

Special Session:

Implementation of Quality management frameworks/systems in the enlargement countries.

The topic of the report “Quality initiatives in challenging times”

The State Statistics Service of Ukraine (hereinafter, the SSSU) produces and disseminates official statistics in accordance with the main principles of official statistics, including the principle of quality assurance, based on common standards, agreed methodology, using definitions and statistical classifications.

In order to comply with the principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice, the SSSU prepared the principles of activity of the state statistics authorities on the basis of the European Statistics Code of Practice, adopted in 2005, back in 2010. The new edition of the Principles of the State Statistics authorities was prepared after the amendments to the European Statistics Code of Practice in 2017.

Since January 1, 2023, the Law of Ukraine “On Official Statistics” entered into force, which was prepared on the basis of the Model Law on Official Statistics, developed by Eurostat together with the European Free Trade Association, which includes Article 4 “Basic principles of official statistics”.

Article 4 of the Law includes all 15 principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice to ensure their compliance by all members of the national statistical system at the legislative level.

The Law also contains chapter VII “Quality of official statistics”, which includes Article 35 “Obligation to ensure quality”, which stipulates that producers of official statistics are obliged to constantly assess in order to improve the quality of official state statistical information.

And they should also document in a standard way the data sources and methods used for the production of official state statistical information and inform users about its quality.

The section also includes Article 36 “Assessment of the quality of official state statistical information”, which stipulates that producers of official statistics assess the quality of state statistical information by conducting consultations with users and respondents by involving scientists, experts and international organizations.

In September 2023, the Government approved the Program to Develop of Official Statistics until 2028, the main priority of which is Harmonization of the national statistical system with international and European norms and standards. The program provides for the implementation of Commission Recommendation (EU) 2023/397 of February 17, 2023 regarding statistical standards of data and metadata.

The SSSU prepares standard reports of the quality of the state statistical observations. In 2023, the preparation of quality reports based on the European standard, the Single Integrated Structure of Statistical Metadata (SIMS) and reports on the quality of administrative data has begun. In 2023, 29 quality reports based on the

SIMS European standard and reports on the quality of administrative data of 14 state statistical observations were prepared.

The action plan for the implementation of the Program to Develop Official Statistics until 2028 envisages the gradual bringing of reports for users on the quality of statistical data into compliance with the European SIMS standard. By 2026, such quality reports must be prepared for all state statistical observations.

The documentation of the SSSU Quality Management System is prepared in accordance with the ISO 9001:2015 Standard "Quality Management Systems. Requirements". In connection with the transformation of the statistical production system, the implementation of the launch of the new SIGMA statistical production technological platform, the integration of the process of processing and dissemination of information using cloud technologies, the certification of the SSSU quality management system was not carried out.

However, it should be noted that obtaining a certificate was not the goal of developing a quality management system. It is important to create a concise, understandable and accessible system that is convenient for employees of all divisions to ensure the quality of work.

The Generic Activity Model for Statistical Organization (GAMSO) was used as a basis for creating a quality management system. On its basis, the National Model of State Statistics Organizations was prepared (posted on the official SSSU website).

The national activity model of state statistics authorities is a classifier of works, which are divided into sub-processes, processes and levels and includes 4 levels, 25 processes, 100 sub-processes and 265 works.

The national model of activity of the state statistics authorities is the basis for planning, analysis and monitoring in all spheres of the SSSU activity.

The national activity model is used for:

- development of Quality Management System documentation;
- formation of the Technological Program of the State Statistical Observations;
- data analysis of the Automated system of accounting for working time expenses;
- formation of the SSSU Activity Plan;
- implementation of risk identification and assessment;
- preparation of activity report;
- making an inventory of the state statistical observations and implementing other activities.

In 2021, for the purpose of coordinating actions regarding the development and improvement of the quality management system, the Commission for Coordination of SSSU Quality Management Activities was set up, which includes representatives of 10 subject-matter divisions.

Within the SSSU planning, development and international corporation department, there is the division for statistical activities quality assurance.

The basic documents of the SSSU quality management system, in addition to the National model of the activities of the state statistics authorities are as follows:

- Quality policy in the state statistics authorities;

- Risk management policy, which was prepared in cooperation with Statistics Norway.

According to the decision of the SSSU Quality Management Coordination Commission, a standard structure for describing the activity process was developed in accordance with the ISO 9001:2015 Standard “Quality Management System Requirements”.

The descriptions of all 25 processes of the National activity model of the state statistics authorities have been prepared in accordance with the approved standard process of description structure for the taking of measures to implement the Program to Develop the State Statistics of Ukraine until 2022.

Taking into account that the process of statistical production excites the greatest interest amount users, technological maps of 8 processes of statistical production Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM) have been prepared in cooperation with Statistics Norway, which are posted on the SSSU official website and are available to the wide public.

Also, in cooperation with Statistics Norway, a Questionnaire has been developed for monitoring activity quality indicators, which is used to ensure the analysis of compliance by the SSSU independent structural units and members of the national statistical system with the principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice.

In addition to the SSSU, the national statistical system also includes the Ministry of Finance and the National Bank.

Producers of official statistics fill out the Questionnaire for monitoring activity quality indicators to identify weaknesses and plan measures to eliminate them.

The last such survey among members of the national statistics system was conducted in 2022 at the stage of preparation of the draft Program to Develop Official Statistics until 2028.

Members of the national statistical system participate in the inventory (review and analysis) of the state statistical observations the SSSU conducts before the start of designing the annual plan of the state statistical observations.

The meetings of the work group on making inventory consider the issue related to compliance of methodology to compile data from the state statistical observations with the EU acquis.

The action plan for the implementation of the European Commission recommendations, presented in the Ukraine’s Progress Report as part of the 2023 EU Enlargement Package, envisages an increase in production and timely transmission of quality data to Eurostat.

Despite the situation that has emerged due to russia's military aggression against Ukraine with the support of belarus, the SSSU is making efforts to increase production and timely transfer of quality data to Eurostat:

- Measures are being taken to improve the methodology of statistical data compilation in accordance with European norms and standards by obtaining advisory assistance from Eurostat divisions;

-The issue related to the conditions and means for increasing the data transmission to Eurostat is being studied;

-A draft law on Amendments to the current legislation has been prepared, according to which the respondents will be required to submit reports to the state statistics authorities during the period of martial law.