



EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK

EUROSYSTEM

# Supplying evidence based international statistics for decision-making

**The undiscovered wealth  
of international statistics**



**Per Nymand-Andersen**  
European Central Bank

**CCSA session on international statistics, Panel discussion,  
Hong Kong, 30 August 2013**

# Agenda

**1 International and Supranational Organisations**

**2 Enhancing the use of international statistics**

**3 What are the practical issues?**

**4 What are the potential solutions?**

**4 Panel and open discussion**

**飲水思源 (yin-shui-ssu-yüan)**

***“When you drink water (of the spring), think of its source”.***

***Chinese proverb related to “Gratitude”***

# **1 International and Supranational Organisations**

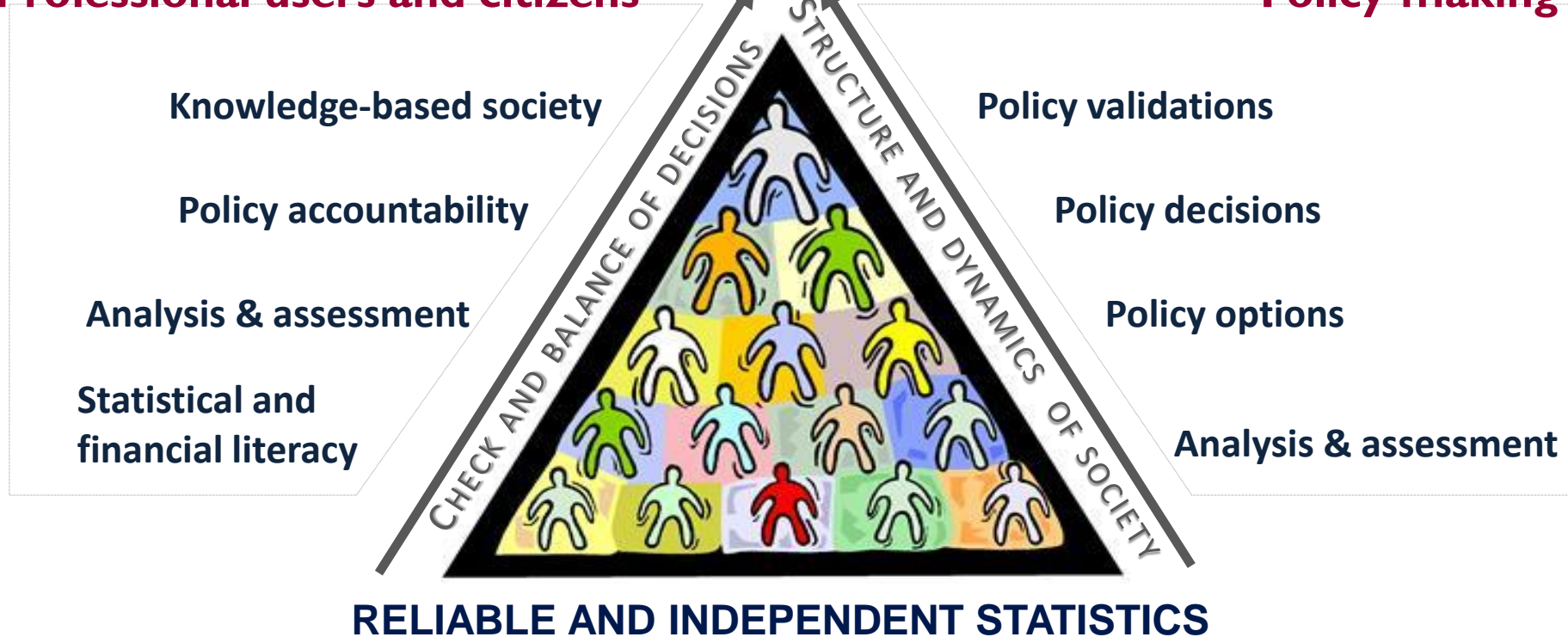
- Serve international policy needs with comparable national, regional (e.g. G20) and global aggregate statistics**
- Define concepts and methodology, collect statistics from official national sources, perform quality assurance, produce and release international comparable statistics and aggregates**
- In some cases may issue statistical legal acts**
- Data sources originate mainly from national statistical offices or national central banks, depending on the type of statistics**
- International organisations provide international reporting templates for their respective fields of expertise as guidance for national statistical authorities**

