

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

**Audited subject:** Government finance statistics

**Audited department:** Government and Financial Accounts Department

**Audit took place:** July 2015 – November 2015

### **AUDIT TEAM MEMBERS:**

Jakub Fischer (University of Economics, Prague) – team leader

Stanislava Hronová (University of Economics, Prague)

David Prušvic (Ministry of Finance)

Milan Říkovský (Czech National Bank)

### **MAIN AUDIT CONCLUSIONS:**

The government finance statistics audit focused on how user needs are met and on harmonization of meeting of Eurostat requirements with meeting of needs of other users, especially the domestic ones. Based on the audit, the audit team stated the following:

- 1) compilation of the government finance statistics is fully in accordance with standards and requirements of Eurostat;
- 2) it is to be underlined that the State Statistical Service is a public service, which should respect, first of all, needs of domestic users, while these needs are not always the same with the needs of Eurostat;
- 3) frequency and scope of changes caused mainly by the meeting of Eurostat requirements weaken the possibility to use data from the government finance statistics (and work with them) by other users, namely due to the frequency of revisions of the government finance statistics as well as due to (in)consistency of the government finance statistics with other parts of the European system of national and regional accounts.

### **MAIN AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- 1) to take more into account needs of domestic users and to find an adequate way to meet needs of Eurostat as well as domestic users;
- 2) to significantly enhance communication towards domestic users;
- 3) to split released data, methodological documents, and explanations (notes) to a part designated for common users and a part designated for advanced users;
- 4) to publish methodological notes not only in English, but also in Czech language.

### **RESPONSE OF THE AUDITED DEPARTMENT:**

Audited department:

- 1) agrees with the conclusions of the methodological audit in general;
- 2) acknowledges recommendations of the audit team;
- 3) undertook to gradually implement recommendations of the audit team, especially those aimed at enhancement of communication towards users.