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The birth of official statistics in Poland

Abstract. *The birth of the Polish official statistics, commonly associated with the establishment of Statistics Poland on 13 July 1918, was possible thanks to the ideas and grassroots work of various scholars, including statisticians, who thus demonstrated their faithfulness to the resolutions of the Four-Year Sejm (Parliament) and the Constitution of 3 May 1791. Statisticians from Kraków, who established Poland's first statistical society (the Polish Statistical Society) and authored a study entitled Statistics of Poland, Kraków (1915), edited by Adam Krzyżanowski and Kazimierz Kumaniecki, deserve a special recognition in this paper. In the two consecutive years, 1916 and 1917, Kraków saw the publication of two important works, namely Geographical and Statistical Atlas of Poland, Kraków (1916), edited by Eugeniusz Romer and Ignacy Weinfeld, and the Yearbook of Poland. Statistical Tables, Kraków (1917). But scientists from other parts of Poland contributed to the process of laying the foundations for the Polish official statistics as well. Statisticians from Warsaw compiled three volumes of Statistical Yearbooks of the Kingdom of Poland edited by Władysław Grabski, and the work entitled Statistical Yearbook of the Kingdom of Poland and other Polish lands. The Year 1915 under the editorship of Edward Strasburger was published in 1916 in Sankt Petersburg. Around the same period, Polish scientists associated with the University of Lviv expanded the scope of their scientific activity. After regaining independence, the process of establishing the system of official statistics in Poland, at that time carried out already within the framework of Statistic Poland, continued developing dynamically thanks to the scientific input of several dozen Polish statisticians.*

Keywords: official statistics, statistical societies, precursors of public statistics

Narodziny statystyki publicznej w Polsce

Streszczenie. *Narodziny polskiej statystyki publicznej, utożsamiane z utworzeniem Głównego Urzędu Statystycznego 13 lipca 1918 r., mogły nastąpić dzięki ideom pracy u podstaw wielu uczonych, w tym statystyków, którzy byli wierni postanowieniom Sejmu Czteroletniego i Konstytucji 3 Maja 1791 r. Na szczególne wyróżnienie zasługują tutaj statystycy krakowscy, którzy powołali do życia pierwsze Polskie Towarzystwo Statystyczne, oraz ich dzieło Statystyka Polski pod redakcją Adama Krzyżanowskiego i Kazimierza Kumanieckiego (Kraków 1915). W następnych dwóch latach zostały wydane dwie ważne prace naukowe: Geograficzno-Statystyczny Atlas Polski pod redakcją Eugeniusza Romera i Ignacego Weinfeldta (Kraków 1916) oraz Rocznik Polski. Tablice statystyczne (Kraków 1917). Ale naukowcy z innych stron Polski również wnieśli wkład w proces tworzenia*

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podwalin polskiej statystyki publicznej. Statystycy warszawscy opracowali trzy tomy Roczników Statystycznych Królestwa Polskiego pod redakcją Władysława Grabowskiego, natomiast w 1916 r. w Petersburgu wydany został Rocznik Statystyczny Królestwa Polskiego z uwzględnieniem innych ziem polskich. Rok 1915 pod redakcją Edwarda Strasburgera. W tym okresie również rozwinęła się twórczość polskich uczonych związanych z Uniwersytetem Lwowskim. Proces organizacji statystyki publicznej w Polsce po odzyskaniu niepodległości, już w ramach Głównego Urzędu Statystycznego, mógł rozwijać się w dynamicznym tempie dzięki pracy naukowej kilkudziesięciu statystyków polskich.

Słowa kluczowe: statystyka publiczna, towarzystwa statystyczne, prekursorzy statystyki publicznej

JEL Classification: B29, C1, J16

1. INTRODUCTION

The establishment of Statistics Poland on 13 July 1918 was possible thanks to ideas shared by a group of scholars who bore in mind the resolutions of the Four Year Sejm (the Parliament) and the Constitution of 3 May 1791. Following the message of these documents, soon after the last partition of Poland in 1795, several scientific societies came to existence in the former territory of Poland, whose programmes propounded the idea of conducting research into the local population structure and economy.

