

**LEGAL, TECHNICAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL ASPECTS OF THE  
STATISTICAL DATA CONFIDENTIALITY IN THE REPUBLIC OF  
BULGARIA**

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***ABSTRACT***

Principles on statistical confidentiality in compliance with the European legislation - Chapter 6 “Data confidentiality and protection of secrecy” and Chapter 9 “Administrative and penal provisions” find their place in the Statistical Law/10.06.1999/ and are in accordance with the requirements of Council Regulation N 322/97. New Regulations for Dissemination of Statistical Products and Services are worked out. Requirements related to protection of individual and personal data are given in a separate Chapter. Data protection is foreseen also in cases when they could be indirectly identified, as well as in protection of aggregations of less than 3 statistical units and/or in cases when the relative share of 1 unit is more than 75% of the total volume. There are special measures for developing data exchange in accordance with internationally approved Methodological Manual on Data Dissemination by Internet.

Non-identified /anonymous/ individual data, not consisting a code, name, address and/or other identifications that could lead to direct or indirect disclosure of a single natural or legal person, could be provided to users of Governmental and research institutions for scientific and analytical purposes only.

From an administrative point of view there is a special department on statistical data dissemination which is the only authorized one to submit statistical data to users. Personnel of NSI signs an sworn declaration for protection of secrecy of the statistical data. Data access is assured by a special permit.

In 2000 continued the activity on providing of more effective contacts with experts from other Bodies of statistics and development of methods for individual and personal data protection. Based on selected statistical surveys (studied on the base of used methods for data processing and software for data confidentiality control) and inspection of the technical specifications of the software developed, the results are codified. Suggestions for solving the confidential control problems and individual data protection are made aimed to development of technical specifications of the developed software for data processing.

Regarding the ongoing population and housing census a new Act on Population and Housing Census was passed on 25.02.2000. Regulations concerning personal data confidentiality are stipulated in the following articles:

- Art. 28. The census results are used for statistical purposes only.
- Art. 29. (1) The personal data are protected by this Law and by the Law on Statistics.
- (2) The personal data could not be used as a proof by governmental and legal authorities
- Art. 30. The persons, occupied with collection, control, data including and processing could not divulge or provide personal or aggregated data, obtained during the census.
- Art. 31.(1) and (2) The National Statistical Institute and Regional Statistical Bureaus are obliged to protect personal data and prevent any misuse by taking the necessary organizational and technical measures and by giving access to such data only to persons who have signed an sworn declaration for protection of secrecy.
- Art. 32. (1) The filled-in questionnaires during the census will be abolished 3 years after the census.

A new amendment of the Act on Statistics was adopted by the Council of Ministers in February 2001, and it will be discussed and promulgated by the National Assembly. An amendment of chapter VI concerning the confidentiality is stipulated in this law. The new para 2 established in article 26 envisages the possibility statistical information about the economical and environmental situation to be submitted for securing basic information of public interest. This text is included by the recommendation of Eurostat in order to protect the right of society to be informed.

Data confidentiality is protected by the requirement these data to be submitted only if such a submission is stipulated in the National Program for statistical survey.

The following activities will also be developed in 2001:

- Analyze the current state in the field of protection of individual and personal data.
- Improve co-ordination between the Bodies of statistics in the field of statistical confidentiality.
- Programme for assuring physical protection and control of confidential data.
- Personified work /responsibilities; levels of access/ related to statistical confidentiality.
- Study possibilities for implementing and using software packages in the process of protection of individual and personal data .