European statistics must accurately and reliably portray reality.

European statistics must meet the needs of users.

– Preliminary results of acceptable aggregate quality can be disseminated when
– Any divergence from the dissemination time schedule is publicised in advance, explained
– A standard daily time is set for the release of European statistics.

Indicators
– Studies and analyses of revisions are carried out routinely and used internally to inform
– Sampling errors and non-sampling errors are measured and systematically documented
– Source data, intermediate results and statistical outputs are assessed and validated.

Indicators
– User satisfaction surveys are undertaken periodically.
– Priority needs are being met and reflected in the work programme.

PRINCIPLE 10: USER SATISFACTION

European statistics should be consistent internally, over time and comparable between regions and countries; it should be possible to combine and make joint use of related data from different sources.

Indicators
– Statistics are coherent or reconcilable over a reasonable period of time.
– Cross-national comparability of the data is ensured through periodical exchanges between the European statistical system and other statistical systems.
– Statistics are compiled on the basis of common standards with respect to scope, definitions, units and classifications in the different surveys and sources.

Indicators
– Statistics are coherent or reconcilable over a reasonable period of time.
– Statistics are presented in a form that facilitates proper interpretation and meaningful
– Cross-national comparability of the data is ensured through periodical exchanges between the European statistical system and other statistical systems.

PRINCIPLE 13: TIMELINESS AND PUNCTUALITY

European statistics should be disseminated in a timely and punctual manner.

Indicators
– Time series meets the highest European and international dissemination standards.
– A standard daily time is set for the release of European statistics.

Indicators
– Processes are in place to consult users, monitor the relevance and practical utility of

European statistics must be disseminated in a timely and punctual manner.

INDICATORS
– Processes are in place to consult users, monitor the relevance and practical utility of
– Samples are reviewed and non-sampling errors are measured and systematically documented
– Source data, intermediate results and statistical outputs are regularly reviewed and validated.

PRINCIPLE 12: ACCURACY AND RELIABILITY

European statistics and, at Community level, Eurostat.

The ‘European statistical system’, hereafter referred to as the ESS, shall mean the partnership comprising Eurostat, national statistical institutes and other national statistical bodies responsible for, and a new release date set.

The ‘European statistics’ shall mean Community statistics as defined in Council Regulation (EC) No 322/97 of 17 February 1997 on Community statistics, produced and disseminated by national statistical authorities and the Community’s statistical authority (Eurostat) in conformity with Article 285 of the Treaty.

The ‘statistical authority’ shall mean, at national level, the national statistical institute (NSI) and other statistical bodies in charge of producing and disseminating European statistics.

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The ‘European statistics’ shall mean Community statistics as defined in Council Regulation (EC) No 322/97 of 17 February 1997 on Community statistics, produced and disseminated by national statistical authorities and the Community’s statistical authority (Eurostat) in conformity with Article 285 of the Treaty.

The ‘statistical authority’ shall mean, at national level, the national statistical institute (NSI) and other statistical bodies in charge of producing and disseminating European statistics.
PRINCIPLE 1: PROFESSIONAL INDEPENDENCE

The professional independence of statistical authorities from other policy, regulatory or administrative departments and bodies, as well as from private-sector operators, ensures the credibility of European statistics.

Indicators
– The head of the statistical authority is not responsible for ensuring the implementation of public policy, a mandate that is separate from the provision of statistical services.
– The authority is sufficiently independent in order to be able to determine the statistical methods, standards and procedures required to ensure the proper operation of the statistical system.

PRINCIPLE 2: MANDATE FOR DATA COLLECTION

The legal mandate of the statistical authority for the production and dissemination of European statistics must be clearly defined.

Indicators
– The head of the statistical authority has sufficiently high hierarchical standing to ensure relevant issues are professional independence, mandate for data collection, adequacy of resources, quality, confidentiality, and respect for scientific independence.
– Statistical releases are clearly distinguished and issued separately from political/policy statements.
– The head of the statistical authority has sufficient independence to determine the statistical methods, standards and procedures to be used for the statistical system.

PRINCIPLE 3: ADEQUACY OF RESOURCES

The resources available to statistical authorities must be sufficient to meet European statistical requirements.

