

Report on compliance with the European Statistics Code of Practice in Denmark, June 2017

The following report provides information on the implementation of the European Statistics Code of Practice (CoP) in accordance with the reporting requirements specified in the revised EU Regulation No 223/2009 on European statistics, Article 11 (4).

The report includes information on: 1) the efforts taken to implement the improvement actions identified in relation to the EU peer review in 2015, 2) implementation of national quality guidelines for European statistics in accordance with EU 223/2009 and 3) the status and efforts related to the preparation of a new law for official statistics in Denmark.

Implementation of EU peer review improvement actions

In the last round of ESS peer reviews 2013-2015 regarding compliance with the CoP in EU and EFTA Member States, the peer reviewers concluded in their final report for Denmark that the CoP is largely complied with in Denmark and within Statistics Denmark. At the same time, the peer reviewers gave a total of 23 recommendations for further improvements related to four main areas: 1) *Strengthen the institutional environment*, 2) *Ensure the sustainability of the national statistical system*, 3) *Continue efforts on quality and efficiency*, 4) *Enhance analysis and dissemination*.

Based on the peer reviewers' recommendations, Statistics Denmark has identified 27 improvement actions aimed at implementing the recommendations of the peer reviewers and thereby further implementing the CoP in Denmark. 16 of these improvement actions were completed by 31 December 2016 when the latest round of reporting to Eurostat took place. Overall progress on implementing the recommendations of the peer reviewers can be summarized as follows:

- 1) *Institutional environment*: A new law on Danish official statistics is under preparation replacing the existing legal framework from 1966 and containing specific provisions on professional independence, statistical confidentiality as well as coordination of official statistics in Denmark (see below).
- 2) *Sustainability of the national statistical system*: In order to ensure transparency regarding Statistics Denmark's financial resources, the Ministry for Economic Affairs and the Interior is informed on a regular basis on the budgets for financing of new EU demands. Furthermore, efforts are taken to establish formal agreements with key administrative data providers, including a standard contract governing the delivery of administrative data to Statistics Denmark in order to ensure stability and quality in administrative data sources used for statistics production.
- 3) *Efforts on quality and efficiency*: To further strengthen quality management as well as efficiency, Statistics Denmark is undergoing a number of

organizational changes also reflecting the peer reviewer's recommendations. One key milestone has been the centralization of IT-resources and personnel, which was implemented in 2016 and which is expected to lead to a reduction in the use of IT resources and a rise in the quality of the produced IT products and processes due to increased standardization, development of IT-skills and enhanced prioritization of IT-resources. Another key project is under implementation establishing work processes to handle information from large, complex enterprise groups. Furthermore, a procedure for systematic quality audits of Statistics Denmark's statistical products has been implemented.

- 4) *Analysis and dissemination*: It is a key strategic priority for Statistics Denmark to be a relevant, reliable and widely used source of information on the Danish society and to further develop this role. This is spelled out in Statistics Denmark's Strategy 2020 and several activities have been implemented also in line with the recommendations of the peer reviewers. This includes the establishment of an analysis-team working together with statistical experts to release statistical analyses across different statistical topics as well as an increased use of interactive tools in the dissemination of statistics.

A further description of the implementation of the 27 improvement actions is given in Annex 1 in line with the latest reporting to Eurostat.

Implementation of national guidelines for European statistics

In accordance with Article 5a of the revised Regulation on European Statistics EU 2003/2009, Statistics Denmark has developed and published a first version of national guidelines concerning the development, production and dissemination of European Statistics. The guidelines are based on the European CoP and are targeted other national authorities (ONAs) producing European statistics. The guidelines therefore aim to translate the principles of the CoP into a Danish context and make them more practically applicable for Danish authorities who do not have statistics production as a core task. The 12 Danish ONAs have been consulted during the process of drafting the guidelines.