The Warsaw Society of the Friends of Sciences², which assembled the most distinguished Polish scientists of the post-partition era, was founded in 1800. In 1807 in Kraków, Stanisław Staszic published the work *On Polish Statistics*, which was the response to launching statistical surveys throughout the country. The first statistical data on the Duchy of Warsaw was published in 1809 by Jerzy B. Flatt in the work entitled *The description of the Duchy of Warsaw*, and the first Statistical Office was established within the Ministry of the Interior in the Duchy of Warsaw in 1810 (Kubiczek, 2017).

In the first two decades of the 20th century, two statistical scientific societies were established: the Polish Statistical Society, in 1912, and the Society of Polish Economists and Statisticians, in 1917. Both of them became the pillars of the foundation of Statistics Poland (Domański, 2008). However, the origins of Statistics Poland could also be traced back to the statistical institutions created by the partitioners; as it was them who provided the sources of statistical data, launched studies on the Polish territories and provided experienced statisticians ready to organize statistical services in the independent Polish state. The National Statistical Bureau was established in 1873 in Lviv, a year after the Lviv Municipal Statistical Office started operations, and in 1884, a similar municipal-statistical unit opened in Kraków.

² The Warsaw Society of Friends of Science (Polish: *Towarzystwo Przyjaciół Nauk*, TPN) was one of the earliest Polish scientific societies, active in Warsaw from 1800 to 1832.

In the Kingdom of Poland, the Government Commission of Internal and Clerical Affairs, within which the Statistical Department dealing with collecting numerical data operated, was established in 1815. Another significant statistical organisation from the territory of the Russian partition was the Warsaw Statistical Committee, which functioned in 1889–1914 and published, among other works, a 40-volume series of *Works of the Warsaw Statistical Committee* (Łazowska, 2015).

In 1827 in Poznań, Stanisław Plater published the first *Statistical Atlas of Poland*, which defined the territorial scope of the Polish culture and nationality and presented the distribution of industry in the Polish territories. The Poznań Society of Friends of Sciences, composed of Polish statisticians who established the Faculty of Economic and Statistical Sciences in the 1870s, came into being in 1857. The Faculty later merged with the Faculty of Economic Sciences. Stanisław Plater continued his scientific activity until the outbreak of World War I. The Statistical Office in Poznań, which generated a much broader scope of regional statistics than its predecessor, Berlin-based Royal Prussian Statistical Office from 1805, was established in 1905 (Łazowska, 2018b).

This paper focuses on the processes leading to the launch of Polish official statistics in two parts of the former Commonwealth of Both Nations (Rzeczpospolita Obojga Narodów): the Polish Kingdom³ and Galicia. Polish statisticians from those regions were the first and the most active in this process. In other parts of the Polish Commonwealth (Prussian partition and Russian annexed territories – Lithuania, Belarus, Ukraine), Polish official statistics practically did not exist.

2. FIRST SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES IN POLAND

The beginning of Poland's servitude marks the start of the period when numerous Polish scientific societies were established. The two literary and scientific centres of the post-partition era were the town of Puławy⁴, which belonged to the Czartoryski family⁵, and Vilnius. However, it was Warsaw where the intellectual life of the time was flourishing. The homes of Joachim Chreptowicz, Tadeusz Czacki, Ignacy Krasicki, and finally Anna nee Sapieha and Stanisław Sołtyk, were the places where the intellectual elite of the former capital met. The discussions and debates held there among the Warsaw intellectuals gave rise to

³ The Kingdom of Poland, Congress Poland or Russian Poland was a polity created in 1815 by the Congress of Vienna as a sovereign Polish state.

