

# Metainformation system in the Czech Statistical Office

**Ebbo Petrikovits , Czech Statistical Office**

Key words: Statistical metainformation system, classifications, statistical variables, statistical surveys and tasks

The Czech Statistical Office approved the strategy of the statistical metainformation system. The SMS strategy (vision) defined 10 thematic blocks as the contents of the SMS. The project Statistical Metainformation System (SMS) was launched. There was a decision made to implement individual SMS blocks step by step.

The first we started to design and develop the module Classification. The aim of this part of the project was to create an SMS application for the creation, storage and update classifications and code-lists used for statistical purposes.

Then we started the development of the module Statistical Variables. Formalized and structured descriptions of statistical variables used in the statistics created the content of the subsystem.

The third subsystem has been the module Statistical Tasks<sup>i</sup>. It has contained meta-information describing statistical tasks, i.e. requirement specification, design, and specification of outputs of the statistical task.

In time being all three subsystems have been implemented and used for storage of classifications and code-lists, descriptions of statistical variables and statistical tasks. For the next stage of work we plan the development of subsystem Respondents, Users and Dissemination. Parallel the application for internet presentations of classifications and statistical variables have been under development.

The aim of the presentation is to give an overview of the current status of the implemented modules and their use in statistical practice.

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<sup>i</sup> **Statistical task** – is a set of statistical activities needed to fulfil a user's request for statistical information. The statistical task can be composed of one or more statistical surveys.

**Statistical survey** – is a set of activities connected with the proposal of statistical questionnaire, preparing a sample, printing and distributing questionnaires, collecting completed questionnaires, data entry (including electronic collection of data) and data validation. Statistical survey is always a part of statistical task.