In 2016, all Danish ONAs carried out for the first time a self-evaluation regarding compliance with the guidelines. Based on the results and the experience of this first pilot monitoring exercise, Statistics Denmark is in the process of refining the guidelines and the self-assessment questionnaire in order to make them even more suitable for ONAs and useful as an instrument for strengthening compliance with the CoP in Denmark. As part of this process, we are carrying out a round of consultations with all ONAs with the purpose of increasing the mutual understanding of the guidelines and enhancing Statistics Denmark's insight into the statistics production in ONAs. We also plan to facilitate/organise seminars for employees working with statistics production in Danish ONAs with the aim to strengthen professional development and exchange of best practices within the community of producers of European statistics in Denmark.

The self-assessment questionnaires will be followed-up by 'mini'-peer reviews carried out in each ONA every 3-5 years. The information gained from the self-assessment as well as the peer review exercises will form the basis of an annual report on the compliance with the CoP in Denmark.

Preparation of a new statistical law

A new law on Danish official statistics is under preparation. The legal text has been drafted and the proposal is expected to be put forward to Parliament within the next year or so. The legislative proposal includes provisions regarding professional independence, data confidentiality, requirements to minimize as much as possible the burden put on respondents as well as coordination of the Danish statistical system.

The legislative proposal contains clear procedures for quality assurance of Danish official statistics (which will include all European Statistics), including a mechanism for monitoring and enforcement of a set of official national guidelines based on the CoP identical to the guidelines for European statistics established in accordance with Regulation on European Statistics EU 2003/2009 Article 5a as described above. According to the draft legal act, yearly self-assessments and periodic peer reviews will be carried out in all Danish authorities producing official statistics, including all ONAs producing European statistics. Statistics Denmark will then present a yearly report to the Government on the compliance with the guidelines for official statistics in those authorities, including recommendations for improvement activities.

Once adopted, the new law will provide a strong reassurance of the commitment to maintain confidence in European Statistics in Denmark as it contains clear procedures on monitoring and enforcement of the official quality guidelines. The yearly report for the government will constitute a mechanism by which the government will assess on a yearly basis the compliance with the CoP in all national authorities producing official statistics in Denmark.

ANNEX 1: Status on the Danish peer review improvements actions by 31 December 2016.

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Improvement Action	Description	Deadline	Status January 2017	Progress
1.1/2/4: Open discussions with the Government	Statistics Denmark will facilitate and take part in the preparation for new legislation in close cooperation with the Ministry of Economic Affairs and the Interior. First of all, Statistics Denmark will provide input to and discuss with the Ministry of Economic Affairs and the Interior on issues relating to the implications of the revised regulation on European Statistics, the European Statistics Code of Practice and the recommendations from the 2014-2015 peer review exercise. Statistics Denmark will provide input regarding the status of the National Statistician, statistical independence, statistical confidentiality and the coordinating role of Statistics Denmark.	T: Q1 2016	In close collaboration with our Ministry, SD has contributed to the drafting of a proposal for a new law on Official Danish statistics. The plan to submit the proposal to Parliament in the beginning of 2017 has been postponed further by the government due to the fact that there are too many new legislative proposals in the pipeline. The proposal for a new law is expected to be put forward by the end of 2017/early 2018.	Delayed
1.2/4/5: Launch national consultation regarding official statistics	Statistics Denmark will launch a national consultation process with the aim of establishing a clear definition of official statistics and discuss modalities for coordination and quality assurance of official statistics. Statistics Denmark has prepared an action plan for official statistics and for ways to enhance coordination within the NSS, which has been sent to all national statistical producers for comments. On this basis, Statistics Denmark will arrange dialogue meetings with national producers with the aim to establish a clear definition of official statistics, common quality criteria for official statistics and modalities for monitoring the quality of official statistics (periodic reviews). This in order to provide a basis for including provisions on the coordinating role of Statistics Denmark in a new law.	T: Q1 2016	The work has been delayed due to the delay in the process for a new law on Danish official statistics. In spring 2015, SD carried out a preliminary consultation of national producers of statistics regarding a definition of official statistics and coordination in the Danish statistical system. This has provided input to the drafting of a new law on Danish official statistics, which includes a proposal for a definition of official statistics in Denmark and for procedures to ensure the quality thereof. An official hearing regarding the proposal for a new law will be launched involving relevant stakeholders during 2017 before the proposal is submitted to Parliament.	Delayed
1.3/2/4: Take active part in inter-ministerial committee for the preparation of a new law on Danish statistics	Depending on the scope of a new law on Danish Statistics, an inter-ministerial committee will be established to prepare the proposal for a new law and in that case Statistics Denmark will take active part in the work of this committee.	T: Q4 2016	Due to a change in government in June 2015 and a subsequent reorganization of government ministries, the inter-ministerial committee was never set-up as initially planned. However, SD has been working in close cooperation with our Ministry on the preparation of a new law on Danish official statistics (cf. comments to 1.1/2/4) including also discussions with other government agencies.	Closed and no further action planned
6.1: Publish guidelines on European statistics	As part of the national consultation process regarding official statistics described above (improvement action 1.2/4/5), Statistics Denmark will discuss the establishment of common quality standards for official statistics - including the publication of national guidelines on quality - with other national producers of statistics.	T: Q1 2016	A first version of the Guidelines for European Statistics were published March 2nd 2016. An English language version is also available.	Completed (March 2016)
7: Establish procedure for conducting periodic reviews of official statistics	The mandate to conduct periodic reviews should ideally be specified in a new law on Danish statistics together with a mechanism to enforce quality standards such as the issuing of an official quality label. This is part of improvement action 1.1/2/4., 1.2/4/5. and 1.3/2/4. If such provisions are not included in a new law, Statistics Denmark will discuss and make a proposal for an alternative procedure for review and labelling of official statistics based on voluntary participation of other national producers.	T: Depends on the legislative process. Estimate 2017	The implementation of this action depends on the legislative process for a new law on official statistics. The proposal for a new law includes the establishment of a labelling procedure for official statistics, in which national producers of statistics may voluntarily submit their statistics to be evaluated according to a set of guidelines for official statistics and on that background receive the label 'official statistics'. For European statistics these procedures will be compulsory. Periodic reviews of official statistics will be part of the evaluation procedures.	Delayed

