

**DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY OF  
OFFICIAL STATISTICS  
2014 - 2018**

November 2013

## INTRODUCTION

The Development Strategy of Official Statistics 2014 - 2018 (hereinafter: the Strategy) is a second strategy prepared for the official system of Montenegro in accordance with the Law on Official Statistics. The Development Strategy of Official Statistics determines the long-term goals based on the current state of affairs, needs and future development.

Bearing in mind the overall goal of official statistics, which is a full harmonisation of official statistics with the EU laws in the area of statistics until 2018, the Strategy defines the goals and expected results as well as the indicators measuring the progress in their achievement.

For purpose of the medium-term planning of the development of official statistics, the Programme of Official Statistics has been prepared for the period 2014 – 2018, which is based on the elaborated concept of the statistical product. The Annual Survey Plan, which is derived from the Programme, is a short-term document elaborating statistical activities up to the level of statistical surveys. The Strategy of Official Statistics 2014 - 2018 and the Programme of Official Statistics refer to the same five-year period for which the Government of Montenegro is preparing the Programme for the Accession of Montenegro to the EU. Consequently, the Strategy and the Programme of Official Statistics represent also a detailed harmonization plan of the Chapter 18 - Statistics.

The development of official statistics envisaged in this Strategy is necessary and possible, and its realisation depends also on securing the needed human and financial resources and the international institutions assistance.

Director of the Statistical Office

Gordana Radojevic, MSc.



## **1. MISSION**

The task of official statistics is to provide quantitative and representative information on economic, demographic, social and environmental issues in Montenegro to all users in accordance with the internationally defined methodology and highest professional standards. Data for national purposes and international dissemination should be provided at minimum costs.

Modern management approach, staff professional development, regular harmonisation with international standards, user orientation, process modernisation and working conditions improvement are the most important activities which will allow the Statistical Office of Montenegro to fulfil its mission.

## **2. VISION**

Our vision is for the Statistical Office of Montenegro to be recognized as an institution providing internationally comparable, reliable and timely data in accordance with user needs on national and international level. This implies the creation of unique harmonised methodological European system providing data of highest quality in shortest possible time and in most accessible manner for all its users at the same time, using state of the art technology at minimum costs in terms of human and financial resources.

## **3. LEGAL BASIS FOR ADOPTION OF THE STRATEGY OF OFFICIAL STATISTICS FOR 2014 - 2018**

Preparation of the Development Strategy arises from and is based on the legal basis defined in the following national and international documents:

- The Law on Official Statistics and System of Official Statistics of Montenegro (The Official Gazette of Montenegro, No 18/12 from 30 March 2012)<sup>1</sup>
- The Regulation of the European Parliament and the European Council on European Statistics 223/2009<sup>2</sup>;
- The Regulation on European Statistical Programme for 2013 - 2017<sup>3</sup>
- The European Statistics Code of Practice<sup>4</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Law on Official Statistics and System of Official Statistics (The Official Gazette of Montenegro, No 18/12 from 30th March 2012)

<sup>2</sup> Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2009

<sup>3</sup> Regulation (EU) No 99/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 January 2013 on the European Statistical Programme 2013-17

<sup>4</sup> European Statistics Code of Practice

### Law on Official Statistics and Official Statistical System of Montenegro

The Development Strategy of Official Statistics of Montenegro, the principles of official statistics, organisation, affairs and coordination of official statistical system are governed by the Law on Official Statistics and Official Statistical System of Montenegro which is aligned with the European standards and requirements.

In accordance with Article 20 of the mentioned Law, the Development Strategy defines the direction of development and goals of official statistics of Montenegro. The Strategy is prepared by the Statistical Office in cooperation with other producers of official statistics.

The Official Statistical System of Montenegro encompasses the following producers of official statistics participating in the preparation of the Development Strategy of Official Statistical System:

1. Statistical Office of Montenegro - MONSTAT;
2. Central Bank of Montenegro;
3. State Authority in charge of finances;
4. Other producers of official statistics defined in the Programme of Official Statistics.

### Regulation of the European Parliament and European Council on European Statistics 223/2009

This Regulation represents the legal framework of the European Statistical System. It defines the structure of the European Statistical System and the legal instruments used for coordination and strategic functioning of official statistics on the level of the EU. The legal instruments for implementation of the legal framework are:

- Multi-annual work programme,
- Annual work plan, and
- Development Strategy of Official Statistics.

