

**UNECE Expert Meeting on Dissemination and Communication of Statistics** 11-13 October 2023, Lisbon Portugal

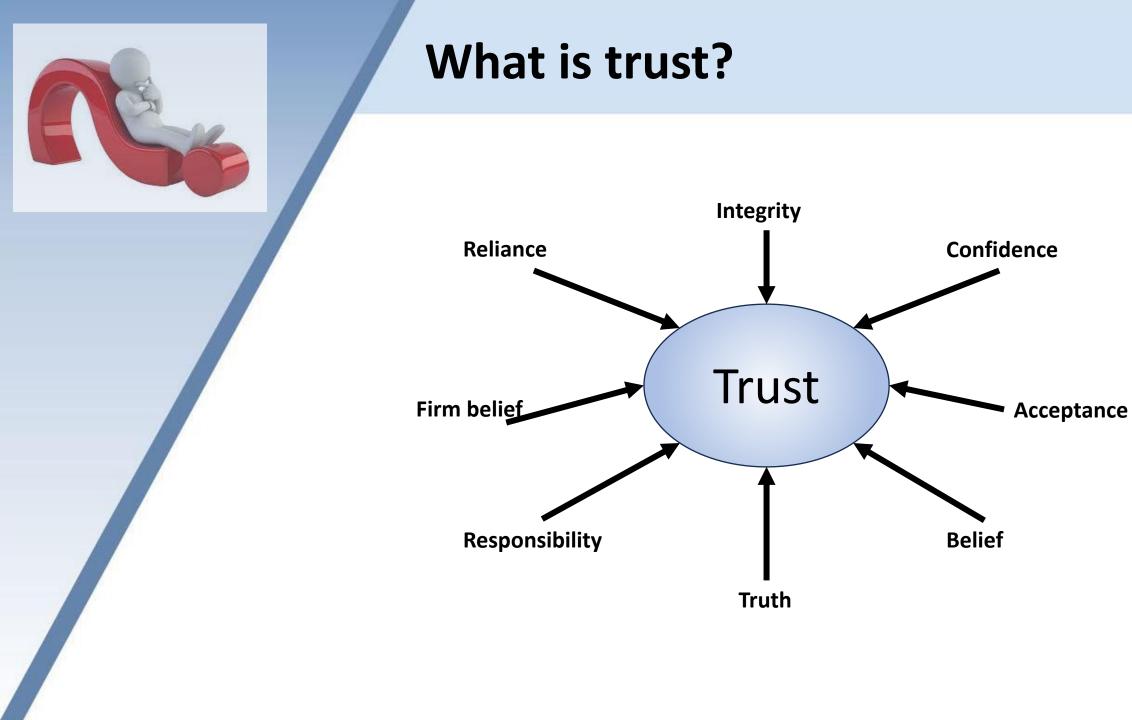
### Increasing trust in official statistics in the Republic of North Macedonia

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# What challenges trust in statistics?

In the past, official statistics was the ultimate trusted source of information.

Today, with the development of modern technologies, artificial intelligence, internet etc. official statistics are facing many threats, fighting fake information being probably the most challenging one.



## What challenges trust in statistics?

All our work is based on the trust that the data NSIs obtain from citizens and businesses are dealt with care and responsibility, and the data are trustworthy and reliable.

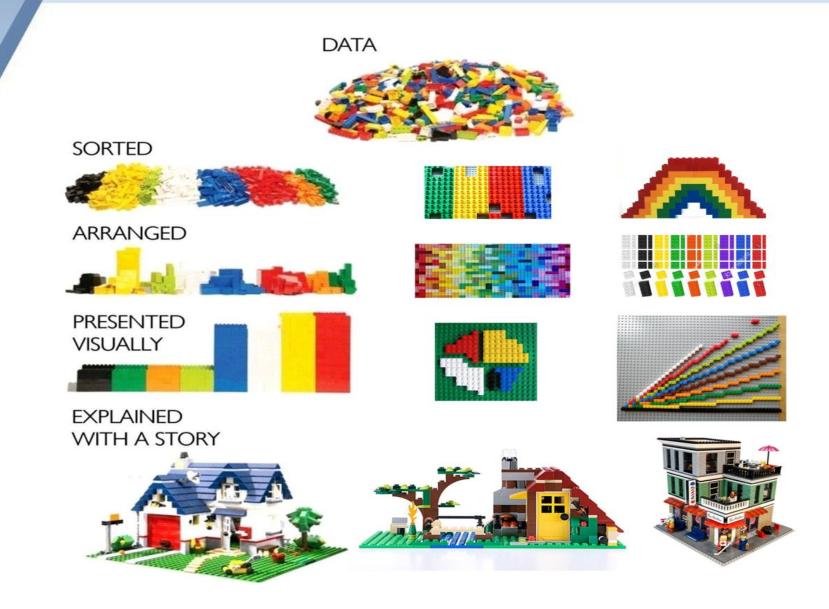


NSIs are the "gatekeepers" of official numbers as opposed to other data whose quality cannot be confirmed.





### Sometimes, a picture is worth 1000 words







What we do in the national circumstances?

**Strategic Plan of SSO** conveys the message that SSO intention is to increase trust in official statistics.

Project with Statistics Sweden "Increased availability and use of official statistics in North Macedonia", funded by Sida.

The project's development objective is **increased user confidence in official statistics**.





### What we do in the national circumstances?

Project "Increased availability and use of official statistics in North Macedonia".

One of the project's components is **Improved communications** in order to strengthen confidence in official statistics with all users.

The required change in SSO's communication procedures is rather comprehensive and includes several internal stakeholders, including not just the dissemination sector but also managers and subject matter experts from other parts of the organisation.



#### **Communication strategy**

A communication strategy was developed in 2021, setting the overall frame of SSO's external communication and serving as a tool and as support to define communication towards different target groups.



The communication strategy gives the way forward in disseminating and communicating official statistics and it also defines the channels to do so.





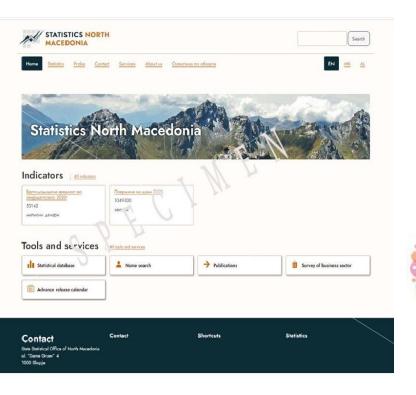
#### <u>New website</u>

The website is our main channel of external communication. Complete redesign of the website.

#### Current website



#### New website





#### New news releases

New templates for news releases created. Focus on key indicators and take-away messages.

#### **Makstat** database redesigned

Makstat database is a real



Updated version in March 2023 – a lot of positive feedback from users.

#### Social media

Social media strategy

- Primary social media platform







#### <u>Results, so far</u>

Number of visits to SSO website from 1 213 335 (2020) to 1 388 123 (2022)

Tables downloaded from Makstat from 82 581 (2020) to 133 620 (2022)

Written requests 4 from 889 (2020) to 654 (2022)





### **Other activities**

#### **Increasing statistical literacy**

- Developing of training materials
- ToT
- Planned trainings for representatives of public administration

### **Building of partnerships**

- professional community
- educational community
- international organisations















#### Special partnership with the media

- professional and open cooperation
- media advocates for statistics









#### **Challenges for official statistics in North Macedonia**

- constant decrease of employees
- obscure financial capacities
- reluctance to change the mindset regarding dissemination and communication of statistics
- clash between traditional and modern views





# Thank you!





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