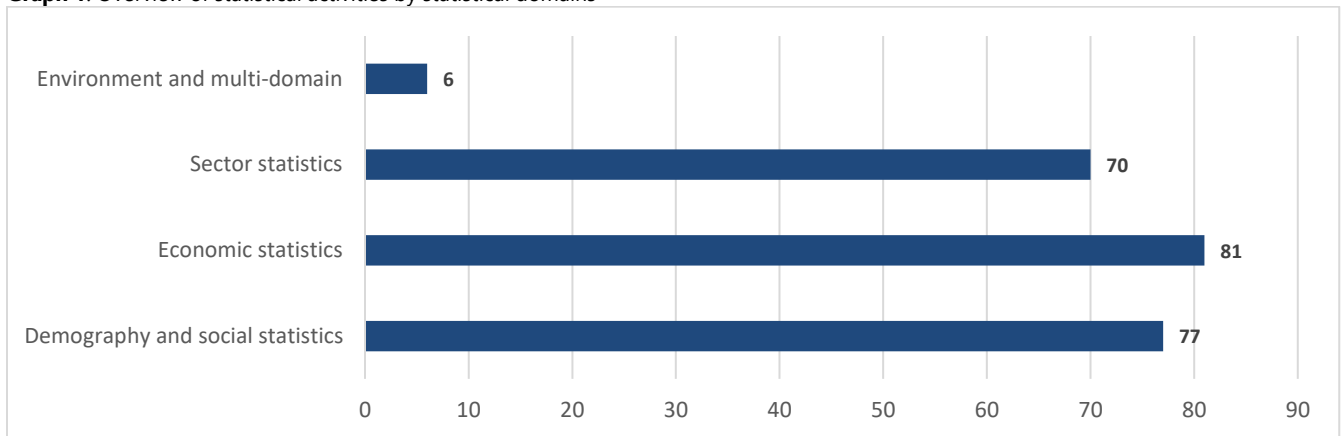
Graph 2. Overview of statistical activities by periodicity, defined by the Programme
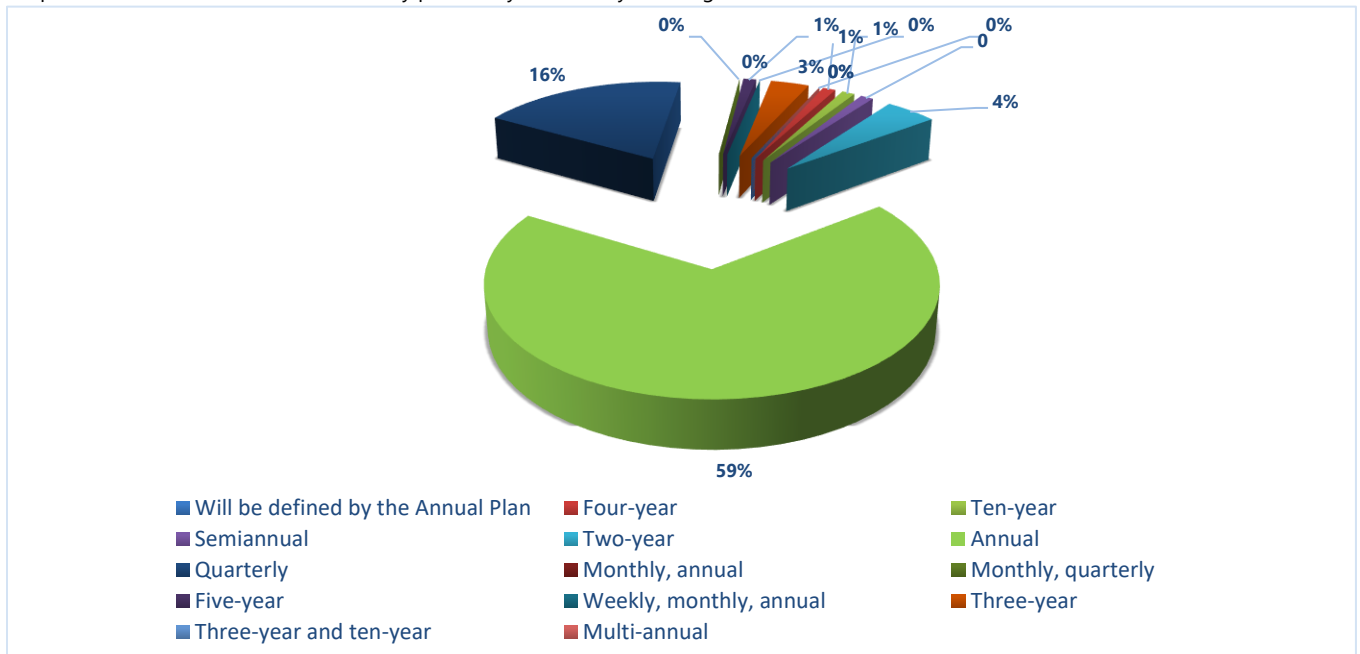
Official statistical activities are based on the 2019 – 2023 Programme of Official Statistics, which is, in line with the [Development Strategy of Official Statistics for 2019 – 2023 period with the Action Plan,](#) adopted for the period of five years.

The Programme is continuously implemented, through the implementation of annual plans of official statistics, prepared by the Statistical Office, in cooperation with the official statistical producers, and adopted by the Government of Montenegro.

Total number of statistical surveys from the annual plans of official statistics does not need to match with the number of surveys defined in the Programme for a specific year, due to the introduced possibly new and/or pilot surveys or removed surveys due to the lack of resources or inadequate data sources, and their implementation dynamics.

Pursuant to Article 50 of *the Law on Official Statistics and Official Statistical System*, Statistical Office once a year releases the [Statistical Release Calendar,](#) to inform the official statistical data users in a timely manner on data, type of survey, and release date.

All *statistical release calendars* were prepared in cooperation with other official statistical producers, and are available at the Statistical Office's official website.
Reporting on the implementation of secondary legislation on statistical system is defined by Article 26 of *[the Law on Official Statistics and Official Statistical System](#)*.

[Annual and final reports](#) are prepared after the end of deadline of secondary legislation adoption, and are directed to the activity results implemented in the reporting year. Reports are adopted by the Government of Montenegro, and are available at the Statistical Office's official website:

- Annual report on the implementation of the Programme of Official Statistics;
- Annual report on the implementation of Annual Plan of Official Statistics;
- Annual report on implementation of Action Plan of Official Statistics Development Strategy, and
- Final report on implementation of Official Statistics Development Strategy (after the end of implemented strategic document).

III OVERVIEW OF OFFICIAL STATISTICS DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVE – GENERAL OBJECTIVES

Under the mentioned five-year period, official statistics activities have been defined through the overview of official statistics development objectives which refer to:

1. Establishment of permanent dialogue with data users and development of partnership

Key achievements in the implementation of development objective 1. *Establishment of permanent dialogue with data users and development of partnership* are:

- Statistical Office signed **seven cooperation agreements** in period of 2019 -2023 with: Chamber of Commerce of Montenegro (2019); Turkish Embassy's office for trade affairs (2019); Ministry of Science of Montenegro (2019); Roma Council (2019); Ministry of Sport and Youth (2020); Institute for Social and Economic Analyses – ISEA (2021), and with the University of Montenegro - Faculty of Economy in Podgorica (2022);
- **Formal establishment with United Nations Development Programme - UNDP established**, through the implementation of the project BUR III - Montenegro second biannual update report, and with UNICEF, through the implementation of project MICS - Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys. [Report on MICS survey 2018 Report.](#) Released in December 2019, and available at the Statistical Office's official website. Aimed at the presenting the survey's results to general and professional public, there were organized a number of regional presentations/events in three municipalities: Berane, Tivat, and Danilovgrad;
- In December 2019, **there was organized a study visit EC-Eurostat for three media representatives.** The purpose of study visit is to promote the statistical literacy of media representatives in the Western Balkan countries;
- During 2019, **representatives of the Statistical Office presented the role of official statistics in six boards of Chamber of Commerce of Montenegro**, indicating the importance of business operators of Montenegro in the production of official statistical data;
- **Bilateral cooperation with the EU member countries** (Slovenia, Finland) **achieved** in the process of further harmonization of official statistics with the EU standards. Additionally, the cooperation with international institutions (UNECE, UNICEF) continued toward the modernization of statistical system, by ensuring modern IT technologies which will improve timeliness, availability, and quality of statistical data;
- UN Residential Coordinator Office (RCO), UNDP Montenegro, and UNICEF office in Montenegro **ensured the support to the Statistical Office in form of IT equipment**

donation (50 laptops), as a contribution to more efficient data collection for the Survey on Income and Living Condition (EU-SILC). The donor support significantly modernized statistical process, i.e. manner of data collection in surveys (CAPI method for data collection). This change in the way how the data are collected impacts the reduced time required for data entering and processing, and in the same time minimizing errors in filling of questionnaire due to logical controls the application contains;

Data entering by using paper questionnaires took at least three months, and by introducing CAPI method for data collection, time necessary for the production of official statistics is shortened, at least for the mentioned period of entering. By this activity, the data become available in shorter time period, and the harmonization with new EU standards is ensured in terms of meeting deadlines for data release;

- *User Satisfaction Survey* implemented with two-year dynamics, in 2020 and 2022, and providing data on use of different official statistics domains, produced by institutions of Montenegro statistical system, according to the criteria of quality defined by the principles of European Statistics Code of Practice. Reports on user satisfaction survey are available on the Statistical Office's website. More details in item 7 *Development of dissemination and communication of data in line with needs of digital society*;
- Statistical Office continuously worked on the strengthening of cooperation with scientific and research institutions. Hence, in previous five-year period, the Statistical Office signed 41 cooperation agreements with scientific and research institutions, with purpose of using individual data without identifiers, for scientific and research purposes[2] (in 2019 - 9 agreements; 2020 - 5 agreements; 2021 - 11 agreements; 2022 - 5 agreements); 2023 - 11 agreements).

