

Legal Requirements

How does the dissemination policy and practices of your office compare with the indicators from the EU code of practice?

The operative signs / definitions of the indicators are based on the information found in the Eurostat Quality Assurance Framework (QAF). The QAF does not include principle 6.

Discuss the following points:

For each of the principles from the EU code of practice describe how your office is following the guidelines,

Describe how you can prove to the general public and your users that you are following the guidelines

If you are not following the guidelines discuss how you can start to follow the guidelines

Skip those requirements that are rooted outside dissemination

Some of the requirements / indicators can' be controlled by the dissemination / communications departments. Others are more or less directly placed in our part of the organisation. In the discussion put focus on the principles and indicators that you have most control over.

Principle:	Why we are compliant?	Why we are not compliant?	Steps that can make us more compliant
Principle 6: Impartiality and objectivity Statistical authorities develop, produce and disseminate European Statistics respecting scientific independence and in an objective, professional and transparent manner in which all users are treated equitably			
Indicator 6.1: Statistics are compiled on an objective basis determined by statistical considerations.			
Indicator 6.2: Choices of sources and statistical methods as well as decisions about the dissemination of statistics are informed by statistical considerations.			
Indicator 6.3: Errors discovered in published statistics are corrected at the earliest possible date and publicised.			
Indicator 6.4: Information on the methods and procedures used is publicly available			

Indicator 6.5: Statistical release dates and times are pre-announced.			
Indicator 6.6: Advance notice is given on major revisions or changes in methodologies.			
Indicator 6.7: All users have equal access to statistical releases at the same time. Any privileged pre-release access to any outside user is limited, controlled and publicised. In the event that leaks occur, pre-release arrangements			
Indicator 6.8: Statistical releases and statements made in press conferences are objective and non-partisan.			

Principle 11: Relevance

European Statistics meet the needs of users.

Indicator 11.1:

Processes are in place to consult users, monitor the relevance and utility of existing statistics in meeting their needs, and consider their emerging needs and priorities.

1. Legislation on user consultation			
2. Users' consultation activities			
3. Analysis of the data on the use of statistics			
4. A classification of users.			
5. A list of key users and their data uses			
6. Users' consultation procedures			
7. Relevance measurement and assessment			

Indicator 11.2:

Priority needs are being met and reflected in the work programme.

1. Work programme priorities			
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2. Strategic goals and programme plans			
3. Agreements with most important users			
4. Evaluation of the work programme			
Indicator 11.3: User satisfaction is monitored on a regular basis and is systematically followed up			
1. User satisfaction surveys			
2. Improvement actions arising from the user satisfaction surveys			
3. Assessment of satisfaction of key users			

Principle 12: Accuracy and Reliability

Indicator 12.1:

Source data, intermediate results and statistical outputs are regularly assessed and validated.

1. Systems for assessing and validation data			
2. Procedures and guidelines for data quality assessment			
3. Comparison of results with other sources			

Indicator 12.2:

Sampling errors and non-sampling errors are measured and systematically documented according to the European standards.

1. Procedures and guidelines to measure and reduce errors.			
2. Quality reporting on accuracy.			
3. ESS recommendations on quality reporting.			
4. Methods and tools for preventing and reducing errors.			

Indicator 12.3:

Revisions are regularly analyzed in order to improve statistical processes.

1. A Revision Policy.			
2. Explanations on revisions.			
3. Compliance of the Revision Policy with standard procedures.			
4. Information on the size and direction of revisions for key indicators.			
5. Use of analysis of revisions.			

