

## Commitment on Confidence in Statistics

### Citizen's summary

Statistics Lithuania and other bodies, managing official statistics in Lithuania, produce, develop and disseminate official statistics in line with Regulation (EC) No. 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2009 on European Statistics<sup>1</sup> (hereinafter – Regulation (EC) No 223/2009), which obliges the European Commission (Eurostat) and all national statistical authorities, together with governments of Member States, to adhere to the principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice<sup>2</sup> (hereinafter – the Code of Practice) and to take all necessary measures to maintain confidence in official statistics.

Envisaging this purpose, Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 defines the need for governments of Member States to sign the Commitments on Confidence in Statistics. By these commitments, governments of Member States recognize official statistics as a public good, take responsibility for the state's progress in implementing the principles of the Code of Practice, and create the necessary conditions for the implementation of the Code of Practice in the country, thereby ensuring public confidence in official statistics.

The Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 leaves to the discretion of the Member States a decision as regards the form of their Commitments on Confidence in Statistics. **Provisions of Lithuanian Commitments on Confidence in Statistics** are laid down in the Law on Official Statistics of the Republic of Lithuania<sup>3</sup> (hereinafter – Statistical Law), which was adopted by the Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania upon approval by the Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania.

Statistical Law (Article 6 (1) and Para 5 of Article 6 (4)) defines Statistics Lithuania as leading statistical body in Lithuania, producing official statistics and coordinating the statistical activities of other bodies managing official statistics.

Statistical Law (Articles 6 (2) and 6 (3)) defines the professional independence of Statistics Lithuania, as well as of the Director General of Statistics Lithuania. According to the Statistical Law (Para 4 of Article 6(3)), Director General of Statistics Lithuania approves Official statistics production and dissemination guidelines for the implementation of the provisions of Part I<sup>4</sup> of the Official Statistics Programme by the bodies managing official statistics, and is responsible for compliance with these guidelines by Statistics Lithuania.

Moreover, Statistical Law (Article 3 (2)) states, that in order to ensure public confidence in official statistics, the bodies managing official statistics are guided by the principles of the Code of Practice, as set out in Article 11 of Regulation (EC) No 223/2009.

Statistics Lithuania is committed to complying with the principles of the Code of Practice and to strengthening their implementation in Lithuanian Statistical System. There are plenty of procedures, activities, methods and tools already in place at Statistics Lithuania, which are continuously improved to ensure full compliance with the Code of Practice. Quality management system, introduced in 2007 and conforming to the requirements of the ISO 9001 standard, forms a basis for the implementation of the Code of Practice. Commitments of Statistics Lithuania aimed to

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<sup>1</sup> [Regulation \(EC\) No 223/2009](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2009 on European statistics and repealing Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1101/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the transmission of data subject to statistical confidentiality to the Statistical Office of the European Communities, Council Regulation (EC) No 322/97 on Community Statistics, and Council Decision 89/382/EEC, Euratom establishing a Committee on the Statistical Programmes of the European Communities

<sup>2</sup> [European Statistics Code of Practice](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Law on Official Statistics of the Republic of Lithuania](#)

<sup>4</sup> [Official statistics programme](#)

continuously react to changing user needs – speed up the production and publication of statistical information based on its relevance, are established in the Quality Policy<sup>5</sup>.

Striving to implement the Code of Practice in other bodies, managing official statistics in Lithuania, the agreements on the organization, quality assurance and dissemination of official statistics<sup>6</sup> were signed with these bodies, Official statistics production and dissemination guidelines<sup>7</sup> were developed and approved by the Order of Director General of Statistics Lithuania, since 2006, activities of the cross-institutional working group on the implementation of the Code of Practice are being performed, as well as the annual seminars to exchange experience on the production, development and dissemination of statistics are being organized.

Every five year, on the initiative of Eurostat, a peer review on the implementation of the Code of Practice in Member States takes place, the objective whereof – to determine compliance of the national institutions producing official European statistics with the Code of Practice and to identify the areas to be improved, to strengthen users', respondents' and partners' confidence in official statistics. Results of the peer review of Lithuanian Statistical system, actions planned with regard to these results and progress achieved in their implementation are published on the website of Statistics Lithuania, in the section “Quality in Statistics”<sup>8</sup>. As a follow-up, Eurostat conducts an annual monitoring of the implementation of improvement actions, identified in the peer review exercise of Member States.

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<sup>5</sup> [Quality Policy of Statistics Lithuania](#)

<sup>6</sup> [Agreements on the organisation, quality assurance and dissemination of official statistics](#)

<sup>7</sup> [Official statistics production and dissemination guidelines](#)

<sup>8</sup> [Website of Statistics Lithuania, section “Quality in Statistics”](#)