⁴ A city in eastern Poland, in Lublin Province of northern Lesser Poland, located at the confluence of the Vistula and Kurówka rivers. In 1731, Maria Zofia Sieniawska (the daughter of Elżbieta and Adam Sieniawski), married August Aleksander Czartoryski. As a result, Puławy remained in the hands of the Czartoryski family for the next 100 years.

⁵ Czartoryski is a Polish princely family of Lithuanian-Ruthenian origin, also known as the Familia.

the idea of creating a more permanent scientific association. The man who is believed to be the main originator and propagator of the idea was Stanisław Sołtyk.

Sołtyk's idea was implemented in 1800 in the form of the Warsaw Society of the Friends of Sciences, which attracted the most prominent scientists of the post-partition era. The main aims of the Society were to support the development of sciences and to promote studying in Polish, except for the 'matters related to home religion and the present government', i.e. the most sensitive political issues of the time. The Society became a platform for the presentation of the scientific work of economists, at the same time serving as a source of inspiration for them to undertake new challenging tasks. Numerous discussions on socio-economic problems were held there. In 1804, Stanisław Staszic conducted the analysis of Aleksander Potocki's work on agriculture, and in December the following year he presented the first part of his *Agriculture of the Carpathian*. Soon after that Staszic became the informal leader of the Society, and from 1808 until his death in 1826 he served as its president, throughout that time generously supporting it financially. The society could boast many active members, including Dominik Krysiński, who made his debut in 1807 giving a talk on tanning, or Wawrzyniec Surowiecki, who in 1811 gave a lecture on the decline of Polish cities.

In 1818, Surowiecki presented his doctoral dissertation on trade guilds before the Society. The subsequent discussion on guilds, which was joined, among others, by Dominik Krysiński, became a valuable contribution to the wide-scale debate on the extra-economic factors of the social development, held at that time by Polish physiocrats.

Fryderyk Skarbek, who was the author of the contemporarily published *Elementary Principles of the National Economy*, joined the Society in 1820. In the following years, he proved to be one of the most active members, contributing his expertise in areas such as the Galician statistics, charitable institutions, providence and saving funds for farmers.

After the death of Staszic in 1826, Julian Ursyn Niemcewicz took the lead of the Society. Studies in the field of economics were still the members of the Society's main focus. Dominik Krysiński's dissertation on the national economy and its analysis carried out by Skarbek became the highlight of the year 1826 (Łukasiewicz, 1995).

The Society remained indifferent to the social unrest which preceded the outbreak of the November Insurrection of 1830. The defeat of the Insurrection had several negative political, economic and military consequences. One of them was the liquidation of the Warsaw Society – a severe loss to Polish science. The last public meeting of the Society was held on 3 May 1831, when Tsar Mikolai I decided to confiscate all its assets. That event marked the beginning of the period of the so-called Paskiewicz terror, which forced many eminent members of the Society into exile.

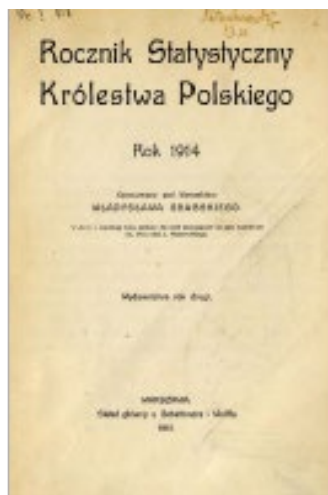
The Warsaw Society of Friends of Sciences played an important role in the formation of the modern Polish science. In addition to bringing together several outstanding scientists and serving as a platform for exchanging scientific ideas, the society published yearbooks and motivated scientists to conduct further research. The Society's members collected national documents and important diaries, and preserved them in the institution's library, which became a respected research unit.

In 1818, the Society of Friends of Sciences of the Lublin province was founded in Lublin on the initiative of a landowner Joachim Powidzki. The Lublin Society, which was guided by the principles of the Enlightenment, 'focused on efforts of social activists rather than scientists'.

