

Quality Assurance Frameworks – Progress report

Prepared by Eurostat

1. The first version of the guidelines on the Use and Convergence of Quality Assurance Frameworks for International Organizations Compiling Statistics was presented to the CCSA at its meeting in Madrid, 10-11 September 2007 (SA/2007/14/Add.4). The Guidelines recommend that each international organization should have a quality assurance framework in place that is tailored to its own statistical environment and to allocate the efforts on implementation and monitoring of the framework activities put in place.
2. The Guidelines were accompanied with a first version of the International Statistical Processes Assessment Checklist (SA/2007/14/Add.3). The Checklist should be seen as a tool for regular assessments of the statistical production processes and can be used in its whole or parts depending on the role of the international organization.
3. The Guidelines were agreed by the CCSA at the September 2007 meeting and individual agencies were encouraged to apply the Guidelines and further pilot the Checklist.
4. Since then, Eurostat launched a consultation to the task-team members for updating and improving the Guidelines with, in particular, new quality assurance developments. The contributions from the task team members have as far as possible been incorporated in the new version of the Guidelines (SA/2009/8a). This second version of the Guidelines also focuses more on embedding the quality assurance requirements into international statistical reporting systems. The members of the CCSA are invited to send to Eurostat specific comments on the Guidelines until 30 September 2009.
5. A new version of the International Statistical Processes Assessment Checklist (SA/2009/8b) has also been finalised taking into account the further experiences in international organizations that have

applied the Checklist. This second version of the Checklist is also improved when it comes to the assessment of statistical processes using administrative sources or involving multiple data sources. The members of the CCSA are invited to send to Eurostat specific comments on the Checklist until 30 September 2009.

6. It is proposed that these new versions of the Guidelines and the Checklist, after taking into account the comments from the CCSA members, are endorsed by the CCSA and promoted on the UNSD website. Future versions should only be released after approval by the CCSA.
7. In parallel, following the discussion at the CCSA meeting in New York, 25 February 2008 (SA/2008/8), the UNSD has launched a process with Statistics Canada for the development of a quality assurance framework for national statistical systems, building on the above Guidelines but focusing on countries needs and specific requirements. This work is envisaged to be presented to the UN Statistical Commission in February 2010.
8. It should also be noted that the European Statistical System (ESS) has recently set up a "Sponsorship on Quality" which will develop further strategic issues related quality management in the ESS. In particular, they will propose how to proceed with the implementation of the European Statistics Code of Practice and as well develop recommendations for elements to be further incorporated into quality assurance frameworks at national and European level. The work of the Sponsorship is to be completed by summer 2011.
9. The recommendations of the ESS Sponsorship on Quality (once endorsed by the European Statistical System Committee) and the Statistics Canada's work will need to be aligned to propose a quality assurance framework for national statistical systems that could be presented to the UN Statistical Commission in 2012 (eventually including an updated version of the Guidelines on quality assurance frameworks for international organisations) contributing to a more general "quality management strategy" for national and international organisations encompassing ICT infrastructure and quality issues necessary to orient their activities and to benefit from opportunities created by new institutional set-ups and technological changes.