

AUDIT ON THE UNIFIED REGISTRY SYSTEM (CADASTRO ÚNICO)

WHAT IS THE CADÚNICO?

The Unified Registry for Social Programs (CadÚnico), previously called Unified Registration (*Cadastramento Único*), was established by Decree no. 3,877, of July 24th 2001, and repealed by Decree no. 6,135, of June 26th 2007. The existing decree, in its 2nd article, determines that CadÚnico, as a tool for socioeconomic identification and characterization of low-income families in Brazil, must be obligatorily used to select the beneficiaries and integrate social programs of the Federal Government that were designed to cater to such public. Such obligation is not applicable to the programs administered by the National Institute of Social Security (INSS – *Instituto Nacional do Seguro Social*). It is important to consider that the management of such an extensive registry, combined with its great reach throughout Brazil, poses big challenges, and the main one is keeping it consistent.

WHY DID TCU CARRY OUT THIS AUDIT?

Because this audit aims at answering item 9.3 of the TCU Sentence no. 2.015/2006 – Plenary, which determined that additional work should be developed in the computerized systems that support the operationalization of CadÚnico and the payment of benefits linked to it. This determination resulted from the finding in an audit carried out in 2006 (TC n° 001.838/2006-5) about the difficulties faced when sending municipality data to *Caixa Econômica Federal (Caixa)* with the purpose of registering families in the system and rejecting registries that were potentially valid.

MAIN TCU FINDINGS

This work identified the main audit findings which are: the needs of the municipal managers regarding the use of CadÚnico are not being met; evidences of lack of enforcement of the applicable legislation; occurrence of errors and evidences of fraud; information security failures; deficiency in the monitoring and management of the system; besides failures in the process of hiring services for operationalization of CadÚnico. During this work, TCU had access to a set of internal reports of *Caixa* and the Ministry of Social Development and Fight against Hunger (*MDS – Ministério do Desenvolvimento Social e Combate à Fome*) which were used, among other documents, to guide the audits. The reports demonstrate that those entities were already aware of most part of the identified findings, proving the existence of ongoing efforts to identify and correct the problems on CadÚnico's database, and that the system is being constantly improved. As a good practice, we highlight the use of a solution based on free software in the CadÚnico Offline System installed in the municipalities.

TCU DETERMINATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings, the audit team proposed determinations and recommendations that aim at establishing new functionalities in the system; improving user training, aligning it with the current legislation; verifying errors and fraud evidences, besides improving information security and monitoring procedures and monitoring and managing CadÚnico and the payments of benefits linked to it. The expected benefits are: adoption of standards to adapt the evaluated systems to the users needs; implementation and improvement of controls to avoid occurrence of errors and frauds; use of good practices of information security; as well as enhancements to the consistency of managed information, to the monitoring process of *Caixa's* services and to the management and control of the CadÚnico system by the Ministry of Social Development and Fight against Hunger (MDS).

TCU DELIBERATION

Sentence no. 906/2009 - TCU - Plenary

Rapporteur: Justice Augusto Nardes



Business

External auditing of information technology governance in the federal government.

Mission

To ensure that information technology adds value to the business of the federal government for the benefit of society.

Vision

To be a unit that achieves excellence in improving and auditing information technology governance.