

Increasing importance of data and business ethics

“Managing a Statistical Organization in Times of Change”
Almaty, Kazakhstan, 5 - 7 December 2023



Outline

- Ethics in Official Statistics
- Committee Structures
- Code of Ethics
- Data Ethics and GSBPM
- Business Ethics and GAMS0



Ethics in Official Statistics

responsibility
value
principles
integrity
Ethics
fairness
honesty
right
choice
honor
moral

“The ethics as an element related not only to methods and procedures chosen as well as behaviours, is an integral part towards retaining trust in official statistics.”

Ethics in Official Statistics

- Ethics is an important principle to be followed not only in terms of organisational behaviour but as well in the production process and access of data.
- The Institute of Statistics in Albania follows the European Code of Practice and the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, important in ensuring appropriate and reliable statistics where ethics is an integral part.

Committee Structures

The Statistical Council

- Advisory body composed of experts in the field of statistics
- Supports INSTAT in ensuring that official statistics reflects the user needs for statistical information
- Promotes the implementation of statistical principles and professional standards

The council also discuss with management of statistical structures at line Ministries or other statistical agencies on matters that require their intervention to ensure that official statistic meets the professional standards.

Committee Structures

Committee of Producers of Official Statistics

- Coordinates drafting, implementing and monitoring the Official Statistics Programme through inter-institutional cooperation
- Composed by highest representatives of INSTAT and Other National Agencies (Bank of Albania and the Ministry of Finance)
- Discuss issues related to the expansion of official statistics in the country, but also cost-effectiveness as a result of inter-institutional cooperation.

Committee Structures

Confidentiality Committee and the Technical Group on Confidentiality

Main scope to guarantee the principle of statistical confidentiality by taking preventive measures to ensure statistical confidentiality during the processes of collecting, processing and publishing official statistics, as well as prohibiting the use of data for non-statistical purposes.

A dedicated regulation on Microdata access is publicly available and aims to define organizational and technical measures for security in the administration and access to micro data for scientific research purposes in support of the scientific community.

Committee Structures

Quality Committee

- Deal with the evaluation of standards established through quality guidelines, quality management and the proposal for their further improvement.
- Improvements in the statistical production process through recommendations from the statistical audit and self-assessment processes.
- Responsible for proposing standards for quality and the structure of quality reports for all statistical products.

The Code of Ethics

Based on national laws, as well as international standards on ethics and integrity of employees, regulates ethic and professional conduct of employees of the Institute of Statistics.

The Code is not a substitute for common sense and does not eliminate various regulations implemented by INSTAT.

Linking bridge between daily needs and actions and expresses a sense of commitment to the mission of INSTAT.

A tool to encourage discussions about ethics and improve attitudes or reactions at work (those reactions related to ethical dilemmas and ambiguities).

Ethics

USS & SSS

Staff Satisfaction Survey and User Satisfaction Survey - separate module dedicated to Ethics

Some dimensions of ethics taken into consideration:

- Ethical Management;
- Ethical practices;
- Data ethics;
- Ethical standards of the organization;
- Etc.

Capacity Building

Periodical training of staff are conducted on:

- Statistical production
- Code of Ethics
- Confidentiality
- Quality
- National Statistical System
- Communication

Data ethics & GSBPM

- INSTAT use GSBPM for monitoring all statistical production processes, quality management as well as describing and documenting statistical processes.
- Identification of possible phases and sub-processes in GSBPM related to data ethics.

