

DECISION
No. 670, dated 07.11.2018
ON THE CRITERIA AND PROCEDURES FOR SELECTION, REPRESENTATION,
APPOINTMENT AND DISMISSAL, RULES OF FUNCTIONING, AND
COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS OF THE STATISTICS COUNCIL

Pursuant to Article 100 of the Constitution and points 3 and 10 of Article 22 of Law No. 17/2018, "On Official Statistics", upon the proposal of the Prime Minister, the Council of Ministers

DECIDED:

1. To approve the rules for the criteria and procedures for the selection, representation, appointment and dismissal, functioning, and compensation of the members of the Statistics Council, in order to ensure the proper operation of the council, guaranteeing professionalism, independence, and high moral integrity, through transparent selection procedures based on professional criteria to fulfil the duties defined by the Law on Official Statistics.

2. The members of the Statistics Council, as specified in letters "a", "ç", "d", "dh", and "ë" of point 2, Article 22 of Law No. 17/2018 "On Official Statistics", shall be proposed by the Council of Ministers. The selection procedures for candidates in these cases shall be carried out under the responsibility of the Secretary General of the Council of Ministers, following open procedures outlined in points 2.1 to 2.4 of this decision.

2.1 The criteria for candidates for members of the Statistics Council proposed by the Council of Ministers are as follows:

a) Candidate representing local self-government bodies:

- i. Must be a civil servant from these bodies;
- ii. Must use statistics in their daily work;
- iii. Must have at least 3 years of experience using statistics due to job responsibilities.

b) Candidates representing key users of official statistics:

- i. Must be civil servants from the Prime Minister's Office involved in development strategy drafting and monitoring;
- ii. Must be at least mid-level managers;
- iii. Must use statistical data in their work;
- iv. Must have at least 3 years of experience in using statistics.

c) Candidates representing academia:

- i. Must be full-time academic staff of licensed and accredited public or private higher education institutions;
- ii. Must have at least 10 years of experience in statistics, economics, or natural sciences;
- iii. Must hold academic titles.

ç) Candidate representing civil society:

- i. Must be from a non-profit organization that uses statistical indicators in its activities;
- ii. Must have been employed in the organization for at least 3 years;
- iii. Must be engaged in using statistics in economics, natural sciences, or social sciences.

d) Candidate representing the media:

- i. Must be from national media;
- ii. Must be employed full-time;
- iii. Must have at least 10 years of experience in economic journalism.

2.2 To carry out the selection procedure according to the criteria in point 2, the Secretary General of the Council of Ministers establishes an ad-hoc committee composed of two

representatives from the Prime Minister's Office and one representative from INSTAT, proposed by the Director General of INSTAT.

2.3 The vacancy announcement for a member of the Statistics Council is published in the Public Announcements Bulletin and on the official websites of the Prime Minister's Office and INSTAT until the application deadline. The announcement includes:

- a) The list of eligibility criteria;
- b) The required documents;
- c) The place and deadline for submitting applications;
- d) The method of communication with applicants.

2.4 The ad-hoc committee evaluates the candidate files within 10 calendar days after the application deadline to verify compliance with the criteria. At the end of the verification process, the committee prepares a list of eligible candidates and submits it to the Secretary General of the Council of Ministers for proposal to the Council of Ministers.

3. Members of the Statistics Council referred to in letters "b", "c", and "e" of point 2, Article 22 of Law No. 17/2018, are proposed by the respective institutional heads.

3.1 The candidate proposed by the Bank of Albania must:

- a) Hold a senior departmental position;
- b) Have a high professional reputation;
- c) Have knowledge of statistical methods;
- d) Have at least 5 years of experience in financial institutions.

3.2 The candidate proposed by the Ministry of Finance and Economy must:

- a) Be a civil servant at least at a mid-level managerial position;
- b) Have knowledge of statistical methods;
- c) Have at least 3 years of experience using statistics.

3.3 The candidate proposed by the Union of Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Albania must:

- a) Be from within the institution or one of its member organizations;
- b) Have recognized experience in the economic field;
- c) Have prior experience in using statistics.

4. Institutions proposing members to the Statistics Council (as per points 3 and 4 of Article 22 of Law No. 17/2018) must officially submit their proposals to Parliament no later than one month before the end of a member's mandate. The proposal must be accompanied by an explanatory report and documentation proving fulfilment of the criteria set in this decision.

5. In case of vacant seats on the Statistics Council, INSTAT must immediately notify the proposing institutions to initiate the procedures for filling the vacancies.

6. Members of the Statistics Council are dismissed by the Parliament according to point 6, Article 22 of Law No. 17/2018. The dismissal proposal must be submitted by the institution that had the right to propose the appointment.

7. The Statistics Council shall meet at least three (3) times per calendar year. Meetings are convened by the Chair. In the Chair's absence, the meeting is convened by the Vice-Chair, or in their absence, by the longest-serving member.

8. The Chair shall determine the date and time of each meeting and notify members at least five (5) days in advance. The meeting agenda must be communicated to members no later than two (2) days prior. Any changes to the meeting schedule must also be communicated at least two (2) days in advance.

9. The Chair is obliged to call a meeting if requested in writing by at least one-third of the Council members or by the Director General of INSTAT. In such cases, the meeting must be held no later than fifteen (15) days from the date of the request.

10. A meeting is valid when at least seven (7) Council members are present. Meetings follow the approved agenda. Discussions and decisions for each item are recorded in minutes by the Council Secretariat.

11. Decisions of the Statistics Council are valid when approved by at least seven (7) members. Decisions must be formalized within three (3) days from the meeting date.

12. The Statistics Council shall hold its first meeting within one (1) month of the confirmation of member mandates.

13. The Secretariat of the Statistics Council is provided by INSTAT. The Secretariat organizes meetings, maintains relevant documentation, drafts and signs minutes after review by all members, and ensures proper recording of Council decisions.

14. Council members must maintain the confidentiality of any data or information obtained during their duties and refrain from using it for personal interest.

15. The compensation of Statistics Council members is determined according to Decision No. 656, dated 31.10.2018, of the Council of Ministers, "On setting the level of compensation for members of councils, boards, or permanent commissions of central government units."

16. Decision No. 999, dated 25.10.2013, of the Council of Ministers, "On the criteria and procedures for representation, selection, appointment and dismissal, rules of functioning, and compensation of members of the Statistics Council," is repealed.

17. Transitional provision:

The Secretary General of the Council of Ministers is tasked, within five (5) days from the entry into force of this decision, to initiate procedures for filling the vacant seats on the Statistics Council, as follows:

- a) One (1) member representing local self-government bodies;
- b) One (1) member representing academia;
- c) One (1) member representing the media.

This decision enters into force upon publication in the Official Gazette.

PRIME MINISTER
Edi Rama