

Act No. 540/2001 Coll.

**ACT
on State Statistics**

within the meaning of the Act No. 215/2004 Coll., Act No. 358/2007 Coll., Act No. 90/2008 Coll., Act No. 55/2010 Coll., Act No. 136/2010 Coll. and No. 519/2011 Coll.

The National Council of the Slovak Republic has adopted the following Act:

**PART ONE
FUNDAMENTAL PROVISIONS**

§ 1

Scope of the Act

This Act shall regulate the conditions for collecting statistical data and statistical information necessary for the assessment of the socio-economic development, position and competencies of the bodies gathering State statistics, the tasks of the public authorities in the field of State statistics, the rights and duties of reporting units, the protection of confidential statistical data against misuse, the provision and disclosure of statistical data, the ensuring of the comparability of statistical information and the fulfilment of commitments arising from international treaties in the field of State statistics binding for the Slovak Republic.

§ 2

Definition of Fundamental Terms

For the purposes of this Act

- (a) State statistics shall mean any systematic and planned activities aimed at collecting, processing, disseminating, providing and evaluating data on phenomena of a mass nature, ensuring their comparability for the purposes of the assessment of socio-economic development in the Slovak Republic and its ecological contexts; ensuring international comparability of the statistical data shall also fall within this scope;
- (b) reporting unit shall mean any legal entity or natural person required to submit data to State statistical surveys pursuant to this Act;
- (c) reporting obligation shall mean the obligation of a reporting unit to provide, free of charge, entirely, correctly, truly and by the established deadlines any data required for the State statistical survey (hereinafter referred to as the "statistical survey") included in the State Statistical Survey Schedule;
- (d) statistical survey shall mean collecting data from reporting units for the statistical purposes pursuant to this Act;
- (e) statistical data shall mean any data on phenomena and facts under review obtained from statistical surveys;
- (f) confidential statistical data shall mean any data related to an individual reporting unit enabling its direct or indirect identification and collected for statistical purposes

pursuant to this Act. Direct identification shall mean the identification of a reporting unit based on its business name, seat and organization identification number (hereinafter referred to as the "identification number") or according to his/her name and surname, address of permanent residence or birth number. Indirect identification shall mean the identification of a reporting unit using other data obtained from a statistical survey;

- (g) statistical information shall mean any information of a socio-economic, technical or ecological nature obtained as a summary of confidential statistical data not enabling the direct or indirect identification of any reporting unit;
- (h) statistical purpose shall mean any usage of statistical data for the numerical, verbal or graphic description of phenomena or processes of a mass nature in the society, economy or environment through statistical information containing information on a phenomenon or process as a whole or a part;
- (i) statistical coding shall mean the list of numerical codes and verbal expressions attached thereto;
- (j) statistical classification shall mean the set of elements arranged according to the classification criteria;
- (k) administrative sources shall mean any data from registers and other sets of information necessary for State statistics collected, gathered, processed or held by public authorities or public institutions and legal entities established by or under special laws;
- (l) State Statistical Survey Schedule shall specify the purpose and use of the outcomes of statistical surveys, their content and factual characteristics, statistical indicators, definition of reporting units, frequency and deadlines for providing statistical data; it shall specify the body performing statistical surveys and arrange for the processing thereof.

PART TWO

BASIC PRINCIPLES AND ORGANISATION OF STATE STATISTICS

§ 3

Basic Principles of State Statistics

(1) When gathering State statistics and implementing the State Statistical Survey Schedule, the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as the "Office") ministries and other central state administration authorities (hereinafter referred to as the "ministries") and organisations established thereby and other state administration authorities established by special regulations (hereinafter referred to as the "State agencies") shall be governed by this Act, special laws or other generally binding legal regulations and shall apply their expertise, requirements for practical use and professional ethics while using scientific methods of statistical work.

(2) The Office, ministries and State agencies shall be independent and impartial in collecting, processing, disseminating and evaluating statistical information, and shall make every effort to be cost efficient and to maintain the trust of the general public and follow the

principles of reliability, objectivity, transparency, openness and protection of confidential statistical data.

(3) The Office shall respect the rights of citizens to have access to public information regarding State statistics while maintaining a balanced relationship between the costs and statistical burden on one hand and benefits on the other hand.

§ 4

Bodies Performing State Statistics

(1) The tasks of State statistics shall be carried out by the Office.

(2) The tasks of State statistics may also be carried out by ministries and State agencies under the terms and conditions and to the extent laid down in this Act.

