

A 3D-rendered illustration of a thick, grey book with 'THE LAW' printed in large, gold, serif letters on its cover. A wooden gavel with a light-colored handle and a dark head rests on the book. A yellow sticky note is attached to the gavel's head. The scene is set against a light blue background with a subtle shadow beneath the book.

***Official Statistics Law of Statistical
Office of the Republic of Serbia***

***WORKSHOP ON THE GENERIC LAW OF OFFICIAL STATISTICS,
YEREVAN 04 – 05 JULY 2023***

ABOUT US

- ✓ SORS is specialized organization established in accordance with the Law on ministries.
- ✓ The National Statistical System (NSS) of the Republic of Serbia consists of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia (SORS), the National Bank of Serbia, the City administration of Belgrade, as well as other authorized producers of official statistics listed in the five-year statistical programme such as the Ministry of Finance. The NSS operates on the basis of the Official Statistics Law, according to which the Office is the main producer and disseminator of official statistics, as well as being the coordinator of the NSS. The Law also established the Statistical Council of the Republic of Serbia as an integral part of the system of official statistics. Apart from its headquarters in Belgrade, SORS has 15 regional offices.
- ✓ The Law on the Official Statistics (“Official Gazette of RS”, No. 104/09) defines competences, obligations and authorities of the Office.

CURRENT LEGISLATION STATUS

- The applicable Official Statistics law of the Republic of Serbia was adopted in 2009
- At this point we are still in the process of adopting a new Official Statistics law
- In 2021, SORS prepared the draft Official Statistics Law, fully compliant with:
 - Regulation 223/2009 (Regulation on European Statistics) and its amendment No 759 on European statistics.
 - European Statistics Code of Practice (including new Principle of Code of Practice – Coordination and cooperation).
 - All recommendations of the European commission and Eurostat (Peer Review Mission from December 2017).
- The Republic of Serbia is in the process of accessing the EU

THE PROCESS OF ADOPTING A NEW LAW



- ✓ **In November 2021**, the Draft of the Law was submitted for a public debate.
- ✓ **In December 2021**, the Draft Law was sent to the European Commission for consultations.
- ✓ **In February 2022**, SORS received a positive opinion from the European Commission which was not accompanied by any comments or suggestions.
- ✓ After the constitution of the new Government **in last quartal of 2022.**, the Draft Law were forwarded to the ministries for opinions based on their scope of work.
- ✓ SORS - consideration of the received suggestions and objections of the competent authorities to the submitted draft law – **AT THIS MOMENT**
- ✓ The final version of the draft law will be submitted to the government for adoption
- ✓ After adoption by the Government, it will be forwarded to the Parliament of Serbia for adoption and official proclamation.

REASONS FOR ADOPTING NEW LAW

- ✓ Official statistics represent a key element of the information system of the state which provides users (state bodies, business entities, the public) with unbiased and high-quality data on economic, demographic and other social phenomena, as well as the phenomena from the field of environmental protection, in a way that respects the principle of professional independence
- ✓ Harmonization of the statistical system of Serbia with the European statistical system
- ✓ The aim of the new law is also harmonization with the Code of Practice of European Statistics
- ✓ The recommendations of the Peer Review mission
- ✓ Negotiating position of the European Union for Negotiating Chapter 18 on statistics

THE FINAL GOAL

- ✓ The main goal of adopting the new law is to fully harmonize the statistical system of Serbia with the European statistical system, which would surely establish the modern legal framework for the development, production and dissemination of official statistics in the Republic of Serbia

GENERIC LAW ON OFFICIAL STATISTICS (GLOS)

- ✓ Using Glos as a model
- ✓ Adjust to the legal framework of domestic legislation
- ✓ Language interpretation and translation
- ✓ Process of accreditation

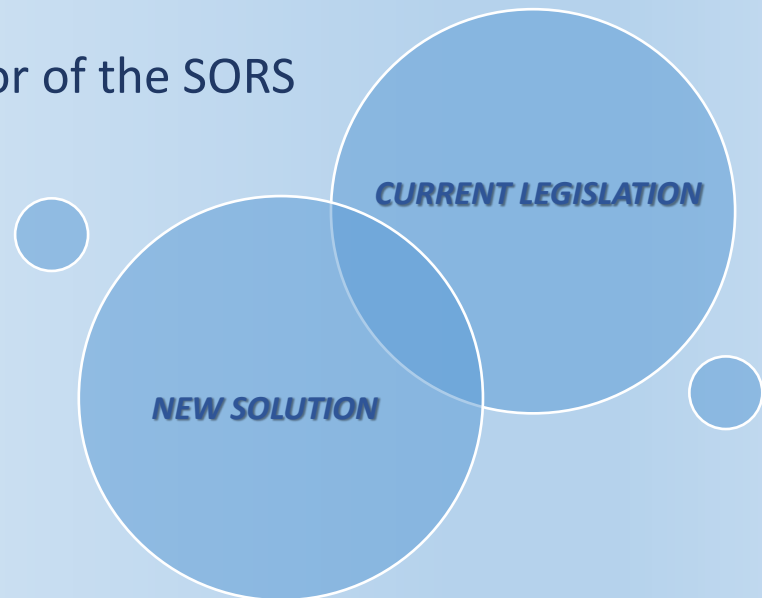
CHALLENGES



- The biggest challenges we encountered during the process of drafting the new law were:
 1. Protection of professional independence regarding appointment and dismissal of director
 2. Financial independency
 3. Administration data and protection of personal data

PROTECTION OF PROFESSIONAL INDEPENDENCE REGARDING APPOINTMENT AND DISMISSION OF DIRECTOR

- ✓ **“Principle of professional independence** assumes that the authorized producers of official statistics shall decide, independent and free from any political or other external influence, on the development, production and dissemination of official statistics, including the selection of data source, concepts, definitions, methodologies and classifications to be applied, as well as on the deadlines and contents of all kinds of dissemination”
- ✓ The procedure for dismissing the director of the SORS



FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCY

- ✓ SORS is a body that is financed exclusively from the budget of the Republic of Serbia.
- ✓ The current law on the budget system excludes the possibility of acquiring own revenues
- ✓ Problem of limited recruitment of new staff

ADMINISTRATION DATA AND PROTECTION OF PERSONAL DATA

- ✓ The public authority bodies and other legal entities shall be obligated to timely advise SORS and the authorized producers of official statistics that use the stated administrative data sources for the official statistics activities
- ✓ At this moment, in cooperation with the Commissioner for information of public importance, we are working on the interpretation of the relevant provisions of the Law on the protection of personal data, which are in support of the solutions that we have offered in our draft



THANK YOU

PRESENTERS:

JELENA ŽIVKOVIĆ, THE HEAD OF THE GROUP OF LEGAL AFFAIRS

ALEKSANDAR NINKOVIĆ, ADVISOR IN GROUP OF LEGAL AFFAIRS

YEREVAN, JULY 4, 2023