2. Education of statisticians

Respecting the society's digitalization level, as well as "*data revolution*" which introduced new opportunities for the development of official statistics, one of key challenges for the official statistics remains further development of statisticians' knowledge and skills as expert and professional staff, and creation of a new generation of statisticians, from whom are expected to be familiar with new theories and methods for processing 'big data'. Aimed at educating the staff engaged in modernization and development of official statistics, the following is highlighted:

- Participation in international working groups about the modernization of statistical processes and development of official statistics;
- Education of staff for management of statistical processes, in line with the European Statistics Code of Practice and GSBPM;

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[2] Pursuant to Article 58 of the Law on Official Statistics and Official Statistical System

- Education of new generation of statisticians, pursuant to the European Master of Official Statistics - EMOS). During the reporting period, 26 EMOS students from Montenegro from the University Donja Gorica successfully completed the traineeship in the Statistical Office (1st generation - 7 students; 2nd generation - 3 students; 3rd generation - 4 students; 4th generation - 3 students; 5th generation - 3 students; 6th generation - 6 students); Additionally, as an example of good practice, we point out the implementation of traineeship of EU-EMOS students in 2022, in cooperation with Eurostat. Two students from the University Mendel from Brno, Czech Republic, European Master in Official Statistics – EMOS successfully completed the traineeship in the Statistical Office, on topics 'International statistical projects' and 'Sample';
- Continued implementation of the traineeship programme for staff members of the statistical system, in cooperation with Eurostat and national statistical institutes – NSIs of the EU. During the reporting period, 7 staff members completed the traineeship in Eurostat or NSIs of EU (2019 - 4 staff members; 2020 - 1 staff member; 2023 - 2 staff members). During 2021 and 2022, due to the pandemics of COVID-19, these activities were not implemented;
- Participation of 28 staff members in trainings for civil servants and state employees organized by Human Resource Authority (2019 - 7 staff members; 2020 - 13 staff members; 2021 – due to the pandemics of COVID-19 there was no training; 2022 - 2 staff members; 2023 - 6 staff members);
- Current *Rulebook on Internal Organization and Job Descriptions of the Statistical Office* envisages 169 civil servant and state employee's job positions. Staff turnover is noticed during the observed period, due to the retirement of staff or mutually agreed termination, thus at the end of 2023, the Statistical Office had in total 95 staff members.

Graph 2. Number of staff members in the Statistical Office (at the end of year)

Nmber of staff in the Statistical Office for the 2019 - 2023 period
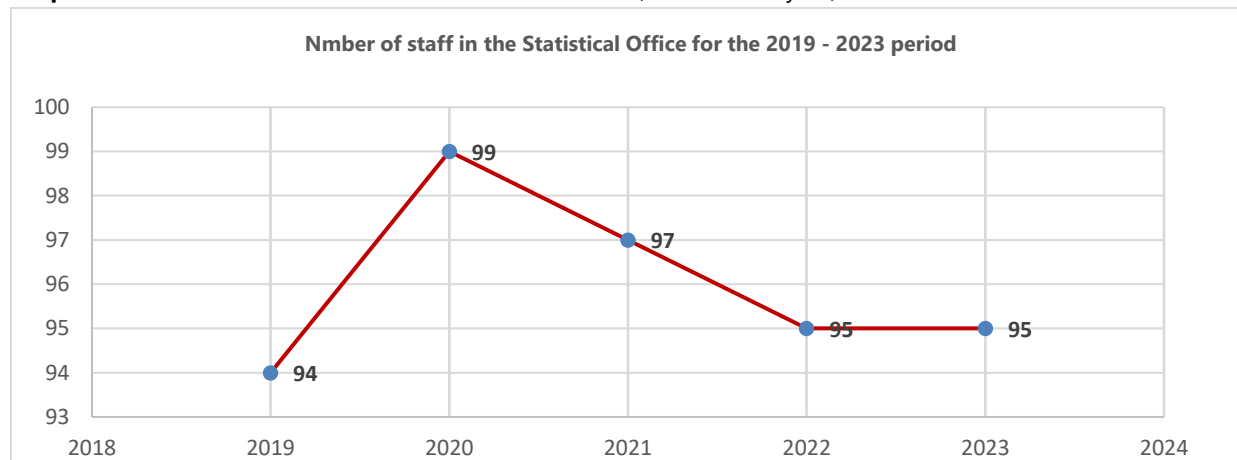
3. Further harmonization and innovation of official statistics with international standards/recommendations

Aimed at increasing the level of Montenegro's readiness for the EU membership in domain of statistics, the Statistical Office worked on the development of national accounts - NA statistics through the establishment of the system of regular production and transmission of table which are required by Eurostat as the first benchmark for closing the negotiating Chapter 18 - Statistics. During the reporting period, a higher level of methodological harmonization of all Montenegro statistical system surveys with EU *acquis* in official statistics, and which represents an input for the calculation of macroeconomic data in line with ESA methodology. Eurostat monitors the harmonization of statistical system in enlargement countries with the EU *acquis* in statistics. Monitoring the harmonization is done once a year, using Statistical Compendium and SMIS+ (statistical management information system), which represent two important documents used in the monitoring process of harmonization.

All available data were transmitted with the set deadlines, in line with the transmission programme and e-DAMIS portal for transmission of data to Eurostat. Bilateral cooperation continued with the member countries within the process of further harmonization of official statistics with the EU standards. Additionally, the cooperation continued with international institutions towards the modernization of statistical system which will improve timeliness, availability, and quality of statistical data.

Statistical Office, as the main coordinator of international statistical cooperation continuously implements activities of international cooperation and participates in European and international meetings with the aim of reaching the international comparability of official statistical data. Accordingly, in the reporting period, the Statistical Office's representatives participated in:

- 64th World Statistics Congress - WSC;
- 71st Conference of European Statisticians - CES;
- 54th session of the UN Statistical Commission in New York;
- Conference for modernization of official statistics;
- European Conference on Quality in Official Statistics ;
- International Association of Official Statistics - IAOS;
- Seminar 'Toward to Register-Based Census';
- Conference on occasion of representing the data of the Census of Population, Households, and Dwellings of the North Macedonia;
- Bilateral mission of Eurostat for the national accounts statistics.

Additionally, at the level of statistical system, during the reporting period, staff members participated in 965 trainings, seminars, courses and meetings (2019 – 243 trainings; 2020 - 166 trainings; 2021 - 251 trainings; 2022 - 184 trainings; 2023 - 121 trainings), noting that the meetings were online during the pandemics of COVID 19. Organizers of events were Eurostat, UNECE, Energy Community, FAO, etc.

4. Creation of new data sources for the production of official statistics

Statistical Office continuously works on exploring possibilities for using new data sources for statistical purposes, hence during 2022, there was implemented a pilot project through which there was tested a possibility to use data from the website. Using the method 'web scraping', by using the programme language Python, data were 'scraped' from the website on retail trade chain of technical products. Data from the website were exported in Excel form and used for further analyses. Unstructured data from the website were transformed to structured data, i.e. in form of tables.

During the reporting period, technical possibilities were explored with the aim to implement legislative provisions and use of new data sources for the production of official statistics. In this direction, the work was done regarding:

- Analysis of possibilities for using new administrative sources for the production of official statistical data;
- Using data from administrative source via the Government Service Bus (GSB);
- Modernization of data collection process;
- Modernization of the Statistical Office's information system in line with the development of modern information technologies;
- Development of data dissemination in line with the digital society's needs;
- Communication with users in line with their needs.

5. Further implementation of the European Statistics Code of Practice

In period 2019 – 2023, the recommendations of the Eurostat's Peer Review mission held in November 2018 were implemented. Mission report indicates that in Montenegro exists established and sound statistical system based on the principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice. Based on the report, there was defined the Action Plan for further development of Montenegro statistical system.

