

## SESSIONS OF THE COUNCIL OF STATISTICAL SYSTEM HELD ON 2023

### THE FIRST SESSION - CONSTITUTIVE

The session was held on 25 January 2023.

After the defining the quorum for holding constitutive session of the Council of Statistical System and introduction of the director of Statistical Office, there is anonymously is selected president, vice-president and secretary of the Council of Statistical System.

Considering the second item of agenda, there are proposed and adopted technical corrections and amendment to Article 12 of the Rules of Procedure of the Council of Statistical System No 01-078/22-1844/1 of 30 May 2022 that states as it follows:

*'Net fee will be reimbursed to members and secretary of the Council for the membership in the Council, if there will enabled resources in the Budget of Montenegro, in accordance with Article 19 of the Law on Official Statistics and Official Statistical System and Article 4 of the Decision on Criteria for Defining Fee Amount for Work of Working Body Member or Other Type of Work'.*

Considering the third item of agenda, the members of the Council anonymously gave opinion on proposal to **Report on Implementation of Annual Plan of Official Statistics for 2022**, and further submitting to the Government of Montenegro.

Under item 'Miscellaneous', the director of Statistical Office informed the members of the Council that the Decree on Defining Period for Data Collection and Reference Moment of the Census of Population, Households, and Dwellings sent to the Ministry of Finance in procedure toward the Government of Montenegro, and by which it is envisages the period of implementing the Census of Population, Households, and Dwellings from 1 to 15 November 2023.

### SECOND SESSION

The session was held on 30 March 2023.

After defining the quorum, adopting the minutes, and agenda for holding a session of Council of Statistical System, considering the first item of agenda, presentation 'Plan of Activities for Preparation of Strategic Documents for Statistical System for Period 2024-2028' was held by Ms. Bojana Radojevic, MSc. Ms. Radojevic informed the members of the Council with:

- Table overview and legal framework of Montenegro statistical system;

- Legislative framework, preparations, activity plan, and obligatory contents of strategic documents in 2023.

Considering the second item of agenda, presentation 'Current state regarding preparations of the Census of Population, Households, and Dwellings in 2023', was held by Mr. Ernad Koli, MSc. Mr. Kolic informed the members of the Council on:

- The Law on Census of Population, Households, and Dwellings, adopted in the Parliament and released in the Official Gazette of Montenegro No 140/22;
- Decree on Defining Implementation Period of Census of Population, Households, and Dwellings and reference moment of the census (released in the Official Gazette of Montenegro No 25/23), implementation period for the Census of Population, Households, and Dwellings defined for 1-15 November 2023, and reference moment is 31 October 2023 at 24:00.
- Organizational structure built and five commissions established for preparation and implementation of the Census of Population, Households, and Dwellings 2023, as well as special challenges and plans for the next period.

## **THE 3<sup>rd</sup> SESSION**

The session was held on 28 April 2023.

In line with the recommendations of EC-Eurostat given in the Montenegro Peer Review Report on compliance with the Code of Practice and the coordination role of the National Statistical Institute, Statistical Office has an obligation to produce a clear definition of official statistics aimed at its harmonization on the European level, to assess which competent bodies produce the 'official statistics'.

Having in mind the mentioned above, the first item of the agenda was to become acquainted with the adopted [Criteria for defining 'official statistics' and 'other official statistical producers'](#). The Council's members were informed about them by Ms. Branka Susic Radovanovic, MSc, assistant director of Sector for Macroeconomic Statistics, National Accounts, and Prices.

About the mentioned, all interested can be informed in details via the official website of Statistical Office, in part ABOUT US/COMPETENCE OF MONSTAT/ORGANIZATION OF OFFICIAL STATISTICAL SYSTEM. Beside the legal framework of European and official statistics for defining criteria, there is also the Request form for entry in the statistical system of Montenegro on the website.

The request form can be sent not later than 10 June 2023, and statistical survey proposals for producing the Programme not later than 15 September in the year preceding the period for which the Programme is adopted.

The purpose of releasing them on the website is to provide necessary information and to encourage those that would like to be a part of statistical system to send timely the request.

Considering the second item of agenda, Ms. Snezana Remikovic, assistant director of Sector for Social Statistics and Demography informed members of the Council on the Census of Population, Households, and Dwellings:

- The Law on Census of Population, Households, and Dwellings is adopted and published in the Official Gazette of Montenegro No 140/22;
- The Decree on Defining the Period of Implementation of Census of Population, Households, and Dwellings and Census Reference Moment (released in the Official Gazette of Montenegro No 25/23), period defined 1-15 November 2023 for the implementation of the Census of Population, Households, and Dwellings, and the reference moment is 31 October 2023, at 24.00h;

- Organizational structure built and five commissions for preparation and implementation of Census of Population, Households, and Dwellings 2023 established. One commission is for management of preparations and organization of the Census, and four commissions are thematic referring to logistics, methodology, spatial register, and IT support.

## **THE FOURTH SESSION**

The session was held on 27 June 2023

After the quorum was constituted, followed by both agenda and minutes of the previous session, there was held a presentation by Mr. Ernad Kolic, MSc, regarding the data request from the Revenue and Customs Office which are necessary for Statistical Office. In addition to the legal basis of the Law on Official Statistics and Official Statistical System, Mr Kolic pointed out that there is prepared a document updated with the necessary data and harmonized with the EU *acquis* in domain of statistics – Eurostat's Statistical Compendium and strategic document of Statistical Office. The mentioned documents requires: improvement of existing variables, introduction of new variables, and transmission of new data.

