

ELECTRONIC REPORTING IN SHAPING OF STATISTIC INFORMATION

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Recapitulation

The article examines official statistics as a "factory of information" which serving the needs of its users functioning in conditions of globalization of markets and competition also serves the rules of the market and economic efficiency of this "factory" undergoes parametrical valuation. The publication is a presentation of e-reporting as integrated method of gaining statistic data and growth of quality of statistic information with simultaneous respect for rules of functioning in this field.

The article answers the needs of practitioners of management whose decision making processes in larger and larger scope need supplies of statistic information and for them the problem of quality of statistic information states the current issue.

Introduction

Globalization of markets and competition together with development of information technology and communication integrated markets and economic circles. Information and actually its informative efficiency became in these circumstances a leading category ,the foundation of efficient functioning of a modern county, its public administrations and also of a modern enterprise [2],[3].Global integration of markets and economic integration of Europe elevated the importance and reinforced the economic role of statistic information. They stated very high standards which concern not only capability of statistic information to describe social and economic phenomena on the micro level which is local , regional or national one ,but also information which enables in macro scale to compare identical social and economic phenomena occuring in different localizations of global market. The task of the statistic information is to satisfy the informative needs of users operating on the global market ,by supplying their decisive processes verified by parameters of market competition. Diversity of social and economic phenomena ,and dynamics of changes taking place ,shape prosperity or slump on the markets and also their development trends ,extorting accuracy of managerial decisionsand also growth of needs for quality of statistic information. Contemporarily, subjective quality is determined by several key categories, which among others comprise:

- quality of the original data sources and methods of gaining data from these sources [1],
- time of gaining and processing the data into statistic information and its frowing them open to their users,
- reliability and comparability of the statistic information also on international level [4],
- simultaneous usefulness of statistic information for many different users.

Practically, it means that statistic information useful in supportig of menagerial decissions is the one which:

- originates as a result of examining of the same phenomenon on different locations in a country or the world at the same time,
- originates from unification of international methodology,
- is presented to its global user in real time thanks to its unified size structure and unification of information and communication technology standards.

Parameters standardising European quality of modern statistic information state a real challenge for public statistics ,undertaking so hard as well as expensive and depending on:

a) deep and multi-aspect restructurization of the sector and menagerial functioning of certain elements of its structur,

b) financial sources necessary for implementations of highly advance, compatible programmes and information and tele- communication technologies ,working in the integrated system, enabling its users to manage the statistic information,

- highly efficient information tools and equipment.

1. Public statistics as a producer and supplier of information supporting administering and managing of social and economic development of a country.

Without risc we can say about sector of public statistics that it is a multi- sector factory of information which analogically to other factories has a key technological economic process which generates a product dedicated to the market. The product of the very sector is information which due to its specific features (analogically to electrical power) puts its producers in a not very numerous group of producers whose result of a basic economic process retains a nonmaterial character which does not change the fact that it has the determining influence on capability of effective management of the community of users of economic environment.

Authorization to treat this sector as a factory of information supports the fact that the sector producers of statistic information as well as the off sector ones of other products:

- involve material and non-material resources in process of generating of a ready product
- they have competition
- they undergo pressure of needs of their customers, the strength of which lies in dynamics of changes of its surroundings and the market,
- they serve the client operating on the global market, who states quality requirements for statistic information resulting from changes taking place on the market,
- functions in a net of ties which comprises among others owners of the primary data sources and producers of statistic information in the countries of the United Europe and the world.

Production activity of the sector of public statistics for needs of any customer of its final product ,from the economic point of view means that the public statistics accomplishes economic process the rationalization of which apart from the fact that it is financed from the budget of the country, it is objectively necessary because public statistics like other subjects functions in limited financial conditions of its statutory activity. It means that it has to look for some reserves in its system of organization as well as in the systems of cooperation with owners of the primary data sources, engage highly effective information technologies and technological solutions which improve its functioning by slip shortening of time of gaining and processing of data their shaping into statistic information and also integration ,sending and managing of information and first of all giving to it high level of reliability by eliminating errors resulting from man labour.

