

MANAGEMENT SUMMARY OF THE AUDIT OF THE CZECH STATISTICAL OFFICE STATISTICS METHODOLOGY

Audit Subject Matter: Public Database of the Czech Statistical Office (CZSO)

Audited Department: Information Services Department

Time Schedule of the Audit: June 2016 – August 2016

AUDIT TEAM MEMBERS

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Main Conclusions

The Audit Team has appreciated a lot the intention and development concept of the Public Database (VDB), which are towards the objectives established by the CZSO of the VDB as a unified system containing and presenting aggregated statistical data, including appropriate metadata, for external users. The Audit Team evaluate as positive the option to create user-made selections, including the option of their storage for registered users.

The Final Report includes numerous findings which should contribute to improved functionality and further development of the VDB. The major findings are as follows:

- 1) The VDB does not contain all aggregated statistical data dedicated to be presented. Numerous CZSO outcomes (statistics, some of updates, and hot news) show aggregated statistical data, which are not included in the VDB.
- 2) Some data are uploaded into the VDB with time delays. Data in the VDB are not always up-to-date in times when the CZSO has already published them in other form.
- 3) Preset statistics often include data, which cannot be found in the section of “Customised Selection”.
- 4) Neither the visual presentation of the VDB nor its promotion are sufficient.
- 5) Section “All about Territory” boasts a great yet unused potential to provide an offer of comprehensible information to a broad spectrum of users. The concept of graphics as well as content of the section seems to be chaotic (which is due to the format of the basic two-column matrix with cells of different sizes). The impression is also emphasised by the hard-to-overview content (for instance, “Lands” in the beginning, and “General Information” at the end). Data for selected municipalities may not be compared. International comparison could also be of interest of municipalities.
- 6) Information on data (data source) quality is missing.
- 7) The possibility to work with the VDB as a registered user is not motivating and attractive enough at present.
- 8) The VDB does not allow computerised access to the data (automated through a defined API).
- 9) The searching in the VDB is not user friendly – search at the VDB level gives different results from those of searching in the section of “Methodology” of the VDB.
- 10) Functionality in the section of “Customised Selection” is not understandable enough. For example, things as the selection of period, option to select duplicate periods and territories, option to select territory, for which there are not indicators available, etc.

Main Recommendations

On the basis of the audit carried out, the Audit Team has proposed measures as follows:

1. Define and promote the VDB as the primary source of the CZSO data for all published outcomes to the public.
2. Set the Czech Statistical Office internal processes, including appropriate duties and responsibilities are laid down in the managerial documents of the Czech Statistical Office (directives) the way the data in the VDB are available at the same time as other statistical outcomes for the public.
3. Create a separate chapter in the concept, which should deal with the VDB publishing in the open data format, which means the conditions of the use, metadata, and registration of published open data sets are published in the National Catalogue of Open Data and simultaneously the use of open data from the VDB is enabled to be computer processed as by means of SPARQL endpoint, for instance.
4. Expand the offer of services to registered users (improve promotion of the services offered, for example).
5. Carry out opinion polls in respective groups of users (registered users, users employing computerised interface, statisticians, students, data journalists, analysts).
6. Improve the VDB promotion.
7. Improve the VDB graphic interface, including the VDB interface is adjusted for being used in mobile devices and the use of modern tools for, for example, visualization, animation, interactive maps, etc.
8. Improve substantially and make easier the searching in the VDB.
9. Improve options to compile the selection in the VDB section "Customised Selection"
10. Improve help (including the quick help) for respective sections and windows of the VDB.

Response of the Audited Department

Audited Department:

1. agrees with the conclusion of the audit of the methodology;
2. welcomes the recommendations and measures proposed as an important inspiration for the further development and modifications to the Public Database; and
3. has been committed to gradual implementation of majority of the measures proposed.