Summary of key findings from all AGA and LPR reports

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Institutional aspects and dissemination

- Professional Independence
- Mandate for Data Collection
- Adequacy of Resources
- Commitment to Quality
- Statistical Confidentiality
- Impartiality and Objectivity
- Accessibility and Clarity
Professional Independence

• Professional Independence supported by law

• Professional Independence respected in practice

• Legal backing of the heads of NSIs to be improved

• Programme planning unilaterally task of NSIs
Mandate for Data Collection

• Mandate for collection of primary data by law
• Increasing problems with response rates in business statistics
• Use of electronic data collection
• Mandate for access to administrative data by law
• Efforts to take influence on content and quality of administrative data
• Memoranda with owners of administrative data and with other producers of official statistics
Adequacy of Resources

- NSI’s financial and human resources mostly not sufficient for core activities and development
- In many cases dependency on external funding
- Only few elements of systematic HRM
- Insufficient IT resources
- Organisation in some NSIs rather fragmented
- Division of work between NSI and MCC
- Balance of resources between central and regional offices not adequate
Commitment to Quality

• Activities concerning quality mostly rather piecemeal and focused on accuracy
• Mostly no organisational structure for quality policy and management
• Need for establishment of comprehensive quality management clearly recognised by all NSIs
• EU Code of Practice officially accepted in two countries
Statistical Confidentiality

- Legal provisions in a majority of countries comprehensive
- Legislation allows exceptions in some countries
- Possible problems with confidentiality in regional offices
- Partly written guidelines not available
- Staff signs commitments in most NSIs
- Procedures of gaining access to micro-data often not defined
Impartiality and Objectivity

• Equal access to statistical releases ensured by a large majority of NSIs
• Nearly all NSIs publish advance release calendar
• Standardised metadata system generally missing
• Rules exist partly how errors are treated
Accessibility and Clarity

- Users appreciated progress achieved
- Need for further improvement of websites
- Wide-ranging, all-encompassing dissemination strategy in most NSIs missing
- Some NSIs carried out user satisfaction surveys
- Formalised and regular contacts with all user groups do not exist in many NSS
- Some NSIs very active in relation to the media
Key findings by broad statistical areas

- Demographic and Social Statistics
- Macroeconomic Statistics
- Business Statistics
- Agriculture Statistics
Demographic and Social Statistics

- Major problems with estimation of resident population
- Many NSIs in the process of planning Population Census
- HBS/LCS based on international standards
- LFS in many countries in addition
- Outdated sampling frame problem for many SNIs
- Better explanation of differences between LFS results and administrative data
Macroeconomic Statistics

- Compilation of NA broadly conform to main concepts and principles of SNA 93/ESA 95
- Regarding scope situation very much different
- Adjustments for non-observed economy
- GFS mostly produced by MoF following broadly GFS Manual 1986, calculated on cash basis
- CPI calculations generally in line with international standards
- Improvements necessary in some respects
Business Statistics

• Quality of business registers not satisfactory
• Main problems large number of non-active enterprises and lack of small enterprises
• In European countries intention to implement integrated European system of business statistics
• Most NSIs in other countries sophisticated system with monthly, quarterly and annual surveys
• Need for transformation towards system of structural and short-term business statistics
Agriculture Statistics

• Importance of agriculture reflected in programs
• Many surveys still exhaustive
• Sampling frames not satisfactory; only very few farm registers
• Agricultural censuses planned in many NSS
• Establishment of farm registers planned
• Problem to update farm register regularly