Activities implemented during the five-year period contributed to the strengthening of coordination at the level of Montenegro statistical system and the building of capacities and establishment of dialogue with data users. Results are visible through:

- Clearly defined Criteria for defining "official statistics" and "other official statistics producers", which serves as a visible label of quality;
- Support provided to other official statistical producers for the implementation of quality management model to improve the total quality of official statistics. Quality reports of other producers are available at the Statistical Office's official website;
- Reference meta data about statistical surveys of other producers and Statistical Office, available on the Statistical Office's official website;
- Quality Policy of Montenegro statistical system defined;
- Quality Declaration of Montenegro statistical system defined;
- Adoption of two quality management strategies (Quality Management Strategy for 2017 - 2020 Period and Quality Management Strategy 2020-2023);
- Guides for Implementation of Quality Management Strategy defined;
- Generic Statistical Business Process Model – GSBPM adopted, and *Instructions for Use of GSBPM in Statistical Office* (2021) prepared. During 2023, the application for the implementation of quality management model prepared and is in testing phase;
- Progress achieved in preparation of quality reports, when calculating quality indicators in line with the ESS Handbook for Quality and Metadata Reports. Additionally, new design and format of report were prepared. The contents of national reports on quality is in line with SIMS 2.0 structure and recommendations of the ESS Handbook for Quality and Metadata Reports.

Graph 3. Number of quality reports released on the Statistical Office's official website
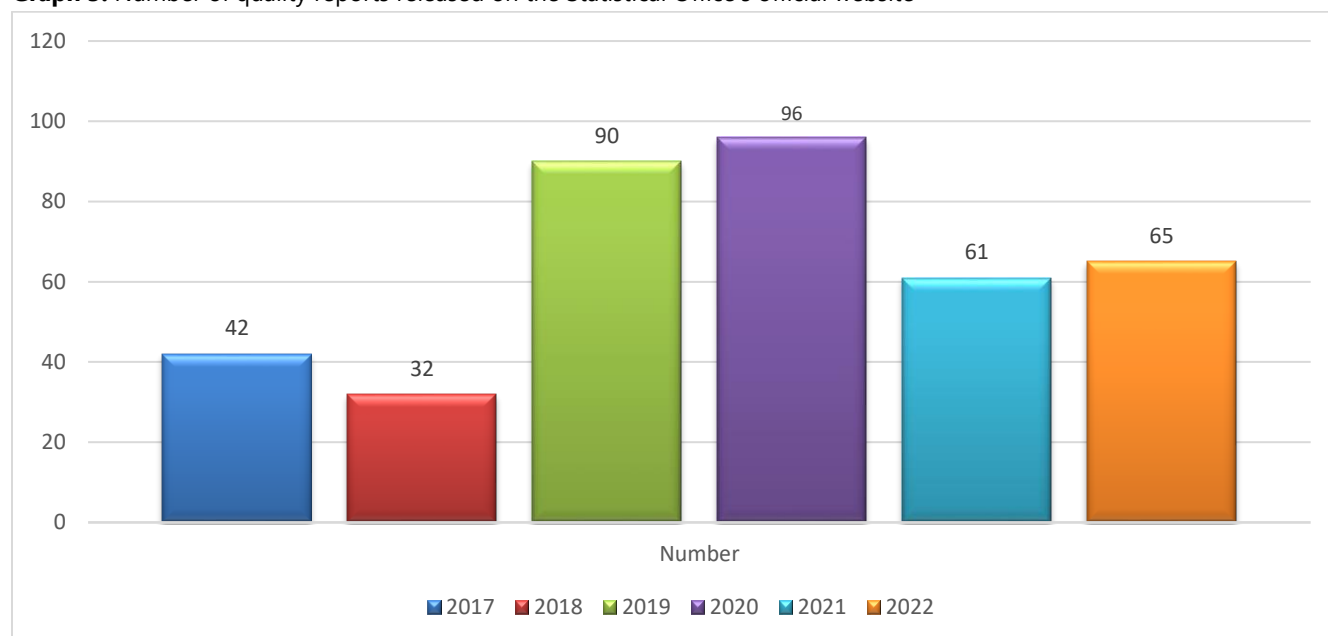
6. Development of IT integrated system for collection, processing, and documenting official statistical data

Development and improvement of the process for statistical surveys' data processing are done by the Statistical Office via the development of integrated system for data processing, in line with the Generic Statistical Business Process Model – GSBPM. The very development of IT integrated system is monitored through the integration of statistical data between domain statistics in the Statistical Office, administrative data sources, official statistical producers' data, as well as development of system for data and metadata transmission to Eurostat at the level of Montenegro statistical system.

Through developed and implemented *Integrated System for Data Processing,* the work with databases and applications is managed and monitored. There were applied the European standards for implementation of metadata and data exchange. The mentioned activities implied new design, translation of reference metadata from old system in new system, with the development of new system. During the development of integrated system for data processing, other official statistical producers were also included, a part of Montenegro statistical system.

Today, Statistical Office has a developed reference metadata database which in line with the international standards for metadata, describes and defines the contents of statistical data. The database of reference metadata was done in line with the EURO SDMX Metadata Structure (ESMS)

standard developed by Eurostat, for dealing metadata for needs of the European Statistical System.

Reference metadata database is available at the Statistical Office's official website with an overview of statistical surveys/list of official statistical producers grouped by statistical domains they belong to. Update of metadata is defined by an internal rule of the Statistical Office, i.e. *Instructions for Entering, Update, and Releasing Reference Metadata*. Modernization of data collection for statistical purposes during the reporting period comprises the standardization of activities through the use of new technologies and tools which make possible an efficient collection. For this purpose, the data collection system was improved by using the method CAPI (Computer - Assisted Personal Interviewing).

A progress was achieved through the IPA 2019 multi-beneficiary programme which refer to the improvement of components of metadata system in the official statistical system and its harmonization with the European Statistical System – ESS framework. CAWI (Computer Aided Web Interviewing) method for data collection was used for the update of database of official statistical producers' metadata.

During the reporting period, data sets transmitted to Eurostat in SDMX increased. In line with the Eurostat's recommendations, when creating SDMX files there was used the SDMX convertor, together with SDMX RI tools (Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange - Reference Infrastructure). SDMX RI infrastructure is fully implemented in domain of National Accounts - NA, because all SDMX files with the NA data sent to Eurostat were created by using SDMX RI tools.

7. Development of dissemination and communication in line with needs of digital society

Improvement of dissemination and access for users is one of strategic objectives of the Statistical Office. Results of strategic work on the improvement of dissemination of official statistical data as well as relation with users during the five-year period, are visible through the following activities:

➢ ***Total of 3 393 user requests were responded, together with media requests*** (2019 - 806 requests); 2020 - 887 requests; 2021 - 730 requests; 2022 - 468 requests; 2023 - 651 requests);
➢ ***27 online and printed publications were released*** (2019 - 5 publications; 2020 - 7 publications; 2021 - 6 publications; 2022 - 5 publications; 2023 - 4 publications;
➢ ***982 releases published*** with monthly, quarterly, and annual periodicity (2019 - 233 releases; 2020 - 223 releases; 2021 - 179 releases; 2022 - 179 releases; 2023 - 168 releases;
➢ ***Promotion of official statistical data via social network Twitter, Linkedin and Instagram*** (2022 - 16; 2023- approx. 80);

➢ ***Promotion of official statistical data via video content*** (2023 - 2 videos);
➢ ***Redesigned two regular publications***: Monthly Statistical Review, and Statistical Yearbook;
➢ ***7 media conferences held*** where there were presented results of quarterly and annual calculation of gross domestic product – GDP of Montenegro for 2018 and 2019 *presented* (in total four); Gender Equality Index for Montenegro for *2023*; *MICS survey*, as well as conference regarding the start of *Census of Population, Households, and Dwellings 2023*;
➢ Draft document ***Dissemination and Communication Development Concept*** prepared;
➢ ***Education of Statistical Office's employees*** on topic of communication, through three modules: training on public appearance, crisis communication, media relations, and social media.

Having in mind that the Census of Population, Households, and Dwellings was held in 2023, the majority of activities in area of dissemination and communication was implemented for this statistical action: a separate banner '*Census 2023*' on the website, together with methodological and related material, releases, infographics, animation, as well as PR campaign was organized.

Pursuant to Article 33 of the Law on Census of Population, Households, and Dwellings (Official Gazette of Montenegro No 140/22 of 16 December 2022; 105/23 of 28 November 2023) Statistical Office is obliged to prepare a comprehensive report for the Government of Montenegro on the performed tasks of the census in 2023 with detailed information on census-related activities.

Statistical Office's user satisfaction survey

Statistical Office implemented two two-year *User Satisfaction Surveys* during the reporting period.

➢ [Statistical Office's User Satisfaction Survey 2022](#)
➢ [Statistical Office's User Satisfaction Survey 2020](#)

This survey is regularly carried out by the Statistical Office with the aim to measure the level of meeting the needs of users for official statistics compared to the available official statistics, and respecting their potential expectations. Results of the *2022 Statistical Office's User Satisfaction Survey* show improvements in the users' total satisfaction. The survey shows that 73.6% of users is satisfied with the overall quality of official statistical data and statistical services provided by Statistical Office, which is compared to the previously carried out survey from 2020 is an increase of 1.8%.