In the Płock province, intensive research studies were carried out by the Płock Scientific Society, founded in 1820 by Kajetan Morykoni, the President of the Provincial School. Unfortunately, after the November Insurrection, both of the above-mentioned Societies shared the fate of the Warsaw Society (Roszkowski, 2010).

The Society of Support for Social Work (TPPS), an association through which economists, lawyers and economic and political activists carried out joint social activities, was established in Warsaw in 1907. The Society's goal was to develop scientific research, compile technical data, prepare drafts of bills and hold discussions on socio-economic problems.

The founders of the Society included Franciszek Nowodworski, Zygmunt Chrzanowski, Leopold Kronenberg, Juliusz Tarnowski and Władysław Grabski. In 1910, a scientific unit, under the name of the Social Work Office, was set up within the Society (TPPS). Its aim was to provide scientific support to the Polish representatives in the National Duma (Russian parliament). Initially, there were two sections in the Office: the socio-legal unit and the socio-economic one, headed by Władysław Grabski (1874–1938). Several well-known economists participated in the works of this section, including Stanisław Bukowiecki, Bohdan Wasiutyński, Stanisław Aleksander Kempner, Henryk Radziszewski and Bolesław Markowski. Their work involved a wide range of subjects, for example the problems of municipal and land self-governments, agrarian issues, local finances and tax and communication issues. In the years 1910–1915, two statistical yearbooks of the Kingdom of Poland for the years 1913 and 1914, edited by Władysław Grabski, were published. The first of them was issued in January 1914 under the title of the *Statistical Yearbook of the Kingdom of Poland. The Year 1913* thanks to a donation from 'Dr Józef Mianowski Provident Fund'. The data collected in that yearbook was classified under the following headings: area and population including emigrations; property and agricultural production; industry, trade and credits; constructions and fires; roads; taxation and urban households; public health; education.



Similar categories were adopted in the second edition of the yearbook for the year 1914 (cf. photograph), also edited by professor Władysław Grabski, and published the following year.

In the third edition of the yearbook, for the year 1915, both the thematic and territorial scopes of the presented data were considerably expanded (by adding numerical data on the Polish territories beyond the Kingdom of Poland). The publication, edited by Edward Strasburger, came out in Warsaw and in Sankt Petersburg in 1916 under the title *Statistical Yearbook of the Kingdom of Poland and other Polish Lands. The Year 1915*.

3. POLISH STATISTICAL SOCIETIES

The beginnings of the Polish statistics date back to the end of the 19th century, the period marked by the development of the Polish scientific thought in the field of socio-economic sciences in Galicia. In 1867, the Law and Economics Society, whose task was to educate and develop jurisprudence and socio-economic sciences, was established in Kraków. The Trade and Economics Society, founded to support trade and to collect economic data on the countries-destinations of Poles' emigration, started operations in 1894 in Lviv.

The idea to found a separate association for Polish statisticians originated at the beginning of 1912 in the circles of statisticians and economists from Kraków. They planned that this future association would issue statistical publications covering the joint territory of the three partitions. The first president of the Polish Statistical Association was Prof. Juliusz Leo, an expert in administrative law, who later became the Mayor of Kraków, while Prof. Kazimierz Kumaniecki, a statistician and lawyer from the Jagiellonian University, served as the secretary (Berger, 2008; Kruszka, 2012).

However, publications covering the joint territory of the three partitions could not be issued until 1914; it was mainly due to the lack of uniformity of statistical data collected by the authorities of the partitioners. Statistical data regarding Polish territories were scattered through several publications issued separately in each of the partitioning countries. It was possible to compile the data from these various publications in one yearbook, but only after those data had been made comparable, which was a task for an institution that would be independent of the state units of administrative statistics (Berger, 1995).