### Regulation on European Statistical Programme for 2013 - 2017

The Regulation on European Statistical Programme defines the activities that will be conducted within the framework of the ESS in the period 2013 - 2017. In view of harmonising its official statistical system, Montenegro has prepared the Programme of Official Statistics for 2014 - 2018 defining the general and sectoral development goals as well as the list of activities/surveys to be implemented in the mentioned period in view of the achievement of goals and faster harmonisation with the ESS. The

Programme represents a document defining general goals, whereas the Strategy supplements the Programme defining the strategic direction that the Montenegrin official statistics will take.

### *European Statistical Code of Practice*

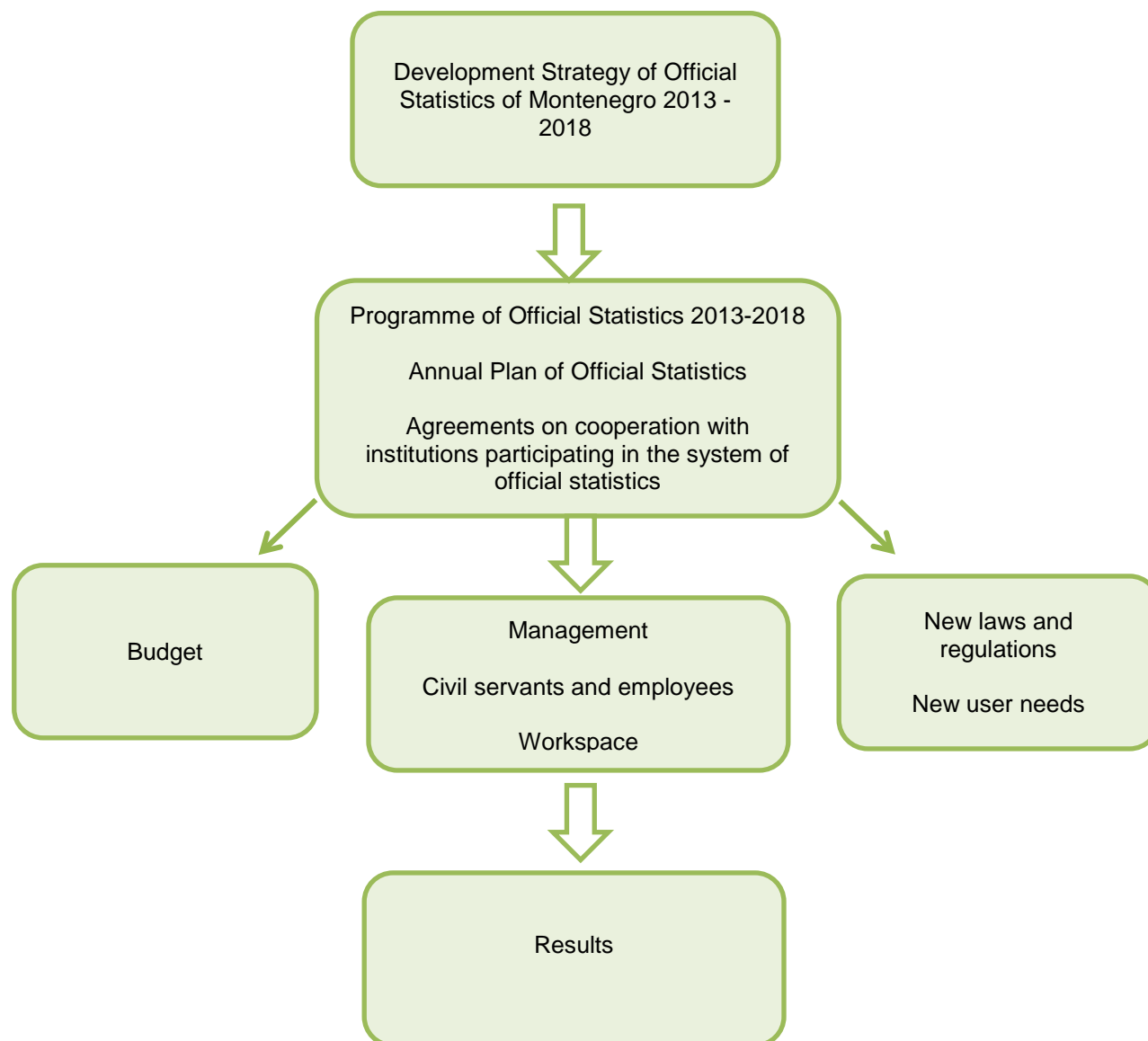
The purpose of the Official Statistics is a continuous development of statistics and production and dissemination of statistical data in accordance with the principles of official statistics.