8: Establish a common dissemination portal for official statistics	As Statistics Denmark does not currently have the mandate to make other producers publish statistics via a common portal Statistics Denmark will put forward a proposal to include provisions on common dissemination of official statistics (including a common release calendar) in a revised law on Danish statistics (cf. improvement action 1.1/2/4. – 1.3/2/4). If such provisions are not included in a new law, Statistics Denmark will take the initiative to design a common dissemination portal and a common release calendar based on voluntary participation by other national producers.	T: Depends on the legislative process. Estimate 2017	The implementation of this action depends on the legislative process for a new law on official statistics. In 2017, SD will establish a prototype for a portal for official statistics before the end of 2017, which could be implemented once a new law is adopted.	Delayed
9: Establish systematic documentation on Statistics Denmark's finances and on new demands for resources	Statistics Denmark will further strengthen transparency in its reporting to the Danish financial authorities regarding on the one hand the development in Statistics Denmark's appropriation and financial contributions and on the other hand new EU obligations, national obligations and necessary development of Statistics Denmark. Furthermore, this includes documentation regarding the development in Statistics Denmark's efficiency gains.	T: Fully implemented by the end of 2016	A report including budgets for financing of new EU demands has been presented to the department of our ministry. The report is updated once a year. It must be expected that new EU demands shall be financed through internal re-prioritization.	Completed (Jan 2017)
10: Establish a standard procedure for collaboration with administrative data providers	Statistics Denmark will take stock of existing arrangements and, on that basis, establish a standard procedure for collaboration between Statistics Denmark and providers of administrative data including completion of formal agreements (service level agreements) with all providers of administrative data.	T: Q4 2016	The implementation of this improvement action is progressing, but some work still needs to be done. We have taken stock of all existing arrangements with administrative data providers and we now have a full and complete picture of the arrangements. Furthermore, we have established a standard procedure for collaboration between Statistics Denmark and providers of administrative data including a standard contract governing the delivery of administrative data. Completing formal agreements with providers has, however, proven to take longer than expected and while progress is made continuously some work is still left.	Delayed
11.1: Host conference on Big data	Statistics Denmark will together with the University of Copenhagen host a conference on Big Data in the fall of 2015. The conference will focus on the need to ensure legal access to Big Data for Statistics and Research.	T: Q4 2015	Conference was held on September 9th 2015. The conference was very well attended (oversubscribed)	Completed (March 2016)
11.2: Open discussions with government to include provisions on access to big data in a new law	As part of the process related to the preparation of a revised statistical legislation (jf. improvement actions 1.1/2/4 and 1.3/2/4), Statistics Denmark will work to include provisions regarding access to big data in a new law on Danish statistics.	T: Q4 2016	Provisions regarding access to big data are included in the draft proposal for a new law on official statistics (cf. 1.1/2/4). The final outcome depends on the legislative process for the new law.	Delayed
11.3: Carry out the project on the use of scanner data in the production of price statistics	Statistics Denmark is working on a Big Data project investigating the potential for replacing some survey information with scanner data from supermarket chains in the production of price statistics. Conclusions based on the project will be ready by Q2 2016.	T: Q2 2016	The use of scanner data from supermarket chains has been fully integrated in the production of price statistics and published in the January 2016 figures.	Completed (Jan 2017)