According to its statute, the main aim of the Polish Statistical Society was 'statistical research on the economic and social relations between the Polish territo-

ries and the Polish emigration'. The Polish Emigration Society operated in Kraków at that time, but it did not conduct any separate statistical research. Therefore, the Polish Statistical Association treated that task as one of its priorities. In order to achieve these goals, there were plans to establish the Statistical Office for the Polish Territories, whose responsibility would be publishing statistical yearbooks, statistical monographs and handbooks of statistics, as well as collecting all the necessary input, including statistical data obtained through appropriate questionnaires, and, as mentioned in the statute, through 'on the spot' research. A special commission, whose members were to be appointed by the PSS, was to deal with these issues. The ambitious plan to launch a wide-scale publishing activity came to fruition in 1915, with the publication of *Statistics of Poland* by the Jagiellonian University (cf. photograph). The compilation and publication of the yearbook was possible thanks to the endeavours of several institutions from Kraków. In July 1914, the Polish Statistical Society had to apply for financial support necessary to conduct studies and finalise the work on the yearbook to the Academy of Learning in Kraków.

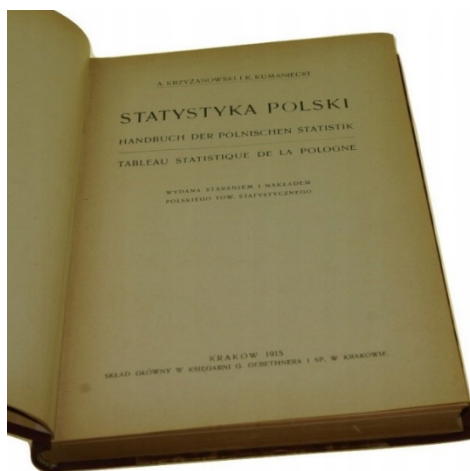
A. KRZYŻANOWSKI I K. KUMANIECKI

STATYSTYKA POLSKI

HANDBUCH DER POLNISCHEN STATISTIK

TABLEAU STATISTIQUE DE LA POLOGNE

WYDANA STARANIEM I NAKŁADEM
POLSKIEGO TOW. STATYSTYCZNEGO



KRAKÓW 1915
SKŁAD GŁÓWNY W KSIĘGARNI G. OEBETHNERA I SP. W KRAKOWIE.

The authors of *Statistics of Poland* were Professor Adam Krzyżanowski, Ph.D., (1873–1953) and Assistant Professor Kazimierz W. Kumaniecki Ph.D., (1880–1941). The Editorial Committee, selected by the Board of the PSS, consisted of Professor Franciszek Bujak Ph.D., (1875–1953) (the head of the Committee), Professor Stefan Surzycki Ph.D., (1864–1926), and Edward Grabowski Ph.D., (1881–1961), who authored the chapter devoted to the sources of statis-

tical data. Among the important contributors, Marcin Nadobnik Ph.D., (1883–1953) from Lviv and Michał Römer Ph.D., (1880–1945) from Vilnius should be mentioned, as they supported the publication with their own statistical materials. Other contributors included professor Władysław Leopold Jaworski Ph.D., (1865–1930), Professor Stanisław Kutrzeba Ph.D., (1876–1940), Professor Michał Rostworowski Ph.D., (1864–1940) and Franciszek Stefczyk Ph.D., (1861–1924). The preparation of tables where data were compiled was done by the staff of the Municipal Statistical Office in Kraków (Domański, 2008).

In the preface to *Statistics of Poland*, the Editorial Committee defined the aim of the publication in the following way: 'Our work was resolved with a handbook in mind. We neither intended to provide a complete compilation of statistical figures, nor offer a publication which would make the use of statistical sources redundant. Our intention was rather to show the sources and to facilitate the use of extensive statistical material by presenting the most important calculations in a concise way'.

