

**Державний комітет
статистики України
(Держкомстат)**



**State Statistics
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Mr. Paul Cheung
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Kyiv, 18 December 2009

Dear Mr Cheung,

Subject: Draft report *National Quality Assurance Framework* for the 41st session of the UN Statistical Commission 2010

We are writing to provide our comments to the draft report *National Quality Assurance Framework* (hereinafter – the Report) prepared by Statistics Canada for consideration and further discussion at the 41st session of the UN Statistical Commission in 2010.

We are strictly convinced that the idea of the Report on elaboration of the commonly recognised at the international level concept to guarantee the national quality in the statistical sphere is definitely worth for support. The development of such document will facilitate the quality management improvement in the national statistical offices, implementation and use of the most effective tools and procedures for quality measurement and assurance based on generally agreed modern expertise and initiatives of international and national institutions in this area. In future the created quality assurance framework can be used as a model to elaborate the similar ones in the national statistical offices.

Please, consider our proposals and comments to the Report provided below:

We suppose that proposed structure of the Report is generally accepted, however needs some further consideration and optimization. In the first section it will be useful to focus attention on the main objective of the Report. Several components in the Sections 3 and 4 are partly overlapped with the ones in the Section 2.

One of the main objectives of the quality framework concept development is to harmonize it with the methodological approaches and definitions specified in the effective legislation and existing quality assurance concepts and recommendations in the area, particularly in European statistics.

It is a very important task to formulate the definitions of impartial comprehensive quality indicators. Moreover, it could also be useful to prepare guidelines on main indicators to monitor each direction of quality assurance.

The approaches considered in the draft Report focus on such main aspects of the quality assurance as staff motivation and professional upgrading. However, currently it is widely accepted practice when the quality assessment works and preparation of the quality reports and etc. are recognised as an additional responsibility to the available staff that results in an extra burden without relevant encouragement or motivation of employees. On the other hand, the assessment of the some quality measures, such as accuracy and quality review prepared by experts also needs to cover some costs. Therefore, during the discussion we recommend to pay attention to the problem of statistical agencies institutional capacity for conducting quality and management assessment, taking into account best practice of the national statistical offices in this sphere.

Additionally, in view of the fact that the Report has a considerable influence onto statistical system image and that a lot of its aspects are aimed to better inform of the users, we rate as useful to actively involve representatives of the main groups of the national and international users of statistics into the process of drafting the document.

What is more, we would like to mention that the State Statistics Committee of Ukraine (SSCU) pays a lot of attention to the issues of quality assurance of the statistical products and procedures, as well as management improvement in this area. Over the last years the SSCU in accordance with the Government decisions has undertaken a number of actions on implementation the quality management system in the state statistical bodies, such as:

- the SSCU approved quality policy and assigned specialists responsible for the introduction and maintenance of the quality management system in the state statistical bodies;
- the functional survey of the SSCU headquarters and their regional bodies was organized ;
- the development of the quality management system documentation in the state statistical bodies, which is in compliance with the ISO-9001 requirements.

Currently, according to the Strategy of the State Statistics Development of Ukraine till 2012 the SSCU is elaborating the regulations for the state statistical bodies activity, harmonized with the European Statistics Code of Practice, as well as conducting self-assessment procedures. In addition, some measures are being taken to prepare the bodies of the state statistical system to certification under the quality management system in accordance with the State Standard of Ukraine ISO-9001-2001.

The SSCU has also started the quality assessment of statistical information for household living condition survey (HLCS) by systematic compiling of the survey quality reports and posting them on the SSCU official web site. The contents and the structure of the reports, major dimensions and indicators of the quality are in line with the Eurostat documentation on quality management adopted in 2003-2005.

Thank you for considering the above proposals and comments. We hope for further fruitful cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

Yuri Ostapchuk
Deputy Chair
State Statistics Committee of Ukraine