The Principles of the Code of Practice of European Statistics are incorporated in the Law on Official Statistics and Official Statistical System. Consequently, the Official Statistics and implementation of its strategic goals are based on the following principles; professional independence, mandate for data collection, adequacy of resources, commitment to quality, confidentiality of statistical data, impartiality and objectivity, sound methodology, appropriate statistical procedures, reduction of respondent burden, cost effectiveness, relevancy, accuracy and availability, timeliness and precision, coherency and comparability, availability and clarity of data.

#### 4. STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION

The Development Strategy of Official Statistics of Montenegro for 2013 - 2018 is focused on the achievement of concrete results in the mentioned period.

Process of the achievement of goals must be controlled by means of a coordinated and quality statistical system. This system is shown in the following figure:



## 5. STRATEGIC GOALS

### **GOAL 1: Harmonisation of the official statistics of Montenegro with the legal system of the European Union related to official statistics.**

#### ***Description of the goal:***

Full alignment with the EU Acquis in "Chapter 18: Statistics" implies provision of official statistics on socio-economic tendencies of Montenegro in accordance with international standards applied in the ESS. In view of achieving full alignment, it is necessary to adopt Community Acquis and create conditions for its implementation within the framework of Montenegrin statistical system.

Acquis for the area of official statistics encompasses the production and management of statistics in accordance with the principles of the European Code of Practice. The alignment of the official statistical system of Montenegro with the European Statistical System is achieved through compliance with and application of the principles of the Code of Practice in the process of statistics production which covers collection, production, processing and dissemination of statistical data as well as management of the entire system. Full alignment implies that all statistical processes in statistical areas comply with international standards and the defined legal framework.

The adoption and implementation of the ESS Acquis, compliance with the principles of the Code of Practice and internationally adopted methodologies, use of the appropriate tools and procedures in the process of statistics production, should result in generation of data comparable on international level, thus allowing integration of the Statistical System of Montenegro into the ESS.

#### ***Expected results:***<sup>5</sup>

- Full alignment with the requirements of the European Statistical System (hereinafter: the ESS) in relation to availability of statistical indicators and methodologies used in their production.
- Provision of official statistics relevant for the adoption and monitoring of national policy as well as policies defined on the EU level.
- Improvement of the cooperation with the international statistical institutions as well as with the national statistical institutions of the EU Member States in view of adopting best international practices;
- Transmission of EUROSTAT data carried out - within the deadlines defined in the transmission programmes;
- International and national classifications systemically applied.

---

<sup>5</sup> Detailed overview of expected results as per statistical areas is shown in the Programme of Official Statistics 2014 - 2018.



**Indicators:**

- Law on Official Statistics and System of Official Statistics fully implemented in accordance with the international standards;
- Methodologies of statistical surveys in the Montenegrin Statistical System fully aligned with the relevant methodological framework of European Official Statistics;
- Official statistical data on socio-economic tendencies in Montenegro available in the EUROSTAT database and published in the official communications and publications of the EUROSTAT;
- Increase in the number of the verified and published sets of data and variables transmitted to the EUROSTAT;
- Quality reports prepared, published and regularly updated;
- All relevant international classifications adopted and implemented on the level of the official statistics producers;
- Relevant international classifications adopted and implemented by all statistical administrative sources;
- Old classifications re-classified (in accordance with the new codes);
- Statistical registers (business, spatial, agricultural register) established and regularly updated;
- Statistical registers connected with the administrative registers.

## **GOAL 2: Management of quality by monitoring the application of the Code of Practice of European Statistics**

### **Description of the goal:**

Official statistics in all EU countries, therefore in all enlargement countries applying for EU accession, should be produced on the basis of the principles of the European Statistical Code of Practice (CoP). The European Statistics Code defines 15 key principles for production and dissemination of official statistics as well as the institutional framework needed for functioning of the national statistical authorities and Community statistical authorities.