§ 5

Office

(1) The Office is a central state administration authority for the field of State statistics and a contact point for the European Commission within the European Statistical System.

(2) The Office has its seat in Bratislava. It may establish permanent or temporary workplaces outside its seat.

President of the Office

§ 6

(1) The Office shall be headed by its President. In the absence of the President of the Office, he/she shall be represented by the Vice-President of the Office to the extent of the President's rights and duties.

(2) The President of the Office shall be appointed and recalled by the President of the Slovak Republic based on the proposal of the Slovak Government. The term of office for the President of the Office shall be five years.

(3) The President shall remain in his/her office after the termination of his/her term of office until the President of the Slovak Republic appoints a new President.

(4) The same person may be re-appointed as the President of the Office for a maximum of two consequent terms of office.

(5) The function of the President of the Office shall not be compatible with the execution of any other position in any other public authority or with any employment relationship or similar employment arrangements, any business activities, membership in a management or control body of any legal entity performing business activities, or with any other profit-making or gainful activities except for the management of one's own property.

(6) The restrictions laid down in paragraph 5 shall not apply to the performance of research, pedagogical, publication, literary and art work.

§ 7

(1) The function of the President of the Office shall expire upon the occurrence of any of the following circumstances:

- (a) expiry of the term of office (Section 6, paragraph 2), unless otherwise stipulated in this Act (Section 6, paragraph 3);
- (b) resignation; the term of office shall expire as of the delivery date of the resignation notice of the President of the Office to the President of the Slovak Republic;
- (c) recall from the function; or
- (d) death.

(2) The President of the Slovak Republic shall only recall the President of the Office [Section 7, paragraph 1, point (c)] if he/she

- (a) no longer meets the requirements for holding his/her office or fails to remove the reasons leading to the incompatibility between holding his/her office with other engagements within three months from the beginning of holding his/her office pursuant to Section 6;
- (b) has been lawfully convicted of an intentional criminal offence or for a criminal offence for which he/she has been sentenced to imprisonment without suspension;
- (c) has been lawfully deprived of his/her legal capacity or his/her legal capacity has been restricted.

(3) The Vice-President of the Office shall be appointed or recalled by the Slovak Government based on the proposal of the President of the Office.

Scope of Competence of the Office

§ 8

The Office shall

- (a) prepare and publish the State Statistics Policy;
- (b) identify the methodology for performing statistical surveys organised and performed by the Office, and for collecting and processing statistical data;
- (c) prepare the State Statistical Survey Schedule in collaboration with the ministries and State agencies,;
- (d) in collaboration with the ministries and State agencies, compile the characteristics of statistical surveys and specify the methods of collection of statistical data for the purposes of State statistics;
- (e) organize and arrange for project and schedule preparation in terms of the processing of statistical surveys and specify the manner and technologies for processing statistical data for statistical surveys performed by the Office;
- (f) manage, direct and supervise the collection and processing of statistical data at the national level in order to ensure that the collection of data and information during the

- statistical surveys and the collection of statistical data and statistical information by the ministries and State agencies is performed efficiently and without duplication;
- (g) comment on the methodology for the preparation, content and structure of statistical data and statistical information collected by the ministries and the State agencies in exercising their activities;
 - (h) specify the methodology for keeping the system of national accounts and compile national accounts;
 - (i) compile, publish and maintain, statistical classifications, codes and registers in collaboration with the ministries and the State agencies;
 - (j) specify the manner of compilation, assignment and notification of identification numbers;
 - (k) participate, within its scope of competence, in the drafting and implementation of international treaties and agreements on co-operation entered into by the Slovak Republic and represent the Slovak Republic in international bodies and agencies in the field of State statistics;
 - (l) organize and conduct representative opinion polls on socio-economic issues;
 - (m) acquire and collect foreign statistical information for the purposes of comparing the situation and trends of economic development in the Slovak Republic and abroad;
 - (n) prepare analyses of selected characteristics of socio-economic and ecological development in the Slovak Republic as a whole or in its individual parts;
 - (o) provide statistical information to foreign entities and co-operate with international bodies and organisations in implementing standards and classifications in the field of statistics;
 - (p) check the compliance of reporting requirements in the field of State statistics and impose fines for any breach thereof;
 - (q) publish outcomes of statistical surveys concerning the Slovak Republic or its individual territorial and administrative units, inform the public regularly on socio-economic and demographic developments, provide statistical information and publish statistical publications;
 - (r) fulfil other tasks stipulated by law.

§ 9

The Office shall create the organisational, personnel, programming and technical conditions necessary to obtain the results of elections or referenda conducted under special laws.