A customer is not interested in financial problems of a producer or a supplier of a market product and analogically a user of the statistic information is not interested with financial problems of its producer which result in restricting of development of the research scope or in unsatisfactory capability to supply us with statistic information in time useful for its user. The user expects statistic information in time and demands its high quality , informative reliability in spite of the fact that most often he is not conscious that reliability of statistic information depends on quality of primary information sources and on achieved level of complete set of research. Its user, using statistic information in managerial processes does so thinking that he can lower existing risk of its management. A level of trust in statistic information among its users is not only a trade mark of its producer but also a marker of a preferebly respected by praticians in conditions of a competitive global market ,a parameter of statistic information. As a result it is a kind of an official statement for the department of statistics to invest in a process of increasing of the level of reliability of statistic information and in ability to publish in time needed by its user.

As the practice shows, without such investments, statistic information will be useless for current shaping of economic reality and for perspectives of its development, and it will start to locate itself in a status of a historic code.

The issue remains crucial for economic functioning of a country because statistic information on the low level of reliability and available with some delay to needs of its users distorts knowledge, for example of: decision makers, politicians, public administration, financial institutions and managerial decisions of some businessmen. It influences restrictions of development of companies and their problems with current functioning, it confuses citizens and it leads to deregulation of markets. Wasting of public money by lack of social and economic justification of its allocation. Needs of some investments in statistics supports the fact that national statistics undergoes European integration which is not possible without certain investments. So, the aim of the investments in public statistics is providing statistic information with ability to diagnose social and economic state of "being" which comes into being in conditions of competition and globalization, and ability to compare the achieved results with some research done in the field in countries economically integrated. The other aim is building of some necessary knowledge for decision makers, particularly for the government, politicians, strategists, legislators, financial institutions and businessmen, and also for analysts, researchers and scientists and for current orientation of citizens. Financing statistics development (its restructurization, technological equipment and competence and analytical abilities of human resources) in practice it is investing in extrapolations of some trends and ability to shape future by ability to state directions of long-term and balanced development of particular spheres of social and economic life.

2. Electronic reporting versus quality and rationalization of public statistics functioning.

Process of some key changes in public statistics aimed at growth of quality of statistic information states a multi-thread and complex task. One of its crucial elements is substituting the system of paper reporting by the system of electronic reporting. Importance of the system for quality of products of public statistics illustrate the results of the first half-year of functioning of e-reporting system in Poland. They confirm a slip increase of complete set of research achieved in the first month and proved by results of the first quarter and then half-year of its functioning of electronic reporting in all statistic offices. Some experiences of the Public Statistic Office in Opole present the issue on the level of details evidencing justified investments in public statistics. Presentation of the issue begins the table No 1, comparing types of research given to be done by the Statistic Office just at the time of beginning of e-reporting and the number of reporting subjects taking part in the research in all the country.

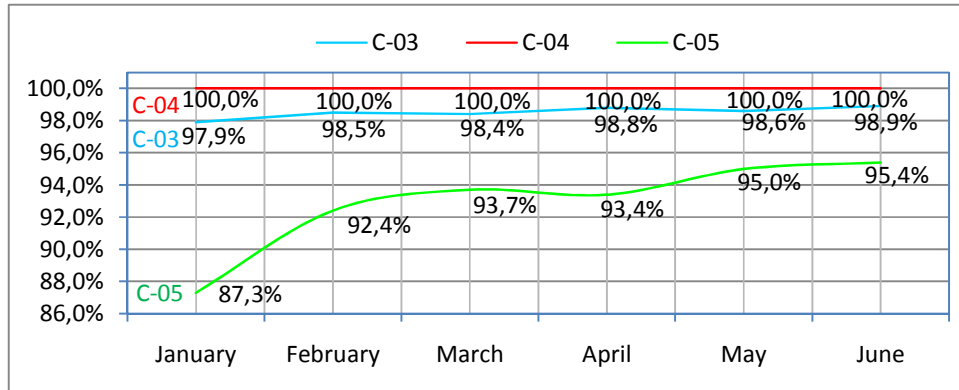
Table 1

	Number of surveyed companies					
	January	February	March	April	May	June
C-03	866	909	880	880	880	880
C-04	199	207	209	210	210	210
C-05	5062	4831	4712	4664	4664	4664
	First quarter			Second quarter		
C-06	207			213		
C-06/RU	23			24		