The process of negotiation regarding Chapter 18 - Statistics made it obligatory to implement significant structural and coordination changes in the statistical system of Montenegro arising from the harmonisation and integration of the national system with the ESS. In accordance with the changes imposed in the negotiation process, MONSTAT has in different ways built better grounds for more stable and sustainable national statistical system by adopting the new Law on Statistics and Official Statistical System (The Official Gazette 18/2012). In the new Law on Official Statistics and Official Statistical System of Montenegro, the Code of Practice has been fully incorporated thus introducing legal obligation for all statistics producers to comply and implement all 15 principles.

Institutional environment, statistical processes and statistical results are defined in the Code of Practice. The development of stable institutional environment stands out as a crucially important factor for further development of the national statistical system. Within its framework the following principles deserve the most attention: professional independence and commitment to quality.

It is important to say that the proposal for the amendment of the Law on Statistics (EC Regulation) No. 223/2009) including declaration on "commitment to confidence in statistics" (CoC) has been initiated. In addition to promoting the European Statistical Code of Practice (CoP), and in particular the principle of independence, the CoC also aims to strengthen the statistical control in the EU and preserve the reliability of European statistics. The MONSTAT keeps in mind this proposal and monitors the process of adoption in order to harmonise its own development plans accordingly.

### *Monitoring*

The adoption and the implementation of the European Statistical Code of Practice is monitored against reports and defined progress activities by means of evaluation missions organised by the EUROSTAT.

### ***Expected results:***

- Maintain professional independence of official statistics on all responsible levels in the process of data collection, processing and dissemination.

- Ensure availability of data in accordance with the Code of Practice of the European Statistics;
- Evaluate the application of the Code of Practice of the European Statistics in the Official Statistical System of Montenegro.
- Introduce quality management system based on the revised Code of Practice of the European Statistics;
- Develop meta database.

***Indicators:***

- All indicators from the Code of Practice have been implemented:
  - Existence of clear rules for appointment to, release from and duration of the mandate of the Director of the National Statistical Institute in the law on statistics or other appropriate regulations;
  - New Coordinating Board for National Statistical System (NSS) and the new unit to administer this process established.
- Continuous percentage growth of implemented activities recommended in the regular reports of the evaluation mission.

### **GOAL 3: Strengthening the administrative capacities through continuous development of human potential in view of sustainability of official statistics.**

#### ***Description of the goal:***

The MONSTAT is an institution involved in professional and scientific work, but generally speaking, it must be considered a complete institution whose duties include: resource management, production of official statistics and dissemination of data by means of modern IT techniques. From the above we can deduce that there are three main directions in development of the MONSTAT personnel: (1) development of managerial competencies and (2) development of professional staff;

The development of existing managers and further development in the area of management is of crucial importance for all employees. Good management implies deploying and motivating employees (as individuals) and investing in their personal growth.

Bearing in mind that the scientific methods are used in the production of statistics, it is implied that the personnel employed in the statistical system must have appropriate expertise in order to justify and fulfil defined requirements. Specific circumstance that inhibits the development of professional staff is the fact that in Montenegro there is no specialist training in official statistics or in general statistics. Development of an individual into professional statistician often takes place in the course of working career which is a lengthy process requiring serious training. The MONSTAT recognises the need to enhance personnel potential by employing young people with experience in statistical surveys or with theoretical knowledge in statistics, but also to develop the existing personnel through practical experience and professional training. With that in mind, the MONSTAT is an active participant in numerous courses and projects supporting and investing in the development of statisticians.

#### ***Expected results:***

- Increase in the number of employees in the official statistical system in accordance with the Programme for Montenegro's EU Accession;
- Expanded pool of competences in collection, processing and dissemination of official statistics, with special emphasis on quality management;
- Increased number of employees with masters and doctoral degrees in the area of official statistics;
- Strengthening cooperation with the universities and wider scientific and research community in view of employee education;

#### ***Indicators:***

- Strategy of Human Resource Management defined;
- Number of management training increased;
- Manner of interaction between manager and civil servant defined;

- Increased participation and regular attendance of MONSTAT employees at trainings of the ESS and other organisations and institution from professional statistical domain;
- Increased student participation in statistical surveys of the MONSTAT;
- Training programme defined and regularly delivered: the Days of Statistics, the School of Statistics etc.;
- Participation in special programmes and projects aimed at development and creation of professional statisticians.