# Enhancing the use of statistics

## Good sustainable decisions

Professional users and citizens

Policy-making



*“Make an impact” in the decision making process and enrich the public debate*



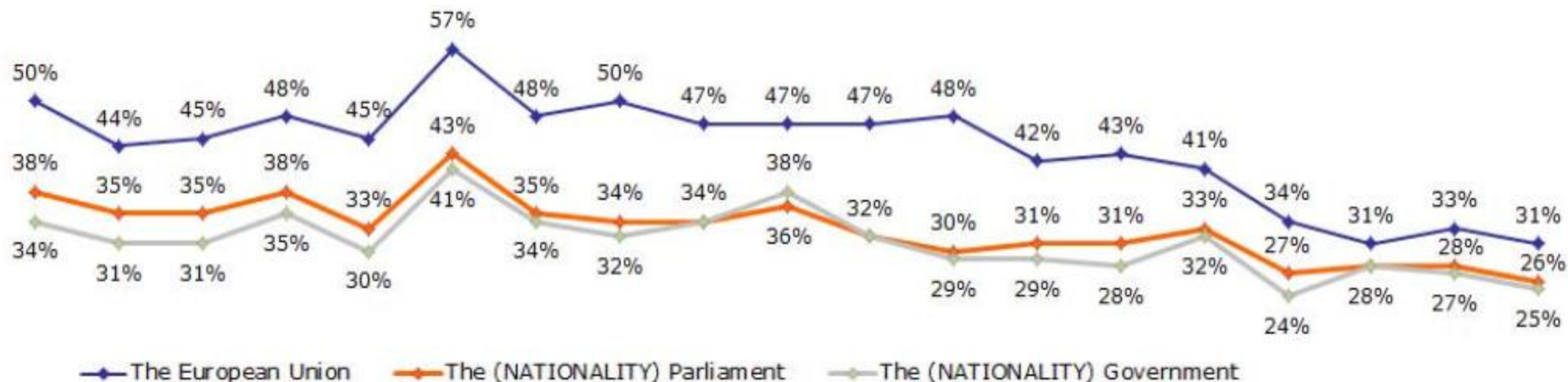
*Trust in Statistics*

## 2 Trust in institutions - in time of crisis

*“The low level of trust is unsustainable and will lead to polarisation of the political spectrum, risk of protectionism and social unrest”*

*Here also statisticians play an important role !*

One of many examples: QA12: **For each of the following institutions, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it ? (% of trust)**

