

**SOCIAL ACCEPTABILITY AND THE ROLE OF
STATISTICAL LAWS IN SOCIETY – THE PERSPECTIVE
OF AND ENGAGEMENT WITH DATA USERS, HOLDERS
AND SUBJECTS ON THE STATISTICAL AND
LEGISLATION PROCESS**

***Workshop on Modernizing Statistical
Legislation***


**TIRANA, ALBANIA, 29-
30 MAY 2024**

I PUBLIC DEBATES AND CONSULTATIONS



The broadest public involvement regarding law-making processes throughout the participants consultation and debates

- ✓ Serbia is still in the process of European integration.
- ✓ Harmonizing the legal system with the European Union's legal acquis.
- ✓ Committing to gradually adopting the principles underlying the European Union's common policies.
- ✓ Public participation in the process of drafting and adopting laws is a fundamental indicator of a country's political system's democratic development.

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- To ensure conditions for public participation, several basic criteria must be met:
 - a clear legal framework for public involvement in creating public policies;
 - availability of information with timely public notification;
 - adherence to laws and established procedures by public authorities, fostering trust and quality public participation.
 - Public debate is a crucial means of consulting and engaging citizens, organizations, authorities, experts, and other interested members of the public in law preparation processes.
 - Vital for ensuring transparency in government operations.
 - Interaction between public authorities and citizens.



Public debates serve several purposes:

1. Informing the general public about planned activities in law preparation.
2. Facilitating comprehensive information exchange between ministries and the public.
3. Engaging the public in law preparation.
4. Addressing negative consequences of law implementation.
5. Enhancing public policy definition and law quality.

The legislative process phases are as follows:

1. Planning drafting and adoption within the framework of public policy documents.
2. Announcing the beginning of law drafting and initial basis.
3. Drafting laws, explanations, and accompanying documentation, including conducting consultative processes and preparing ex-ante impact analyses.
4. Forming working groups for drafting, involving stakeholders, target groups, and expert public.
5. Conducting public debate as decided by the competent Government committee.
6. Collaborating with other bodies to obtain opinions and harmonize positions.
7. Consideration in Government committees.
8. Government consideration, proposal determination, and referral to the National Assembly.
9. Consideration in the National Assembly, with principle and amendment submissions, along with the Government's opinion on the amendments.
10. Decree signing by the President of the Republic and publication.
11. Monitoring and ex-post impact analysis.

Statistical Law (Serbia Context)

- Public debate occurred from November 27th to December 20th, 2021
- SORS analyzed all comments, proposals, and suggestions
- Draft Text was posted on the SORS's website and the e-government portal
- Three proposals were received
- SORS forwarded the Draft Law for review to relevant state administration authorities and authorized bodies and organizations for opinions

II THE IMPORTANCE OF OFFICIAL STATISTICS IN CREATING PUBLIC POLICIES

1. Bringing the official statistics closer to the wider public as a part of the information system of a democratic society.
2. Importance of adequate influencing of government decisions focusing on the concrete and above all visible results for everyone (e.g. decisions considering number of preschool institutions and schools are created in accordance with the number of inhabitants).
3. Refraining from utilization of the penal provision.

Bringing official statistics closer to the wider public as part of the information system of a democratic society



- A positive step toward enhancing cooperation at all levels
- SORS initiated projects to make the entire survey process more accessible to the public
- Campaigns are designed to combine live interactions, where participants share their experiences at all stages of the process, with digital displays of results and impacts
- Public interest is particularly focused on understanding how data directly influence decisions



- Data collected in the 2022 Census of Population, Households, and Dwellings directly influence decision-making significant for citizens.
- Citizens understood the benefits of this survey because it was clearly presented to them:
 1. Influence on public policy decisions in the field of demography, including measures to address declining birth rates, financial support for families, development of preschool and school education systems, improvement of healthcare services, elderly care, and migration monitoring.
 2. Influence on public policy decisions in the field of infrastructure, such as water supply and sewage management.
 3. Influence on public policy decisions in the field of environmental protection, covering issues like firewood usage and air quality.
- 2023 Census of Agriculture
 - Basis for future investments, incentives, and agrarian reforms aimed at reinforcing essential processes.
- The focus shifts from the data provider's obligation to an outcome beneficial to both individuals and society as a whole.

