

# *The OECD and European experience - Quality and the National Statistical System*

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# Quality assurance in the OECD

- OECD quality framework (2012)
- OECD Recommendations on good quality in statistics (2015)
- Built on the ESS CoP
- 12 recommendations accompanied by 111 indications of good practice
- Possible assessment of compliance - timetable
  - Presentation in April 2016 – brochure and webpage
  - Self-assessment reviews June 2016-Dec 2017
  - Assessment report – Jan 2018-March 2018
  - Report to Council – autumn 2018

# OECD Quality Dimensions

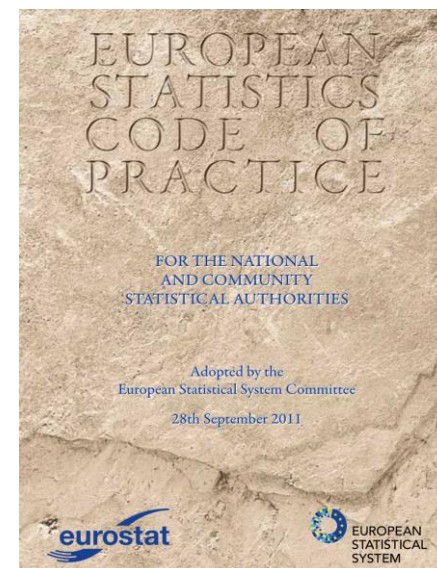


- Relevance
- Accuracy
- **Credibility**
  - Confidence & Trust
- Timeliness (& punctuality)
- Accessibility
- **Interpretability**
- **Coherence**
  - **Coherence across datasets/ domains**
  - Coherence over time
  - **Coherence across countries**
- Cost-efficiency



# Quality assurance in the European Statistical System

- Crisis in the European Statistical System 2005
  - Fraudulent statistics in one member state
  - Risk of complete loss of trust
- Political demand for quality assurance
- 2005: European Statistics Code of Practice (rev. 2011)



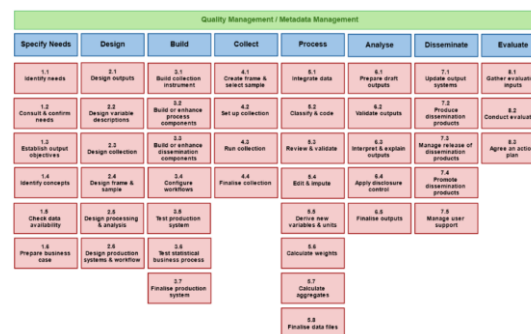
# European Statistics Code of Practice

- 15 principles
- 82 indicators monitoring the European Statistical System

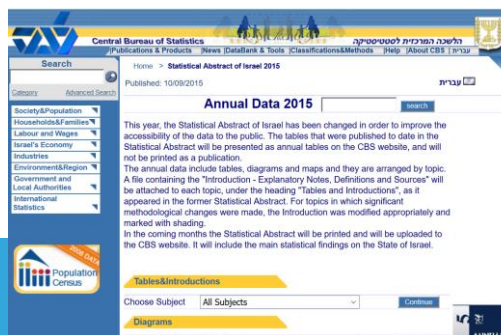
## 1. Institutional Environment



## 2. Statistical Processes



## 3. Statistical Outputs



# Institutional Environment

1. Professional independence
2. Mandate for Data Collection
  - Also admin data
3. Adequacy of Resources
4. Commitment to quality
5. Statistical Confidentiality
6. Impartiality and Objectivity



# Statistical Processes

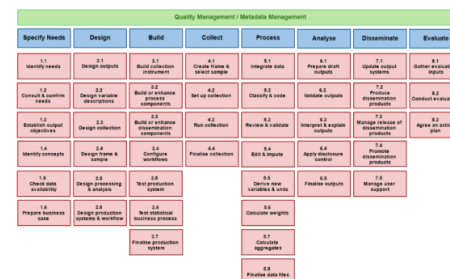
## 7. Sound Methodology

- international standards, guidelines, and good practices
- standard concepts, definitions and classifications