## **GOAL 4: Stronger use of administrative sources in view of reduction of expenses and burden on respondent units**

### ***Description of the goal:***

Statistical data produced by official statistics above all must be relevant, timely and accurate in order to satisfy user needs and to be suitable for making decisions on the course of politics and for reaching conclusion on socio-economic tendencies of society. Bearing in mind that the resources of the national statistical institutions are limited and that those institutions are expected to produce data of high quality, the only solution is to obtain bigger quantity of statistical data from the administrative sources. The national statistical institutions should have mandate to influence the creation and maintenance of administrative sources. The key activity that needs to be implemented is the harmonisation of the methodology used by the administrative sources for data collection in accordance with the requirements of official statistics, that is, the standards of the EU. In this way, financial burden of response will be reduced and at the same time the national statistical institute will be able to offer more data of higher quality. Also, in conducting statistical survey, the burden on reporting units must be taken into consideration, so the solution for this problem is to be found in the use of administrative sources. In view of successful cooperation with certain bodies in possession of administrative data, we are concluding Memorandums of Cooperation which serve to define the methodology for data collection, deadlines for sending data, but also which data need to be sent. The use of administrative data certainly represents benefit for all parties involved.

The MONSTAT has a role of main coordinator of the official statistical system in accordance with the Law on Official Statistics. One of its obligations is the control and creation of administrative sources. In order for the MONSTAT to have harmonised statistics, all administrative sources must be improved and the level of their data quality must be raised. This activity will be realised by having the official statistics influence and insist on the harmonisation of data collection methodology used by the administrative sources with the EU methodology. If the administrative sources harmonise their registers in accordance with the MONSTAT requirements, Montenegro will be able to produce statistics in line with the EU standards that are also internationally comparable.

In view of obtaining quality data from administrative sources, it is necessary for the institutions from which the MONSTAT is drawing data to have complete, updated and quality registers. Only in the case that there is a quality data from the administrative source that satisfies user needs, there is no need to conduct statistical survey.

The MONSTAT recognises the creation of a new and harmonisation of the existing administrative sources with the EU methodologies and standards as one of the key development components. Commitment to this activity requires definition of clear strategic goals as well as setting up of necessary instruments for the achievement of unique goal: creation of quality administrative sources serving as the main input for production of official statistics.

**Expected results:**

- Administrative registers harmonised with the EU methodologies and regularly updated
- Data from administrative sources used more in the production of official statistics
- Stronger role of the Statistical Office of Montenegro in creation of administrative sources of data in order to increase the use of administrative records for statistical purposes and reduce the respondent burden as well as data collection costs;
- Technologies simplifying exchange of administrative sources between state authorities introduced;

***Indicators:***

- New administrative registers set up;
- List of available and potential administrative sources defined and the action plans for development of administrative registers prepared;
- Administrative registers used more for statistical purposes;
- Memorandums of Understanding signed with all relevant administrative sources on data collection methodology and delivery;
- Number of survey based statistical research reduced;
- Respondent burden reduced.

## **GOAL 5: Better organisation and control of statistical processes by introducing modern technologies**

### ***Description of the goal:***

Statistics is a fast developing field and the number of its users is constantly growing, so are their expectations and needs. One of the biggest problems that needs to be resolved is the fact that the users of statistics want the most recent information in the shortest time possible and in the appropriate form and shape that makes further manipulation and analysis of information easy, thus creating additional pressure on the statistical system. Bearing in mind that the user needs are the reason behind the existence of statistics, the official statistics tries to develop in accordance with their needs. At the present time, one of the suggested solutions for increase in speed, accuracy and availability of data is to use modern IT tools in the production process. The MONSTAT invests in the development of IT tools, and not only in the tools, but also in the personnel that is subject to constant training and development in this area.

### **Expected results:**

- Professional staff skilled in working and using IT tools and the official licences of all programmes used in the production of official statistics acquired
- Process of collection, processing and dissemination of data modernised using modern information technologies;
- Better work organisation in terms of the centralisation of data collection phase.
- Better standardisation of statistical processes through development of existing and adoption of new procedures and instructions aimed at standardising the process of official statistics production.
- Development of the system for monitoring, documenting and controlling all phases of the official statistics.