The importance of effectively influencing government decisions, particularly emphasizing concrete and visible results for everyone

- Statistical methodology and analysis of statistical results represent the most complex parts of the statistical system
- The Decision-Making Support System (DMSS) - optimally addressing the needs of state administration bodies and other entities involved in decision-making processes
- SORS developed the Decision Support System
 - ❑ presents a clear and comprehensible overview of the Serbian economy
 - ❑ incorporating a range of tools

Absence of utilization of the penal provision

- As a result of the above-mentioned goals, there should be a restraint in utilization of the penal provision.
- Effective implementation of prior activities leads to voluntary and active participation of all.
- Mitigating the need for punitive measures.

III LEGAL MANDATE TO COLLECT AND ACCESS INFORMATION FROM MULTIPLE DATA SOURCES FOR STATISTICAL PURPOSES

1. Establishing alternatives to the traditional survey approach as a way of gathering data with maximum data engagement from the administrative sources, considering the statistical units workload and costs.
2. Including the right of the authorized producers of official statistics to take over databases from other legal entities in order to upgrade the system of official statistics.
3. Strengthening of the principle of statistical confidentiality and data protection.

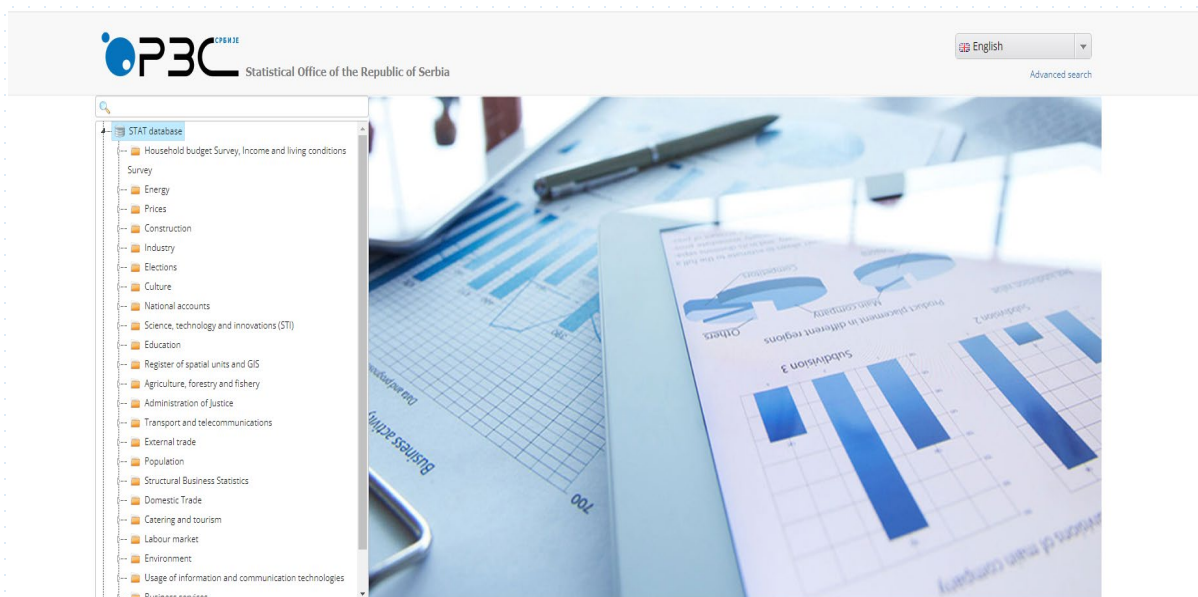
Establishing alternatives to the traditional survey approach



- Constitution of an efficient and consistent national statistical system.
- Use of administrative data sources.
- Effective cooperation and coordination of all actors in the chain of official statistics.

The right of the authorized producers of official statistics to take over databases from other legal entities

- ❑ The authorized producers of official statistics have the right to take over databases from other legal entities.
- ❑ The agreements on taking over databases.



Strengthening of the principle of statistical confidentiality and data protection

- ❑ Statistical confidentiality is guaranteed in law.
- ❑ The necessary regulatory, administrative, technical and organizational measures are in place to protect the security and integrity of statistical data and their transmission, in accordance with best practices, international standards, as well as European and national legislation.



THANK YOU

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