§ 10

Statistical Council

- (1) The Office shall establish a Statistical Council (hereinafter referred to as the "Council"). The Council shall be a permanent expert advisory body for the President of the Office in the field of State statistics.
- (2) The Council shall draft proposals and recommendations with regard to the preparation of State Statistics Policy, discuss the State Statistical Survey Schedule and fulfil other tasks according to the Statutes of the Council.

- (3) The President of the Office shall act as the Chair of the Council.
- (4) The members of the Council shall be appointed or recalled by the President of the Office, based on the proposal of the ministries, State agencies and public institutions, from professionals and experts active in the field of statistical theory and practice.
- (5) The Statutes and Rules of Procedure of the Council shall be approved by the President of the Office.

§ 11

Scope of Competence of Ministries and State Agencies

- (1) The ministries and State agencies shall fulfil the tasks in the field of State statistics to the extent arising from the State Statistical Survey Schedule.
- (2) The ministries and State agencies may also perform statistical surveys beyond the State Statistical Survey Schedule within the scope of their respective competences.
- (3) Any survey and gathering of information and data conducted by the ministries and State agencies pursuant to special laws shall not form a part of State statistics.

§ 12

State Statistical Survey Schedule

- (1) Statistical surveys shall be governed by the State Statistical Survey Schedule prepared by the Office in collaboration with the ministries and State agencies for a three-year period. The Office shall publish the State Statistical Survey Schedule in a decree no later than 60 days prior its effective date.
- (2) The ministries and State agencies shall submit to the Office their demands for statistical surveys performed by the Office on or before March 31 in the year preceding the effective date of the State Statistical Survey Schedule that is being prepared.
- (3) The ministries and State agencies shall submit proposals for their own short-term statistical surveys to the Office on or before April 30 in the year preceding the effective date of the State Statistical Survey Schedule that is being prepared and the proposals for their own long-term statistical surveys on or before July 31 in the year preceding the effective date of the State Statistical Survey Schedule that is being prepared; they shall also be obliged to discuss the extent and content thereof with the Office.
- (4) During the years when no new State Statistical Survey Schedule is prepared, the Office may , issue a decree amending the State Statistical Survey Schedule at its own discretion or at the request of the ministries or State agencies.
- (5) The State Statistical Survey Schedule shall be compiled so that

- (a) only such surveys that are relevant and necessary from the societal point of view are conducted;
 - (b) the statistical surveys are performed in an efficient way avoiding any duplication and stressing the purposeful use of administrative sources;
 - (c) the gathering of quality and comparable data and information is ensured.
- (6) Each statistical survey included in the State Statistical Survey Schedule shall be accompanied by the following information:
- (a) the purpose and use of the outcomes of the statistical survey;
 - (b) the factual characteristics (contents) and the procedures for the implementation of the statistical survey;
 - (c) the specification of the reporting units;
 - (d) the frequency and deadlines for providing statistical data; and
 - (e) the body performing and processing the statistical survey.
- (7) The scope and use of administrative sources for the purposes of State statistics shall be specified in a separate part of the State Statistical Survey Schedule.
- (8) The costs of the performance of statistical surveys performed by the ministries or State agencies and listed in the State Statistical Survey Schedule shall be covered from the budgets of the ministries or State agency performing these statistical surveys.

PART THREE DATA SOURCES

§ 13

Use of Data from Administrative Sources

- (1) For the purposes of State statistics, the Office may ask the ministries, State agencies, local self-governing authorities and public institutions to provide data obtained, collected, processed or held by them in carrying out their respective activities under special regulations. The same obligation shall apply to legal entities established by or under special laws. The required data and information shall be provided in written or electronic form. They shall be obliged to provide the required data to the Office by the established deadline and free of charge.
- (2) The Office may require in particular:
- (a) data on natural persons as taxpayers who, in a taxable year under review, reported revenues originating from conducting business activities or carrying out some other independent gainful activities; data on legal entities as taxpayers who, in a taxable year under review, reported revenues originating from all activities and the disposal of all assets in the following structure:
 - 1. business name;
 - 2. identification number;
 - 3. seat, in the case of a legal entity;