European Statistics Day
Following the practice of celebrating the European Statistics Day on 20 October, Statistical Office joined the European Statistical community and emphasized the importance of official statistics

and its role in modern society through prepared infographics released on the European Statistical System's website, and Statistical Office as well as social media:

- [European Statistics Day 2023.](#)
- [European Statistics Day 2022.](#)
- [European Statistics Day 2019.](#)

Automatization of statistical releases

In process of statistical data production, in part of dissemination a progress was achieved by automatization of four (4) statistical surveys in statistics of earnings, tourism, price, and transport. Use of modern IT tools enabled more quality and faster production of statistical data from the mentioned statistical domains with a generated appearance of statistical survey, which is in line with the Eurostat's defined rules. This trend will be continued also in other statistical domains approximating the official statistics to the European standards.

IV OVERVIEW OF EXPECTED RESULTS OF OFFICIAL STATISTICS – SECTOR OBJECTIVES

1. DEMOGRAPHY AND SOCIAL STATISTICS

Production of data on population, its natural and mechanical movement, living conditions, use of modern technologies, lifelong learning, and time use is necessary to create a realistic insight in state of Montenegrin society and to create policies for monitoring and improvement of life quality of citizens in Montenegro. Due to increasingly dynamic life and population migrations during the reporting period, official statistical producers continuously worked on the improvement of methodologies and methods in social statistics, both aimed at the harmonization with EU relevant regulations, as well as aimed at increasing the quality of official statistics, and timeliness of data production. Under demography and social statistics are statistical surveys which cover the following statistical domains: population, labour market, education, and lifelong learning, health, income and expenditures, social protection, culture, justice, and crime.

Table 2. Overview of statistical activities defined by the Programme, domain Demography and social statistics

Domain	Name of statistical domain	Number of planned statistical activities by domains	Number of implemented statistical activities by domains	Official statistical producer
1.1.	Population	18	12	Statistical Office Statistical Office in cooperation with scientific-research community
1.2.	Labour market	9	6	Statistical Office Tax Administration
1.3.	Education and lifelong learning	12	11	Statistical Office
1.4.	Health	18	12	Health Insurance Fund Public Health Institute of Montenegro
1.5.	Income and consumption	6	3	Statistical Office Statistical Office in cooperation with scientific-research community
1.6.	Social protection	6	5	Statistical Office Pension and Disability Insurance Fund Statistical Office in cooperation with scientific-research community
1.7.	Justice and crime	5	4	Statistical Office
1.8.	Culture	3	2	Statistical Office
	TOTAL	**77**	**55**	

Pilot surveys implemented during the pilot period defined by the Programme have the status of "*not implemented*", because the assessment of data source quality have not met the statistical criteria for the production of official statistical data. Because of this reason, the data collected by this survey cannot be used for the official statistics production, in line with the law. For these surveys, the period of pilot statistical production continues and/or is ended until the data source quality is improved.

1.1 Population

Surveys '*Statistics of acquiring and loss of citizenship', 'Statistics of international migrations' and 'Residence permits', 'Number of population from administrative sources'* were implemented as pilot, and data collected by these surveys cannot be used for the production of official statistics.

Surveys 'S*tatistical survey on generations and sexes*' (proposed by the Institute for Strategic Studies and Prognoses) and '*European Social Survey – ESS*' (proposed by the Institute for Strategic Studies and Prognoses, Centre for Democratic Surveys and Ministry of Science), were not implemented due to the lack of administrative capacities.

1.2. Labour market

Statistical surveys: '*Job Vacancy Statistics'; 'Statistical Survey on Earnings from Administrative Source'; * and '*Labour Costs Index',* were implemented as pilot, and the data collected by these surveys cannot be used for the production of official statistical data.

1.3. Education and lifelong learning

Survey '*Lifelong Learning Statistics'* proposed by the Centre for Professional Education was not implemented due to the lack of administrative resources.

1.4. Health

Three surveys under competence of Public Health Institute of Montenegro were not implemented (*European health interview survey – EHIS*, *Survey on Injuries at Work* and *Survey on Causes of Death),* due to changes in the Institute's human resources, and consequences of pandemics COVID – 19.

Three statistical surveys proposed by Ministry of Health and Doctors of Medicine's Union of Montenegro (*National Health Accounts*, *Statistical Survey on Injuries and Silence* and *Measurement of Outflow of Doctors from Public Health and from Montenegro)* were not implemented due to the lack of administrative capacities.

1.5. Income and consumption

Three statistical surveys (*Survey on Nutritional Habits of Households*, *Time Use Survey*, *European Quality of Life Survey – EQLS);* proposed by Faculty for Food Technology; Faculty for International Economy, Finances and Business, and Centre for Climate Changes, were not implemented due to the lack of administrative capacities.

1.6. Social protection

Survey on health, aging, retirement in Europe, proposed by Faculty for Information Technologies was not implemented due to the lack of administrative capacities.

1.7. Justice and crime

Survey '*Statistics of justice – pilot*' was not implemented due to the insufficiently developed administrative data sources.

1.8. Culture

This domain comprises statistical surveys '*Sport clubs*', 'S*tatistics of electronic media'* and '*Statistics of culture by domains'*, statistics of archive, theatres, cinemas, museums, galleries and museum collections. Survey *Sport clubs* was not implemented because the competent ministry did not establish a database with the required data. Concerning culture statistics by domains, '*Statistical Survey on Theatres* was not implemented in 2021, due to the lack of administrative capacities.

An overview of the most important development priorities and achieved results in social statistics is following:

1. ***To establish the production of data for the Census of Population from administrative sources***:

Having in mind that conditions for the production of data for the Census of Population from administrative sources were not fulfilled, and pursuant to the Law on Census of Population, Households, and Dwellings (Official Gazette of Montenegro No 140/22 of 16 December 2022; 105/23 of 28 November 2023), Statistical Office implemented the Census of Population, Households, and Dwellings by using the traditional method in period from 3 to 30 December 2023.

The result of multi-annual preparation activities of the Statistical Office and others, by the Law on census of defined bodies, reflects in a successfully implemented phase of census data collection.

Under the framework of preparations for the census which were implemented before 2023, the most important ones refer to:

- Activities implemented in period of 2015 – 2018 through the implementation of IPA project, with hiring several experts from Slovenia, Latvia and Italy, were explored possibilities of Montenegro related to the manner of conducting the census;
- Implementation of a traditional pilot census (in 2019), with the financial support of IPA project;
- Preparation and adoption of the Law on Census of Population, Households, and Dwellings in December 2022;
- Preparation of budget for the implementation of census.

Activities that proceeded and contributed to a successful phase of data collection which were implemented during 2023 are:

- Finalization of uniform and internationally comparable census methodology with uniform definitions and characteristics of census units;
- Update of spatial units' register completed for the purpose of implementing the census;
- Application for entering and processing the census prepared and tested by internal resources of the Statistical Office;
- All logistic activities for the organization of census successfully implemented by established census organizational structure;
- Establishment of 25 census commissions and coordination over activities, with 250 members established at the level of local self-government units with the aim of organizing directly the enumeration in the field;
- Trainings successfully organized for over 3 500 participants of the census at three levels;
- Production of over 200 additional instructions, annexes and internal rulebooks which contributed to a successfully implementation of the census and implementation of requests of all interested users.

Activities of Statistical Office which were implemented during the field work from 3 to 30 December are:

- Over 70 state instructors successfully coordinated the action of collecting and controlling the census data implemented by approx. 500 instructors. and 3 000 enumerators;
- Responses to approx. 50 media requests were prepared, and Statistical Office's representatives participated and were guests in a dozen of TV broadcasts on the topic of census;
- Participation in the work of all sessions of parliamentary board for monitoring the implementation of Agreement on Conditions for Implementation of Census of Population,

Households, and Dwellings, as well as monitoring the implementation of the census process.

Pursuant to Article 33 of the Law on Census of Population, Households, and Dwellings, Statistical Office prepares a comprehensive report for the Government of Montenegro on performed tasks of the census in 2023, as well as on spent funds provided in the budget of Montenegro for the same year, not later than 31 March 2024.

2. *Strengthening capacities aimed at increased used of already existing data*:

- Analysis of database was done of data used in the Statistical Office for the production of regular statistical surveys, 8 registers and 175 variables. There were analysed registers of:
  - Tax Administration (register of tax payers and insured persons, and register of personal income);
  - Ministry of Interior (register of births, register of deaths, register of place of residence, register of foreigners);
  - Ministry of Education (register of attendance and employees in preschool, primary, and secondary education);
  - University of Montenegro (register of students of the University of Montenegro).

Results of the analysis were used to improve cooperation and explore possibilities for using administrative sources for the production of official statistical data.

- A procedure was started to link to the platform for exchange of data - Government Service Bus (GSB). The main function of this platform is to make possible communication of existing systems and faster exchange of data between citizens and civil servants, so that the services are provided in an electronic manner and automatic exchange, as well as use of large quantity of data existing in the state institutions' registers are done. Statistical Office is included in the establishment process of exchange of data via Government Service Bus - GSB between state institutions and state government institutions, and in this way to use opportunities provided by this project.