Indicators
– Staff, financial, and computing resources, adequate both in magnitude and in quality, are available and adequate for the statistical system.
– The scope, depth and cost of European statistics are commensurate with needs.
– Procedures are in place to ensure that new statistical practice is cost-effective.

PRINCIPLE 4: QUALITY COMMITMENT

All ESI methods and guidelines are used and adapted to meet the principles in the procedures described in the “Declaration of the European statistical system”.

Indicators
– Product quality is regularly monitored according to the ESI quality components.
– Processes are in place to monitor the quality of the collection, processing and dissemination of European statistics.
– Processes are in place to deal with quality issues, including trade-offs within quality and the extent of statistical confidentiality.
– Quality guidelines are documented and staff are well trained. These guidelines are updated and revised as necessary.
– There is a regular and thorough review of the key statistical outputs using external experts when appropriate.
– Statistical releases and statements made in press conferences are objective and non-partisan.

PRINCIPLE 5: STATISTICAL CONFIDENTIALITY

The privacy of data providers (households, enterprises, administrations and other respondents), the confidentiality of the information they provide and its use only for statistical purposes must be absolutely guaranteed.

Indicators
– Confidentiality is guaranteed in law.
– Statistical authority staff legal confidentiality commitments on appointment.
– Substantial penalties are prescribed for any willing breaches of statistical confidentiality.
– Traceability of individual transactions, a consequence of statistical confidentiality, is guaranteed in law.
– Procedures are in place to ensure the security and integrity of statistical databases.

PRINCIPLE 6: INFALLIBILITY AND OBJECTIVITY

Statistical authorities ensure and divulge the European statistics respecting scientific independence and an objective, professional and transparent manner in which all users are treated equitably.

Indicators
– Statistics are compiled on an objective basis determined by statistical considerations.
– Statistical releases and statements are objective and non-partisan.
– Errors discovered in published statistics are corrected at the earliest possible date and published.
– Information on the methods and procedures used by the statistical authority are publicly available.
– Statistical release dates and times are pre-announced.
– All users have access to the documentation on which the results are based.
– All users have access to reports on the quality of statistical releases.
– Statistical releases and access to administrative data for research purposes must be limited, controlled and publicised.

PRINCIPLE 7: SOUND METHODOLOGY

European and other international standards, guidelines and good practices must be fully documented and disseminated.

Indicators
– Sound methodology must underpin quality statistics. This requires adequate tools, procedures and expertise.

PRINCIPLE 8: APPROPRIATE STATISTICAL PROCEDURES

Appropriate statistical procedures, implemented from data collection to data dissemination, ensure credibility.

Indicators
– The business register and the frame for population surveys are regularly evaluated and adjusted if necessary in order to ensure high quality.
– Procedures are in place to ensure that standard concepts, definitions and classifications are consistently applied through the statistical authority.
– Best estimates and approximations are accepted when exact details are not readily available.
– Statistical processes and treatment of data are well understood, and practice is based on continuous improvement.

PRINCIPLE 9: NON-EXCESSIVE BURDEN ON RESPONDENTS

The reporting burden should be proportionate to the needs of the users and should not be excessive for the statistical authority unless the response burden and net benefits for its reduction over time.

Indicators
– The privacy of data providers (households, enterprises, administrations and other respondents), the confidentiality of the information they provide and its use only for statistical purposes must be absolutely guaranteed.

PRINCIPLE 10: COST EFFECTIVENESS

Resources must be effectively used.

Indicators
– The reporting burden is spread as widely as possible over survey populations through multiple-stage sampling frames, use of existing auxiliary information and automated ways of data capture.
– Internal and independent external reviews assess the quality and effectiveness of the methods implemented and process improvements.

PRINCIPLE 11: INNOVATION

Indicators
– In the context of the current environment, statistical systems are adjusted if necessary in order to ensure high quality.
– The reporting burden is spread as widely as possible over survey populations through multiple-stage sampling frames, use of existing auxiliary information and automated ways of data capture.

Institutional environment

Institutional and organizational factors have a significant influence on the effectiveness and credibility of a statistical systems. The institutional environment can be described as the set of institutions, organizations, processes and procedures that determine the performance of statistical activities. The institutional environment includes institutional and organizational factors.