4. address of permanent residence and birth number in the case of a natural person;
 5. date of incorporation in the register of income tax payers;
 6. date of return of the certificate of registration for income tax payment;
 7. date of the last updating of the entry concerning the taxpayer in the register;
 8. number of the tax office within whose scope the taxpayer belongs according to his/her seat or permanent residence;
- (b) summary data on revenues and summary data on tax reported, tax paid, any reductions in the tax base and unenforceable tax arrears according to the tax administrator, the type of tax and broken down according to natural persons as citizens, natural persons carrying out any business activities and legal entities in the following structure:
1. the State budget;
 2. the budget of upper-tier territorial units;
 3. the municipal budget;
- (c) data reported in customs declarations to the extent necessary for the compilation of foreign trade statistics, in particular, the type of goods, type of transaction, customs regime, country of destination, country of origin, weight of the goods, amount in supplementary units of measurement, statistical value of the goods, identification number of the inland exporter, importer or customs agent, commercial name, seat, data on levied and paid customs duty, levied and paid import surcharge, other levied and paid import fees and unenforceable customs arrears,
- (d) information on tariff and other rate measures applicable on imports;
- (e) data on sickness insurance and pension security scheme, commercial name in the case of legal entities or permanent residence and place of business, if these two differ, in the case of natural persons, identification number of the insurance premium payer, date of registration and deregistration and number of insured persons;
- (f) data on mandatory health insurance, commercial name in the case of legal entities or permanent residence and place of business (if these two differ) in the case of natural persons, identification number of the premium payer, the number of registered employees for whom premiums are paid by the insurance premium payer;
- (g) data on social security insurance, old-age pension savings, accident insurance, guarantee insurance, unemployment insurance and supplementary pension savings, in particular, data on the number of insured persons and savers, insurance premium payers, the number and the amount of insurance benefits and the number of insurance beneficiaries;
- (h) data from the register of social benefits and on the provided social services, in particular, on the beneficiaries and individual types thereof;
- (i) data from the job applicant register;
- (j) data and information from the Cadastral Register.
- (3) Local self-governing bodies and legal entities established thereby or established at the request of the Office shall provide data and information from their information systems in the set period of time, scope and structure and free of charge for the needs of the local and regional statistics.

§ 14

Statistical Survey of Natural Persons

During statistical surveys, where natural persons are obliged to report, the following data may be collected:

- (a) name and surname, birth number, permanent residence and citizenship;
- (b) business activities;
- (c) real estate owned or leased by the natural person and revenues therefrom;
- (d) acreage and use of agricultural land, including land not serving for agricultural production;
- (e) agricultural activities, even if not carried out as business activities;
- (f) technical means used for agricultural activities;
- (g) social and demographic characteristics of natural persons, including data on any changes in the place, type or duration of their stays;
- (h) standard of living;
- (i) structure of household revenues and expenditures;
- (j) standard of housing;
- (k) food consumption structure and volume;
- (l) complementing functions of the labour market;
- (m) consumption of fuel and energy in households annually and during longer periods;
- (n) information and communication technologies used in households.

§ 15

Census of the Population, Houses and Apartments

The census of the population, houses and apartments shall be regulated by a special law.

§ 16

Agricultural Census

Agricultural censuses shall be conducted by the Office or the competent ministry in collaboration with municipalities. Municipalities shall arrange for the collection of required data and information in written form using the forms sent to them by the body conducting the census or in the electronic form accessible on the web site provided to them by the body conducting the census; the body conducting the census shall reimburse the municipalities the eligible costs incurred by them in connection with this activity.

§ 17

Roles of Local State Administration and Local Self-Governing Authorities in the Field of State Statistics

- (1) The local state administration authorities and local self-governing bodies shall
 - (a) collect, process and submit to the Office statistical information acquired from legal entities established or founded by them;
 - (b) co-operate with the Office in the preparation and processing of the outcomes of elections and referendums;

(c) prepare and conduct censuses of the population, houses and apartments, while following the instructions of and in collaboration with the Office to the extent and under the terms and conditions laid down in a special law.

(2) The local state administration authorities and local self-governing bodies shall be obliged to co-operate in the field of State statistics with the Office, ministries and State agencies performing statistical surveys.

§ 18

Reporting Units

(1) The reporting units included in a statistical survey shall be entitled to be informed about the purpose and extent of the survey concerned, the measures for securing the protection of data provided during the statistical survey and their rights and duties.

(2) The bodies arranging for the gathering of State statistics shall send the reporting units written forms or information on the web sites where the electronic forms are available and provide them with necessary methodological assistance free of charge for the purposes of performing the State statistical surveys included in the schedule. These bodies shall make the electronic forms for the on-line submission of data available on their web sites. They shall also publish detailed information about on-line submission forms on their web sites.

(3) The reporting units shall provide the data required for statistical surveys included in the State Statistical Survey Schedule on written or electronic forms, completely, truly, by the established deadlines and free of charge.

