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Ordinance on the Organisation of Federal Statistics

of 30 June 1993 (Status as on 1 April 2021)

The Swiss Federal Council,

based on Article 25 paragraph 1 of the Federal Statistics Act of 9 October 1992¹ (the Act),

ordains:

Art. 1 Aim

This Ordinance regulates:

- a. the scope of application of the Act;
- b. the preparation of the multi-year programme;
- c. cooperation between the various agencies;
- d. the provision of statistical information.

Art. 2 Scope of application

¹ The institutions, public corporations and other legal entities named in the Annex are partly subject to the Act. The provisions of the Act and the implementing provisions of this ordinance apply in the following areas:

- a. the duties of the federal statistical bodies (Art. 3 of the Act);
- b. the principles of data collection (Arts. 4 and 6 para. 2 of the Act);
- c. the autonomous instruction of surveys (Art. 5 para. 4 of the Act);
- d. the participation of other agencies (Art. 8 of the Act);
- e. cooperation with the Federal Statistical Office (Federal Office) (Art. 10 para. 4 of the Act);
- f. the duties of federal statistics generators (Art. 11 of the Act);
- g. consultation with the Federal Office (Art. 12 para. 1 of the Act, Art. 8 para. 1 of this Ordinance);

- h. data protection and data security (Art. 14–16 and 23 of the Act, Art. 10 of this Ordinance);
- i. publications (Art. 18 para. 2 and 3 of the Act, Art. 11 para. 1 of this Ordinance);
- k. other services (Art. 19 para. 1 and 2 of the Act).

² For the Swiss National Bank, paragraph 1 letters a–e applies, other than for statistical work that is instructed by the Federal Council under Article 2 paragraph 1 letter a of the Act.

Art. 3 Definitions

¹ Federal statistics generators are administrative units of the Federal Administration (Art. 58 of the Administration Organisation Act of 19 Sept. 1978²) or parts thereof, as well as the public corporations, institutions and other legal entities that are partly subject to the Act insofar as they carry out statistical work.

² Statistical work comprises:

- a. the conduct of direct and indirect surveys;
- b. the provision of general surveys and statistical summaries;
- c. the preparation and the updating of classifications, nomenclatures and terminological collections;
- d. the evaluation for statistical purposes of administrative data, registers and of data from observation and monitoring networks;
- e. statistical analysis, provision of statistical information and archiving;
- f. devising statistical methods for federal statistical bodies as well as the related information technology programs;
- g. training and research in the field of statistics;
- h. the cultivation of international contacts relating to the coordination and harmonisation of statistics, as well as the exchange of statistical information.

³ Work that solely involves the internal administrative activities of administrative units and the other public corporations, institutions and private entities, the results of which provide no representative information at federal level, is not regarded as statistical work.

Art. 4 Multi-year programme

¹ The multi-year programme contains the goals and priorities of federal statistical policy for the legislative period. It also includes information on measures that relieve

² [AS 1979 114, 1983 170 931 Art. 59 No 2, 1985 699, 1987 226 No II 2 808, 1989 2116, 1990 3 Art. 1 1530 No II 1 1587 Art. 1, 1991 362 No I, 1992 2 Art. 1, 288 Annex No 2 510 581 Annex No 2, 1993 1770, 1995 978 4093 Annex No 2 4362 Art. 1 5050 Annex No 1, 1996 1486 1498 Annex No 1, 546 Annex No 1. AS 1997 2022 Art. 63]. See now the Government and Administration Organisation Act of 21 March 1997 (SR 172.010).

the burden on those involved in the conduct of surveys, on the required financial and human resources and on international cooperation.

² The Federal Statistical Office participates in the preparation of the legislative programme, in order to ensure the coordination of the multi-year programme with the legislative programme.

³ In the preparation of the multi-year programme, the Federal Office takes account wherever possible of the information needs of the cantons, communes, the scientific world, the private sector, social partners and international organisations.

⁴ The federal statistics generators provide the Federal Office with information on the aim, content and form of their planned statistical work as well as a list of the planned resources.

⁵ If new statistical work, a fundamental modification or the termination of existing statistical work is planned, the Federal Office must be notified without delay. The Federal Office must be regularly informed of developments relating to the planning of statistical work.

Art. 5 Federal Statistics Committee

¹ The Federal Statistics Committee (the Committee) advises the Federal Council and the federal statistics generators on the following matters:

- a. the preparation of the multi-year programme and the supervision of this programme;
- b. the provision of recommendations and guidelines for statistical work;
- c. general statistics projects;
- d. the policy on the publication of statistical information;
- e. other issues that are important for improving official statistics in Switzerland.

² Matters falling under the autonomous control of the institutions partly subject to the Act are not included in the foregoing.

³ The Committee draws up an annual report for submission to the Federal Council on developments in the multi-year programme and the situation and development of official statistics in Switzerland.

⁴ It may form sub-committees to deal with specific matters and may call on experts. The legal status, term of office and remuneration of the members the Committee are governed by the regulations on the extra-parliamentary committees.

⁵ The Committee is made up of a maximum of 25 members and normally meets twice a year. The Committee Secretariat is run by the Federal Office.

⁶ The Federal Department of Home Affairs issues the internal regulations.

Art. 6 Cooperation between federal statistics generators

¹ In order to encourage statistical cooperation, planning and coordination at federal level, the Federal Office shall establish a contract group (FEDESTAT), in which the federal statistics generators are represented.

² The Federal Department of Home Affairs issues the internal regulations after consulting with the parties concerned.

Art. 7 Cooperation with the cantons and communes

¹ In order to encourage statistical cooperation, planning and coordination between the Confederation, cantons and communes, the Federal Office shall establish a contract group (REGIOSTAT), in which the cantonal statistical offices, the statistical officers for those cantons that have no statistical office and the statistical offices of the cities may be represented.

² The Federal Department of Home Affairs issues the internal regulations after consulting with the parties concerned.

Art. 8 Specialist panels of experts

¹ In order to obtain advice on issues specific to a particular field raised by the federal statistics generators, the Federal Office may establish panels of experts with suitable representatives from the Confederation, the cantons and communes, the scientific world, the private sector and representatives from civil society.

² Their remuneration is governed by the Ordinance of 1 October 1973³ on the Remuneration of Committee Members, Experts and Mandataries.

Art. 9 Coordination

¹ The federal statistics generators must consult the Federal Office before the start, the fundamental modification or the termination of statistical projects in terms of Article 3 paragraph 2 letters a–c. The Federal Office must likewise be consulted before the creation, fundamental modification or termination of federal administrative data collections and federal registers that are suitable for the federal statistical purposes.

² The Federal Office advises the federal statistics generators as well as the regional statistical offices on statistical matters. It offers them suitable basic and advanced in statistics.

³ The Federal Office may for the purpose of the coordination and harmonisation of federal statistics, after consulting with the parties concerned and with the agreement of the Statistics Committee, issue recommendations and technical and methodological guidelines on the statistical work in terms of Article 3 paragraph 2 letters a–c.

³ [AS 1973 1559, 1989 50, 1996 518 Art. 72 No 2. AS 1996 1651 Art. 21 let. b].
See now the Ordinance on the Daily Allowances and Remuneration of the Members of Extra-Parliamentary Committees (SR 172.311).