3. *Continuous improvement of methodologies and quality of survey in domain of social statistics and demography, in line with the Eurostat's recommendations:*

- One-day training was held about the STATA – statistical program, and with the aim to educate and develop human resources, in December 2019;
- Training was held related to SPSS – statistical program in November 2020, and participation done to the European Statistical Training Programme – ESTP course was enabled about the use of 'R' program package for data analysis;
- *Survey on living conditions and women safety (EU-GBV)* was implemented. The results are released on the Statistical Office's official website;
- Activities about mapping national crime implemented in line with The International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes - ICCSS;
- Data on deaths transmitted to Eurostat in weekly dynamics, upon Eurostat's request, about consequences related to the pandemics COVID-19;
- New statistical methodologies implemented in line with Regulation (EU) 2019/1700 of the European Parliament and Council on Integrated European Social Statistics - IESS, as well as other delegated and implementing acts in the following statistical surveys: Labour Force Survey, Survey on Income and Living Conditions, Use of Information and Communication Technologies in Households and by Individuals, and Household Budget Survey.
- For the purpose of Survey on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC), an application was developed for collecting the data in the field by using CAPI (Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing). Use of new method for data collection reduces the time necessary for entering and processing of data, and minimize errors in filling the questionnaire due to logical controls which are contained in the application;
- For the purpose of Statistical survey on earnings of employees (RAD-1), there was developed the CAWI method for data collection. An electronic questionnaire was produced for collecting the data which links processes of data collection and reduces the overburden of reporting units;
- For the purpose of Labour Force Survey (LFS), there was developed a testing application for collecting the data in the field by using CAPI method where the work will continue aimed at further improvements. A change to this new method of data collection results in reduced time required for entering and processing of data.
- Data of the survey *Innovative activities of enterprises*, for the period 2018 – 2020 were for the first time released.

2. ECONOMIC STATISTICS

During the period 2019-2023, official statistical producers continued to implement the defined activities with the aim to further harmonize the statistics of national accounts of Montenegro with the EU standards. There was continuously worked on the improvement of coverage and quality of administrative data source to improve consistency and ensure a consistent use of ESA 2010 methodology, together with all related secondary legislation and regulations related to the implementation of Regulation (EU) No 549/2013.

An overview of the most important development priorities in domain of economic statistics:

1. ***Continued use of ESA 2010 methodology***

   - regularly published results of annual Gross National Income;
   - regularly published results of annual Gross Domestic Product;
   - regularly published results of quarterly Gross Domestic Product.

2. ***Establishment of integrated system for compilation of supply and use table in form of matrix overview of economy production process by products and activities***

With assistance of multi-beneficiary support of IPA programme 2017 and 2019, the work continued on further development and balancing the supply and use table. Supply and use tables – SUTs represent an integral part of NA and in detail describe production process and flow of goods and services in the NA system. SUTs provide a matrix by activities and products and give a detailed picture on supply of products and services from the domestic production and import, on use of products and services for needs of intermediate consumption for final consumption, and export of goods and services.

3. ***Further improvement of quarterly GDP – QGDP calculation by introducing new methods of calculation via developed necessary data sources***

With purpose of further improvement of QGDP calculation, there were produced data for time series 2006-2009, by production approach, in current, constant and average prices 2010, as well as seasonally adjusted data.

The work continued on an experimental calculation of QGDP by income approach.

4. *Strengthening cooperation between institutions that within their area of work collect and release macroeconomic statistics by using ESA 2010 methodology*

Activities related to the implementation of ESA 2010 methodology in government finance statistics were continued in line with the European standards for quality in the official statistical data production, and accordingly certain activities were done for the transfer of responsibility over government finance statistics (GFS/EDP statistics), from the currently competent Ministry of Finance to the Statistical Office. Statistical Office will take over the production of official statistical data related to GFS/EDP after amended law regulation.

Overview of the most important priorities in international trade of goods

In international trade of goods statistics, the work continued on further harmonization with the international standards. Required datasets of international trade of goods at the monthly level are regularly transmitted to Eurostat via e-DAMIS, according to the new structure of data (DOC MET 400 format).

Aimed at further harmonization with the EU standards, the work continued on activities related to further improvement of trade of goods by enterprise characteristics (TEC), and trade by invoice currency (TIC). All required data sets of trade by enterprise characteristics (tables B 1-11) have been prepared and sent to Eurostat via e-DAMIS, pursuant to new format for data transmission for the reference year 2021. TIC data at the annual level are also regularly transmitted to Eurostat.

Improvement of these types of statistics is a significant step in terms of harmonizing ITGS with the international standards.

5. *Overview of the most important priorities in price statistics*

Work in price statistics continued on further harmonization of this statistics with the international standards. Harmonized index of consumer prices (HICP) and purchasing power parity (PPP) are to a large degree harmonized with the EU standards.

In the reporting period, all planned activities in domain of HICP were implemented within the defined deadlines, with support of IPA MB programme 2017 and 2019. HICP/PPP inventory is updated for both surveys by using ESS Metadata Handler. Aimed at the improvement of Consumer Price Index – CPI and HICP, the process of data processing and dissemination has been automatized which represents a significant progress of the statistical data production process. Additionally, a regular data transmission continued in the required format. Aimed at the improvement of Producer price index, the testing of new software for the calculation of producer price index of industrial products, Producer price index of industrial products for export and Price index of industrial products from import, is ongoing by which the data processing process will be

automatized. Under the survey Price index of industrial products from import, the list of representative products was significantly expanded, in line with ITGS data. All activities of highly aligned project [Purchasing Power Parity](#) were implemented according to the defined dynamics. Additionally, the work continued on the improvement of data quality, through the preparation of regular [Quality report](#), as well as through the preparation of [reference metadata](#).

Table 3. Overview of statistical activities defined by the Programme in area of macroeconomic statistics

Domain	Name of domain	Number of planned statistical activities by domain	Number of implemented statistical activities by domain area	Official statistical producer
2.1.	Macroeconomy	16	15	Statistical Office Customs Administration
2.2.	Government finance statistics, monetary and financial statistics	24	22	Statistical Office Central Bank of Montenegro Ministry of Finance Capital Market Authority
2.3.	Business statistics	21	21	Statistical Office
2.4.	International trade in goods – payment service and balance payment	10	10	Statistical Office Central Bank of Montenegro
2.5.	Prices	10	9	Statistical Office
	TOTAL	**81**	**77**	

2.1. - Macroeconomy

Out of the total 16 statistical surveys in area of macroeconomy, there were implemented 15 surveys, while **Survey on structure of income and intermediary consumption by activities**, envisaged by the Programme for 2021, due to the COVID-19 pandemics and lack of resources for its implementation was not carried out.

2.2. – Government finance statistics, monetary and financial statistics

Surveys *Government Finance Statistics in accordance with ESA 2010* and *Excessive Deficit Procedure and Debt Report* were not implemented due to the lack of administrative capacities.

2.3. - Prices

In price statistics, there were planned ten surveys in total, out of which seven regular and three pilot ones. Survey 'Owner Occupied Housing – OOH' was not implemented due to the lack of human resources and appropriate administrative data sources. Other statistical surveys from statistical domains within macroeconomic statistics were fully implemented.

3. SECTORAL STATISTICS

Sectoral statistics cover statistics of agriculture, forestry, fishery, crop and organic production, environmental and agri-monetary statistics, as well as business statistics of energy, transport, tourism, and short-term indicators. In period of 2019 – 2023, activities were implemented with the aim to further harmonize sectorial statistics with the EU standards.

Statistics of agriculture, forestry, fishery, crop and organic production, environmental and agri-monetary statistics

Statistics of agriculture comprises: crop statistics, livestock, meat, and egg statistics, milk and milk products statistics, structural statistics, agri-monetary statistics, fishery statistics, organic production statistics, as well as environmental statistics. A constituent part of agricultural statistics is also agri-monetary statistics, which cover price and economic accounts in agriculture. Economic accounts in agriculture comprises a number of jointly linked accounts: production account, income generating accounts, entrepreneur's income accounts, and capital account which represent satellite accounts of the European System of Accounts (ESA), with its main purpose to produce analyses of agricultural production process and achieved income in agriculture. Data of economic accounts in agriculture were not published due to the lack of human resources and the postponement of the agricultural census.

Table 4. Overview of statistical activities defined by the Programme in area of sectoral statistics

Domain	Name of statistical domain	Number of planned statistical activities by domain	Number of implemented statistical activities by domain	Official statistical producer
3.1.	Agriculture, forestry, and fishery	27	23	Statistical Office
3.2.	Energy	9	7	Statistical Office
3.3.	Transport	22	21	Statistical Office
3.4.	Tourism	7	6	Statistical Office
3.5.	Science, technology, and innovation	5	3	Statistical Office
	TOTAL	**70**	**60**	

3.1. Agriculture, forestry, and fishery

Out of total 27 statistical surveys in area of agriculture, forestry, and fishery, there were implemented 23 surveys. *Statistical survey on integrated statistics at the level of agricultural*

holdings, *Survey on production of vegetables,* and *Survey on Vineyards Structure* depend on the implementation of Census of Agriculture.