The relevant issues are professional independence, mandate for data collection, adequacy of resources, quality, confidentiality, and respect for scientific independence.

PRINCIPLE 3: ADEQUACY OF RESOURCES

The resources available to statistical authorities must be sufficient to meet European statistical requirements.

Indicators
– The resources available to statistical authorities must be sufficient to meet European statistical requirements.
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PRINCIPLE 4: QUALITY COMMITMENT

All ESI methods and guidelines are used and adapted to meet the principles in the procedures described in the “Declaration of the European statistical system”.

Indicators
– The resources available to statistical authorities must be sufficient to meet European statistical requirements.
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European statistical purposes at the request of statistical authorities. The public at large may be compelled by law to allow access to or deliver data for sector operators, ensures the credibility of European statistics. 

PRINCIPLE 1: PROFESSIONAL INDEPENDENCE

Indicators
- The head of the statistical authority and, where appropriate, the heads of its statistical bodies have responsibility for ensuring that European statistics are produced and disseminated in an independent manner.
- The statistical authority's mandate, budget, and staffing are not subject to political influence.

PRINCIPLE 2: MANDATE FOR DATA COLLECTION

Indicators
- Administrative, enterprises, and households are free to choose whether to participate in European data collection.
- The reporting burden should be proportionate to the needs of the users and should not be excessive. The statistical authority monitors the response burden and sets targets for its reduction over time.

PRINCIPLE 3: ADEQUACY OF RESOURCES

Indicators
- Financial resources, computing resources, adequate both in magnitude and in quality, are sufficient to ensure that European statistics are produced in a timely manner.
- The scope, depth, and cost of European statistics are commensurate with needs.
- Procedures are in place and adequately funded by law to ensure the operation of European statistics.

PRINCIPLE 4: QUALITY COMMITMENT

Indicators
- The quality of data products is regularly monitored according to ESS quality indicators.
- There is a regular and thorough review of the key statistical outputs using external experts where appropriate.

PRINCIPLE 5: STATISTICAL CONFIDENTIALITY

Indicators
- The business register and the frame for population surveys are regularly evaluated and adjusted if necessary in order to ensure high quality.
- Statistical processes and methods are reviewed by independent external experts.

PRINCIPLE 6: IMPARTIALITY AND OBJECTIVITY

Indicators
- The business register and the frame for population surveys are regularly evaluated and adjusted if necessary in order to ensure high quality.
- Errors discovered in published statistics are corrected at the earliest possible date and published.
- In the case of statistical surveys, questionnaires are systematically tested prior to the data collection.

PRINCIPLE 7: SOUND METHODOLOGY

Indicators
- The overall methodological framework of the statistical authority follows European and other international standards, guidelines and good practices.
- Statistical processes are reviewed by independent external experts.

PRINCIPLE 8: APPROPRIATE STATISTICAL PROCEDURES

Indicators
- The reporting burden should be proportionate to the needs of the users and should not be excessive. The statistical authority monitors the response burden and sets targets for its reduction over time.
- Statistical authority staff are familiar with the latest surveys and procedures.

PRINCIPLE 9: NON-EXCESSIVE BURDEN ON RESPONDENTS

Indicators
- The reporting burden is spread as widely as possible over survey populations through appropriate sampling techniques.
- The productivity potential of information and communications technology is being optimised for data collection, processing and dissemination.

PRINCIPLE 10: COST EFFECTIVENESS

Indicators
- The reporting burden is spread as widely as possible over survey populations through appropriate sampling techniques.
- Statistical surveys are discontinued or curtailed to free up resources.
European statistical purposes at the request of statistical authorities.

The public at large may be compelled by law to allow access to or deliver data for statistical purposes.

Statistical authorities must have a clear legal mandate to collect information for statistical purposes.

PRINCIPLE 1: PROFESSIONAL INDEPENDENCE

– On the basis of a legal act, the statistical authority may compel response to statistical surveys.

– The statistical authority is allowed by national legislation to use administrative records for statistical purposes.

– The mandate to collect information for the production and dissemination of official statistics in an independent manner.

