European Statistics Code of Practice and peer reviews

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  - Self-assessment
  - Review by experts
  - Results - examples
  - Improvement actions
  - New round
- Monitoring of improvement recommendations
- Promotion
European Statistics Code of Practice

- Sets the standards for developing, producing and publishing European statistics
- Self-regulatory
- 15 Principles cover the standards applicable to
  - Institutional environment
  - Statistical processes
  - Statistical outputs
- For each Principle, there are Indicators showing how compliance can be demonstrated (in total 82 indicators)
- Referred to explicitly in the Regulation on European Statistics (Regulation 223/2009) = the EU statistical law
- Some of the principles are part of the law
Code of Practice – changes in 2011

- Reinforced references to quality management, professional independence and administrative data

- 2001 Quality Declaration as a preamble: ESS Vision, mission and reference to general quality management principles

- Alignment with Statistical Law and the ECB Statistical Quality Framework

- Nine new indicators
  - Rules for appointing and dismissing the head of an NSI (1.8)
  - Quality policy and quality management (4.1)
  - Advance notice of major revisions (6.6)
  - Use of administrative data sources (8.7, 8.8, 8.9)
  - Linking data (9.6)
  - Standardisation (10.4)
  - Indicator 15.6 split into 2 (15.6, 15.7)
Code of Practice – example of implementation in the ESS and Eurostat

- **National self-assessments in 2005**
  - Based on a common questionnaire
  - Answers obtained through group discussions of middle management
  - Final answer by top management

- **External peer reviews in 2006-2008**
  - Based on self-assessment and additional documents (statistical law, staff policy, training policy, dissemination strategy, work programmes, website, etc.)
  - 3 external experts for 3-4 days visit
  - Common ESS-wide guidelines for peer reviews
  - Principles 1-6 + 15
  - Assessment per indicator (fully/largely/partly/not met)
  - Interviewed: senior management, users (media, academics, government, int. organisations) and other producers
Example – results of Eurostat in 2007
Example – results of Eurostat

![Spider diagram with indicators such as Professional independence, Mandate for data collection, Adequacy of resources, Quality commitment, Statistical confidentiality, Impartiality and objectivity, Accessibility and clarity.]
Example – ESS results

- Professional independence
- Mandate for data collection
- Adequacy of resources
- Quality commitment
- Statistical confidentiality
- Impartiality and objectivity
- Accessibility and clarity

ESS average PRs
ESS average SAs
Example – ESS results

Number of instances (indicator x statistical authority)

- Fully met: 62%
- Largely met: 25%
- Partly met: 12%
- Not met: 1%
Code of Practice – implementation in the ESS and Eurostat

- Annual monitoring and reporting (Eurostat and ESGAB)
  - List of improvement actions from the PR report
  - Annual questionnaires
  - Summary report to the ESSC in 2009-2013

- NSIs are monitored by Estat

- Estat is monitored by ESGAB
Example – Eurostat improvement actions for P1

Improvement actions & recommendations

- New legal framework
- Align Working Arrangements with COMr
- ESGAB: how to reconcile statistical legislation with statisticians’ responsibility for choice of methods, standards, procedures?
- Public open competition for Eurostat DG & other senior managers
Example – Eurostat improvement actions for P3

Improvement actions & recommendations

- Review resources allocated to training and development
- Increase participation of Eurostat staff in ESTP
- Consider more regular statistics competition
- Review allocation of resources between core statistical and horizontal activities
- Consider introducing efficiency targets to generate internal resources for allocation to high priority new work
Example – Eurostat improvement actions for P4

**Improvement actions & recommendations**

- **office-wide process quality assessments**, involvement of external experts
- Invest in **following-up quality reports** on a systematic basis
- To **increase data validation of data delivered from NSIs** in the framework of the CVD
- To **feed quality information** into the **strategic planning process**
Example – Eurostat improvement actions for P6

**Improvement actions & recommendations**

- **Further limit early data access** (range of statistics and number of people)

- **Own Eurostat press conferences** on statistical matters

- Consider possibilities of a Eurostat **spokesperson**

- **Release calendar**: rolling 12 months calendar for Euro-indicators, increased coverage and visibility
Example – Eurostat improvement actions for P15

Improvement actions & recommendations

- Review data releases with key users
- User Satisfaction surveys on Eurostat internet site
- Review balance of hard copy and electronic releases
- New metadata model including more on quality dimensions
- Improve information of users in advance of major revisions
Code of Practice – implementation in the ESS and Eurostat

- New round of peer reviews 2014-2015
  - self-assessment questionnaire is based on the QAF
  - includes review of coordination in the NSS
  - includes a review of the degree of integration in the ESS
  - audit like approach (more evidence based)
  - report focuses on strengths (few) and weaknesses
  - peer experts define recommendations, NSIs define improvement actions
  -
Monitoring improvement recommendations

- Each NSI has a list of Improvement actions
- Annual questionnaire from Estat (also done for non EU member states)
- Specific questionnaires by ESGAB (e.g. on P1, 3 and 4)
- Annual report to the ESS Committee meeting in November
- Not all the improvement actions are / can be implemented
Promotion of the CoP

- Website
- International meetings
- Seminars / conferences
- Outside the European Union
  - Development of other Codes based on the CoP
  - Implementation of peer reviews outside the EU
  - Promotion of the CoP outside the EU
Next levels of quality assurance

Level 1 = CoP Principles (standards)

Level 2 = CoP Indicators (how the standards can be demonstrated but little guidance on the methods and tools)

Level 3 = Quality Assurance Framework (general guidance)

- Activities, methods and tools that can be used to implement the CoP standards at an institutional level
- Activities, methods and tools that can be used to implement the CoP standards at an product/survey level
- Reference documentation
Conclusions

- Importance of the CoP as the legal framework
- Consensus on its principles and indicators
- Implementation is the next step
- Monitoring implementation through peer reviews
- If peer reviews are not possible
  - → snapshot assessment tool for a statistical system
- Quality assurance framework – including
  - Quality assessment of statistical processes
  - Quality reporting for users and producers
Thank you for your attention

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