

*The SSCU has prepared the information note on the history of official statistics in Ukraine during the independence period and presents it to be posted on the web site of the World Statistics day.*

### **History of official statistics in Ukraine**

After the break up of the Russian Empire in 1917, the Central Statistical Office of the Ukrainian SSR was set up on October 1, 1921 and only in July 1922 the Council of the People's Commissariat for the first time approved the structure and the staff of the Central Statistical Office of the Ukrainian SSR.

After Ukraine gained its independence in 1991, the Ministry of Statistics of Ukraine managed the state statistics which according to Decree of the President of Ukraine on July 29, 1997 was reformed into the State Statistics Committee of Ukraine.

During the independence period due to the adoption of a number of important for the national statistics legal norms, acts and regulations, the legal basis was founded for statistical activity. This is first of all Ukraine Law on the State statistics, On Ukrainian Census of the Population, On Making Amendments to Some Legal Acts of Ukraine Regarding the Organization of Statistical Observations.

Due to the creation of the legal basis, the possibility has appeared to get free from the obsolete theoretical, methodological and organizational principles to construct statistics which were not consistent with the new conditions of managing the economy; make statistics close to international standards and the world practice.

The most significant steps in this direction were as follows: introduction of the system of national accounts, indicators for population living standards, external economic activity, labor market functioning, new structure of business activity, compilation of the index for consumer prices (inflation), etc.

The new phenomenon and direction of activity on creation and construction of the national statistics were the development and implementation in 1993 of the State Register of the reported (statistical) units which in 1996 was transformed into the Unified State Register of Enterprises and Organizations of Ukraine.

During the independence period, a significant work was done on improvements to statistical reporting. In 1992, according to Regulation of the Supreme Council of Ukraine on Procedure to Implement Ukraine Law on the State Statistics with involvement of the Ministry of Economy, the Ministry of Finance, the SSCU, other ministers and departments of Ukraine, the principles of forming and introduction of statistical reporting at the government level were revised. In the first place, the focus was on its unification, meeting the demands of Ukraine economy and consistence with international recommendations on statistics. As a result, the decrees of Ministry of Statistics of Ukraine canceled 310 forms approved by the former SSCY of the Ukrainian SSR and Ministry of Statistics of Ukraine. The rest of the forms underwent significant changes as a result of revision of indicators; the new forms were also introduced. As of 01.09.1992, 603 forms of statistical reporting were approved. The number of forms as compared to 01.01.1992 was decreased by 34%, indicators by 4, 2%.

Starting from Ukraine independence, the principles of strategic planning were laid down into the creation and further reforming of the state statistics which have been reflected in the development and implementation of the long-term programs of its development. The implementation in 1993-1998 the first program the State Program of Ukraine Transition to Internationally Recognized System of Accounting and Statistics provided for the creation of the basic principles of the national statistical methodology agreed with internationally recognized standards.

During the implementation of the next Program to Reform the State Statistics till 2002, the key problems were resolved regarding the establishment of the state statistics: the relevant legal basis was set up, the integrated survey of entities of all types of economic activity was initiated, and the conduct of the sample surveys in social and production spheres was started. With the purpose of ensuring the adequate quality, comprehension and efficiency of macroeconomic information, needed to monitor, forecast and regulate the economy, assess the results of the state economic policies, make the economic comparisons between the countries according to international economic and statistical standards and recommendations, the Program to Develop the System of National Accounts till 2010 was initiated.

The measures made during the implementation of the first two long-term programs allowed Ukraine to be the first among the CIS countries that joined in 2003 the Special Standard of Data Dissemination of the IMF.

The implementation of the Strategy to Develop the State Statistics till 2008 provided for the better interactions between the state statistics offices and data users due to more detailed study of their needs and implementation of modern means to disseminate statistical information. During its implementation, the measures were taken aimed at developing the statistical infrastructure and harmonization of the national methodology for statistics towards the EU standards.

The will of the national statistics to be jointed to task performance faced by the European community conditioned the development of the Strategy to Develop the State Statistics till 2012 which is a logical follow up to the previous programs of development and will allow the national statistics to switch to international standards.

The objective of the Strategy is to create the conditions for further development of the system of the state statistics of Ukraine and more complete satisfaction of the society's information needs in high quality statistical information, harmonization of the system for indicators with international standards at level recommended for statistical services of candidate-countries to joint the EU.

Due to a significant contribution of the employees of the state statistics into the development of Ukraine economy, Decree 1120/2002 of the President of Ukraine of December 2, 2002, a holiday was established – Day of Statistics Employees which is annually marked on December 5.

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