## 8. Appropriate Statistical Procedures

## 9. Non-excessive Burden on Respondents

## 10. Cost Effectiveness



# Statistical Output

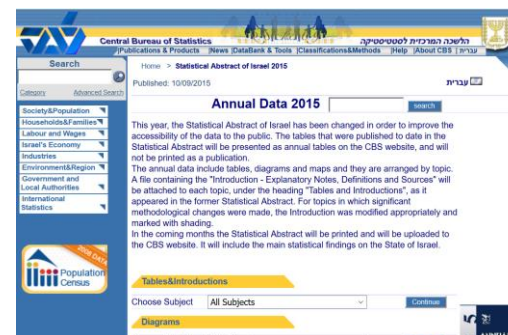
11. Relevance

12. Accuracy and reliability

13. Timeliness and Punctuality

14. Coherence and Comparability

15. Accessibility and Clarity





# Organisation of coordination of NSS

- Bilateral meetings with most important producers
  - Who reports to international organisations?
  - Which ones are most important?
- NSS Coordination Committee
  - Chair and secretary: NSI
  - 2 or 4 meetings per year
  - Agree on standards and requirements
- Peer Review
  - E.g. by EU or OECD

# Conclusion on cooperation based on Danish experience

It's not easy!

For coordination to be effective:

- Top managements of the institutions have to be committed
- Cooperation has to be based of written agreements
  - why
  - what
  - how
- A meeting structure has to be established

# European Statistical newly revised - Main topics

1. Professional independence
2. Administrative data
3. Coordinating role of the NSI
4. 'Commitments on Confidence in Statistics'

# Coordinating role of the NSIs in EU

## The Head of NSI

- shall publish an annual report on production of European statistics in MS
- shall prepare national guidelines that ensure that the national production is in accordance with the Code of Practice

## Member States / Governments

- will ensure that production of European statistics is in accordance with these guidelines

# Example from Denmark

## Guidelines for European statistics

- Other producers of statistics must like the NSI comply with CoP
- The 82 indicators of CoP have been reformulated and reduces to 21 guidelines to fit the Danish context
- Each guideline is followed by a set of criteria and examples from Statistics Denmark along with an explanation

# Monitoring of compliance (Danish ex)

- A self-evaluation form is developed for monitoring compliance
- Based on the criteria for the 21 guidelines
- The evaluation will result in a qualitative report written by a team of members from Statistics Denmark and ONAs
  - It will include a short summary
  - May include recommendations for improvements
  - May be published by the individual ONA
  - Results included in annual report the National statistician submits to Eurostat

# Guidelines – example (Danish ex.)

## Guidelines

## Criteria

## Examples of good practice

**9. All users have equal access to the statistics at the same time. If any outside users have privileged pre-release access, this is announced on the website.**

*Equal access to the statistics for all users is fundamental to ensure impartiality. To a large, an extent as possible, privileged pre-release access to selected users should be avoided. If it is unavoidable to provide some users with this type of access, transparency surrounding the pre-release access is essential, so that it is possible to evaluate the statistic and its use in light of this. |*

**9a. Privileged pre-release access is limited, controlled, and announced together with the statistical publication.**

**9b. If embargoed access is granted, this is announced together with the statistical publication.**

**9c. There are procedures to prevent and handle leaks of unpublished statistical information.**

All users have equal access to statistics from Statistics Denmark. No one can access a statistic before 09:00 on the day of publication. No privileged pre-release or embargoed access is granted.

# Evaluating (Danish ex.)

- The 61 criteria following the 21 guidelines are "translated" into 59 questions
- Some of the questions (9) are related to mandatory criteria. For these, the answers can be:
  - Yes (fulfilled)
  - No (negative assessment – plan on how to reach "yes")
- The rest of the questions are related to other criteria. For these, the answers can be:
  - Yes (fulfilled)
  - Yes, partly (fulfilled – plan on how to reach "yes")
  - No (improvement possibility – plan on how to reach "yes")
  - Not relevant (arguments must be given)





The End