Level of completeness achieved in particular examinations is presented on the graph No1. Particularly interesting is the completeness of examination C-O2 which from the first month of functioning of the e-reporting system reached 100% and the result was maintained through the following five months. The other examinations the completeness of which already in January 2009 was satisfactory, in comparison to the level of completeness achieved in traditional paper

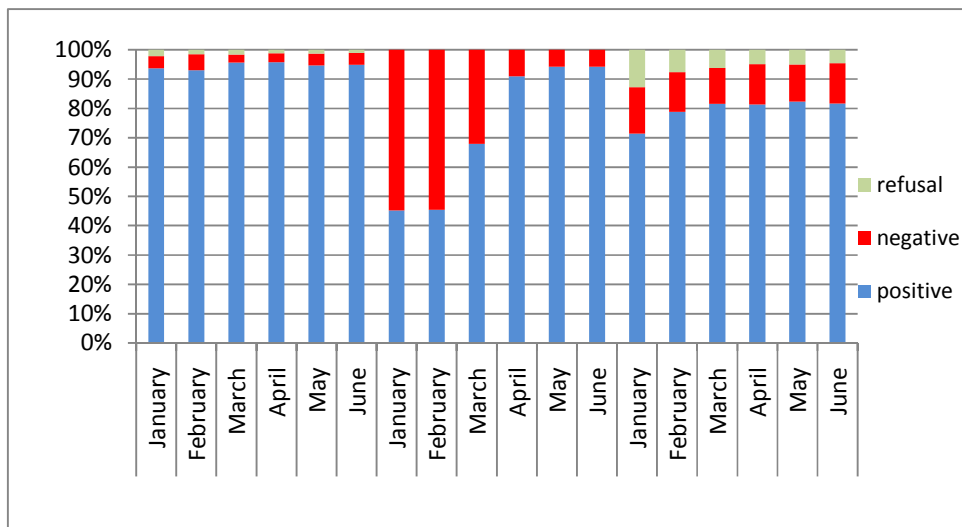
reporting, and also month by month of adapting of e-reporting among its reporters shows progressive tendency.

Chart 1. Level of completeness achieved after introducing of e-reporting, data concerning months 2009.



The issue of positive reporting was analysed on the level of quality of data achieved in electronic formula. The issue is presented as a bar chart No 2.

Chart 2.



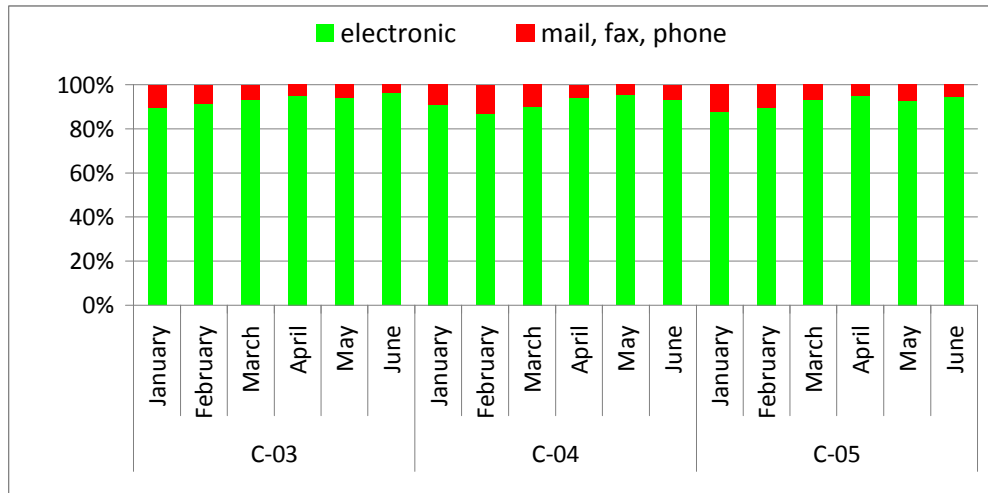
Inauguration of e-reporting in Poland was taking place without any general test and was done on 1st January 2009 as an obligatory form of reporting in the country. It was accompanied, as in the case of every macro undertaking, by different doubts the most important of which were:

- reactions of reporting people to pressure of rejection of paper work form of reporting which was rooted tens of years ago,
- ready equipment and abilities to use the electronic chart by the reporting people,
- no-problem functioning, efficiency of a reporting portal,
- level of ability of statistic services to cope with a new formula of work.