Census of Agriculture was not implemented in deadline set by the Programme, due to the COVID-19 pandemics, and Census of Population, Households, and Dwellings in 2023, as well as a lack of linkage between the Statistical Register of Agricultural Holdings, and administrative registers.

3.2. Energy

Out of the total nine (9) surveys from the statistical domain of energy, there were implemented seven (7). Two surveys, *Consumption of energy products in households* and *Consumption of energy products in industry and service activities,* were not implemented due to the lack of administrative capacities.

3.3. Transport

Out of the total 22 statistical surveys from the statistical domain of transport, there were implemented 21 surveys. Survey *Mobility of passengers, road transport, and intermodal emissions from the transport* was not implemented due to the lack of administrative capacities.

3.4. Tourism

Statistical survey *Tourism satellite account – TSA* was not implemented.

3.5. Science, technology, and innovation

Statistical survey *Government budget allocations for R&D* (GBARD statistics) and *Statistical survey om science and research activity* was not implemented. The main reason why these surveys were not implemented is organizational change and change in human resource in the Ministry of Science and Technological Development.

Continuation in the harmonization with the international standards and EU legislation in area of agriculture

- Aimed at preparation and organization of the **Census of Agriculture in 2024**, during 2023 there was held a public discussion on the draft law on the census of agriculture. [Report on Public Discussion Organized on Draft Law on Census of Agriculture 2024](#) has been prepared in cooperation with Ministry of Finance, and is available online;
- When implementing the *Census of Population, Households, and Dwellings in 2023*, a set of questions for the purpose of census of agriculture was prepared within the

questionnaire for household, together with the methodological instructions. During the preparation, there was completed the following:

- o Budget of the Census of Agriculture;
- o Draft questionnaire and draft methodological instructions;
- o List of insignificant and inexistent variables (NS/NE), which was sent to Eurostat;
- o Document "*Integration of available administrative data sources in the agricultural statistical data collection system, and use of new data sources*";
- o Document "*Defining a threshold for the Census of Agriculture*";
- o "*Report on Survey on Structure of Agricultural Holdings* (Country Report)";
- o Document "*Insignificant and inexistent variables and variables of administrative data sources*", and
- o Work continued on the preparation of the Census of Agriculture in accordance with the Regulation (EU) No 2018/1091.

- Annual and monthly surveys in area of **livestock statistics** harmonized with Regulation (EC) No 1165/2008 for livestock and meat statistics, Directive (EC) No 96/16 and Decision (EC) No 97/80/ for milk and milk products statistics, and Regulation (EC) No 617/2008 for eggs and broilers statistics. Annual data are transmitted to Eurostat via e-DAMIS web portal

- Annual surveys in area of **crop statistics** are harmonized with the Regulation (EC) No 543/2009. Data from annual surveys in crop statistics at the annual level are transmitted to Eurostat via e-DAMIS web portal, and in area of fishery statistics, data are released in line with dynamics and regularly transmitted to Eurostat;

- In area of organic production, the harmonization with the Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 and Regulation (EC) No 889/2008 has been done. The validation of timeseries for the 2016-2021 period was completed, and the data are released on the Eurostat's website, as well as on the Statistical Office's website;

- In area of agri-environmental statistics (use of pesticide), there has been implemented the Survey on Use of Pesticide in accordance with the Regulation (EC) No 1185/2009;

- With purpose of further harmonization of Economic Accounts in Agriculture, and in accordance with the Regulation (EC) No 134/2004, there was prepared a report on *Identifying available data sources for establishment of an experimental system for consumption of fixed capital*;

- In area of forestry, during the reporting period, the work was done on the harmonization with both national, and international standards. A bilateral cooperation was accomplished with Slovenia for the purpose of developing the economic accounts in forestry. Aimed at ensuring the part of missing data, there was established the methodology for calculation of total forest area based on the National Forest Inventory data. Additionally, under the IPA MB programme 2017, via the project 'Capacity

building for MONSTAT, Montenegro' IPA/2018/399-546, there were achieved methodological improvements related to the calculation of total forest area, total production of forest products and cut. Revised statistical data are released on the Statistical Office's official website and in the Statistical Yearbook.

1. ***Increased use of administrative data, registers and databases for statistical purposes***

Aimed at increased use of administrative data for statistical purposes in area of hunting, there was achieved a cooperation with representatives of the Agency for Environmental Protection. After analysing available administrative data, there are created conditions for taking the data over from the area of environment and forestry (hunting). Cooperation agreement between Statistical Office and Agency for Environmental Protection was updated, and signed in February 2022.

During the reporting period, there were implemented activities on **introduction of new and improvement of current methods in data collection** by using the CAPI (Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing) method in:
- Census of Agriculture;
- Crop statistics, in *Survey on Achieved Yields of Late Crops, Fruit, and Grapes*;
- Livestock statistics for *Survey on Number of Livestock and Poultry*.

4. ENVIRONMENT AND MULTIDOMAIN STATISTICS

Environmental statistics

Environmental statistics is multidomain area under which the data from water statistics, as well as waste statistics, are published. The objective of waste statistics is to provide harmonizes waste data, aimed at monitoring the implementation of EU policy of environmental protection in area of waste. The main legislative framework in waste statistics is Regulation No 2150/2002 of the European Parliament and Council whose aim to collect comparable and harmonized data on waste. Water statistics ensure main data on water resources. Surveys in area of water statistics collect, process, and publish the data on quantities of captured, and used waste, as well as waste water in industry, water quantities used for irrigation in agriculture, drinking water supply in settlements, quantities of released waste water, waste water treatment facilities, and sewage system.

Table 5. Overview of statistical activities defined by the Programme in domain of environment and multi-domain statistics

Domain	Name of statistical domain	Number of planned statistical activities by domains	Number of implemented statistical activities by domain	Official statistical producer
4.1.	Environment	3	3	Statistical Office
4.2.	Regional and geospatial statistical information	3	2	Statistical Office
	TOTAL	**6**	**5**	

4.1 Environment

All statistical surveys in statistical domain of environment have been implemented.

4.2 Regional and geospatial statistical information

Under competence of Statistical Office there are 72 (67%) EU-SDG indicators out of the requested 107 EU-SDG indicators, while under competence of other institutions at the level of Montenegro there are 35 EU-SDG indicators. By having implemented statistical surveys, Statistical Office made available 58 EU-SDG or 80% of indicators under its competence. Statistical Office transmit the official statistical data to EC – Eurostat aimed at the production of indicators at the European level and are available on the Eurostat-s official website, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database.

Pursuant to the obligations defined by the National Sustainable Development Strategy Up to 2030 –NSDS, under competence of Statistical Office, there is achieved 60% of the official statistical data

availability. The data are available on the website: [Data on sustainable development goal indicators (SGDI) for Montenegro.](#)

By implementing the Survey on Living Conditions and Women Safety (EU - GBV), Statistical Office provided an increased availability of this type of data to produce indicators in this area.

Statistical survey *on Trust in Institutions (*proposed by the Centre for Democratic Transition) was not implemented due to the lack of administrative capacities.

Overview of the most important development priorities in area of environmental statistics:

Waste statistics

Through the IPA multi-beneficiary - MB programme 2019, there has been established an experimental system for food waste monitoring in Montenegro. There has been implemented the pilot *Survey on Food Waste* and ad hoc *Survey for Municipal Enterprises*. The recalculation of time series was finished at the end of 2020 via IPA MB programme 2017 national project "*Capacity building for MONSTAT, Montenegro*" aimed at increasing the data quality in waste statistics. Data of waste statistics are regularly transmitted to Eurostat via Edamis Web portal within the deadline defined by the regulation on waste statistical data (Regulation (EZ) No 2150/2002). Data on municipal waste are submitted within the required deadline via Joint Questionnaire Eurostat/OECD.

Water statistics

The water statistics have been harmonized through the bilateral cooperation with Slovenia, and data were for the first time transmitted to Eurostat via (Joint OECD/EUROSTAT questionnaire on inland waters JQ - IW) for the 2020–2022 period.

In area of water statistics there were implemented surveys defined by the annual plans of official statistics.

Environmental accounts

Within the project GRANT 2015 (Pilot Project PP 5.5: Environmental statistics), there was established an experimental account of material flows for 2015 and transmitted to Eurostat in July 2019, together with the final project report, and the quality report as its constituent part.

V DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES OF OFFICIAL STATISTICS WHICH CANNOT BE CLASSIFIED BY AREAS

A constituent part of the Programme is also general objectives of development activities which cannot be classified by areas, as it follows:

1. Making available a business building of the Statistical Office

Statistical Office is also facing the lack of appropriate spatial capacities which significantly limits the working space and implementation of technical and safety standards which Statistical Office is obliged to implement in the work.

Statistical Office's representatives prepared the *Functional analysis for needs of purchase of business premises* which was submitted to the Ministry of Finance pointing out the necessity of permanent and appropriate solution of this problem which is highlighted by the European Commission as necessary from the aspect of further development, but also image which the official statistics should have.

