

Local Data Bank as an element of informational society in Poland

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Reliable, up-to-date and widely accessible information is a very important factor determining development in modern world. There is not only a growing demand for information, but also growing store of data derived from various sources. Therefore present societies are often called 'informational societies'.

Development of informational societies is a great challenge for public sector, especially for official statistics. Various sources of information that are open to citizens and legal persons are of different quality. Recipients may not be aware of the fact which source is reliable. Therefore it is very important to provide official databases that are accessible, easy to use and popularised.

In 1998 Polish Regional Data Bank was made available to internet users. Now it is the greatest Polish organized information bank about social-economical situation, demographical, social and environmental matters. Regional Data Bank describes voivodeships, powiats and gminas as elements of social and administrative organization of the country, as well as regions and subregions that are parts of territorial units nomenclature, for statistical purposes.

Because of technological development and growing necessity for information describing not only voivodeships, powiats and gminas, but also other areas that recipients are interested in, research work was undertaken. The aim is to transform Regional Data Bank into significantly more developed Local Data Bank and make it important element of informational society in Poland. The main features of Local Data Bank will be presented in the paper.