



## **JOINT STATEMENT**

V6 is the association of the following six societies:

Austrian Statistical Society  
Czech Statistical Society  
Hungarian Statistical Association  
Romanian Society of Statistics  
Slovak Statistical and Demographical Society  
Statistical Society of Slovenia

The objective of the V6 is to facilitate, among others, scientific progress, promote the application of professional ethics and the fundamental principles of official statistics, and best practices in statistics in their respective countries.

Five members of the V6<sup>1</sup> agree that the principle of professional independence of the European Statistics Code of Practice (denoted Code/CoP) in what follows), in particular indicators 1.1 and 1.8<sup>2</sup> are of core importance for the reliability and credibility of the official statistics.

The V6 has been observing that recruitment and dismissal procedures for heads and top management posts of National Statistical Institutes are not always in line with the Code's first principle and the indicators mentioned below. It seems in these cases that staff of the best professional qualification and experience has been dismissed; officials without sufficient expertise in Statistics are appointed as senior experts and top managers in some Statistical Institutes. Trustworthiness, confidentiality, credibility of official statistics are built on the professional integrity of an NSIs. Recruitment and dismissal

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<sup>1</sup> The Romanian Society of Statistics was excused.

<sup>2</sup> CoP, Principle 1, Ind. 1.1: "The independence of the National Statistical Institutes and Eurostat from political and other external interference in developing, producing and disseminating statistics is specified in law and assured for other statistical authorities"

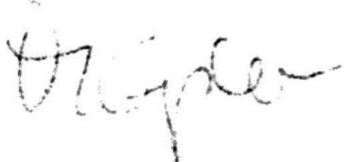
CoP, Principle 1, Ind. 1.8: „The appointment of the heads of the National Statistical Institutes and Eurostat and, where appropriate, the heads of other statistical authorities, is based on professional competence only. The reasons on the basis of which the incumbency can be terminated are specified in the legal framework. These cannot include reasons compromising professional or scientific independence.“

practices are, among others, the most visible parts to the general public in respect thereof. The Statistical Systems in the countries, disrespecting professional independence of their Statistical Institutes and, where applicable, other authorities producing official statistics, would be damaging the society in this country because sound official statistics is crucial for good country governance.

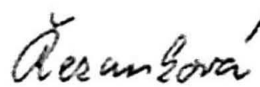
**THE MEMBERS OF THE V6 THEREFORE DEMAND THE AUTHORITIES RESPONSIBLE FOR RECRUITING OR DISMISSING PRACTICES TO ACT IN LINE WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF THE EUROPEAN CODE OF PRACTICE.**

The V6 also wants to point to the statement of the German Statistical Society (DStG)<sup>3</sup> and the Opinion of the European Statistical Governance Advisory Board (ESGAB)<sup>4</sup>, but goes beyond the quoted examples named.

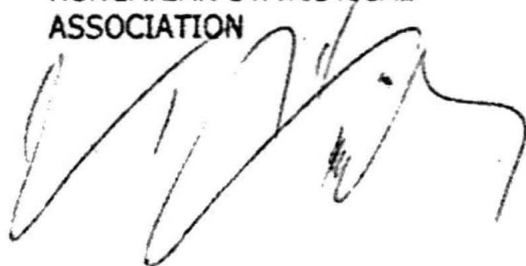
AUSTRIAN STATISTICAL SOCIETY



CZECH STATISTICAL SOCIETY



HUNGARIAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION



SLOVAK STATISTICAL AND DEMOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY



STATISTICAL SOCIETY OF SLOVENIA



Prague, 10th Oct.2014

<sup>3</sup> [www.dstatg.de/de/startseite/aktuelle-news/article/die-deutsche-statistische-gesellschaft-fordert-unabhaengigkeit-der-amtlichen-statistik/](http://www.dstatg.de/de/startseite/aktuelle-news/article/die-deutsche-statistische-gesellschaft-fordert-unabhaengigkeit-der-amtlichen-statistik/)

<sup>4</sup> <http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/esgab/introduction>