(4) In order to meet their reporting obligations and to provide evidence of the completeness and accuracy of the provided statistical data, the reporting units shall keep appropriate records by established deadlines; in particular, they will keep a register of data required for statistical surveys.

(5) If a reporting unit fails to meet its reporting obligations, the competent authority performing the statistical survey shall be entitled to collect any necessary statistical data at the expense of such reporting unit.

(6) No reporting unit may refuse to meet its reporting obligations arising from this Act. This shall apply without prejudice to the provisions of special regulations on maintaining State, service, bank, tax and business secrets.

PART FOUR
INSTRUMENTS ENSURING COMPARABILITY

§ 19

Statistical Classifications and Statistical Codes

- (1) The Office, in co-operation with the ministries and State agencies, shall create statistical classifications (hereinafter referred to as the "classifications") and statistical codes (hereinafter referred to as the "codes") and provide information thereof.
- (2) The classifications and codes shall be published by the Office in a decree.
- (3) The classifications and codes shall be binding for bodies gathering State statistics and for reporting units during the provision of data to statistical surveys, data processing and in the cases stipulated by a special regulation.

Statistical Registers

§ 20

- (1) The Office shall keep the following registers:
 - (a) register of organisations;
 - (b) agricultural register;
 - (c) register of accommodation facilities;
 - (d) register of census districts;
 - (e) register of spatial units;
 - (f) register of foreign trade entities.
- (2) In order to keep the registers listed in paragraph 1, the Office may use data acquired pursuant to Section 13 or from other registers.
- (3) The data on any organisational units (branches) and the data on groups of undertakings shall also be recorded in the register of organisations; if such data are required by the Office, the relevant legal entity or entrepreneur shall provide the data necessary for the registration of organisational units (branches) or group of undertakings.

§ 21

- (1) The Office shall register a legal entity or natural person that is a business-person or carries out other gainful activity under special regulations (hereinafter referred to as the "entrepreneur") in the register of organisations on the basis of the data acquired according to this Act and under special regulations. The register shall be deemed a public list of organisations within the scope set by this Act.
- (2) Pursuant to paragraph 1, the data pursuant to special regulation shall be recorded in the register of organisations.

(3) In order to update the register of organisations, the Office shall be entitled to require any data and information from a legal entity or an entrepreneur, municipality or upper-tier territorial unit and such entity or person shall be obliged to fulfil the request of the Office by the established deadline.

(4) The data kept in the register of organisations, except for the data specified in paragraph 5, shall be deemed publicly available and may be provided to anyone upon request. These data shall be provided free of charge to the bodies listed in Section 31, paragraphs 1, 2 and 5 and for a consideration to other applicants.

(5) Data on the birth number, address of permanent residence and citizenship of an entrepreneur and on the number of employees shall not be publicly available. They may be provided pursuant to a special regulation. Any other provision of such data must be expressly approved by the Office.

§ 22

The agricultural register shall include data on legal entities and natural persons carrying out agricultural production and recorded in the register pursuant to a special generally binding legal regulation. The Office may regulate by a special legal regulation the details of the records of data, including the scope of activities according to the statistical survey criteria.

§ 23

The register of accommodation facilities shall contain the data on accommodation facilities offering temporary accommodations and data on the economic operators that operate them.

§ 24

The register of census districts shall contain census districts from the entire territory of the Slovak Republic established pursuant to a special law.

§ 25

(1) For the purposes of the spatial identification of statistical data, the register of spatial units shall contain spatial units related to the territorial and administrative arrangements of the Slovak Republic.

(2) The data kept in the register of spatial units are publicly available.

§ 25a

(1) The register of foreign trade entities shall contain all reporting units that trade goods between the Slovak Republic and other Member States of the European Union and other

entities that trade goods between the Slovak Republic and non-Member States of the European Union according special regulations.

(2) The data on the trade of goods between the Slovak Republic and other Member States of the European Union shall be provided by the reporting units under the State Statistical Survey Schedule electronically in the form of reports submitted on-line to the Intrastat system; the protection of confidential statistical data on foreign trade contained in the reports shall be governed by a special regulation.

(3) Any reporting unit whose trading of goods between the Slovak Republic and other Member States of the European Union exceeds the value stipulated by a special regulation shall report this fact to the Office no later than ten days from the day of occurrence thereof.

§ 26

The registers specified in paragraphs 22, 24 and 25a shall not be publicly available.

§ 27

Identification Numbers

(1) An identification number shall be used for the unambiguous identification of a legal entity or entrepreneur and is relevant for registration. The methodology for its compilation shall be prescribed by the Office.