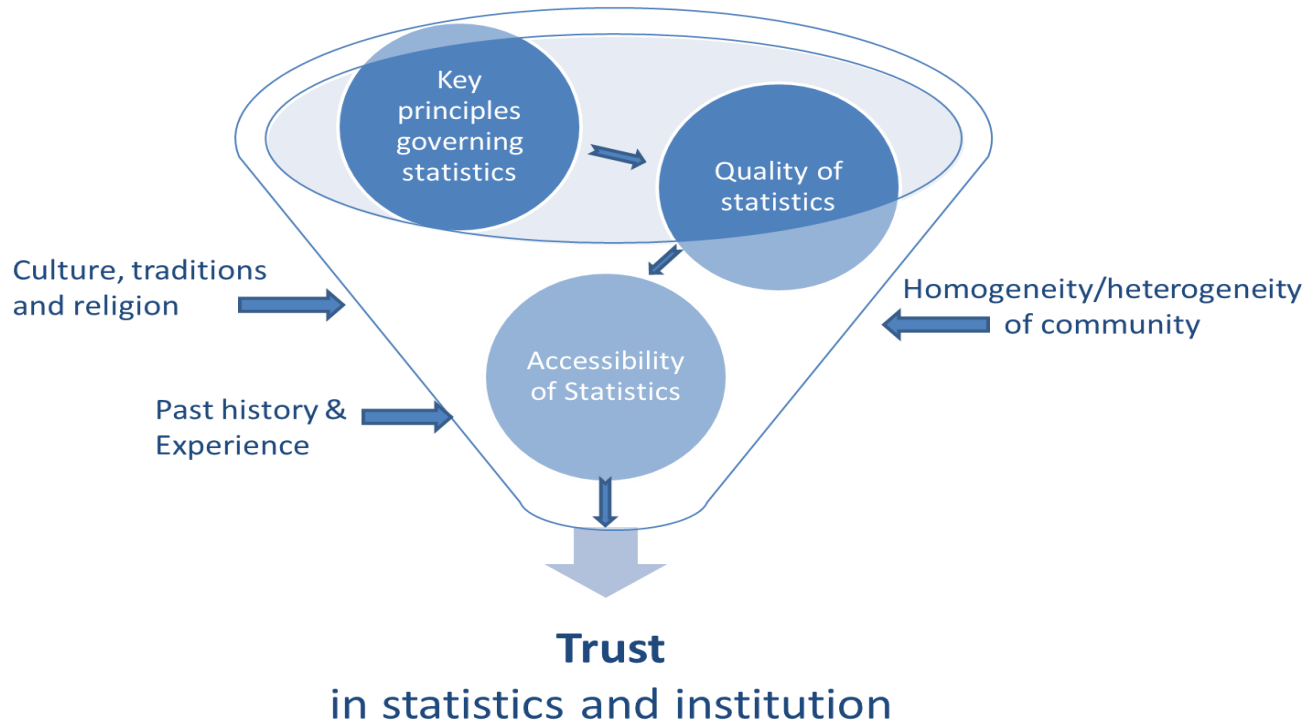


## The added value of international statistics

<b>1</b>	<b>Supports sustainable and sound international policies</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Assists the acceptance process of international policy decisions and facilitates the implementation process at national level</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Enhances the effectiveness of resource allocation and priorities</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Facilitates the functioning of our societies and markets</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Builds trust in statistics and contributes to positive reputation</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Contributes in being transparent and to accountability for decisions</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Enriches the analytical contribution and enhances the political debate</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Fosters a knowledge-based society</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Enhances statistics literacy</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Increases welfare in society</b>

# The importance of statistics

## Generating trust and confidence in statistics



- **Our statistics profession should be better communicated**
- **Equal playing field within the political system – direct reporting at board level and minister of statistics**
- **Promote statistics methodology and research**

# What are the practical issues?

## Reporting templates

- underdeveloped!
- further methodological specifications are needed (e.g. agreements on revisions & seasonal adjustments)
- weak governance

## Comparability

- missing values
- country statistics are presented using different concepts & definitions
- if any, too many and too long footnotes and endnotes
- little quantitative information of deviations

## Accessibility

- timeliness of statistics
- overview of availability
- easily presentable
- search and findable
- re-usability
- structure towards user centric

## Institutional

- exchange format of statistics
- capacity to perform adjustments/ estimations & other sources
- statistics production capacity
- statistical resources



## Reporting templates - International institutions



need to be significantly more developed

much closer involvement of national statistical authorities

strengthened governance

enhance the metadata for national statistical sources

## Comparability - International institutions

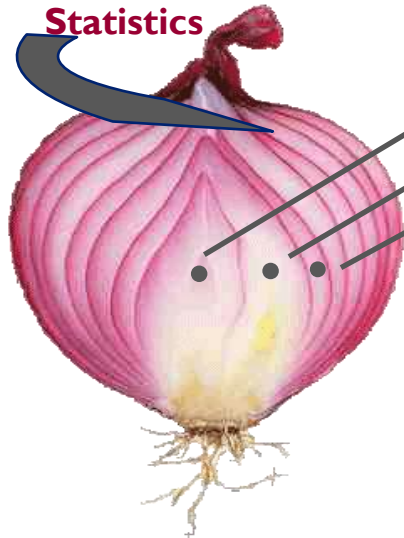
- 
- perform adjustments and estimations of national statistics
  - input from other sources (private and public)
  - be transparent in selection of methods and sources
  - release breakdowns and timely international statistics

## Accessibility - International institutions



Request for  
Statistics

Who are our three core users and what do they do?



Which policy users?

Which journalists/media?

Which financial analysts/ research centres?

- ▶ Serving the **core professional market segments** will amplify the statistical message and reach a significantly broader audience, including the general public



- ✓ Facilitate the use of and working process of core users;
- ✓ Extract wisdom from statistics; what is the *statistical message*?
- ✓ Guide the users in using quality statistics, simplify!

## Accessibility - International institutions



- ✓ Combine **text, statistics, tables and graphs** for easy reuse
- ✓ Boost the use of **visualisations** and graphics



- ✓ **Tailor** internet portals for **core professional users** based on **economic concepts and a user centric approach**



- ✓ **Policy of free (re-) use of all statistics !**

## Institutional

- enhance statistical production facility
- implement and use SDMX data model facility (sharing of data)
- enhance statistical capacity and resources
- ownership of aggregates and international statistics

- National **reporting templates** may be sufficient for national policy purposes but are they aligned for comparing across countries and regions for multilateral surveillance purposes?

**Should international organisations always present official national statistics as supplied by national sources in case different concepts and methodologies are applied at national level?**



*what do we want to compare?*

# Discussion

## Q&A



好友如近亲 - A good friend is the nearest relation