### **Indicators:**

- Increased participation and regular attendance of MONSTAT employees at the trainings in the use of IT tools in the ESS and other statistical organisations and institutions
- Professional staff trained to work on licensed software
- Increase in use of new IT tools in the expert sectors;



## **GOAL 6: Enhancing the coordinating role of the Statistical Office in the Statistical System of Montenegro and the integration with the ESS**

### ***Description of the goal:***

One of the main goals of the statistical system of Montenegro is its integration into the European Statistical System. At the time of starting negotiations for EU accession, Montenegro undertook the obligation to harmonize its official statistics with the EU Acquis. Alignment with the Acquis is the basic step in the negotiation process, but it is only a first step towards the goal. Full integration implies not only alignment with the Acquis but also building of strong communication channels between the National Statistical Institution and the Member States and EUROSTAT, thus becoming a part of the system.

The European Statistical System (ESS) is designed in such a way to provide reliable and comparable statistics on the level of the EU network comprising of the EUROSTAT, the National Statistical Institutions in the EU and the Member States of EFTA as well as other national producers of official statistics such as central banks and ministries. Being part of this network means being informed and involved in the process of development and improvement of the statistics on the level of the EU. This opens the door for the Statistical System of Montenegro to access the guidelines about the manner and methods of production of comparable and reliable statistics on the level of the EU, even though Montenegro is not a Member State.

This network facilitates the establishment of necessary contacts and the acquisition of knowledge on different mechanisms used for the development of unique and standardised system, such as, the development of the common statistical "language" within the framework of statistical decision-making programmes and committees on the level of the ESS.

Different instruments have been developed in the EU in view of the network expansion and faster integration of enlargement countries into the ESS. These instruments are most often based on the exchange of experiences and the transfer of knowledge taking place through numerous seminars, working groups, trainings, long-term and short-term expert missions, but are also based on the possibilities of becoming familiar with the EU system through internship in the EUROSTAT or National Statistical Institutions of the Member States. The development of bilateral and multilateral cooperation with partners of the ESS network is a valuable benefit in terms of capacity building and integration of the statistical system of Montenegro into the ESS.

The purpose of these instruments is in assisting human capacities of the statistical system of Montenegro in establishing contacts with the EUROSTAT and EU/EFTA, raising awareness and information exchange about the ESS and involving Montenegro in the development of the ESS by becoming familiar with the new techniques and the Acquis requirements.

It is important to say that besides the ESS there are other international institutions and organisations with which the MONSTAT needs to develop partner relations, and which indirectly affect the integration of the Montenegrin statistical system into the ESS. Amongst others it is important to underline good communication links with the UN organisations, such as the IMF, World Bank, FAO, UNICEF, UNODC, UNECE, but also others, for instance: SIDA, EFTA and OECD. By creating good relations with these institutions, the network is expanded and developed, fostering at the same time the development of Montenegrin statistical system, but also its integration into the contemporary processes of official statistics development in Europe and the world.

***Expected results:***

- Coordination of the statistical system by means of negotiating structures established for Chapter 18: Statistics, developed;
- Knowledge on the ESS, used methods, standards and terminology for production of official statistics in the EU improved.
- Cooperation between the Montenegrin statistical system and the ESS strengthened.
- Cooperation between Montenegrin statistical system and other international institutions and organisations strengthened.

***Indicators:***

- Regular participation of the personnel of the Montenegrin statistical system in the relevant and key working meetings and different types of EUROSTAT trainings;
- Regular participation of the personnel of the Montenegrin statistical system in the relevant and key meetings of statistical commissions, working groups and the high level meetings at the ESS;
- Regular involvement of the MONSTAT in the ESS development programmes;
- Establishment of formal bilateral partnerships;
- Increased number of bilateral memorandums on cooperation;
- Formal membership of the MONSTAT in the bilateral and regional relevant groups;
- Increased number of projects with international organisations;
- Participation in regional projects of international institutions and organisations;
- Membership of the MONSTAT in international statistical organisations (ISI, GDDS, SDDS, IEA);
- Regular organisation of donor meetings on annual level.

## **GOAL 7: Development of dissemination in line with the development of information technologies and the improvement of communication with users**

### ***Description of the goal:***

Goal of official statistics is a production of statistical data for needs of its users. Official statistics represents the official source of data produced in accordance with international standards and professional methods, and is designed primarily to help wide range of users reach decisions and conclusions on socio-economic tendencies of the society on local, national and international level.