(2) Each legal entity or entrepreneur shall be assigned its identification number. The assigned identification number may not be assigned to any other legal entity or other entrepreneur, and it may not be assigned even in the event of the winding-up of a legal entity or an entrepreneur that was initially assigned that number.

(3) Each legal person or entrepreneur shall only be assigned one identification number. The legal entity or entrepreneur that has been assigned an identification number in relation to their business activities and would like to expand their scope of business activities shall be obliged to indicate the assigned identification number in each official contact with the authority entitled to issue a certificate empowering it to carry out this other activity. The same shall apply in the event of the termination of the former business licence.

(4) For the purpose of the record-keeping of information concerning organizational units (branches) without legal personality established by a legal entity or an entrepreneur and the groups of undertakings, the Office assigns them special identification numbers. The methodology for their compilation shall be prescribed by the Office.

(5) The identification number shall be assigned by

- (a) the competent courts to legal entities registered in the Commercial Register, unless otherwise provided by this Act;
- (b) the competent district office to non-investment funds, special-interest associations of legal entities and non-profit making organisations providing public services;

- (c) the Office to foreign entities, budgetary and subsidised organisations, foundations, land and other special-purpose communities, political parties and political movements, church organisations and religious communities and other legal entities not registered in the Commercial Register, unless otherwise provided by this Act;
- (d) the competent district offices to legal entities, entrepreneurs, foreign persons performing business activities on the basis of a trade licence or an authorisation other than a trade licence, if they ask for the issuance of such authorisation through a single contact point;
- (e) the Office to entrepreneurs performing business activities on the basis of an authorisation other than a trade licence by the Office, unless otherwise specified by this Act;
- (f) the Ministry of Construction and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic to European groupings of territorial co-operation.

(6) If an incorrect identification number is assigned, the situation shall be remedied by the authority that assigned the incorrect identification number.

(7) The identification numbers shall be provided by the Office for the needs of courts, the Ministry of Construction and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic and district offices.

(8) Any legal entity or entrepreneur that has not been assigned any identification number pursuant to paragraph 5, points (a), (b), (d) or (f) shall be obliged to inform the Office in writing about their establishment and other facts necessary for the assignment of an identification number for their registration in the register of organisations within ten days of their establishment. The same obligation shall also apply in the case of any change or cessation of the above facts.

(9) The obligation provided for in paragraph 8 may be fulfilled on behalf of a legal entity, its founder, establisher, district office or upper-tier territorial unit on the relevant form in writing or electronically.

(10) Any entrepreneur carrying out business activities which are not licensed shall be assigned an identification number by the Office on the basis of data acquired from legal entities, municipalities, upper-tier territorial units or state administration authorities issuing certificates on eligibility for such activities pursuant to special laws on the basis of a written or electronic request of such entrepreneur for the assignment of an identification number.

(11) The Office shall notify the legal entity or entrepreneur of the identification number within ten days of the delivery of data specified in paragraphs 8 and 10.

(12) The assignment of identification numbers pursuant to this Act shall not be subject to the general regulation on administrative proceedings.

§ 28

Identification Numbers of Spatial Units

Spatial units shall be assigned identification numbers that shall not change during the entire existence of those spatial units. Any newly established basic territorial unit or any technical territorial unit shall be assigned an identification number by the Office.

PART FIVE DISSEMINATION OF STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Obligation to Maintain Confidentiality and Confidential Statistical Data Protection

§ 29

(1) The employees of bodies compiling State statistics, the mayors of municipalities, the chairpersons of upper-tier territorial units and the employees of other entities arranging for the processing of statistical surveys or data collection for agricultural censuses or natural persons performing this activity on the basis of contracts and agreements shall be obliged to maintain the confidentiality of confidential statistical data they learn of during the surveys.

(2) Any provision or disclosure of confidential statistical data under the terms and conditions stipulated by this Act shall not constitute a breach of the confidentiality obligation.

(3) The obligation to maintain confidentiality shall survive the termination of the employment, service and civil service employment relationships or upon the completion of the relevant work.

§ 30

(1) No confidential statistical data may be published or disclosed to anybody or used for purposes other than statistical purposes without the approval of the legal entities or natural persons that provided them and to whom such data relate.

(2) The approval pursuant to paragraph 1 must be made in writing and it must clearly indicate the relevant confidential statistical data and the way in which it is to be used.