For purpose of entering and control of data collected with the Census of Population, Households, and Dwellings, by the conclusion of the Government No 07-430/23-4507/2 of 3 October, there were ensured business premises for the period from 1 October 2023 to 1 October 2024.

2. Development and improvement of metadata system and classifications

Through the IPA MB programme 2019, a progress was achieved with the improvement of metadata system components in the system of official statistics and its alignment with a framework valid for the European Statistical System. CAWI method (Computer Aided Web Interviewing) was established for data collection from other official statistical producers and for the purpose of metadata update. Aimed at the improvement of expertise in this area, there was organized a workshop for other official statistical producers on 27 September 2022.

Electronic questionnaire independently produced made available for other official statistical producers to fill in/update metadata in a friendly manner, and in this was to increase the quality of metadata. Metadata of other official statistical producers are released on the Statistical Office official website and serve as a source of metadata for creating the Quality Reports.

Aimed at improved classifications, the Statistical Office's employees were educated via the participation in meetings and workshops organized by Eurostat and other international organizations.

A continuous work was done on the update of existing classifications. Herewith, activities started on the implementation of new revision of activity classification NACE Rev.2.1. A methodological framework of Eurostat, Regulation 2023/37, has been analysed, and accordingly activities started on the implementation of revised activity classification NACE Rev.2.1. An action plan has been prepared for this type of work in the next period, as well as plan for implementation of the mentioned revision in the Statistical Business Register. Additionally, activities also started the implementation of COICOP 2018.

3. Modernization of data collection for statistical purposes

Modernization of data collection for statistical purposes during the reporting period implied the standardization of collection activities by using new technologies and tools that make easier an efficient collection. For this purpose, there has been developed and improved the system for data collection by using CAPI method (Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing) for:

- Survey on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC);
- Survey on use of ICT in households and by persons (ICT);
- Survey on use of ICT in enterprises;
- Survey on number of livestock and poultry;
- Survey on achieved yields of late crops, fruit, and grape;
- Survey on freight road transport;
- Survey on gender-based violence - GBV;
- Interview on number of livestock.

For the needs of **earnings statistics,** there is developed the CAWI method for data collection. An electronic questionnaire for data collection has been created, links the processes of data collection and reduces the overburden of reporting units.

Due to the harmonization with the EU regulations, there has been an upgrade of software solutions for the purpose of survey: **Labour Force Survey (LFS)** and **Survey on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC).**

4. Licencing software, modern tools, and backup

Aimed at better control and processing of data, as well as increased data safety, during the reporting period, improvements were done of:

- IT system protection which reflects in the installation of new hardware (Cisco Firepower firewall), and purchase of additional modules protecting against the newest security threats;
- Data backup, by purchase and installation of NAS file server;

- Protected access to the IT system, by improvement of VPN server. A software for Data Leak Prevention - DLP. There was modernized and increased capacity of server mail and increased its security;
- Server virtualization -new servers of increased capacities installed.

By using SDMX software tools, there was increased the number of datasets which are transmitted in SDMX format. There was also increased the number of datasets for which the SDMX files are created by using SDMX RI tools (SDMX RI tools were implemented for all NA datasets which are transmitted to Eurostat in SDMX format).

5. Development activities which relate to the sample methodology

Methodological and organizational improvements in the sample-based surveys were followed also by changes in the statistical methodology of sample through defining standards and use of methods which ensure an optimal allocation of sample.

An increasing challenge when data from different sources are used, represents reaching the consistency between target population, sample frame, and estimated indicators (households, population, enterprises, holdings, etc.), but the improvement of quality and coverage of statistical registers, use of administrative source data, improved questionnaire and methods for data collection impact receiving more precise data from sample-based surveys.

By implementing the GSBPM model, there is continued the process of job description and automatization of certain sampling processes/phases, as well as preparation and archiving documents which refer to sample and sampling errors (as a part of quality indicators).

6. Development of activities which refer to improvement of register

Activities done on the improvement of registers are as it follows:

- Introduction of new variables in the Statistical Business Register, in accordance with the Decree (EU) 2019/2152, as well as update of data obtained from two implemented surveys: ***Survey on Business of Middle-Sized and Large Enterprises*** and ***Survey on Business of Enterprises with Units in Their Composition***. Implementation of these two surveys enabled to receive data for two statistical units: *KAU* and *Group of enterprises*.
- Two releases were published:
  - ✓ [Number and structure of business entities in 2022](#), and
  - ✓ [Number and structure of business entities in foreign ownership, 2022](#) .

Data and quality report on Statistical Business Register were transmitted to Eurostat via [ESS Metadata Handler](#).

During the reporting period, activities on the update of spatial unit register were implemented as it follows:

- ✓ Meetings of management with representatives of local self-government units were organized and in this way the principle of work for every unit, respectively, was agreed, and depending on the situation with the decision on settlements, by the Law on Territorial Organization and Position in the spatial unit register;
- ✓ Public purchase was implemented for the upgrade of existing software GDI Smart Portal by which it is solved the issue of generating map for the purpose of census;
- ✓ In cooperation with Real Estate Administration and with GDI on the Smart Portal, there was instance for the needs of census;
- ✓ Field work was completed on the update of statistical and enumeration areas' borders in all local self-government units;
- ✓ A continuous cooperation with local self-government units was implemented;
- ✓ New census and statistical areas were digitalized in all local self-government units;
- ✓ Control of graphic and alpha-numerical data completed for all local self-government units;
- ✓ Upgrade of Smart Portal was completed with added service for generating and printing of maps. Format/design of maps, bases, and data which will be presented for the purpose of organization and implementation of the census were defined;
- ✓ In cooperation with Real Estate Administration, there were imported graphic and alpha-numerical data on Smart Portal, and control of basis and instance functionality were done to be used for the purpose of Census of Population, Households, and Dwellings;
- ✓ Maps and descriptions of statistical and enumerations areas prepared to be printed for all local self-government units.

Statistical register of agricultural holdings is constantly updated with the data from the annual surveys in area of agricultural statistics and quarterly linked with the data from administrative sources (register of agricultural holdings of Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Water Management).

VI OFFICIAL STATISTICAL PRODUCERS

Pursuant to Article 7 of the Law, Montenegro official statistical system covers official statistical producers, as it follows:

1. Statistical Office of Montenegro - MONSTAT;
2. Central Bank of Montenegro;
3. Ministry of Finance, and
4. Other official statistical producers defined by the Programme of Official Statistics (Public Health Institute of Montenegro; Customs Administration; Tax Administration; Capital Market Authority; Health Insurance Fund of Montenegro; Pension and Disability Insurance Fund; and Ministry of Science).

Statistical Office is main holder and disseminator of statistical data, as well as responsible as well as responsible professional authority, organiser and coordinator of official statistics system, and it shall represent the official statistics of Montenegro in the international statistical system. All official statistical producers. In collecting, producing, processing, and disseminating statistical data, official statistics producers must apply official statistics principles, as well as methodologies and standards for producing statistics under their responsibility to produce transparent and internationally comparable data, upon the approval of the Statistical Office, in accordance with the Law.

Statistical Office adopted 2023 adopted [Criteria for defining "official statistics" and "other official statistical producers "](#) with the aim to define which body produces "*official statistics*" and which has a possibility to be qualified as an official statistical producer. Additionally, Statistical Office has also established a mechanism which monitors a systematic harmonization of other official statistical producers based on the definition "official statistics", and serves as a visible label of statistical quality by which the alignment with the European Statistics Code of Practice is confirmed, Accordingly, other official statistical producers, defined by the Programme of Official Statistics 2023-2028, are Public Health Institute of Montenegro, and Pension and Disability Insurance Fund of Montenegro.

ANNEX: Overview of implemented statistical surveys pursuant to the 2019-2023 Programme of Official Statistics

Name of statistical domain/official statistical producer/statistical survey
1.1. Population
Statistical Office
1.   Statistics of births
2.   Statistics of deaths
3.   Statistics of marriages
4.   Statistics of divorces
5.   Population estimates
6.   Main demographic indicators
7.   Statistics of internal migrations
8.   Census of Population, Households, and Dwellings in 2021
9.   Statistics of illegal migrations
10. Statistics of asylum
11. Gender statistics
Statistical Office in cooperation with scientific and research community
12. Active aging Index
1.2. Labour market
Tax Administration
13. Statistical survey on insured employees
Statistical Office
14. Labour Force Survey (LFS)
15. Statistical survey on earnings of employees
16. Statistical survey on insured persons – employees by activity and municipality
17. Statistical survey on labour costs
18. Survey on structure of earnings
1.3. Education and lifelong learning
Statistical Office
19. Statistical survey for preschool education
20. Primary education statistics
21. Adult primary education statistics
22. Secondary education statistics
23. Statistical survey on enrolment of students (undergraduate studies)
24. Statistical survey on graduated students (undergraduate studies)
25. Statistical survey on master degree holders and specialists
26. Statistical survey o enrolment to postgraduate and doctoral studies
27. Statistical survey on PhD holders
28. Statistical survey on academic, professional staff and structure of higher education organizations
29. Statistical survey on pupils and students' dormitories
1.4. Health
Health Insurance Fund