Bearing in mind that all policies and decisions on macro level are based on statistical data, the official statistics is especially important for policy makers. On the other hand, statistical data serve many other users as a tool for reaching conclusions and conducting analysis, such are scientific and research or educational institutions and citizens. Equally important principle for statistics is to ensure equal access to official data for all users, regardless of their different needs. This principle, above everything else, raises trust and transparency of official statistics in the eyes of general public, by guaranteeing equal treatment to all users when it comes to availability and timely acquisition of data.

In order to increase the availability of the official statistics to its users, as a main coordinator and disseminator of national statistical system, MONSTAT must above all improve: dissemination policy (raise data visibility) and policy on quality (produce quality data).

The dissemination policy must be defined on the basis of clear strategic goals with a particular attention on raising data clarity, data distribution channels and user communication. Users have extremely varied and long list of requirements which depend specifically on the group to which the user belongs. MONSTAT must first of all develop the system of formal consultations and dialogues with all user groups. Grouping users will facilitate communication, make change follow-up easier, but will also more clearly define user priorities.

The policy on quality is based exclusively on production of quality data. In general sense it covers the quality of the statistical system and the management of production process, whereas in narrow sense it guarantees the quality of the final output, that is, the data. The official statistics is dedicated to development of the policy of quality and establishment of the management system and its goal is to use all available resources to reach the maximum level of quality. Only by providing quality data, the statistics can satisfy the needs of its user and respond appropriately to their requirements.

In view of increasing the availability of information on data and processes, but also in view of informing the wider public about the quality of statistical data, MONSTAT is developing all possible tools for better representation of the statistics (development of metadata - descriptive representation of statistical terms and data). In this way,

MONSTAT is careful in producing quality data available to the wider public not only as a final product, but also as data described and shown according to its production phases for purpose of its easier understanding by the user.

***Expected results:***

- Creation of the stable statistical system inspiring user confidence;
- Clear dissemination policy defined and implemented;
- Better quality of statistical data.

***Indicators:***

- Law on Official Statistics defines the independence of the MONSTAT from all political and other influences in the production and dissemination of official statistics;
- Law on Official Statistics defines the coordinating role of the MONSTAT in the national statistical system;
- Law on Official Statistics defines the statistical confidentiality;
- Formally established cooperation between the official statistics producer and user;
- Strategy of dissemination of official statistics defined and published.
- Policy makers informed on methodology of statistical processes and quality of statistical results in terms of ESS quality criteria;
- Instructions and guidelines on the processes of statistical production and dissemination made available. These instructions are publicly available.
- Information on methods and procedures used in statistical system publicly available;
- Statistics presented in the form that facilitates correct interpretation and meaningful data comparison (metadata system publicly available, all disseminated data published with explanation, user education strategically defined);
- Strategy on the quality policy of official statistics defined and published;
- Quality management system established;
- Quality reports established and regularly published within the meta database.

## 6. INSTRUMENTS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIC GOALS

This part describes instruments, resources and financial resources needed for implementation of the Development Strategy. The instruments defined in continuation will serve as the main tools for achieving goals and results defined in the previous chapter of the Strategy.

It is important to underline that the largest part of these instruments will be secured through pre-accession aid projects: IPA national or multi-beneficiary.

For purpose of implementation of the Strategy we have defined the following instruments that will accelerate and facilitate the development of the Official Statistical System of Montenegro:

### 6.1. Instruments for implementation of goal 1:

- A. Data collection projects - Pilot projects

### 6.2. Instruments for implementation of goal 2:

- B. Evaluation missions

### 6.3. Instruments for implementation of goal 6 and 3:

- C. Participating in the ESS meetings
- D. Trainings
- E. Internship
- F. Study visits and consultations

### 6.1. Instruments for implementation of goal 1

#### *A. Data collection projects - Pilot projects*

The data collection is an important element in implementation of the new and the existing Acquis. Main purpose of the pilot project is the assessment and advice of experts, transfer of know-how and the financial contributions to the statistical office in view of the implementation of statistical pilot surveys and the data collection in those areas where it is required by new Acquis, and sometimes also by the existing legislation (but in a limited time period).

### 6.2. Instruments for implementation of goal 2

#### *B. Evaluation missions.*

Evaluation missions are organised by the EUROSTAT and serve to evaluate compliance of the national statistical office and the entire national official statistical system with the European Code of Practice. So far only one round of evaluation missions on the level of the EU and the enlargement countries has been carried out, and the second round is envisaged to be conducted in the period from 2014 - 2016.

