

PUBLIC STATISTICS FOR PROGRAMMING AND MONITORING COHESION POLICY – POLISH EXPERIENCE WITH THE STRATEG SYSTEM

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Abstract

The role of official statistics is to provide reliable information for different groups of users, with special consideration given to decision-makers. The recent ambitious challenge of public statistics, entailing significant responsibility, is to ensure information support for decision making process, for creation and monitoring of development policy, both at national and regional level.

Polish official statistics in close co-operation with Ministry of Economic Development takes activities aiming at improving the efficiency of planning and strategic management. For this purpose the Central Statistical Office of Poland has implemented the STRATEG system. It was launched in 2013 and is publicly-accessible for all recipients at strateg.stat.gov.pl, both in Polish and English version. It is a database application used for monitoring development policies and evaluation of activities undertaken to reinforce the strengthening of social cohesion. The leading role of the CSO in the monitoring process ensures durability of the provided system, its methodological consistency and development.

The STRATEG system integrates indicators derived from different sources which are used for monitoring the implementation of binding strategies in Poland (at national, supra-national and regional levels) as well as Europe 2020 strategy. It also contains indicators from documents determining the investment strategy for European funds period 2014-2020 in Poland, such as Partnership Agreement and Operational Programmes. The set of indicators from strategic documents is supplemented by measures from public statistics of highest

importance for the process of creation and monitoring the development policy. As a result, STRATEG comprises almost 1.6 thous. of indicators, disaggregated down to the LAU 2 level, where possible.

The system enables data presentation in a visually-attractive form, such as tables, maps, charts and reports. Users can easily adjust generated elements to their personal needs. These functionalities constitute a significant support in conducting analyses.

Apart from the principal system function as numerical data presentation, STRATEG also serves as an educational portal. Special indicator description cards were designed for the needs of the system, comprising definitions, methodological explanations and interpretational guidelines. All educational compilations are grouped in a separate text module that also includes a set of statistical publications and short analytical comments, presenting basic trends on selected subjects.

STRATEG constitutes the result of statistical cooperation with its users. The system is combination of knowledge treasury and functional tools for data presentation. Up to date experience shows that STRATEG is widely used by national and local government. It has contributed to the strengthening the cooperation between statisticians and decision-makers and reinforcement the role of public statistics in policy-making process.