



The Statistical System: Coordination

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Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics - Principle 8 -

“Coordination among statistical agencies within countries is essential to achieve consistency and efficiency in the statistical system.”

Coordination is essential to ...

- Promote consistent standards and methods
- Promote comparable data in different fields
- Avoid duplication
(reporting burden, waste of resources)
- Create a single image and trust in statistics
- Represent country internationally

Coordination is difficult, because ...

- In general: No-one likes to be coordinated.
- There are areas with a high degree of specialization.
- Statistics is compiled on admin. data.
- Sharing information is prevented by law.

Coordination through incentives:

- NSO offers statistical expertise
- Specialists offer substantive expertise
- Synergies from combining data/information
- Whole system benefits from using common standards and methods
- Whole system benefits from brandname

Coordination tools:

- Common Nomenclatures
- Approval of data collection activities
- Government-wide statistical budget
- Inter-agency committee
- National statistics council
- Placement and exchange of staff

What does the survey say on Principle 8?

- **Are there any other producers of official statistics other than the NSO in your country?**
- = 90 % said yes
- However, the NSO is the dominant producers of official statistics in most countries
- Examples for other users:
 - line ministries
 - Sub-national offices producing statistics for their regions

What does the survey say on Principle 8?
(cont.)

- **Forms of relationship between the NSO and the other producers of official statistics:**
 - Other government entities produce statistics based on questionnaires and methodology supplied by the NSO;
 - Other entities can collect statistics only subject to permission from the national statistical office;
 - Ministries produce data within their field of work and submit it to the NSO;

What does the survey say on Principle 8?
(cont.)

- **Are there organizational arrangements to coordinate data collection for statistics at the national level?**
- = 85% said yes
- Coordination is implemented in different ways:
 - National statistical legislation regulates coordination;
 - Coordination is included in the annual or multi-annual plan for data collection;

What does the survey say on Principle 8?
(cont.)

- **NSO usually plays a major role. examples are:**
 - Joint data collection by the NSO and other agencies, including provincial agencies, avoids duplication.
 - The NSO approves all questionnaires.
 - The NSO has “clearing house” responsibilities on any planned data collection by other agencies.
 - Memorandums of understanding or agreements are made between the NSO and other government agencies;
 - Contact is maintained with other organizations at both high level and operating level to maintain coordination;

What does the survey say on Principle 8?
(cont.)

- **Are there organizational arrangements for setting statistical standards at the national level?**
- = 80% said yes
- Arrangements were specified as follows:
 - The statistical legislation specifies common standards.
 - A central body, either the NSO or another body cooperating with the NSO, is assigned this responsibility by law.

What does the survey say on Principle 8?
(cont.)

- National Statistical boards/councils/committees carry out this coordination role.
- Joint committees of the NSO and other agencies are established for surveys in specific subject matter fields.
- There is no formal organizational arrangement; the NSO, however, promotes common classifications, uniform sampling frames and other standard elements.
- Standards are set through consultations with producers and users.

For discussion:

- How does your office coordinate?
- What works? Why?
- What does not work? Why?