Data ethics & GSBPM

7 Disseminate Phase		
7.1. Update output systems	This sub-process manages the update of systems (e.g. databases) where data and metadata are stored ready for dissemination purposes, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formatting data and metadata ready to be put into output systems; • Loading data and metadata into output systems; • Ensuring data are linked to the relevant metadata. Formatting, loading and linking of metadata should preferably mostly take place in earlier phases, but this sub-process includes a final check that all of the necessary metadata are in place ready for dissemination. 	
7.2. Produce dissemination products	Disseminate 7.4 Promote dissemination products 7.5 Manage user support 7.3 Manage release of dissemination products 7.2 Produce dissemination products 7.1 Update output systems. This sub-process produces the dissemination products, as previously designed in sub-process 2.1 (Design outputs), to meet user needs. They could include printed publications, press releases and websites . The products can take many forms including interactive graphics, tables, maps, public-use microdata sets, linked open data and downloadable files. Typical steps include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparing the product components (explanatory texts, tables, charts, maps, quality statements etc.); • Assembling the components into products; • Editing the products and checking that they meet publication standards. 	Ethics
7.3. Manage release of dissemination products	This sub-process ensures that all elements for the release are in place including managing the timing of the release . It includes briefings for specific groups such as the press or ministers, as well as the arrangements for any pre-release embargoes. It also includes the provision of products to subscribers, and managing access to confidential data by authorised user groups, such as researchers. Sometimes an organisation may need to retract a product, for example, if an error is discovered. This is also included in this sub-process.	Ethics
7.4. Promote dissemination products	Whilst marketing in general can be considered to be an overarching process, this sub-process concerns the active promotion of the statistical products produced in a specific statistical business process, to help them reach the widest possible audience. It includes the use of customer relationship management tools , to better target potential users of the products, as well as the use of tools including websites, wikis and blogs to facilitate the process of communicating statistical information to users.	Ethics
7.5. Manage user support	This sub-process ensures that user queries and requests for services such as microdata access are recorded , and that responses are provided within agreed deadlines. These queries and requests should be regularly reviewed to provide an input to the overarching quality management process, as they can indicate new or changing user needs. Replies to user requests can also be used to populate a knowledge database or a “Frequently Asked Questions” page, that is made publicly available, thus reducing the burden of replying to repeated and/or similar requests from external users. This sub-process also includes managing support to any partner organisations involved in disseminating the products.	Ethics

Business ethics & GAMSO

- A mapping of INSTAT business activities and GAMSO has recently been developed.
- The second phase will be the implementation of GAMSO.
- Identification of possible activities in GAMSO related to business ethics.

Business ethics & GAMSO

Activities	Description	Ethics
Strategy and Leadership		
Define Vision	These activities ensure that statistical organisations understand the environment in which they operate and the emerging issues they are confronted with, so that it is clear where they can provide independent, evidence-based information, as well as statistical standards and infrastructure, for use by governments and the broader community. 14. Based on this, statistical organisations determine their high-level goals and directions, including the values which will guide them, so they set their statistical programmes accordingly. This also includes communicating the mission, values and expectations internally and externally, to lead and inspire staff and to increase government and community trust and confidence in the organisation and in official statistics in general.	Ethics
Govern and Lead	These activities cover the development of strategies to achieve the goals and directions set under Define Vision. They include identification and prioritisation of the statistical work programme, prioritisation of the capital investment programme, and the allocation of resources (capital and labour) to implement the agreed programmes defined in the statistical product and service and capability portfolios. Under Govern and Lead the need for capability improvements is identified and requested by prioritising the capability portfolio, under Capability Development the requested and prioritized capability improvements are planned in more detail, developed, monitored and after their full integration in Production their support is transferred to Corporate Support.	
Manage Strategic Collaboration and Cooperation	These activities cover collaboration, cooperation and coordination with other statistical organisations and other external stakeholders. They can include coordination within a statistical system, which may be based on a geographical hierarchy of entities (local, regional, national, multi-national), or a split of responsibilities between organisations based upon activities. They include activities undertaken to identify new opportunities for data exchange or integration. They provide the statistical community with opportunities to exchange knowledge, to improve statistical infrastructure and practices and to influence statistical standards. These activities contribute to the building and enhancing of shared statistical capabilities managed by partners, leading to increased statistical understanding and improved application and use. They include organisation and coordination of other organisations which produce official statistics as part of a national system.	Ethics

Future Steps

- Identifying proper instruments for recognizing ethical practices in the statistical production chain.
- Enhancing trust in official statistics through transparent communication of ethical practices.



THANK YOU!