Indicators

– Professional independence of statistical authorities from either policy, regulatory or administrative departments and bodies, as well as from private-sector operators, ensures the credibility of European statistics.

PRINCIPLE 2: MANDATE FOR DATA COLLECTION

Statistical authorities must have a clear legal mandate to collect information for European statistical purposes. Administrations, enterprises and households, and the public at large may be compelled to allow access to or deliver data for European statistical purposes as the request of statistical authorities.

– The mandate to collect information for the production and dissemination of official statistics.

– The statistical authority is allowed by national legislation to use administrative records for statistical purposes.

– On the basis of a legal act, the statistical authority may compel response to statistical surveys.

– Professional independence of statistical authorities from either policy, regulatory or administrative departments and bodies, as well as from private-sector operators, ensures the credibility of European statistics.

PRINCIPLE 3: ADEQUACY OF RESOURCES

The resources available to statistical authorities must be sufficient to meet European statistical requirements.

– Staff, financial, and computing resources, adequate both in magnitude and in quality, are available to statistical authorities.

– The scope, depth and cost of European statistics are commensurate with needs.

– Procedures to assure speeds and quality demands for new European statistics against their cost.

– Procedures ensure the concerning feedback all European statistics, see if any can be discontinued or optimized to free up resources.

PRINCIPLE 4: QUALITY COMMITMENT

All ESS statistical work programmes are published, and periodic reports describe progress made.

– The head of the statistical authority and, where appropriate, the heads of its statistical bodies are held accountable for the quality of ESS activities.

– The head of the statistical authority and, where appropriate, the heads of its statistical bodies have the sole responsibility for deciding on statistical methods, standards and procedures.

– Procedures exist to assess the continuing need for all European statistics, to see if any can be discontinued or curtailed to free up resources.

– Procedures exist to assess and justify demands for new European statistics against their cost.

– Procedures exist to ensure that standard concepts, definitions and classifications used for the administrative purpose must be a good approximation to those required for statistical purposes.

– Procedures exist to ensure that standard concepts, definitions and classifications used for the administrative purpose must be a good approximation to those required for statistical purposes.

PRINCIPLE 5: STATISTICAL CONFIDENCE

The privacy of data providers (households, enterprises, administrations and other respondents), the confidentiality of the information they provide, and its use only for statistical purposes must be absolutely guaranteed.

– Confidentiality is guaranteed in law.

– Statistical authority staff law legal confidentiality commitments on appointment.

– Substantial penalties are prescribed for any wilful breaches of statistical confidentiality.

– Procedures are in place to protect the security and integrity of statistical databases.

– Direct protocols apply to external users accessing statistical microdata for research purposes.

PRINCIPLE 6: IMPARTIALITY AND OBJECTIVITY

Statistical authorities are to be impartial and objective in their outputs and activities. European statistics respecting scientific independence and an objectivity, and professional and transparent manner in which all users are treated equitably.

– Statistics are compiled on a objective basis determined by statistical considerations.

– Procedures are in place to protect the security and integrity of statistical databases.

– Direct protocols apply to external users accessing statistical microdata for research purposes.

– Statistical authority staff law legal confidentiality commitments on appointment.

– Substantial penalties are prescribed for any wilful breaches of statistical confidentiality.

– Procedures are in place to protect the security and integrity of statistical databases.

– Direct protocols apply to external users accessing statistical microdata for research purposes.

PRINCIPLE 7: SOUND METHODOLOGY

Statistical methodologies must underpin quality European statistics.

– This requires adequate tools, procedures and expertise.

– Staff attend international relevant training courses and conferences, and liaise with world-class statisticians.

– Detailed concordance exists between national classifications and sectorisation systems and international classifications.

– Procedures are in place to deal with quality considerations, including trade-offs with administrative and policy efficiency.

– Statistical work programmes are published, and periodic reports describe progress made.

– Quality guidelines are documented and staff are well trained. These guidelines are spelled out in writing and revised as required.

– Procedures exist to ensure that standard concepts, definitions and classifications used for the administrative purpose must be a good approximation to those required for statistical purposes.

