



Białystok, 16th June 2009

## **Report on the Visit of the Director of the Central Statistical Office of Grodno Oblast in the Statistical Office in Białystok, Białystok 8-10 June 2009**

From 9th until 10th June 2009, the Director of the Central Statistical Office of Grodno Oblast, Tamara Gabryjanczyk, visited the Central Statistical Office in Białystok.

The first day of the visit was devoted to comparing the organization and the structure of public statistics in Poland and in Belarus as well as the activity of statistical offices in both countries and with the activity of the Centre for Forestry and the Preservation of Nature Statistics in particular. During this session the following issues were discussed: the legal basis regulating public statistics activity in both countries and the activity of the SO in Białystok and the SO in Grodno, as well as the organizational structure and mission of both offices. Systems of data gathering, processing, publishing, and dissemination were compared. In the next part of the first day's meeting, Grzegorz Błachowski, the Manager of the Centre for Forestry and the Preservation of Nature Statistics presented the activity of the Centre, focusing in particular on research carried out by the Centre, the scope of gathered data, cooperation of the Centre with national institutions dealing with forestry and the preservation of nature, and publications on these topics issued by the SO in Białystok and the CSO.

On 9th of June, the Director of the Statistical Office in Rzeszów, Marek Cierpień Wolan PhD., took part in the meeting and presented the experiences of SO in Rzeszów in terms of the cooperation with statistical offices in Ukraine and Slovakia, as well as presenting characteristics of the pilotage survey of the trade of goods and services turnover carried out on the Polish-Ukrainian border. The Director stressed that the survey is included in the PBSSP project for 2010 as obligatory, and the survey was extended to other European Union external borders with Belarus and Russia. During this part of the meeting a discussion on the national census on Belarus on 14-24 October 2009 took place. Tamara Gabryjanczyk handed out the census questionnaire and discussed the basic scope of data collected during the census. Employees of the SO in Białystok presented their experiences connected with using OCR technology in the

censuses in 2002 and talked about the modern technology and methods of data collection to be used in the upcoming census in Poland.

During the next part of the meeting the scope of basic data collected by public statistics of both countries was compared and there was a discussion concerning possibilities for exchanging information in order to issue publications and statistical elaborations regarding data on both voivodships. The participants agreed that Podlaskie Voivodship and Grodno Oblast are comparable in terms of basic numbers such as area, population, geographical location and natural environment. Both parties declared their will to exchange data included in the publications.

On the last day of the visit, basic data on Euroregions located on the Polish-Belarusian border (Niemen and the Białowieża Forest) such as territory, seats, and statutes was presented. At this point Grzegorz Błachowski stressed the need for monitoring the demand for statistical information and an analysis of the possibility of allowing the Euroregions' representatives to participate in further work leading to the issuing of publications on Euroregions.

At the end of the meeting the two Directors, Ewa Kamińska-Gawryluk and Tamara Gabryjanczyk, declared their will to carry on the cooperation and to begin work on the publications to be issued.