(3) The confidential statistical data may be provided to the European Commission, Eurostat, the national statistical authorities of the European Union, the European Central Bank or the central banks of the Member States of the European Union according to a special regulation and such data may only be provided to international bodies and organizations if it is necessary for the fulfilment of obligations arising from an international treaty binding for the Slovak Republic and if the receiving party provides for at least the same level of data protection as is the protection provided in the Slovak Republic.

(4) The bodies compiling State statistics may provide confidential statistical data for research purposes to legal entities or researchers whose basic mission is to carry out scientific research and if the legal entity to which such data are provided ensures conditions for their protection. The data shall be provided in a form that does not enable the direct identification of the legal entity or natural person to whom the provided data refer.

(5) If, in a given set of respondents, no more than one piece of information can be obtained through the use of statistical survey methodology, the bodies compiling State statistics may publish or provide the data referring to one single case if, considering the circumstances, the person to whom the data refer cannot be identified or traced.

(6) Any data that can be found in generally accessible sources compiled in compliance with legal regulations (e.g. directories, lists, codes, registers) or any data disclosed by reporting units about themselves or any data that can be easily found or data arising from a summary of a sufficient number (at least three) of items of confidential statistical data so that reporting units included in the summary cannot be identified shall not be deemed confidential statistical data.

(7) The Office, ministries and State agencies shall be obliged to take all measures to protect confidential statistical data against their misuse, and in particular, to adopt the necessary organisational and technical measures and ensure that such data may only be handled by employees instructed in writing of their obligation to keep the confidentiality obligation regarding the confidential statistical data.

(8) If any personal data form part of statistical surveys, the Office shall process, use or protect them pursuant to a special law.

§ 31

Provision of Statistical Information

- (1) The Office shall provide statistical information free of charge to
- (a) the President of the Slovak Republic;
 - (b) the National Council of the Slovak Republic;
 - (c) the Slovak Government;
 - (d) the ministries, other central state administration authorities, the National Bank of Slovakia, legal entities established by law as public institutions, the Slovak Intelligence Service, local state administration bodies, local self-governing bodies, central bodies of trade unions and employer's unions and associations; and
 - (e) Eurostat,
- within the agreed scope, deadlines and frequency.
- (2) Other international bodies and organisations shall be provided with statistical information free of charge, in the event of the reciprocal exchange of data or if so stipulated in an international treaty binding for the Slovak Republic. Otherwise, when providing statistical information abroad, the procedure pursuant to paragraph 4 shall apply.
- (3) Except for the cases listed in paragraphs 1 and 2, the Office shall be entitled to provide statistical information acquired through statistical surveys to anybody upon request for the price agreed in compliance with the price regulations.

(4) The ministries and State agencies shall provide international bodies and organisations with the statistical information disclosed by the Office. If a ministry or State agency provides other statistical information, they shall inform the Office thereof.

(5) The bodies compiling State statistics pursuant to paragraph 4 may exchange statistical information acquired on the basis of the State Statistical Survey Schedule free of charge.

Penalties § 32

(1) The following penalties may be imposed for a breach of any obligation laid down in this Act:

- (a) up to EUR 3,320 for any breach of the reporting obligations by a reporting unit pursuant to Section 18, paragraph 3 or Section 20, paragraph 3;
- (b) up to EUR 1,660 for any breach of the obligation laid down in Section 30 concerning the provision of confidential statistical data;
- (c) up to EUR 665 for any breach of the obligation laid down in Section 18, paragraph 4 by a reporting unit or any breach of the obligation laid down in Section 27, paragraphs 3 and 8.

(2) When determining the amount of the fine, in particular the relevance of the breach of the reporting obligation, the circumstances under which the breach occurred, the duration of the failure to meet the obligation as well as the consequences for the statistical survey concerned shall be taken into account.

(3) The fines pursuant to paragraph 1 may be imposed within one year from the day on which the Office, the ministry or the State agency competent to impose the fine learned about the breach of the obligation; however it shall be no later than three years from the day on which the breach of the obligation occurred.

(4) Proceedings concerning the imposition of fines pursuant to this Act shall be governed by a general regulation on administrative proceedings.

(5) The Office, ministry or the State agency performing the statistical survey and to which the reporting unit has reporting obligations, shall be authorised to impose the fine.

(6) Fines shall be revenues of the state budget.

§ 33

(1) Any breach of confidentiality according to Section 29 shall be deemed an infringement for which a fine of up to EUR 3,320 may be imposed. This shall apply without prejudice to the provisions of special regulations concerning indemnification.

(2) Infringements pursuant to paragraph 1 shall be heard by district offices pursuant to a special regulation.

