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Implementing the National Quality Assurance Framework: National Experience

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The importance of Quality of Statistics

Official statistics is:

- the important basis of evaluation, analysis and forecast nationwide socioeconomic situation.
- evidence for policy makers to make decision.

Effectiveness and efficiency of the policy partly depends on the quality of statistics.

- Informatics and digital era requires not only accurate but also timely, comparable, accessible statistics.
- Risk of lagging behind if NSO doesn't change the quality perception.
- "fit for use" is the goal of statistical quality that Vietnam's GSO is pursuing.

Briefly on Statistics Quality Assurance in Vietnam

Statistics quality has been one among goals of National Strategy of Statistics development for years. GSO has been applying ISO in quality management since 2008.

International practices together with internal requirement urged GSO to embark on statistics quality assurance.

A task team on Quality Assurance was created in 2017. Main tasks were:

- Learning international and regional experiences on quality assurance.
- Constructing some legal documents to pave the way to quality management.
- Researching the Quality Assurance Frameworks of the UN, IMF, FAO, EU, ASEAN, nations to find the most appropriate framework suited Vietnam's condition.

Briefly on Statistics Quality Assurance in Vietnam

In 2020, Quality management function was assigned to Department of Statistics Methodology and ICT according to Decision No. 10/2020/QĐ-TTg dated 18 March, 2020 of Prime Minister.

Milestones in GSO's Quality Assurance Activities:

- GSO conducted self-assessment according to the checklist given by UNSD and submitted the result to UNSD.
- GSO's Awareness of quality is highly improved.
- In 2019, Vietnam Quality Assurance Framework was built based on the UN NQAF.
- Some international cooperation in quality assurance domain was undertaken in 2019, 2020 such as: cooperation project between Istat. and GSO.
- In 2020, Law on Statistics was amended toward easy- pursuing to quality assurance goal.
- In 2020, GSO's organizational structure was changed to facilitate more transparent statistical activities (based on GSBPM)

Vietnam's Statistics Quality Assurance Framework

Vietnam's SQAF was launched under the Decision No. 01/2019/QD-TTg dated 05 January, 2019 of the Prime Minister.

VSQAF was based on the 2012 UN NQAF. It evaluates the statistics activities by 4 levels:

- Managing the statistical system;
- Managing the institutional environment;
- Managing statistical processes;
- Managing statistical outputs;

There are 19 principles evaluated to assure the quality of statistics.

Under each principle, there will be requirements that should be in place to assure the quality of statistics. (In total, there are 91 requirements)

Roadmap of VSQAF implementation

Pursuant to Decision No. 01/2019/QD-TTg:

- From 2020, VSQAF-based self-assessment is conducted by GSO, PSOs annually.
- In 2022, VSQAF –based self-assessment will be applied to all agencies in NSS.
- The first quality report on statistical survey will be constructed in 2022.
- In 2022, peer review will be conducted every five years.
- Online system for VSQAF-based self assessment will be built in 2024 and applied to all members of NSS.

Ongoing efforts on quality assurance

- Constructing the Vietnam's Generic Statistics Production Model based on GSBPM ver.5.1
- Drafting the guideline on application of VSQAF-based self-assessment checklist to NSS agencies.
- At initial step of building the inventory of statistical standards corresponding to international standards to apply for the whole statistical system.
- Draft the template of quality report for statistical surveys.
- Undertake international cooperation with organizations and NSOs in quality assurance to share experience and update new technique.

Next steps/Activities

- Complete and apply the Generic Statistics Production Model, in practice.
- Build the Statistics production model for surveys.
- Complete templates of quality report such as: user-oriented quality report, producer-oriented quality report...
- Build the inventory of statistical standards.
- Conduct training courses on quality assurance.
- International Cooperation and Collaboration.

THANK YOU