12: Improve information and feedback to respondents	Statistics Denmark gradually improves the information to enterprises about the reporting deadlines and about the purpose of the surveys and the questions asked. Statistics Denmark will as from the end of 2015 provide each reporting enterprise with an enterprise specific overview of our information requests and provide feedback with statistical results (specific to the enterprises' line of activity) to which the reporting enterprises have contributed.	T: 2015 Gradually improving information to enterprises Q4 2015 Information and feedback to respondents in the call for tender for the LFS From end 2015 enterprise specific overview and feedback with statistical results	New letter templates for data collection in SD's form based statistics, based on input from a workshop on nudging, have been developed. The letters provide clear and precise information about the information request, as well as the reason the recipient has to provide information to each individual statistic. The templates will be implemented gradually and are now used on more than half of SD's statistics. They will be fully implemented by the end of 2016. It has been explored whether it is possible to send respondent specific feedback to each individual respondent. This solution has been deemed too costly and time consuming, and it has therefore been decided not to proceed with this idea. However, on the information pages that create the framework for the information request for each statistic, respondents are provided access to the most recent published statistic as well as a table with the latest trends. What is more, there is a link to www.statistikbanken.dk , where it is possible for all users to create tables and graphs suited to their specific needs.	Closed and no further action planned
13: Include requirements on the use web questionnaires in new LFS tender	In order to extend the use of web based questionnaires to all social surveys conducted under the responsibility of Statistics Denmark, Statistics Denmark will include requirements on the use of web questionnaires as part of the demands in the new tender for the LFS.	T: Q4 2015 Include requirements on the use of web questionnaires in new LFS tender T: Q1 2016 Implementation of the use of web questionnaires in LFS according to new tender	The possibility of replying to web questionnaires was included the in tender material for the LFS in the fall of 2015. TNS-Gallup won the tender, and as of January 1st 2016 it is possible to both individuals and households to respond using a web questionnaire.	Completed (March 2016)
14.1: Examine whether a maximum number of surveys for enterprises with 10-20 employees could be defined	For many years Statistics Denmark has ensured that enterprises with less than 10 employees do not report to more than three surveys within a calendar year. In 2015, we will examine whether we could extend this with a limit for enterprises with 10-20 employees. If feasible this initiative could be implemented starting from 2016. Also, we will use panels as the primary sampling method – i.a. with a view to spreading the reporting burden further.	T: Q4 2015: Examining if it is possible to extend the limit to cover enterprises with 10-20 employees. In case the extension is possible, the implementation will start in Q1 2016.	From 1 January 2017, companies with 10-19 employees maximum report to 6 surveys annually. Similarly, companies with 20-49 employees maximum transmit to 9 surveys annually.	Completed (Jan 2017)