The assistant director of Sector of Social Statistics and Demography, Ms. Snezana Remikovic informed the Council's members with the current state related to the preparation for the Census of Population, Households, and Dwellings, and she pointed out that the *Decision on Amount and Distribution of Resources to Census Commissions for Financing Census* is in procedure and is expected to be adopted in line with the work programme of the Government, by which the adoption of the documents necessary for the preparation of Census under responsibility of institutions out of Statistical Office is to be finalized. Ms Remikovic reported that the established commissions for organization and preparation of census timely perform their tasks and meeting the deadlines. Ms Remikovic informed the Council's members that the Statistical Office released the most often questions and answers related to the Census of Population, Households, and Dwellings. The first questions were released on 22 February 2023, and updated on 15 June 2023.

The assistant director of Sector for Macroeconomic Statistics, National Accounts, and Prices, Ms Branka Susic Radovanovic, MSc, informed the Council's members on the production status of Statistical Office's strategic documents.

Pursuant to Article 20 – 24 of the Law on Official Statistics and Official Statistical System (Official Gazete of Montenegro No 18/12 and 47/19), and the Government of Montenegro Programme of Work for the fourth quarter of 2023, there is defined an obligation to prepare:

- The 2024-2028 Development Strategy of Official Statistics, together with the Action Plan;
- The 2024 – 2028 Programme of Official Statistics;
- The 2024 Annual Plan of Official Statistics.

There is an ongoing preparation of strategic documents:

Development Strategy of Official Statistics 2024-2028, with the Action Plan and Programme of Official Statistics 2024-2028, that are in the draft phase, and regarding the Annual Plan of Official Statistics for 2024, there is ongoing entering of statistical surveys. Consulting regarding the production of strategic documents will be done inside the Statistical Office, at management and top management meeting, official statistical system, and official statistical producers, which are followed by informing the Council's members with the draft, as well as the members of the Chapter 18, organizing public debates for both secondary legislation (the Strategy and the Programme), and submission them to the General Secretariat of the Government that observes the strategic document drafts and gives the opinion with the recommendations.

After the received opinion of the General Secretariat of the Government, the proposal of strategic documents is submitted to the opinion of the Council of Statistical System and with the set of forms is transmitted to the Ministry of Finance, which is followed by the adoption of strategic documents at the session of the Government of Montenegro (the deadline is the fourth quarter of 2023, up to 31 December 2023).

## **THE FIFTH SESSION**

The session was held on 31 July 2023

After the defined quorum, agenda and the minutes from the previous session, Ms. Branka Susic Radovanovic, Assistant Director of the Sector for Macroeconomic Statistics, National Accounts, and Prices, informed the member of the Council on the process of preparing the Development Strategy of Official Statistics 2024-2028.

Pursuant to Article 20 - 24 of the Law on Official Statistics and Official Statistical System (Official Gazette of Montenegro No 18/12, and 47/19), and Programme of Work of the Government of Montenegro, for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2023, there is defined the preparation of the Development Strategy of Official Statistics 2024 - 2028, with two-year Action Plan (for 2024 - 2025).

This secondary legislation represents a development framework of statistical system of Montenegro that defines strategic aim, vision and mission and five long-term operative aims of statistical system of Montenegro. The aim of the Strategy is to improve the current measures, mechanisms, and instruments of statistical system of Montenegro, and to develop new ones.

The presentation on the draft Law on Census of Agriculture 2024 was held by Ms. Natasa Vojinovic, Assistant Director of Sector for Statistics of Agriculture, Fishery, Business Statistics, Environment, and Forestry.

The Census of Agriculture is planned to be implemented from 1 October to 1 December 2024.

Information on new organization of official statistical system for period 2024 – 2028 was provided by Ms Branka Susic Radovanovic who reported that the Statistical Office adopted the Criteria for Defining Official Statistics and Other Producers of Official Statistics with the Request for Entering Statistical System of Montenegro.

Respecting the adopted criteria for defining official statistics and other producers of official statistics, and line with the new Programme of Official Statistics 2024 – 2028, pursuant to the Law of Official Statistics and Official Statistical System, the official statistical producers will be: Statistical Office, Central Bank of Montenegro, Ministry of Finance, and two institutions – Public Health Institute of Montenegro and Pension and Disability Insurance Fund of Montenegro who timely submitted the Request for Entering Statistical System of Montenegro, and after the decision of the Commission for defining the status of producer of Montenegro, obtained the positive opinion on the sent request.

Under item “Miscellaneous“, Ms. Snezana Remikovic, Assistant Director of Sector for Social Statistics and Demography, informed the members of the Council on the current state and preparation for the Census of Population, Households, and Dwellings, that are timely implemented and meeting the deadlines.

Under item “Miscellaneous“, Ms Branka Susic Radovanovic informed about the amendments to the Law on Official Statistics and Official Statistical System.

The opinion of the Council’s members and the conclusion of this session is that defined procedures for amendments to the Law on Official Statistics and Official Statistical System should be respected.