– Procedures exist to ensure that standard concepts, definitions and classifications used for the administrative purpose must be a good approximation to those required for statistical purposes.

PRINCIPLE 8: APPROPRIATE STATISTICAL PROCEDURES

The reporting burden should be proportionate to the needs of the user and should not be excessive for respondents. The statistical authority must ensure that the response burden is not excessive for respondents.

– The productivity potential of information and communications technology is being optimised for data collection, processing and dissemination.

– Procedures are in place to ensure that standard concepts, definitions and classifications are consistently applied throughout the statistical authority.

– The reporting burden should be proportionate to the needs of the user and should not be excessive for respondents.

– Statistical authorities are to be impartial and objective in their outputs and activities. European statistics respecting scientific independence and an objectivity, and professional and transparent manner in which all users are treated equitably.

– Statistical work programmes are published, and periodic reports describe progress made.

– Quality guidelines are documented and staff are well trained. These guidelines are spelled out in writing and revised as required.

– Procedures exist to ensure that standard concepts, definitions and classifications used for the administrative purpose must be a good approximation to those required for statistical purposes.

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PRINCIPLE 9: NON-EXCESSIVE BURDEN ON RESPONDENTS

Receivers must be effectively used.

– Internal and independent external reviews monitor the statistical authority’s use of resources.

– Revisions follow standard, well-established and transparent procedures.

– Field operations, data entry, and coding are routinely monitored and revised as required.

– Information on the methods and procedures used by the statistical authority are publicly available.

– Statistical data releases are made known to the public.

– Statistical work programmes are published, and periodic reports describe progress made.

– Quality guidelines are documented and staff are well trained. These guidelines are spelled out in writing and revised as required.

– Procedures exist to ensure that standard concepts, definitions and classifications used for the administrative purpose must be a good approximation to those required for statistical purposes.

– Procedures exist to ensure that standard concepts, definitions and classifications used for the administrative purpose must be a good approximation to those required for statistical purposes.

PRINCIPLE 10: COST EFFECTIVENESS

Receivers must be effectively used.

– Internal and independent external reviews monitor the statistical authority’s use of resources.

– Revisions follow standard, well-established and transparent procedures.

– Field operations, data entry, and coding are routinely monitored and revised as required.

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– Statistical work programmes are published, and periodic reports describe progress made.

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the public at large may be compelled by law to allow access to or deliver data for European statistical purposes. Administrations, enterprises and households, and Statistical authorities must have a clear legal mandate to collect information for sector operators, ensures the credibility of European statistics.

– The mandate to collect information for the production and dissemination of official statistics

Indicators
– Quality guidelines are documented and staff are well trained. These guidelines are spelled out in writing and made known to the public.

PRINCIPLE 5: STATISTICAL CONFIDENTIALITY

Indicators
– Substantial penalties are prescribed for any wilful breaches of statistical confidentiality.
– Procedures exist to ensure that standard concepts, definitions and classifications are used for the administrative purpose must be a good approximation to those required for statistical purposes.

Statistical processes
– European and other international standards, guidelines and good practices must be followed. The process used by the statistical authority to organise, collect, process and disseminate official statistics. The credibility of the statistics is enhanced by a reputation for quality methodology, appropriate statistical procedures, non-recourse barriers on respondents and cost effectiveness.

PRINCIPLE 7: SOUND METHODOLOGY

Indicators
– Substantial penalties are prescribed for any wilful breaches of statistical confidentiality.
– Revised forecasts follow standard, well-established and transparent procedures.

PRINCIPLE 8: APPROPRIATE STATISTICAL PROCEDURES

Indicators
– Appropriate statistical procedures and tools are used for the administrative purpose must be a good approximation to those required for statistical purposes.
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PRINCIPLE 9: NON-EXCLUSIVE BURDEN ON RESPONDENTS

Indicators
– The reporting burden should be proportionate to the needs of the user and should not be excessive for respondents. The statistical authority monitors the response burden and sets targets for its reduction over time.

Statistical processes
– There is a regular and thorough review of the key statistical outputs using external experts where appropriate.