30.	Report on insured persons under international agreements on social insurance
31.	Report on revenues and expenditures of Health Insurance Fun
Public Health Institute of Montenegro	
32.	Report on human resources in health care
33.	Report on child births
34.	Report on registered cases and outbreaks of infectious diseases
35.	Report on organization and work of hospitals
36.	Report on completed compulsory immunization against infectious diseases
37.	Report on treated patients in service of hospital-patient treatment
38.	Report on work and established diseases and conditions in outpatient health care
39.	Report on abortions
40.	Report on safety of drinking water
41.	Report on food safety and safety of objects of general use
1.5. Income and consumption	
Statistical Office	
42.	Household Budget Survey
43.	Minimal consumer basket
44.	Statistics of income and living conditions
1.6. Social protection	
Pension and Disability Insurance Fund	
45.	Report on pension and disability insurance beneficiaries (monthly)
46.	Report on pension and disability insurance beneficiaries (annual)
Statistical Office	
47.	Beneficiaries of social and child care allowances
48.	Beneficiaries of accommodation services in social and child care institutions
49.	Social protection in Montenegro - ESSPROS
Statistical Office in cooperation with scientific and research community	
1.7. Justice and crime	
Statistical Office	
50.	Statistical survey on minors against whom proceedings based on criminal charges and preparation proceedings have been concluded
51.	Statistical survey on minors against whom criminal proceedings before the panel have been legally concluded
52.	Statistical survey on adults against whom proceeding based on criminal charges and previous proceedings have been concluded
53.	Statistical survey on adults against whom criminal proceedings have been concluded
1.8. Culture	
Statistical Office	
54.	Statistics of electronic media
55.	Statistics of culture by areas
2.1. Macroeconomy	
Customs Administration	
56.	Overview of Customs Administration revenue collection
Statistical Office	

57.	Monitoring quarterly indicators for the purpose of quarterly GDP calculation
58.	Calculation of annual Gross Domestic Product by expenditure approach
59.	Calculation of quarterly Gross Domestic Product by expenditure approach
60.	Calculation of annual Gross Domestic Product by production approach
61.	Calculation of quarterly Gross Domestic Product by production approach
62.	Calculation of annual Gross Domestic Product by income approach
63.	Calculation of annual Gross National Income
64.	Establishment of integrated system for the supply and use table compilation
65.	Establishment of elements necessary for calculation of Gross Domestic Product by income approach
66.	Establishment of framework and elements necessary for production of non-financial sector accounts
67.	Establishment of elements necessary for calculation of annual Gross Domestic Product by production approach
68.	Establishment elements necessary for calculation of quarterly Gross Domestic Product by production approach
69.	Establishment of elements necessary for calculation of annual Gross Domestic Product by expenditure approach
70.	Establishment of elements necessary for calculation of quarterly Gross Domestic Product by expenditure approach
2.2. Government finance statistics, monetary and financial statistics	
Central Bank of Montenegro	
71.	Statistics of other financial institutions
72.	Interest rate statistics
73.	Statistics of monetary financial institutions
74.	International investment position of Montenegro
75.	Survey on international transactions related to construction services
76.	Survey on short-term commercial loans
77.	Statistics of foreign direct investments in total industry
78.	Statistics of external debt
Capital Market Authority	
79.	Analysis of financial instruments
80.	Analysis of collective investment scheme
81.	Stock exchange businesses
Ministry of Finance	
82.	Report on government debt
83.	Analysis of government finance statistics
84.	Report on public debt
85.	Table of revenue and expenditures of public sector (by economic classification at the quarterly level)
86.	Main aggregates of revenue and expenditures of public sector
Tax Administration of Montenegro	
87.	Annual registration of tax on income of natural persons
88.	Registration of tax on income of legal persons
89.	Monthly registration on value added
90.	Registration data on legal and natural persons – tax payers
91.	Entrepreneurs' financial reports (balance sheet, and income statement)

92. Financial reports on enterprises (Balance Sheet, Income Statement, and Statistical Annex)
2.3. Business statistics
Statistical Office
93. Structural business survey
94. Investment in fixed assets
95. Industrial production (PRODCOM)
96. Index of industrial production and industrial turnover
97. Producer price index of industrial products
98. Producer price index of industrial products for export
99. Price index of industrial products from import
100. Prices of dwellings in new residential buildings
101. Consumption of building and drive material
102. Construction works
103. Construction activity
104. Demolished buildings with dwellings
105. Building permits and notification of building works
106. Turnover index in retail trade
107. Turnover in wholesale trade
108. Price index in services
109. Turnover index in services
110. Survey on enterprises with units in their composition
111. Survey on business of large and middle-sized enterprises
112. Turnover in retail trade by commodity groups
113. Survey on structure of micro and small enterprises
2.4. International trade in goods - services and balance of payment
Central Bank of Montenegro
114. Survey on credit transactions with foreign resident (annual)
115. Survey on credit transactions with foreign resident (quarterly)
116. Balance of payment of Montenegro
117. Survey on matters of direct foreign investment (annual)
118. Survey on matters of direct foreign investment (quarterly)
Statistical Office
119. International trade in goods of Montenegro
120. Indices of unit values of exports and imports of goods
121. International trade in goods of Montenegro by enterprise characteristics (TEC)
122. International trade in goods of Montenegro by income currency (TIC)
123. Statistics of foreign affiliates (inward and outward)
2.5. Prices
Statistical Office
124. Consumer price index
125. Harmonized index of consumer prices
126. Harmonized index of consumer prices in administrative prices
127. Gross domestic product and real individual consumption per capita, by purchasing power parity

128.	Creation of elements necessary for the calculation of Purchasing Power Parity: survey "Construction"
129.	House price index
130.	Harmonized index of consumer prices in constant tax rates
131.	Creation of elements necessary for the calculation of Purchasing Power Parity: survey "Machinery and equipment"
132.	Creation of elements necessary for the calculation of Purchasing Power Parity: Survey "Consumer goods"
3.1. Agriculture, forestry, and fishery	
Statistical Office	
133.	Report on agricultural enterprises and agricultural cooperatives
134.	Report on veterinary
135.	Survey on achieved yields from early crops
136.	Survey on achieved yields of late crops, fruit, and grape
137.	Survey on areas and plantations at the end of spring sowing
138.	Report on livestock of agricultural holdings – Interview on number of livestock
139.	Report on slaughtering livestock and poultry in slaughterhouses
140.	Report on slaughtering livestock and poultry in slaughterhouses (administrative source)
141.	Report on trade of broilers
142.	Report on entrance of raw milk (cow's milk), and obtained milk products
143.	Report on entrance of raw milk, and obtained milk products
144.	Gross domestic production of meat
145.	Report on fishermen and fishing equipment in maritime fishery
146.	Report on fishery in rivers and lakes
147.	Report on maritime fishery
148.	Report on production of fish and shellfish in mariculture
149.	Report on production of fish in fishponds - aquaculture
150.	Statistics on organic production
151.	Survey on turnover of pesticide
152.	Agri-environmental indicators – development and establishment of agri-environmental indicator statistics system
153.	Forestry statistics
154.	Accounts in forestry
155.	Agri-monetary statistics
3.2. Energy	
Statistical Office	
156.	Balance of petroleum products
157.	Balance of coal
158.	Balance of wood fuels
159.	Balance of electricity
160.	Complex energy balance
161.	Short-term statistics of energy
162.	Energy prices in households and industry
3.3. Transport	
Statistical Office	
163.	Report on traffic at airports

164. Report on airport infrastructure and traffic in airports
165. Report on air transport
166. Report on infrastructure and traffic in air transport
167. Report on transport of passengers and goods in railway transport
168. Survey on railway infrastructure
169. Survey on passenger road transport
170. Survey on local transport
171. Survey on freight road transport
172. Report on roads and bridges
173. Report on registered road motor vehicles and trailers
174. Report on number of traffic accidents
175. Report on arrivals and departures of ships in ports
176. Report on merchant navy
177. Report on transhipment in ports
178. Report on capacities of transhipment resources in maritime transport
179. Report on passenger and goods in maritime transport
180. Report on maritime transport – state of inventory
181. Report on postal and telecommunication services
182. Report on postal and telecommunication network
183. Survey on passenger and goods traffic at airports by airport pairs
3.4. Tourism
Statistical Office
184. Visits of foreign cruise ships
185. Nautical tourism
186. Survey on arrivals and overnight stays of tourists, total
187. Arrivals and overnight stays of tourists in collective accommodation
188. Arrivals and overnight stays of tourists in private accommodation
189. Tourism satellite accounts
3.5. Science, technology, and innovation
Statistical Office
190. Innovation activities of enterprises - pilot
191. Survey on ICT use in households and by individuals
192. Survey on ICT use in enterprises
4.1. Environment
Statistical Office
193. Water statistics
194. Waste statistics
195. Environmental accounts – pilot
4.2. Regional and geospatial statistical information
Statistical Office
196. Sustainable development indicators from the EU list
197. Sustainable development indicators from the UN list