(3) Penalties shall be revenues of the state budget.

PART SIX TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

§ 34

(1) The Regional Administration of the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic in Bratislava, the Regional Administration of the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic in Trnava, the Regional Administration of the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic in Trenčín, the Regional Administration of the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic in Nitra, the Regional Administration of the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic in Žilina, the Regional Administration of the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic in Banská Bystrica, the Regional Administration of the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic in Prešov and the Regional Administration of the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic in Košice shall be repealed on the date of entry into force of this Act.

(2) As of the date of entry into force of this Act, the rights and duties arising from employment, property or any other relationships shall pass from the Regional Administration of the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic in Bratislava, the Regional Administration of the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic in Trnava, the Regional Administration of the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic in Trenčín, the Regional Administration of the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic in Nitra, the Regional Administration of the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic in Žilina, the Regional Administration of the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic in Banská Bystrica, the Regional Administration of the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic in Prešov and the Regional Administration of the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic in Košice to the Office.

(3) Any statistical surveys approved prior to the entry into force of this Act and completed or conducted after its entry into force shall be deemed to be statistical surveys approved pursuant to this Act. Any identification numbers assigned prior to the entry into force of this Act shall be deemed to be assigned pursuant to this Act.

§ 35

The provisions of this Act regarding the protection of confidential statistical data shall also apply to individual data collected during statistical surveys prior to the date of entry into force of this Act.

§ 36

The following regulations shall hereby be repealed:

1. Act No. 322/1992 Coll. of the Slovak National Council, on State Statistics as amended by Act No. 453/1992 Coll. of the Slovak National Council, Act No. 2/1993 Coll. of the Slovak National Council, of the Slovak Republic, Act No. 155/1993 Coll. of the National Council of the Slovak Republic, Act No. 74/1995 Coll. of the National Council of the Slovak Republic, Act No. 301/1995 Coll. of the National Council of the Slovak Republic, Act No. 278/1996 Coll. of the National Council of the Slovak Republic and Act No. 306/1999 Coll.
2. Act No. 45/1993 Coll. of the National Council of the Slovak Republic on State Statistic Surveys Conducted on the Population.
3. Decree No. 243/1988 Coll. of the Federal Statistical Office and Federal Ministry of Finance on Statistical Surveys and Accounting Reports.

§ 36a

The following regulations shall hereby be repealed:

1. Decree No. 236/1993 Coll. of the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic establishing classifications and the code list and register in the field of State statistics.
2. Decree No. 388/1997 Coll. of the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic establishing the List of Selected Industrial Products, as amended by Decree No. 402/1998 Coll.
3. Decree No. 449/2009 Coll. of the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic establishing the Classification of Assets, Balance-Sheet Items, Transactions and other Flows in the National Accounts of the Slovak Republic and the Classification of Institutional Sectors in the System of National Accounts of the Slovak Republic.
4. Decree No. 95/1976/Coll. of the Federal Statistical Office on the common classification of basic means as amended by Decree No. 156/1980 Coll.
5. Decree No. 47/1985 Coll. of the Federal Statistical Office on the single system of national accounts indicators.

§ 37

This Act shall enter into force on 1 January 2002.

Act No 215/2004 Coll., on the protection of classified matters and on amendments to certain other laws, entered into force on 1 May 2004.

Act No. 358/2007 Coll., amending Act No. 455/1991 Coll., on trade activities (the Trade Act), as amended, and on amendments to certain other laws, entered into force on 1 October

2007 except for Annex 1 in Article I, point seventy-two, which entered into force on 1 January 2008.

Act No. 90/2008 Coll., on the European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation and on amendments of Act No. 540/2001 Coll., on State statistics, as amended, entered into force on 1 May 2008.

Act No. 55/2010 Coll., amending Act No. 540/2001 Coll., on State statistics, as amended, entered into force on 1 April 2010.

Act No 136/2010 Coll., on services in the internal market and on amendments to certain other laws entered into force on 1 June 2010 except for Article I, Section 4, paragraph 3, Article V, point 67, Section 66ba, paragraph 4, point (b), Article VI, point 3, Section 11a, paragraph 1, point (c) and Article XVIII, point 3, Section 5d, paragraph 1, point (b) which entered into force on 1 January 2012.

Act No. 519/2011 Coll., amending Act No. 725/2004 Coll., on Ground Traffic and on amendments of certain other laws, as amended and amending certain other laws, as amended and amending certain other laws, which entered into force 1 February 2012.

Pavol Paška, m.p.