PRINCIPLE 10: COST EFFECTIVENESS

Indicators
– The information sought from businesses is, as far as possible, readily available from their existing administrative records, accounts and electronic means are used where possible to facilitate its return.
– Substantial penalties are prescribed for any wilful breaches of statistical confidentiality.
– Revised forecasts follow standard, well-established and transparent procedures.

Statistical processes
– European and other international standards, guidelines and good practices must be followed. The process used by the statistical authority to organise, collect, process and disseminate official statistics. The credibility of the statistics is enhanced by a reputation for quality methodology, appropriate statistical procedures, non-recourse barriers on respondents and cost effectiveness.

PRINCIPLE 7: SOUND METHODOLOGY

Indicators
– Revised forecasts follow standard, well-established and transparent procedures.

Statistical processes
– European and other international standards, guidelines and good practices must be followed. The process used by the statistical authority to organise, collect, process and disseminate official statistics. The credibility of the statistics is enhanced by a reputation for quality methodology, appropriate statistical procedures, non-recourse barriers on respondents and cost effectiveness.

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Indicators
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Indicators
– The reporting burden should be proportionate to the needs of the user and should not be excessive for respondents. The statistical authority monitors the response burden and sets targets for its reduction over time.

Statistical processes
– There is a regular and thorough review of the key statistical outputs using external experts where appropriate.
European statistics must be disseminated in a timely and punctual manner.

European statistics must accurately and reliably portray reality.

PRINCIPLE 13: TIMELINESS AND PUNCTUALITY

European statistics must meet the needs of users.

PRINCIPLE 11: RELEVANCE

Indicators
- Preliminary results of acceptable aggregate quality can be disseminated when
- Any divergence from the dissemination time schedule is publicised in advance, explained
- Periodicity of European statistics takes into account user requirements as much as
- A standard daily time is set for the release of European statistics.
- Timeliness meets the highest European and international dissemination standards.

Indicators
- Sampling errors and non-sampling errors are measured and systematically documented
- Source data, intermediate results and statistical outputs are assessed and validated.
- User satisfaction surveys are undertaken periodically.

PRINCIPLE 12: ACCURACY AND RELIABILITY

European statistics should be consistent internally, over time and comparable across regions and countries, and readily accessible by users.

PRINCIPLE 14: COHERENCE AND COMPARABILITY

European statistics should be disseminated in a timely and punctual manner, over time and comparable between regions and countries; it should be possible to combine and make joint use of related data from different sources.

Indicators
- Statistics are internally coherent and consistent (e.g. arithmetic and accounting identities observed).
- Statistics are coherent or reconcilable over a reasonable period of time.
- Statistics are compiled on the basis of common standards with respect to scope, definitions, units and classifications in the different surveys and sources.
- Statistics from the different surveys and sources are compared and reconciled.
- Cross-national comparability of the data is ensured through periodical exchanges between the European statistical system and other statistical systems; methodological studies are carried out in close cooperation between the Member States and Eurostat.

Indicators
- Cross-national comparability of the data is ensured through periodical exchanges between
- Statistics from the different surveys and sources are compared and reconciled.
- Cross-national comparability of the data is ensured through periodical exchanges between the
- Cross-national comparability of the data is ensured through periodical exchanges between the

PRINCIPLE 15: ACCESSIBILITY AND CLARITY

European statistics should be disseminated in a suitable and convenient manner, available and accessible on an impartial basis with supporting metadata and guidance.

Indicators
- Users are kept informed on the methodology of statistical processes and the quality of statistical outputs with respect to the ESS quality criteria.
- Statistics are coherent or reconcilable over a reasonable period of time.
- Statistics are internally coherent and consistent (e.g. arithmetic and accounting identities observed).
- Statistics are compiled on the basis of common standards with respect to scope, definitions, units and classifications in the different surveys and sources.
- Statistics are coherent or reconcilable over a reasonable period of time.
- Statistics are compiled on the basis of common standards with respect to scope, definitions, units and classifications in the different surveys and sources.
- Statistics from the different surveys and sources are compared and reconciled.
- Cross-national comparability of the data is ensured through periodical exchanges between the European statistical system and other statistical systems; methodological studies are carried out in close cooperation between the Member States and Eurostat.

