Common elements of statistical legislation

Conference of European Statisticians
64th plenary session

29 April 2016
First issue for CES consideration

1. Generic Law on Official Statistics (GLOS) – recommendation for EECCA sub-region – for endorsement
   - A UN Development Account (UNDA) project for East Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia
   - Jointly with Eurostat and EFTA, support from UNSD
   - Tailored to the environment of these countries, based on Global Assessments
   - To strengthen the legal basis of statistical systems and the production of high quality official statistics
   - In line with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and European statistics Code of Practice
A collaborative process

• **12/2014 – work was launched** under the UNDA 9th tranche project in Almaty

• An editorial board was set up with:
  – EFTA, Eurostat, UNECE and later UNSD
  – Experts from Armenia, Norway, Switzerland and Ukraine

• **5/2015 first written consultation** with Heads of NSOs of EECCA countries and international organizations

• **6/2015 draft discussed** at the Eurostat High-Level Seminar for the EECCA countries on 'Quality in Statistics, Riga

• **12/2015 near final draft discussed** at the 10th SPECA Project Working Group meeting in Bishkek

• **1/2016 final consultation** with Heads of NSOs of EECCA countries and international organizations
CES Bureau conclusions on GLOS

• GLOS is a valuable and innovative initiative, takes into account the circumstances in the EECCA region, and focuses on professional independence

• GLOS builds on the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, and could follow a similar path:
  – The Fundamental Principles were first developed for East Europe, and then endorsed for the UNECE region and thereafter globally

• GLOS should be presented to the CES plenary session for endorsement as a recommendation for the EECCA sub-region
Second issue for CES consideration

2. Further work on common elements of statistical legislation for use by all CES countries – for discussion of priorities

• New Task Force to identify common elements of national statistical legislation

• CES countries could use this guidance when benchmarking and developing their statistical legislation

• The work aims at defining common elements and good practices, and will not draft example law texts

• Align the work with other sub-regional legal instruments and recommendations, such as those for the European Statistical System
CES Bureau conclusions on further work

• A set of common elements and guidance would be extremely useful for countries

• Convincing policy makers of professional independence of official statistics may still be a challenge
  – Internationally agreed guidance would support

• An international frame of reference to analyze the components of statistical legislation and identify room for improvement would be valuable
  – e.g. covering the mandate and election of the Chief Statistician, accountability towards parliament and government, access to administrative data, mandate for data collection, etc.

• The formulation of the legal texts will be left to the countries
The Conference is invited to

1. **Endorse the Generic Law on Official Statistics** and its explanatory notes as a recommendation and good practice guidance for the EECCA sub-region

2. **Express views on the priorities for further work on common elements of statistical legislation that could be applied by all CES countries if needed**