Principle 13: Timeliness and Punctuality			
Indicator 13.1: Timeliness meets European and other international release standards			
1. Compliance with international standards on timeliness			
2. Publication of a release calendar.			
3. A procedure to monitor and follow-up divergences from timeliness targets.			
4. Quality indicator(s) on timeliness.			
5. Analysis and assessment of quality indicator(s) on timeliness			
Indicator 13.2: A standard daily time for the release of European Statistics is made public.			
1. A release policy.			
2. Publication at a standard daily time			

Indicator 13.3: The periodicity of statistics takes into account user requirements as much as possible			
1. Consultation of users on periodicity.			
Indicator 13.4: Divergence from the dissemination time schedule is publicized in advance, explained and a new release date set.			
1. Publication of a release calendar.			
2. A procedure to monitor and assess punctuality			
3. Publication of divergences from the pre-announced time, the reasons for divergence and a new release time.			
4. A procedure to calculate, monitor and disseminate quality indicators on punctuality.			
Indicator 13.5: Preliminary results of acceptable aggregate accuracy can be released when considered useful.			
1. Review of the possibility of disseminating preliminary results.			

2. Reporting of the quality of preliminary results			
3. A policy for scheduled revisions			
Principle 14: Coherence and Comparability			
Indicator 14.1: Statistics are internally coherent and consistent (i.e. arithmetic and accounting identities observed).			
1. Procedures and guidelines to monitor internal coherence.			
2. Procedures and guidelines to ensure combination of outputs from complementary sources.			
Indicator 14.2: Statistics are comparable over a reasonable period of time.			
1. Changes to concepts.			
2. Identification and measurement of changes in methods.			
3. Publication and explanation of breaks in time series.			

Indicator 14.3: Statistics are compiled on the basis of common standards with respect to scope, definitions, units and classifications in the different surveys and sources			
1. A mechanism to promote coherence and consistency			
2. Assessment of compliance with standards.			
3. Explanation of deviations from standards			
Indicator 14.4: Statistics from different sources and of different periodicity are compared and reconciled			
1. Comparison of statistical output with related data			
2. Identification and explanation of divergences			
3. Reconciliation of statistical outputs			
Indicator 14.5: Cross-national comparability of the data is ensured within the European Statistical System through periodical exchanges between the European Statistical System and other statistical systems. Methodological studies are carried out in close co-operation between the Member States and Eurostat.			
1. Institutionalization of assessment of comparability			

2. Collaboration in methodological studies			
3. Assessment by Eurostat of the comparability of data.			
4. Analysis of asymmetries			
5. Identification and corrections of discrepancies in mirror statistics			

Principle 15: Accessibility and Clarity.

Indicator 15.1:

Statistics and the corresponding metadata are presented, and archived, in a form that facilitates proper interpretation and meaningful comparisons

1. A Dissemination Policy			
2. Consultations of users about dissemination			
3. Training courses for writing interpretations and press releases			
4. A policy for archiving statistics and metadata			
5. Comparisons included in publications			

Indicator 15.2:

Dissemination services use modern information and communication technology and, if appropriate, traditional hard copy.

1. Website and statistical databases' conformity with universal guidelines.			
2. Website, statistical data bases and self-tabulation			

3. An information service/call center service			
4. A publication catalogue.			
5. Facilitation re-dissemination.			
6. Consideration of various forms of dissemination			
Indicator 15.3: Custom-designed analyses are provided when feasible and the public is informed.			
1. Communication about the possibility and terms of custom-designed analyses.			
2. Provision of custom-designed outputs.			
3. Publication of custom-designed analysis			
4. An information service for making requests for custom-designed analyses			
Indicator 15.4: Access to microdata is allowed for research purposes and is subject to specific rules or protocols			

1. Consultation of researchers			
2. Publication of the rules or protocols to access microdata			
3. Facilities to access microdata in a secure environment.			
4. Remote access facilities.			
Indicator 15.5: Metadata are documented according to standardized metadata systems.			
1. Dissemination of statistical results and metadata			
2. Metadata linked to the statistical product.			
3. Accordance of metadata with European Standards			
4. Metadata independent of the format of publication.			

5. Procedures to update and publish metadata			
6. Ability to clarify metadata issues			
7. Training courses for staff on metadata			
Indicator 15.6: Users are kept informed about the methodology of statistical processes including the use of administrative data.			
1. Planning of the production of quality reports			
2. Publication of quality reports and methodological documents			
Indicator 15.7: Users are kept informed about the quality of statistical outputs with respect to the quality criteria for European Statistics.			
1. Publication of quality reports			
2. Compliance of quality reports with ESS standards and guidelines			