Indicators
- Cross-national comparability of the data is ensured through periodical exchanges between
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DEFINITIONS:
FOR THE PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT:

‘European statistics’ shall mean Community statistics as defined in Council Regulation (EC) No 1224/97 of 17 February 1997 on Community statistics, produced and disseminated by national statistical authorities and the Community’s statistical authority (Eurostat) in conformity with Article 285(2) of the Treaty.

The ‘statistical authority’ shall mean, at national level, the national statistical institute (NSI) and other statistical bodies in charge of producing and disseminating European statistics and, at Community level, Eurostat.

The ‘European statistical system’, hereinafter referred to as the ESS, shall mean the partnership comprising Eurostat, national statistical institutes and other national statistical bodies responsible in each Member State for producing and disseminating European statistics.

The European Statistics Code of Practice is based on 15 principles. Governance authorities and statistical authorities in the European Union commit themselves to adhering to the principles fixed in this code covering the institutional environment, statistical processes and outputs.

A set of indicators of good practice for each of the 15 principles provides a reference for reviewing the implementation of the Code.
European statistics must accurately and reliably portray reality.

PRINCIPLE 13: TIMELINESS AND PUNCTUALITY

- Preliminary results of acceptable aggregate quality can be disseminated when possible.
- Any divergence from the dissemination time schedule is publicised in advance, explained.
- Periodicity of European statistics takes into account user requirements as much as possible.
- A standard daily time is set for the release of European statistics.
- Timeliness meets the highest European and international dissemination standards.

Indicators
- Statistics are released on time, consistent with the dissemination schedule.
- Statistics are timely, where timeliness is defined as the difference between publication date and production date.

PRINCIPLE 14: COHERENCE AND COMPARABILITY

- European statistics should be consistent internally, over time and comparable between regions and countries; it should be possible to combine and make joint use of data from different sources.
- Statistics are internally coherent and consistent (e.g. arithmetic and accounting identities observed).
- Statistics are coherent or reconcilable over a reasonable period of time.
- Statistics are compiled on the basis of common standards with respect to scope, definitions, units and classifications in the different surveys and sources.
- Statistics from the different surveys and sources are compared and reconciled.
- Cross-national comparability of the data is ensured through periodical exchanges between the European statistical system and other statistical systems; methodological studies are carried out to show comparability between the Member States and Eurostat.

Indicators
- Statistics are published and released in a timely manner.
- Statistics are systematically assessed for comparability.
- Cross-national comparability of the data is ensured through periodical exchanges between the European statistical system and other statistical systems; methodological studies are carried out to show comparability between the Member States and Eurostat.

PRINCIPLE 15: ACCESSIBILITY AND CLARITY

- European statistics should be presented in a clear and understandable form, disseminated in a suitable and convenient manner, available and accessible on an impartial basis with supporting metadata and guidance.
- European statistics should be presented in a clear and understandable form, disseminated in a suitable and convenient manner, available and accessible on an impartial basis with supporting metadata and guidance.
- European statistics should be consistent internally, over time and comparable between regions and countries; it should be possible to combine and make joint use of data from different sources.
- European statistics should be consistent internally, over time and comparable between regions and countries; it should be possible to combine and make joint use of data from different sources.

Indicators
- Statistics are accessible and easily understandable for users.
- Statistics are comprehensible and flexible for users.
- Statistics are accessible through electronic means, such as the Internet.
- Statistics are available in a variety of formats, including statistical tables, charts, graphs, and more.

PRINCIPLE 16: COHESION AND COMPATIBILITY

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FOR THE NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY STATISTICAL AUTHORITIES


For more information:
http://europa.eu.int/comm/eurostat/quality

E-mail: ESTAT-QUALITY@cec.eu.int

DEFINITIONS:


The ‘statistical authority’ shall mean, at national level, the national statistical institute (NSI) and other statistical bodies in charge of producing and disseminating European statistics; and, at Community level, Eurostat.

The ‘European statistical system’, hereinafter referred to as the ESS, shall mean the partnership comprising Eurostat, national statistical institutes and other national statistical bodies responsible for each Member State for producing and disseminating European statistics.


FOR THE NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY STATISTICAL AUTHORITIES
European statistics must accurately and reliably portray reality.