14.2: Centralize sampling procedures and implement sampling coordination	Statistics Denmark will further centralize sampling procedures in order to better manage the burden. For small and medium size enterprises, we will aim to use negative co-ordination of the samples, but for the large companies we will aim to use positive coordination due to the needs of micro data users.	T: The centralization of the sampling procedures is expected to begin in the beginning of 2016. This process will go on for several years. It is currently not possible to set an end deadline.	In 2016 a number of feasibility studies has been conducted regarding the centralisation of sampling procedures, and a number of pilot projects has been carried out. However, the organisational set-up still needs to be established and therefore the actual centralisation of sampling has not yet begun.	Delayed
14.3: Extend reporting deadlines for a number of annual surveys	Statistics Denmark will set longer reporting deadlines for a number of annual surveys. This initiative was started in 2014 and will finish in 2015.	T: End of 2015	Reporting deadlines for some yearly statistics were extended in 2014 and 2015, e.g. accounting statistics. This will be also be done for other statistics, when it is deemed useful.	Completed (March 2016)
15.1: Implementation of 'Data Archive'	Work regarding data editing and imputation is partially designed (GSBPM phase 2) and will be built (phase 3) during 2015. The main component is the "Data Archive" project. The aim of the "Data Archive" project is to standardise the use of statistical data editing and imputation. The proposed standards are already designed and described (GSBPM phase 2) in methodological reports and use cases targeted at IT implementation. The model for standardised data editing and imputation includes elements from selective micro editing and subsequent modules for both automatic and interactive editing. The associated IT-tool (the actual "Data Archive") is currently being built (GSBPM phase 3) using solid IT- architectural principles, and is planned to be finalised during the third quarter of 2015.	T: The Data Archive will be used in the production of at least 2 statistics by the end of 2016. A tentative plan for migration of the remaining statistical areas will be compiled during 2016 as well.	The implementation of the "Data Archive" is progressing at a steadily increasing pace. The supporting IT functionalities are being consolidated, and new features are being added. The first statistical domains have started using the Data Archive in production, and an exhaustive plan for all statistical domains have been compiled.	Completed (Jan 2017)
15.2: Implementation of JDemetra + 2.0.0	For seasonal adjustment, implementation of JDemetra+ 2.0.0 (to replace the currently used software Demetra 2.1 and X-12-ARIMA 0.3) is currently being planned and implementation will start in 2015.	T: Implementation will be completed by end of 2016.	Implementation of JDemetra+ started in 2015, and by now 19 out of totally 45 seasonally adjusted statistics are using JD+. The implementation will continue during 2017 where we will have an increased focus on migrating to the current software. We also still plan to look further into the possibilities for integrating the software into our production processes by using plug-ins.	Delayed
16: Establish procedure for quality audits	A pilot on the future auditing process is currently ongoing. Based on the results of the pilot, a proposal for a future model for audits and for the composition of the expert group conducting the audit will be presented to the steering group on quality for approval. The steering group on quality will ensure that external experts will be involved where relevant. The plan is to audit 3-5 surveys each year. The more important statistics will be prioritised for early audit.	T: End of 2015	Procedures for quality audits have been established based on the findings in the pilot. The audit procedures were presented to the directors group (replacing the mentioned steering group) at the end of October 2015. Furthermore, the agreed upon procedures were applied to three surveys by the end of 2015.	Completed (March 2016)
18.1: Establish a unit to handle large enterprise groups	As a part of current reform initiatives in Statistics Denmark, Statistics Denmark aims to align even further to GSBPM by establishing a unit to handle large enterprise groups.	T: End of 2016	Implementation of the project is well under way. We have established the organisational set-up for a unit to handle large enterprise groups (LCUs), which will have the following core functions: 1) Profiling of LCUs, 2) Data confrontation in order to improve data sources and 3) Key account managers for all LCUs. However, we still need to develop and test tools and methods during 2017 before the unit will be fully operational. The objective is to handle 50 LCUs by 2020. The key account manager role will be implemented already in 2017.	Delayed

