



Białystok, 4th September 2009

**A report on the Visit of the Representatives of the Central Statistical Office in Grodno,  
Grodno 6th-7th August 2009**

From 6th until 7th August 2009 a delegation of the Central Statistical Office led by the President of the CSO, Prof. Józef Oleński, Ph.D., took part in a working meeting of Polish and Belarusian statisticians, which took place in the seat of the Central Statistical Office of Grodno Oblast. The President of CSO was accompanied by the CSO Spokesperson – Władysław Wiesław Łagodziński and directors of SO in Białystok – Ewa Kamińska-Gawryluk; SO in Lublin – Kazimierz Tucki; SO in Rzeszów – Ph.D. Marek Cierpień-Wolan.

Before the official visit, the President of CSO, Prof. Józef Oleński, Ph.D., together with the Spokesperson, Władysław Wiesław Łagodziński, and the Director of the Statistical Office in Białystok, Ewa Kamińska-Gawryluk, paid a visit to the Consul of the Republic of Poland in Grodno, Jan Sroka. Another participant of the meeting was Andzelika Borys, the President of the Union of Poles in Belarus. They both voiced their expectations and needs concerning statistical information about Poles living in Belarus and, in particular, data on social and demographic surveys and on transborder ones. The President declared the cooperation of CSO in terms of providing information and then handed statistical elaborations and publications (amongst others, ones commemorating 220 years of Polish public statistics and 90 years of SCO) to the Consul and the Union of Poles in Belarus.

The first part of the meeting in the Central Statistical Office of Grodno Oblast was devoted to presenting information concerning the ways in which statistical data is gathered, prepared, and published, in both Belarus and Poland. The representatives from Poland during their presentations provided information on the way in which specialization of offices was introduced into the system of Polish public statistics, and also discussed the range of specialization of their offices.

The representatives of Belarus informed about the preparations of the national census of Belarus, which would take place from 14th until 24th of October 2009.

Next, President Józef Oleński presented information on the electronic reporting system in Poland. He described the process implementing it, paying particular attention to its efficiency and quick rate of implementation.

The next day of the meeting began with the presentation of Marek Cierpień-Wolan, Director of the Statistical Office in Rzeszów, on a new transboundary survey introduced by this office.

In his presentation the Director suggested that delimitation of the transboundary regions should be introduced under the recommendations of SO in Rzeszów made on the basis of the actual legal status and the results of the border enquiry survey and an analysis of social and economic processes happening there. He stressed the importance of monitoring those processes carried out in compliance with administrative and statistical data bases, with the use of a variety of analytical tools, introducing new surveys. He also presented the preliminary results of an enquiry survey, carried out by the SO in Rzeszów, of the goods- and- services trading in the transboundary traffic. He discussed the issues connected with working out the methodology of estimating the volume of border traffic in the inner border of the European Union and Poland – carried out by the Social Surveys Department of CSO in cooperation with SO in Rzeszów. The presentation showed the need for international cooperation to carry out transboundary research to establish, among other things,

a homogenous information infrastructure for these areas (metainformation, data banks, methodological reports) and analytical capability. Preparation of projects financed by the European Union and carrying them out is an important factor that may foster the achievement of these aims.

The meeting was concluded by the President of CSO, Józef Oleński, and the Chairman of the National Committee for the Statistics of the Republic of Belarus, Vladimir I. Zinovskiy, signing the statistical cooperation agreement. The agreement involves, among other issues, sharing: of statistical publications, of experiences connected with the making use of information technologies, of the structures and management of statistical databases, and of methods for implementing new information technologies, as well as further development of cooperation on the regional level.