European statistics must meet the needs of users.

– Preliminary results of acceptable aggregate quality can be disseminated when possible.
– Any divergence from the dissemination time schedule is publicised in advance, explained according to the framework of the ESS quality components.
– Periodicity of European statistics takes into account user requirements as much as possible.
– A standard daily time is set for the release of European statistics.
– Timeliness meets the highest European and international dissemination standards.

Indicators
– Studies and analyses of revisions are carried out routinely and used internally to inform statistical processes.
– Sampling errors and non-sampling errors are measured and systematically documented according to standardised metadata systems.
– Source data, intermediate results and statistical outputs are assessed and validated.

PRINCIPLE 11: RELEVANCE
European statistics must meet the needs of users.

Indicators
– Users are kept informed on the methodology of statistical processes and the quality of statistical outputs with respect to the ESS quality criteria.
– Access to microdata can be allowed for research purposes. This access is subject to strict protocols.
– Metadata are documented according to standardised metadata systems.
– Cross-national comparability of the data is ensured through periodical exchanges between the European statistical system and other statistical systems; methodological studies are carried out in close cooperation between the Member States and Eurostat.

PRINCIPLE 12: ACCURACY AND RELIABILITY
European statistics must meet the needs of users.

– Users are kept informed on the methodology of statistical processes and the quality of statistical outputs with respect to the ESS quality criteria.
– Access to microdata can be allowed for research purposes. This access is subject to strict protocols.
– Metadata are documented according to standardised metadata systems.
– Cross-national comparability of the data is ensured through periodical exchanges between the European statistical system and other statistical systems; methodological studies are carried out in close cooperation between the Member States and Eurostat.

PRINCIPLE 13: TIMELINESS AND PUNCTUALITY
European statistics must be disseminated in a timely and punctual manner.

Indicators
– Timeliness meets the highest European and international dissemination standards.
– A standard daily time is set for the release of European statistics.
– Periodicity of European statistics takes into account user requirements as much as possible.
– Any divergence from the dissemination time schedule is publicised in advance, explained and a new release date set.
– Immediate supply of acceptable aggregate quality can be disseminated when considered useful.

European statistics should be consistent internally, over time and comparable between regions and countries; it should be possible to combine and make joint use of related data from different sources.

Indicators
– Statistics are internally coherent and consistent (e.g. arithmetic and accounting identities observed).
– Statistics are coherent or reconcilable over a reasonable period of time.
– Statistics are compiled on the basis of common standards with respect to scope, definitions, units and classifications in the different surveys and sources.
– Statistics from the different surveys and sources are compared and reconciled.
– Cross-national comparability of the data is ensured through periodical exchanges between the European statistical systems and other statistical systems; methodological studies are carried out in close cooperation between the Member States and Eurostat.

PRINCIPLE 14: COHERENCE AND COMPARABILITY
European statistics should be presented in a clear and understandable form, disseminated in a suitable and convenient manner, available and accessible on an impartial basis with supporting metadata and guidance.

Indicators
– Statistics are presented in a form that facilitates proper interpretation and meaningful comparisons.
– Dissemination services use modern information and communication technology and, if appropriate, traditional hard copy.
– Custom-designed analyses are provided when feasible and are made public.
– Access to microdata can be allowed for research purposes. This access is subject to strict protocols.
– Metadata are documented according to standardised metadata systems.
– Users are kept informed on the methodology of statistical processes and the quality of statistical outputs with respect to the ESS quality criteria.

PRINCIPLE 15: ACCESSIBILITY AND CLARITY
European statistics should be presented in a clear and understandable form, disseminated in a suitable and convenient manner, available and accessible on an impartial basis with supporting metadata and guidance.

For more information:
E-mail: ESTAT-QUALITY@cec.eu.int
http://europa.eu.int/comm/eurostat/quality

The European Statistics Code of Practice is based on 15 principles. Governance authorities and statistical authorities in the European Union (EU) and national statistical authorities in the 27 countries of the EU are committed to adhering to the principles fixed in this code covering the institutional environment, statistical processes and outputs.

A set of indicators of good practice for each of the 15 principles provides a reference for reviewing the implementation of the Code.