SCREENING CHAPTER 18
STATISTICS

STATISTICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Country Session: The Republic of TURKEY
17-18 July 2006

CONTENT

- Turkish Statistical System (Statistical Law)

- Data Security and Statistical Confidentiality

- Strategy Towards Adoption of the Acquis

Turkish Statistical System

Legal Framework

Primary Legislation
Statistical Law, No: 5429, 18 November 2005

Secondary Legislation
- By-law on Statistical Council
  (Official Gazette, No: 26159, 5 May 2006)
- By-law on Data Quality Control Board
  (Official Gazette, No: 26204, 20 June 2006)
- By-law on Data Security and Confidentiality
  (Official Gazette, No: 26204, 20 June 2006)

Turkish Statistical System (cont'd)

The Nature of the Turkish Statistical System

- Centralised with specific task distribution to other institutions
- **Main Actor:** Turkstat, producing more than 85 % of all statistics organised under Prime Ministry, having technical and scientific autonomy
- **Other Actors:** Ministry of Finance, Central Bank, Treasury, TOBB and Ministries and institutions having administrative registers or databases serving statistical purposes
- Decentralised in data compilation in surveys and censuses (by means of 26 regional offices)
- Centralised dissemination (advanced release calendar)

Turkish Statistical System (cont'd)

The Scientific and Technical Autonomy

- No order/instruction by any authority in any kind and form can be given to staff of Turkstat and other statistical producers in their statistical activities (Art. 17)

- "Equal access to statistical data by all" (same time, same means) (Art. 12)
      "no data can be given to anyone or authority before its official release"

- Specific time duration for the President of Turkstat - 5 year, (Art. 23)
      "*He/she cannot be forced to leave the post before expiration of the term"*

Main principles (Art. 3, 4)
reliability, consistency, impartiality, confidentiality, timeliness, transparency, cost effectiveness

Turkish Statistical System (cont'd)

Coordination: Managing Principles
The Statistical law:

- describes clear roles of Turkstat for coordinating all other institutions producing statistics or serving to the statistical production **(Art. 1, 3, 5, 6)**
- strengthens Turkstat's power and authority to demand any kind of statistical information **(Art. 7, 8)**
- enhances Turkstat's access to the administrative records and registers **(Art. 9)**
- authorises Turkstat to standardise national register system (Art. 10)
- assigns Turkstat to decide on national statistical classification systems **(Art. 11)**
- takes into account burden on the respondents **(Art. 3)**

Turkish Statistical System (cont'd)

Coordination: Tools

1) Statistical Council (comprised of all ministries and relevant NGO's in Statistical area, under the chair of Turkstat)

2) Official Statistics Program (5 year, adopted by Council of Minist.)

3) Monitoring reports (annually)

4) Data Quality Control Board (under Turkstat to monitor all quality aspects of statistical production in Turkish Stat. System)

5) Data Dissemination Board (under Turkstat to standardise dissemination of all statistical production in Turkey)

6) Permanent/temporary committees with other public institutions

7) Regular meetings with stakeholders

8) Protocols with other institutions

"All private surveys must also release all methodological references and definitions" (Art. 5 ,6)

Turkish Statistical System (cont'd)

TURKSTAT – Institutional Capacity (17/07/2006)

- **26 regional offices**

- **Staff: 2396 (1248-central office, 1648-regional offices), 81 % university, 15 % high school**

- **Computer infrastructure: 2681 PC, 318 Notebooks, 40 Servers, 768 tablet PC, 115 Scanner, etc.**

- **3 Vice Presidents, 11 Departments**

- **Tools for dissemination: Publications, news releases, booklets, internet, e-mail, CDs, TV teletext, mobile phone subscription**

Turkish Statistical System (cont'd)

TURKSTAT – Departments

- **Methodology**
- **National Accounts and Economic Indicators**
- **Industry and Business Statistics**
- **Agriculture and Environment**
- **Social Statistics**
- **Dissemination (in two languages, TR and ENG)**
- **Information and Communication Technology**
- **Strategy Development**
- **External Relations**
- **Supporting Services**
- **Human Resources**

Data Security and Statistical Confidentiality

Definition (Art 1): Individual or tabular data is confidential which allows for the identification of a statistical unit directly or indirectly with its characteristics

Article 13:
- Data is confidential if number of unit is less than 3
- Data is confidential if one/two unit(s) is/are dominant even though total unit number may be more than 2
- No transfer to any authority, no use other than statistical purposes, and no evidence for anything (even for legal cases)
- Confidentiality ceases in case unit approves in written form for its release
- Implementation details shall be determined by regulation by Turkstat

Data Security and Statistical Confidentiality (cont'd)

Use of Individual Data (Article 14)

Individual data may be given to the third parties;
- after hiding their parts that allow for the recognition of the statistical units directly or indirectly
- for scientifically aimed researches only
- not referring to the individual units
- written approval of the presidency

Data Security and Statistical Confidentiality (cont'd)

Right of units (Article 15)

All statistical units have rights;
- to be informed about the aims and coverage of the surveys and censuses
- to be informed on the measures taken to protect confidentiality
- to demand compensation of every material and moral demages in case their confidential data is released without their written consent

Data Security and Statistical Confidentiality (cont'd)

Penalties (Article 53)

The penalties shall apply to the civil servants who breach Articles 13 and 14 (confidentiality rules) acoording to the Turkish Penal Code No. 5237, Article 258:

> *"From 1 to 4 years"* of imprisonment

Strategy Towards Adoption of the Acquis

Strategic aim:

To modernise Turkish Statistical System (TSS) to undertake the responsibilities of the European Statistical System (ESS).

Priority areas:

Classifications
Business Statistics and Business Registers
Agricultural Statistics and Farm Registers
National Accounts
Labour Market
Macroeconomic Statistics
Income and Living Conditions
Transport Statistics
Regional Statistics

Strategy Towards Adoption of the Acquis (cont'd)

Tools

- 2007-2011 Strategic Plan of Turkstat (draft available)
- 2007-2011 Official Statistics Program of TSS (draft available)
- "Upgrading the Statistical System of Turkey Program" 2 phases
- Close Cooperation with Eurostat
- Temporary and Permanent Committees with Data Provider Organisations

Strategy Towards Adoption of the Acquis (cont'd)

Principles
- **Quality in statistics** (relevance, accuracy and reliability, timeliness and punctuality, coherence and comparability, accessibility and clarity, and completeness)
- **Professional independence**
- **Full automation** in data compilation and dissemination (web based applications)
- **Free dissemination** of data

Strategy Towards Adoption of the Acquis (cont'd)

Supporting policies (already in operation)
• Human Resource Policy and Quality Management
• Strengthening the Capacity of Regional Offices (technical-human)
• Computerisation of Statistical Data Production Processes
• Financial Management

Strategy Towards Adoption of the Acquis (cont'd)

Risks

- Time constraints
- Urgent statistical needs of other public authorities within negotiation process
- Complex procedures of statistical production
- Different national and international user needs