



HUNGARIAN  
CENTRAL  
STATISTICAL  
OFFICE

# CONFIDENTIALITY POLICY OF THE HUNGARIAN CENTRAL STATISTICAL OFFICE

The development of the policy on data protection, declaring principles and rules followed in protection of the data managed for statistical purposes are important elements of the strategic planning of the Hungarian Central Statistical Office.

The framework of the confidentiality policy of the Hungarian Central Statistical Office is determined by the professional independence of the institution, the Hungarian regulatory environment of data protection and the Act No. XLVI of 1993 on Statistics. With regard to Hungary's EU membership, the Office performs its public duties of official statistics in accordance with the provisions of the Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2009 on European statistics.

Since its establishment in 1867, the Hungarian Central Statistical Office has declared it as a vocation and as a duty that during the whole statistical business process – from data collection through production until dissemination – the Office strictly protects the individual data<sup>1</sup> it handles and guarantees that this information is used exclusively for statistical purposes<sup>2</sup>.

The Hungarian Central Statistical Office is committed to administer the data entrusted to it to general satisfaction. It considers the task to get acquainted with users' needs and their satisfaction as a priority, aims at the utilisation of its data as diversely as possible. The Office performs this task with a high level of protection of individual data, as well as the strict observance of the provisions of the legal acts related to data protection.

The Hungarian Central Statistical Office endeavours to find and maintain the best trade-off between the demand for the protection of individual data and for data access in order to meet the user needs for the highest possible extent with full regard to the protection of individual data.

Accordingly the Hungarian Central Statistical Office is committed to strictly protect the information collected to compile official statistics in order to gain and maintain the confidence of the parties responsible for providing this information.

As a guarantee for obtaining this confidence, the staff of the Hungarian Central Statistical Office dealing with individual data considers data protection being of significant importance – as it has been for nearly one and a half centuries.

Our highly trained staff committed to data protection disposes of appropriate expertise in methodology, subject-matter domain and IT to provide a high level performance in their essential work with tasks related to confidentiality.

<sup>1</sup> Confidential data as defined in Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 on European statistics are considered as '*individual data*'.

<sup>2</sup> '*Statistical purpose*' means the exclusive use for the development, production and dissemination of official statistical outputs and analyses.

## Confidentiality principles

When performing its duties the Hungarian Central Statistical Office enforces the following fundamental confidentiality principles:

- 1. Confidential data management.** The Hungarian Central Statistical Office has the utmost respect for the rights of data providers' (i. e. individuals, businesses, institutions of public administrations and other respondents). It ensures the confidentiality of all information provided by them and its exclusive use for statistical purposes.
- 2. Exclusivity of the statistical purpose.** Management of the collected data is carried out for statistical purposes without exceptions. During this process the collection of individual data is an instrument, but not the final goal to perform the duties of the Hungarian Central Statistical Office.
- 3. Prohibition of use for non-statistical purposes.** The use of individual data not exclusively for statistical but for administrative purposes (e. g. for legal or administrative proceedings to audit statistical units) is strictly forbidden and the Hungarian Central Statistical Office takes every necessary precaution in order to enforce this requirement in practice.
- 4. Publicity of statistical data.** In order to perform its duties, the Hungarian Central Statistical Office disseminates aggregated data on the status of and changes in the society, economy and environment in full compliance with the rules of confidentiality.
- 5. Use of statistical data for scientific purposes.** The Hungarian Central Statistical Office provides access to deidentified datasets in safe environment and releases anonymised microdata sets for researchers for scientific purposes with appropriate legal and methodological guarantees in place.
- 6. Prohibition of disclosure of individual-level information.** During dissemination of statistical data – taking into account the relevant provisions of the law – disclosure of individual-level information is strictly forbidden.
- 7. Transparency of data protection.** The Hungarian Central Statistical Office informs the public with detailed information on its data protection activities and practices.
- 8. Regulated data protection. The Hungarian Central Statistical Office applies data protection regulations and guidelines in the whole statistical business process and its supporting processes.**
- 9. Ensuring organisational safeguards.** The Hungarian Central Statistical Office applies regulatory, administrative, technical, methodological and organisational measures to ensure the physical and logical protection of individual data.

The Hungarian Central Statistical Office guarantees full compliance with the above listed confidentiality principles in accordance with the provisions of the European Statistics Code of Practice as well as the United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics.

The Hungarian Central Statistical Office keeps the public informed on the methodological and other developments applied to ensure the fulfilment of the confidentiality principles and publishes the related documents on its website.

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