Statistics of Poland also attempted to compile numerical data concerning the territory of the pre-partitioned Poland; however, the thematic, chronological and territorial scope of the publication was not uniform, as it largely depended on the availability of reliable statistical sources. This fact by no means lessens the influence of the publication on the development of the Polish statistical thought. *Statistics of Poland* was Poland's first statistical yearbook in history which encompassed statistical data from the three partitions. The data presented there fell under categories such as: population, economic and social relations, education and learning and elections to legislative bodies. The publication was illustrated with a series of supplementary tables. Both the hand-written and printed materials have been used by many researchers who have studied the historical and statistical issues related to the territory of Poland, for instance by Professor Eugeniusz Romer, Ph.D., who used them in his work entitled *Geographic and Statistical Atlas of Poland*, published in 1916.

Thanks to the publication of *Statistics of Poland* in 1915, the Polish Statistical Society fully achieved its statutory aims. It successfully created the first yearbook of the Polish territories, thus assuming the responsibilities of the non-existent body of official statistics. *Statistics of Poland* consists of four chapters.

Chapter one, under the 'Population' heading, presents data related to the population numbers and structures according to sex and age, natural and migration movements of population, faith, nationality and language. Chapter two, most substantial in terms of the content and volume, entitled 'Economic and Social Relations', presents tables compiling data on occupation, agriculture and agricultural property, sowing and crops, animal rearing agricultural industry, real estate, constructions, insurance against fire, land indebtedness, land parcelling, industry and trade, mining and metallurgy, strikes, working class associations, social insurance, health service and hospitals, banking institutions and co-operative societies and savings and communications. Chapter three, devoted to education

and schooling, features statistical data on types of schools and their location, number of students and the schooling of children with special educational needs and illiteracy. In chapter four, entitled 'Elections to legislative bodies', the authors present data concerning elections to the Russian Duma, Austrian and German parliaments and the Sejm (parliament) of Galicia.

The publication of *Statistics of Poland* should be viewed nowadays as an original scientific achievement, whose ambitious and innovative goal was to integrate data from the three partitions, at the same time taking into account their various organizational structures, assessment methods, and, consequently, different ways of the compilation and interpretation of the results.

Scientific circles of statisticians and economists from Kraków established the Polish Statistical Society. At that time, Polish scientists tended to associate around several scientific centres throughout the post-partitioned Poland, and channel their scientific activity through these organisations. In Lviv, professor Eugeniusz Romer (1871–1954) wrote *Geographic and Statistical Atlas of Poland* (1916), which played an important role when the boundaries of Poland were delineated after World War I. The materials for that publication came from the library of the Central Statistical Commission, the Chamber of Trade and Industry, the Court and University Library in Vienna, the Jagiellonian University, the Kraków Municipal Office Library, and from private collections of Professor F. Bujak, Rev. J. Fijałek and S. Surzycki from Kraków.

Expert knowledge on the specialised subjects listed below was provided by:

- Professor K. Nitsch (Kraków) – language relations;
- J. Nowak, Ph.D. (Lviv–Vienna) – geology;
- S. Weigner, Ph.D. (Cracow–Vienna) – mining;
- B. Gubrynowicz, Ph.D. (Lviv–Vienna) – Polish press;
- J. Rutkowski, Ph.D. (Warsaw–Vienna) – history;
- W. Szafer, Ph.D. (Lviv–Kielce) – flora.

In his preface to the publication, professor Eugeniusz Romer wrote: 'Let this illustration of speech of numbers on Poland teach our own people and bring deliberateness and goodwill in those who hold in their hands the future of the Polish cause. After all, it is numbers which show how to rule the world' (Romer, 1916, p. 5).

4. THE SOCIETY OF ECONOMISTS AND STATISTICIANS OF POLAND

As has been mentioned before, the economic section was set up within the Social Work Office in 1910, and Zygmunt Chrzanowski become its head. In 1917, when Włodzimierz Wakar assumed the lead of the Office, the section started to prepare statistical materials designed to meet the needs of the future Polish state. Several important documents were prepared and published; for

example, a draft of the Constitution, a draft of the electoral law for the Sejm and the *Polish territorial programme*, which, along with an extensive dissertation by Wakar, became the basis for Poland's stance regarding the border issue at the Versailles Conference. The Office published *Social Work* – its flagship journal, where, among others, Tadeusz Szturm de Sztrem presented materials on the movement of prices and payments in the occupied Warsaw. It was in the circles of the Warsaw scientists where the idea of establishing societies of Polish statisticians and economists emerged.

