

System of methodological audits in CZSO

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A final review of the system of methodological audits in the Czech Statistical Office is presented. The audits were proposed in May 2003 and they were held in CZSO from September 2003 to December 2008. A short historical hindsight, goals and time schedule of the audits, as well as the roles in the audits are described. The main goal of each methodological audit was to explore the adequacy of used methodological possibilities, principles, tools and practices, and correspondence between standards and practice of EU statistical service. The first cycle comprised of altogether 23 audits in different CZSO departments. The Auditing Group usually consisted of 3 external and 2 internal experts, who prepared the final report according to a general scheme. The report was then discussed by the Top Management, Head of the Auditing Group and Director of the relevant Department. Finally, the time schedule of further steps was prepared and monitored. Thus, the final reports were used for further improvement of the quality level of Czech Statistics. A short SWOT analysis is presented, taking into account the results of the first cycle of audits.

The first round of methodological audits in CZSO was reviewed by the Czech Statistical Council and found to be satisfactory. Based on the gained experience, the second round of methodological audits in CZSO is prepared.