



Credibility and Independence

- Nature of Independence
- Characteristics of Independence
- Setting Priorities
- Tools to Ensure Relevance
- Characteristics of Credibility

H2. 1



Nature of Independence

- A statistical agency is not autonomous and in the most fundamental sense is not “independent” from the government
- What is desired is a “Widely acknowledged position of independence”
- Independence is related to methods and results, not objectives

H2. 2



Characteristics of Independence

- Authority for professional decisions
- Authority for staffing decisions
- Release of statistical information without prior clearance

H2. 3



Characteristics of Independence (continued)

- Predetermined release schedules
- Authority of officials to speak about statistics to legislature, media and public

H2. 4



Setting Priorities

- The degree of authority varies among countries
- This decision making power is not absolute and must rest on a broad base of support within and outside the government
- Priorities must be relevant to the needs of the government and the public

H2. 5



Tools to Ensure Relevance

- Programs that adapt relatively easily
- Preparing for the unforeseen
- Becoming part of the international statistical network
- Permanent flexible capability
- Securing advance information

H2. 6



Characteristics of Credibility

- Accuracy
- Timeliness
- protection of confidentiality
- minimizing burden

H2. 7



Characteristics of Credibility (continued)

- Relevance
- Impartiality and independence from political control

H2. 8