On 29 March 1917, the Organizing Commission, consisting of Jan Dmochowski, Franciszek Doleżał, Stefan Dziewulski, Kazimierz Kasperski, Stanisław Aleksander Kempner and Włodzimierz Wakar, was set up in Warsaw. The aim of the Commission was to hold a conference which would lay the foundations for the establishment of the Society of Polish Economists and Statisticians in Warsaw, and help obtaining the legalisation of its draft statute from the German occupational authorities. The first meeting of the Society took place in Warsaw on 3 December 1917, and was attended by 42 most distinguished economists and practitioners from Warsaw.

That first meeting named Antoni Kostanecki the chairman of the Society and Stefan Dziewulski and Ludwik Krzywicki deputy chairmen. Jan Dmochowski and Kazimierz Kasperski were chosen for secretaries, and Władysław Zawadzki became the treasurer. The remaining members of the Board were: Zdzisław Ludkiewicz, Jerzy Michalski and Edward Strasburger. The statutory aim of the Society was 'raising the standard and developing the Polish socio-economic knowledge both in terms of theory and practice' by means of publications, talks, discussions, conventions, running a library, organizing research in special areas, announcing competitions and maintaining relations with other similar societies.

At the first meeting of the Board of the Society on 10 December 1917, it was decided that all economic entities from the territory of Poland would have to become registered, that the statistics of all the lectures in the field of socio-economic sciences delivered at Polish universities would be kept, and a syllabus of lectures for vocational schools would be written and sent for approval to the Ministry of Education of the Regency Council⁶. On 30 December 1917, the following meeting of the Society was held, which was devoted to the protection of the Polish economic interests during the peace talks in Brześć Litewski.

The meeting was attended not only by members of the Board of the SPES, but also by the representatives of the government of the Regency Council and the representatives of private business circles. All the conclusions were recorded and sent to the government of the Regency Council along with programme postulates.

⁶ The Regency Council of the Kingdom of Poland (Polish: *Rada Regencyjna*, or *Rada Regencyjna Królestwa Polskiego*) was a semi-independent and temporarily appointed highest authority (head of state) in the Partitioned Poland during World War I.

On 14 October 1918, predicting the imminent withdrawal of the occupying forces, the Society devised and announced a plan of the most urgent tasks, the fulfilment of which would enable efficient organisation of the social and economic life in the reunited Poland. The plan involved:

- assessing the economic strengths of particular provinces;
- describing changes caused by the war and occupation;
- adopting a stance concerning the role of foreign capital in Poland;
- assessing the national wealth and income as a basis for the budget;
- establishing a system of taxation;
- defining the forthcoming tasks for the social legislation.

The programme was ambitious and well thought out. This demonstrates that during its first year of operations, the Society of Polish Economists and Statisticians in Warsaw engaged in a number of intensive activities which, due to political reasons, could not be fully overt.

5. BEGINNINGS OF STATISTICS POLAND

On 12 September 1917, the Regency Council was established on the basis of a warrant by two general governors: the German governor Hans von Beseler and the Austrian governor Stanisław Szeptycki. In theory, the newly-established Regency Council was to become the highest authority in the Kingdom of Poland, before handing the power over to a regent or a king.

However, in practice the prerogatives of the Regency Council were much more modest – they were limited mainly to three areas: judiciary, education, and, partly, administration.

The members of the Council appointed by the two emperors were sworn on 15 October 1917. They were:

- Archbishop of Warsaw Aleksander Kakowski;
- Mayor of Warsaw Duke Zdzisław Lubomirski;
- honorary chairman of Real Policy Party Count Józef Ostrowski.

The Regency Council chose the Royal Castle in Warsaw for its headquarters.

