

Statistical Commission**Fiftieth session**

5 - 8 March 2019

Item 3(c) of the provisional agenda

Items for discussion and decision: **Open data**

Taking into account the potential and benefits of public data openness, Statistics Poland is conducting a number of activities related to statistical data dissemination in accordance with the openness rules. We are aware that presenting statistical information and **API services** in line with openness principles could increase the number of potential users of statistical information. In order to achieve this goal, we need to take into account that utilization of digital technology tools and creation of gripping applications would be an incentive for users to reach the statistical portals. Last year, the most important achievement in the dissemination of data was the creation of an API to the **Local Data Bank** (LDB). LDB is a database containing statistical information from different thematic areas at various levels of the country's territorial division. One of the ways to access this product is through a **special platform** that directs the user to Statistics Poland's products that are equipped with application programming interfaces. Apart from the Local Data Bank, this technology supports extraction of information from the National Official Business Register (REGON) and the National Official Register of the Territorial Division of the Country (TERYT). The growing popularity of products with programming interfaces proves the necessity of developing these dissemination channels. For this reason, Statistics Poland is going to modernize the **Knowledge Databases System** by expanding the scope of presented data, as well as focus on API creation. This work will be finished by the end of 2021.

Statistics Poland is engaged in numerous popularisation and educational activities related to statistical products and data usage. An example of such an action is the **hackathon** "Show me data." Its aim was to create the concept for an application incorporating an element of virtual reality, together with its prototype, which would encourage teenagers to explore statistics. This hackathon (organized in part thanks to EU contribution) was addressed mainly to students and sparked great interest. Its outcome – the most highly appreciated prototypes of apps – are available on the [Google Play](#) platform.

Experts from our institution are also involved in international undertakings which pertain to open data initiatives. Statistics Poland has its representatives within the **Friends of the Chair Group on the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics** created under the auspices of the UN Statistical Commission. One of the work streams of this group concentrated on preparing a document related to adherence of the Fundamental Official Statistics Principles to openness standards. Data privacy, interoperability of systems and anonymization rules were indicated as particularly important. Moreover, activities of statistical institutions and capabilities necessary to support the open data process and the increase of popularity and trust in data disseminated within public statistical systems were also included in the document.

Statistics Poland's efforts in the field are reflected by its high position in the **Open Data Inventory** (ODIN) reviews conducted by the Open Data Watch. In these surveys, two key areas are assessed: data coverage (availability of specific data, the demanded data series length and proper dimensions) and the level of data openness (including open format, machine readability, and metadata availability). In the ranking created after the review in 2017, Poland placed 4th among 180 countries.

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