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## **European Statistical System Peer Reviews**

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# European Statistical System Peer Reviews

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“Implementation of quality assurance frameworks”  
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Madrid

## ESS Peer reviews

- 1. Introduction**
- 2. ESS Peer review methodology**
- 3. First results**
- 4. Challenges**
- 5. Next steps**

# 1. Introduction

- **Basis: European Statistics Code of Practice**  
(adopted in May 2005)

- **Implementation of the Code**

self-regulatory approach + accountability + transparency



## 2. ESS Peer review methodology (1)

### ■ Objectives

- to boost quality, to enhance credibility of European statistics
- identification of ESS benchmarks and common difficulties
- sharing of ESS best practices and knowledge transfer

### ■ Scope

- 27 EU MS + 4 EFTA MS + Eurostat
- institutional environment and dissemination practices
- co-ordination role of NSI

### ■ Mechanics

- common guidelines and assessment basis  
**fully met / largely met / partly met / not met**
- 2 ½ days, 3 peers from SPC list, information package, various interlocutors

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## 2. ESS Peer review methodology (2)

### ■ Eurostat peer review

- same methodology
- 24-26 October 2007
- international team, chaired by Rob Edwards, IMF
- user satisfaction survey
- senior management, junior staff, users and partners (other COM Directorates General, ECB, NSIs, CEIES, media, etc.)
- report will be published

### 3. First results of ESS peer reviews (1)

#### ■ peer review reports:

- assessment per indicator and of co-ordination role
- validated path toward full compliance with Code of Practice plus recommendations
- good practices
- 21 reviews have been carried out so far, 14 reports published

#### ■ main findings:

- **Professional independence**  
strong in practice, legislation to be supplemented in some cases
- **Mandate for data collection**  
sufficient legislation in general but in some cases practical difficulties to use admin. sources
- **Adequacy of resources**  
broadly satisfactory with some severe exceptions, certain risks for meeting future demands
- **Quality commitment**  
individual excellent practices but improvements needed on an ESS-wide basis

### 3. First results of ESS peer reviews (2)

■ main findings:

- **Professional independence**  
strong in practice, legislation to be supplemented in some cases
- **Mandate for data collection**  
sufficient legislation in general but in some cases practical difficulties to use admin. sources
- **Adequacy of resources**  
broadly satisfactory with some severe exceptions, certain risks for meeting future demands
- **Quality commitment**  
individual excellent practices but improvements needed on an ESS-wide basis
- **Statistical confidentiality**  
strong ESS profile, impressive safeguards
- **Impartiality and objectivity**  
no common system-wide approach, in some cases lack of transparency
- **Accessibility and clarity**  
excellent practices in micro-data access, high service orientation and modern dissemination channels, metadata improvements needed

- stat yearbook
- Sustainable Development**
- Government Finance
- ...
- Press releases**
- Local and regional statistics
- Industry and finance
- Population and social conditions
- Industry, trade and services
- Culture and fisheries
- International trade
- Sport
- Environment and energy
- Science and technology
- Statistical publications**
- All titles
- Database**
- ...

### Code of Practice Peer review reports by country

To complement the self-assessments with an external view, all National Statistical Institutes and Eurostat will be subject to a peer review during 2006/07 establishing compliance with the Code in particular in the areas related to the institutional environment and dissemination of statistics (principles 1-6 and 15 of the **Code of Practice**); (pdf 1457kb).

The peer reviews form part of the European Statistical System implementation strategy of the Code of Practice in enhancing the integrity, independence and accountability of its statistical authorities. The peer review reports, published below for the individual countries, should be used and understood in this context.

- ▶ ▶ **Czech Republic** (pdf 34kb) - **Peer review report March 2006 (pilot I)** (pdf 233kb)
- ▶ ▶ **Netherlands** (pdf 41kb) - **Peer review report April 2006 (pilot II)** (pdf 179kb)
- ▶ ▶ **Italy** (pdf 81kb) - **Peer review report October 2006** (pdf 195kb)
- ▶ ▶ **Austria** (pdf 40kb) - **Peer review November 2006** (pdf 166kb)
- ▶ ▶ **Estonia** (pdf 48kb) - **Peer review November 2006** (pdf 142kb)
- ▶ ▶ **Cyprus** (pdf 113kb) - **Peer review December 2006** (pdf 238kb)
- ▶ ▶ **France** (pdf 53 kb) - **Peer review January 2007** (pdf 150 kb)
- ▶ ▶ **Ireland** (pdf 21 kb) - **Peer review January 2007** (pdf 182 kb)
- ▶ ▶ **Sweden** (pdf 38 kb) - **Peer review March 2007** (pdf 160 kb)
- ▶ ▶ **Latvia** (pdf 25 kb) - **Peer review March 2007** (pdf 215 kb)
- ▶ ▶ **Bulgaria** (pdf 62 kb) - **Peer review April 2007** (pdf 167 kb)
- ▶ ▶ **Lithuania** (pdf 77 kb) - **Peer review April 2007** (pdf 219 kb)

## 4. Challenges

- unprecedented exercise in terms of scope and timing
- ESS standard setting, benchmarking
- quality assurance of processes and results
- Ensuring favourable cost-benefit ratio
- Potential for synergies and division of tasks at international level

## 5. Next steps

- Report to the European Parliament and Council 2008
- Follow-up of improvement actions
- SPC debriefing and follow-up

Thank you for your attention!