Data confidentiality and statistical registers in the Macedonian statistical system

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Skopje, 20 to 22 September 2017
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Introduction

• State statistics is an independent professional activity, which conducted on a scientific basis, provides users (legal and natural persons) with data on the economy, demography, social life, environmental protection and other areas.
Introduction

• The SSO is authorised to establish and maintain databases and statistical registers in the country, based on a prescribed statistical methodology.

• The use of administrative sources is becoming increasingly important for establishing and maintaining statistical registers.
Introduction

- Data from statistical registers are used exclusively for statistical purposes and are strictly confidential.

- Article 4-a of the Law on State Statistics

“statistical confidentiality” shall mean that data collected from reporting units through statistical surveys or indirectly, from administrative or other sources, are confidential and shall be used for statistical purposes only, which prohibits the use of data for non-statistical purposes and their unlawful disclosure.
Confidentiality measures

- Administrative
- Technical - infrastructure
- Organisational
Measures - administrative

- Policy on Statistical Confidentiality - it is a basic policy that serves as a basis for a number of general procedures which describe: user responsibilities, risk management, administration procedures.

- The protection of statistical confidentiality is a complex concept and covers several phases of the statistical business process model: data collection, processing and dissemination.
Measures
- administrative

- Policy on Statistical Confidentiality – defines responsibilities between:
  - Owner of the data
  - Staff of the IT Department
  - Users of data in statistical registers
Measures
- organisational

- Organisational framework for security administration:
  - Department/sector level
  - User administrator level
  - Resource administrator level
Measures
- organisational

• **Department/sector level** - includes deciding “how much” security is needed, defining the security organisation at the level of department/sector

• **User administrator level** - decides how many groups for access are needed in the department/sector, provides each person a user ID, and ensures that each user has only the authorisations needed to perform their work

• **Resource administrator level** - ensures that all security authorisations are assigned on a need-to-work basis
Measures  
- technical (infrastructure)

- Within the scope of the infrastructure, the main task is to support Systems, Internet Access and Other Systems in the SSO.
- The SSO has a general policy for standard files.
- With regard to confidentiality, the SSO has defined a policy for IT privileges for system administrators and access to production data at the network level, the database level and the application level. Special tools are available to manage those authorisations.
Monitoring procedures

• Monitoring procedures at different levels:
  - The administrator of the information system checks the functionality of the system and safety copies on a daily basis.
  - The Officer for Data Protection records and monitors the overall process.
  - The annual internal audit in accordance with the Audit Plan.
Graphical view of the organisation for security administration

- **Employee**
  - unique user name
  - password (8-digit)

- **Information system**
  - automated log off after 15 minutes
  - automated reject from the system after 3 failed attempts

- **Organisation for security administration**

- **Installations**
  - Firewall
  - Installation of anti-virus and anti-spyware software

- **Statistical business register**
- **Statistical territorial register**
- **Farm register**

- **Uninterruptible Power Supply**
Conclusions

• The confidentiality system in the SSO is established in a way that provides field data protection and protection of the data derived from administrative sources.

• Continuous efforts are made to educate employees and raise awareness of the importance of statistical confidentiality, its aspects, legal bases, procedures, and above all the fact that the weakest link in the system is always the human factor, rather than the legal and technological measures.
Thank you