



UN Expert Group on National Quality Assurance Frameworks
Comments on NQAFs (received in response to the questions in the
13 August 2010 EG launch letter/e-mail):
France: Claudine Gasnier, 30 August 2010

We thank you for giving us the opportunity to comment the French experience in working on National Quality Assurance Frameworks.

Referring to the inputs and comments on the website, they look very fine to us.

1-Concerning the quality section on our website insee.fr, please find attached a [document](#) which deals with the implementation of what we consider our national quality framework. You will find in this document some answers to the questions you ask referring to our needs, priorities and problems that we experienced.

2-Concerning the three proposed templates for a generic NQAF presented in the Statistics Canada report :

First of all, we welcome Statistics Canada's very interesting report. We admit there is no national Quality Framework which is internationally accepted. Indeed, there is no standard model for quality management at national level, be it for concepts, policies or processes. But many countries have already developed quality framework at national level some of them more producers-oriented, some others more users-oriented, the submitted NQAF seeming to be a compromise between the two approaches. In this respect, we welcome Statistics Canada report and encourage UNSD's secretariat efforts.

We approve of the list of guidelines in the report while yet noting at the same time that this list is not as complete as the one in The European Statistics Code of Practice : it actually puts more focus on management of core statistical functions rather than on management on human resources and communications.

However, we acknowledge the guidelines as far as they would help assessing the numerous concepts linked to quality and enable communication as well. But we consider that more emphasis should be put on the need for NSI's to provide users with more precise indicators referring to statistics quality.

While acknowledging the importance of a common approach, we would like to draw the UNSD's secretariat attention to the fact that any submitted Quality Assurance Framework should take into consideration the specific situations of each National Statistical Institute. It is therefore difficult to recommend the same framework for all the National Statistical Institutes even if the proposal for the generic template should allow NSI's to map their quality approaches along the various headings.

Our last remark is that various international efforts should be closely coordinated. France is strongly involved in Eurostat's Sponsorship on Quality.

Within the scope of the Sponsorship on Quality, it was agreed that the Code of Practice should be recognised as the common minimum quality framework in ESS.

Thus, France will insist that UNSD's secretariat efforts remain closely coordinated with Eurostat initiatives.

INSEE

La chef de la Mission Animation de la démarche qualité

Claudine Gasnier

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