### 6.3. Instruments for implementation of goal 6 and 3

#### *C. Participation in the ESS meetings*

Participation in seminars, working meetings, working groups and other training within the ESS allows the participants to become familiar with the existing Acquis, the problems and solutions for its implementation as well as the inputs for the development of new legislation. The participants will have a chance to express their opinion in the course of drafting new EU regulations, contribute to further and stronger integration into the ESS, follow the developments in different areas of statistics, acquire expert knowledge as well as participate in preparation of new research and elaboration of new statistics.

#### *D. Training*

Statistics is an area covering many different areas. Harmonisation, need for comparability, good knowledge and information on new methods and phenomena are especially important for production of quality statistical data. Therefore, training and learning in the area of statistics are necessary for proper response to challenges of the moment. Trainings in different and most diverse areas of statistics are necessary tool for further education and development.

#### *E. Internship*

This is a type of training where civil servants have a chance to become interns in the EUROSTAT or national statistical institution of the Member State. Internship usually lasts from three to five months, which gives interns the opportunity to thoroughly study European Statistical System, and to gain comprehensive insight into the functioning of the entire statistical system and the definitions of different areas of statistics.

#### *F. Study visits and consultations*

Study visits and consultations are basic tools for acquisition of new knowledge for EU enlargement countries. The goal of these activities is to take into consideration specific needs of a given country and offer required assistance in a required domain at a particular moment. The topic of the study visits and consultations is selected in accordance with the priorities of the country requiring them, and they cover specific statistical areas.

# EXPLANATION

## 1. LEGAL BASIS FOR ADOPTION OF THE STRATEGY

Legal basis for the adoption of the Development Strategy of Official Statistics 2014 - 2018 is contained in Article 20 Item 3 of the Law on Official Statistics and Official Statistical System (The Official Gazette of Montenegro, No 18/12), foreseeing that the Government of Montenegro shall adopt the Development Strategy of Official Statistics.

## 2. REASONS FOR ADOPTION OF THE STRATEGY

As one of the strategic documents of the Statistical Office, the Development Strategy of Official Statistics 2014 - 2018 governs the direction of development and the goals of the official statistics of Montenegro, for a period of five years. All priority activities of official statistics are summarised and incorporated in this document.

The Development Strategy of Official Statistics of Montenegro relies on the strategic goal of harmonisation of the official statistical system with the European statistical legislation. Only with such a complete harmonisation of two legislations it is possible to compare, evaluate and reach decisions on measures necessary for improvement of certain areas of society.

Today, statistics is just one of the sources of information for creation of the economic and social goals of Montenegro; therefore this five-year document is in the very process of making such decisions. Because of this role, it is necessary for statistical data to satisfy strict quality criteria.

The Development Strategy of Official Statistics is a document the purpose of which is to define long-term goals, but also general principles, guidelines and criteria for implementation and development of the official statistics of Montenegro. It represents the bases for determining statistical activities and indicators complying with the requirements and needs of its end users. It determines the long-term goals based on the observed state of affairs and the needs for further development.

Strategy contains the mission, vision, legal grounds for adoption, implementation strategies, strategic goals and the instruments for implementation of the strategic goals.

Development of the statistical system is a complex process requiring constant dialogue with statistical data users, data providers and other official statistics producers, combined with the implementation of international standards. Especially important in that process is the observation of rules of statistical confidentiality and guaranteeing of the comparability of statistical indicators internationally. For above reasons, failure to define long-term strategic goals would result in the lack of awareness of data users - the Government of Montenegro, European Commission, economic operators, scientific and

research institutions and so on, which is something that we cannot permit on our current journey of development of a European Montenegro. Therefore, the Development Strategy of Official Statistics 2014 - 2018 signifies the definition of true guidelines, criteria and goals for development and improvement of official statistics.

### **3. RESOURCES NEEDED FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS STRATEGY**

It is not necessary to allocate financial resources in the Budget of Montenegro for implementation of this Development Strategy of Official Statistics 2014 - 2018, a five-year strategic document of the Statistical Office. However, with the adoption of this document arises the obligation of its implementation through the Programme of Official Statistics and the annual plans in the period of five years.