In August 1915, Russian authorities left Warsaw hastily, leaving behind statistical materials, archives and contents of the library of the former Warsaw Statistical Commission. In the same month, the entire collection got protection from the Citizen Committee of the City of Warsaw. On 15 September 1915, the care and protection over the collection was entrusted to Professor Ludwik Krzywicki (1859–1941), appointed its custodian (Berger, 2018).

Throughout 1917, the Department of Statistics at the Ministry of Internal Affairs was preparing drafts of laws regulating the organization and activities of the future office of statistics.

Meanwhile, Professor Ludwik Krzywicki was re-appointed as the head of the Department of Statistics at the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

In February the following year, the Department of Statistics was joined by Professor Jan Rutkowski (1886–1949), an economist, historian and later Professor at the Department of Economic History at Poznań University.

As early as February 1918, Professor Ludwik Krzywicki and Professor Jan Rutkowski compiled a draft of the *Project of the Central Statistical Office Organization*.

In March and May 1918, the Project was thoroughly discussed in a round of intra-ministerial conferences. On 11 June 1918, the document, accompanied by an extensive substantiation, was referred to the Council of Ministers, which introduced some amendments to it and passed it on to the Regency Council for approval.

The Project was approved by the Regency Council, which issued a *Decree on the Foundation and Organization of Statistics Poland* on 13 July 1918. The decree provided a legal and organizational framework for the activities of Statistics Poland in the Kingdom of Poland. Moreover, its provisions influenced the shaping of the concept of statistical research in future, i.e. after regaining independence.

The decree of the Regency Council of 8 November 1918 appointed Józef Buzek (1873–1936) the director of Statistics Poland, who remained in this post until 1929 (Łazowska, 2018a).

Professor Józef Buzek, Ph.D., had previously held several important posts connected to statistical research and the organisation of statistical services. He was, among other functions, a member of the Central Statistical Commission in Vienna and a member of the Statistical Council for the Statistical Office of the Austrian Minister of Industry and Trade. In 1907, he was elected a member of the Vienna Parliament, and in 1911, he was re-elected an MP of the Austrian State Council from one of the Lviv constituencies. In 1919, he was transferred from the Austrian Parliament to the Constituent Sejm by the power of the decree issued on 18 November 1918 by the Head of State, Marshal Józef Piłsudski. In the early 1919, he also served as a member of the Polish delegation to the peace conference in Paris.

At first, Statistics Poland was briefly headed by Ludwik Krzywicki (until 8 November 1918), during prolonged job negotiations with Józef Buzek.

6. FINAL REMARKS

When analysing the most important achievements of the Polish scientific societies during Poland's partitions, it can be observed that these societies were very active, despite numerous obstacles created by the partitioning powers, mainly Prussia and Russia. Statisticians representing intellectual circles of Kraków deserve to be distinguished here, as they were the first to establish a Polish scientific society of statistics. They moreover published a fundamental work, *Statistics of Poland*, Kraków, 1915. During World War I, the statisticians from Warsaw compiled two volumes of the *Yearbook of the Kingdom of Poland* (1916, 1917). At the same time, Polish scientists affiliated to the University of Lviv became increasingly active. *The Atlas of Polish Geography and Statistics*, edited by Professor Eugeniusz Romer and Professor Ignacy Weinfeld, was printed in Kraków in 1916. In the following year, Professor Romer compiled the *Yearbook of Poland. Statistical Tables*, Kraków, 1917.

Polish scholars of that time, by compiling statistical data from the territories of three partitions, demonstrated deep understanding of the importance of statistics for the needs of the reborn Poland. A swift and successful launch of public statistical services in Poland, in the form of a well-structured central statistical office, referred to as Statistics Poland, was possible only thanks to intensive scientific work performed earlier by dozens of Polish statisticians. Their extensive contribution to this process is presented in more detail in the monograph entitled *Polish Statisticians. Biograms* (2018).

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