Meanwhile, the practice defended the idea of e-reporting and the method of its implementation in Poland. It proved the effectiveness of great effort done by the workers of particular statistic offices in the preparational period to prepare themselves and the reporting people to use reporting in electronic formula. The Statistic Office in Opole gives an example of gaining about 90% of reports

in the electronic form, the specification illustrating the analyzed half-year in details, in particular months: It is illustrated by chart No 3

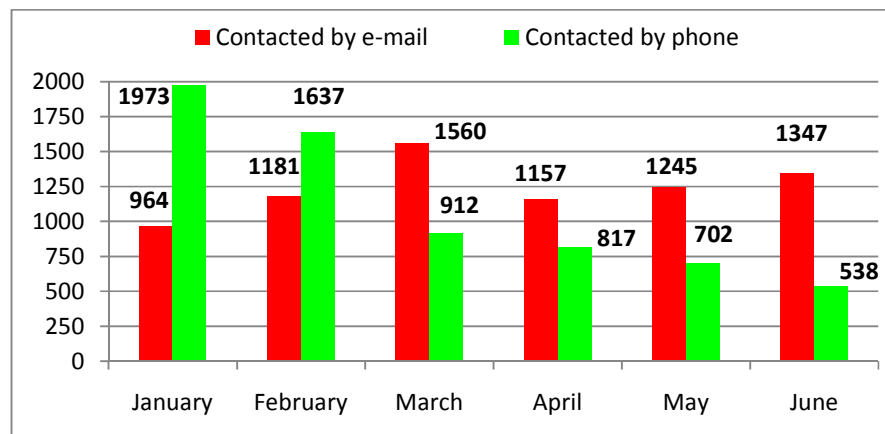
Chart No 3.



Strategy of preparations of the Public Statistic Office in Opole to service e-reporting was to do the task on specific conditions: "maximum completeness of research at minimum cost of telephone calls".

Realization of the set strategy showed that only in the first two months of functioning of e-reporting the number of calls made was over the number of e-mail contacts with a reporter (No 4)

Chart No4



The number of electronic contacts was growing steadily from the beginning of January and finally in March it dominated the number of telephone contacts. Since that time it has been functioning as a standard in contacts of the Statistic Office worker with a reporter. Independently of the fact the number of phone calls is still decreasing in favor of electronic form of contact. Electronic form since March 2009 has become a standard. Settlement of accounts done in the above office showed that the average cost of phone calls for one post was:

- in the first quarter of the year 15, 75zł,
- in the second quarter of the year 14, 78zł
- in the first half-year 15, 25zł.

Recapitulation

Implementation of electronic reporting is a fundamental investment in quality of statistic information on the basis of which we can introduce other quality forming activities. It is also a step in direction of rationalization of costs work organization and increasing of effectiveness at work ,efficiency of working hours in the statistic sector. With every increase of research trial in a system of paper reporting was connected the cost of printing of additional forms, the cost of their sipping, the cost of phone calls with new respondents, the costs of introducing some new data from the forms to statistic programmes etc., the electronic form of reporting eliminates such barriers. It creates conditions for increasing research trials and at the same time for the growth of reliability of statistic information by its creation on the basis of authority-based data coming from the bigger number of singular data.

Electronic reporting reduces ,on the side of reporting subject and statistic workers, paper form of archivisation of reports. Additionally it simplifies the statistic procedures in the department and forms of safety and confidential rules in statistics which are obligatory on the basis of an act, and it lowers its costs in the field. It eliminates the costs of sending reports by post which was done by the reporters .It prolongs the time in which a reporter is obliged to send a report of all the bridge holidays and festivals. The 24 hour-a day available portal enables reporting duty to be done all the day round and every day of the week, and from any location, which means in practice that a reporting subject can fill an electronic form after his or her duty hours or off office ,at any location.

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