18.2: Centralize IT-personnel	Statistics Denmark also plans to align further to the GSBPM by centralizing IT-personnel.	T: Beginning of 2016	The project has been completed. All IT-personnel were centralised as from January 2016 and collaboration agreements have been made between IT and all the statistical units in SD. The aim of the project has been to increase efficiency and improve quality through enhanced standardisation. The resources which will be released through the enhanced efficiency in IT operations are to be used for development activities. To ensure the effective use of IT resources and the prioritisation of IT resources for new development tasks, we have established an IT-governance model for the management of IT resources.	Completed (Jan 2017)
19: Establish an analysis-function	Statistics Denmark will establish an analysis-function that will support the expansion of analytical content in publications. The analytical content should i.a. focus on signal and content in the statistics. This will affect the way we communicate including visual communication.	T: In Q3 2015 the function will be set up and staffed by two people. By the end of 2016 the function will be expanded to full size, equivalent to four to five full-time employees.	The analysis-function is now staffed with three full-time employees, one ph.d.-student and two part-time student workers. By December 2016 the analysis-function is well integrated with the other divisions at Statistics Denmark. More than 25 analyses have been released during 2016 (webpage in Danish at www.dst.dk/analyser).	Completed (Jan 2017)
20: Test and implement a new interactive mapping tool	Improving the users' understanding of statistics through visualization - such as the use of interactive maps - should be a service in publications and on the website. Statistics Denmark is conducting a study testing different map applications and demos are made. Based on the results of the study, a proposal for a solution on the use of interactive mapping tools will be presented to the management for decision by Q3 2015.	T: A new mapping tool is expected to be implemented by end 2016.	An interactive mapping tool is now available in the Statbank making it possible to combine the tables of the Statbank with a geographical dimension (map of Denmark), see for example: http://www.statistikbanken.dk/statbank5a/Graphics/mapanalyser.asp?maintable=FOLK1A&planguage=0 . We also have a dedicated site at SDs homepage on key municipal indicators presented via interactive maps: http://www.dst.dk/da/Statistik/kommunekort .	Completed (Jan 2017)
21: Develop collaboration with academia	Statistics Denmark will as part of the development of a new strategy (Strategy 2020) develop its collaboration with 'academia' including collaboration with researchers using the access to micro data at Statistics Denmark. The promotion on Statistics Denmark's website of research results based on this access will be part of this.	T: A new strategy for Statistics Denmark will be developed by Q4 2015	Statistics Denmark has applied for funding at the ministry of research for the development of a web site disseminating results from research projects that have used micro data from Statistics Denmark. The ministry will report on the result of the application late June 2016.	Completed (March 2016)
22.1: Include information on delays in the English version of the release calendar	The information on delays will be included in the English version of the calendar.	T: End of 2015	The process of changing the scheduled date in the release calendar is manual. When changed in the Danish version we also enter the change at the English version.	Completed (March 2016)
22.2: Present information on punctuality to users	Statistics Denmark will consider how to best present information on punctuality to users. Every quarter Statistics Denmark produces an in-house overview of the number/percentage of statistical releases delayed. This overview might be made available to the public. The solution has to be defined in accordance with what creates value to the public e.g. which information to include and how to present it.	T: End of 2016	Information regarding postponed releases has been registered since January 2015. It is available on the website (Danish as well as English version) http://www.dst.dk/en/Statistik/offentliggoerelser/Late	Completed (March 2016)
23: Explore possibilities to publish "News from Statistics Denmark" in English	Statistics Denmark will conduct a feasibility study to assess whether part of the daily "News from Statistics Denmark" could be written in English and presented on the website. This might be done by the authors of the individual "News" ("News" are written by the statistical subject matter experts in consultation with the dissemination unit). It will also be considered to have the authors of the "News" write the headline of the "News" in English in the same process as writing the Danish version. However, it must be ensured that an English translation does not delay statistical releases.	T: A feasibility study will be conducted by the end 2016.	Based on a preliminary estimation of the resources required for publishing SDs daily news releases into English, we have decided not to pursue this further. Instead, we will give priority to digital dissemination in English in the Statbank and at the "Subjet pages" at our website: http://www.statistikbanken.dk/statbank5a/default.asp?w=1920 http://www.dst.dk/en/	Completed (Jan 2017)