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Session 4.1: Development of NQAF

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Relationship between Chapter 5 and Chapter 6 - institutional arrangements and specific actions at different phases of NQAF development and implementation

Chapter 5 Development and Implementation of NQAF at individual NSS members

- Phase 1: Establishing the ‘basics’ (5.A) (A reminder, or short introduction for newcomers)
- Phase 2: Development and Adoption (5.B) (For readers that do not have an NQAF already)
- Phase 3: Implementation at the NSO and other producers of official statistics (5.C) (Relevant to all readers)

Chapter 6 Implementation of quality assurance within the NSS (For readers that are concerned with implementing NQAF throughout the NSS)

- Coordination of the NSS (6.A)
- Role of the NSS-wide bodies in NQAF implementation (6.B)
- Implementation of system-wide measures – introducing all NSS members to quality assurance (6.C)

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Development of NQAF

- Process of NQAF development and adoption
  - Institutional arrangements
  - Activities

- Assumes that the NSO is leading the development of NQAF for the entire NSS - although specific arrangements in countries may vary.
Institutional arrangements for the development and adoption of NQAF

- High-level commitment
- Establishment of a quality unit at the NSO responsible for quality assurance
- Establishment of a quality task force (or working group).
- The role of the NSS-wide governance body
- The role of the NSS-wide advisory body
- Establishment of a legal framework for quality assurance
Institutional arrangements for the development and adoption of NQAF

- **High level commitment**
  - From the leadership of the NSO and members of NSS that are producers of Official Statistics.

- **Establishment of a quality unit at the NSO responsible for quality assurance**
  - To lead, coordinate and conduct the required conceptual work.
  - Typically located in the division/department that is responsible for the cross-divisional/cross-departmental statistical work, coordination and/or statistical methodology.
Establishment of a quality task force (or working group)

- The head of the NSO would establish a quality task force which is given the responsibility to develop a NQAF.
- Consists of subject matter experts from NSO and NSS - to ensure the broad involvement of the subject matter expertise.
- NSO as chair and the secretariat of the working group.

Role of the NSS-wide governance body

- Development of the NQAF could benefit from the establishment of the NSS-wide governance body – that can agree on a common NQAF and implementation guidelines.
- E.g. Statistical Councils or Statistics Board.
- More details in Chapter 6.
Institutional arrangements for the development and adoption of NQAF

- Role of the NSS-wide advisory body
  - Typically consists of users from government, private sectors, NGOs, researchers and the general public.
  - To advise on the user needs and concerns on emerging issues of the quality of data and statistics.

- Establishment of a legal framework for quality assurance
  - The requirement and process to include/reflect NQAF in the national statistical laws or legislations should be evaluated early on so that steps can be taken to include quality assurance in the national statistical legislation.
  - This will ensure the Manual’s core recommendation #1 (to guarantee the fundamental values and principles for development, production and dissemination of official statistics by the legal and institutional framework) and core recommendation #2 (to include the requirement of quality assurance in the national statistical legislation).
Activities for the development and adoption of NQAF

The process may include the following:

- Establishment of a timetable for development and implementation.
- Review and analysis of national circumstances and practices.
- Identify Uses and users of NQAF and NQAF implementation plan.
- Compilation, review and analysis of materials available at the international level.
- Decision on the reference framework for NQAF.
- First draft of NQAF and its contents.
- Quality requirements, elements to be assured and indicators.
- Consultation and review process of the draft NQAF.
- Finalization and adoption.
- Communication and dissemination.
Activities for the development and adoption of NQAF

- Establishment of a timetable for development and implementation
  - Quality unit together with quality working group should set up the initial timeline for development and implementation of NQAF – and regularly review and update as needed.
  - Typically the development of NQAF may be undertaken over a minimum of one year – including the review, revision and approval.
Activities for the development and adoption of NQAF

- Review and analysis of national circumstances and practices.
  - Quality unit together with quality working group should review all relevant national documents on:
    - Statistical laws, regulations and guidelines;
    - National statistical strategies or plan that may be of relevance.
  - Also compile the existing quality assurance frameworks that are already used within the country.
Activities for the development and adoption of NQAF

- Identify uses and users of NQAF and NQAF implementation plan.
  - And countries may want to do deeper analysis of their needs – such as SWOT analysis (which stands for Strength, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) of their NSOs and NSSs.
  - Initial plan for implementation of NQAF should be developed so that NQAF is developed with the view of its implementations.
Activities for the development and adoption of NQAF

- Compilation, review and analysis of materials available at the international level.
  - No need to start from scratch.
  - Quality Unit together with Quality working group should review various existing global, regional and thematic quality assurance frameworks:
    - UN NQAF
    - European Code of Practices
    - IMF’s DQAF
    - OECD recommendations on Good Statistical Practices
    - African Charter on Statistics.
    - Other relevant guidelines such as GSBPM
    - Practices of other countries.
Activities for the development and adoption of NQAF

- Decision on the reference framework for NQAF.
  - Quality working group, potentially together with NSS-wide governance body, should decide whether:
    - To adopt or adapt an existing NQAF (or)
    - To develop an own NQAF from the combinations of existing NQAFs (or) by identifying specific quality principles themselves.
  - Considerations should be given to UN NQAF Core Recommendation #4 (the NQAF is being developed in consideration or in alignment with the UN NQAF or similar existing quality assurance framework)
Activities for the development and adoption of NQAF

- First draft of NQAF and its contents.
  - Quality Working Group will develop the first draft.
  - NQAF typically consists of description and definition of quality concepts and quality principles – which may be complemented by initial implementation guidelines.

- Quality requirements, elements to be assured and indicators.
  - Draft NQAF may or will need to be complemented – at a later stage – with requirements and elements to be assured – in order to provide guidelines for implementation.
Activities for the development and adoption of NQAF

- Consultation and review process of the draft NQAF.
  - First – internal review and approval process within the organizations that are part of the Quality Working Group –
  - Then followed by wider consultations with all concerned stakeholders in order to
    - Create awareness
    - Create ownership
    - Ensure that NQAF fits difference circumstances and reflect the quality aspects.
  - Then draft NQAF may now be put out for public consultations
Activities for the development and adoption of NQAF

- Finalization and adoption.
  - Draft NQAF maybe updated based on the inputs received during the consultation processes
  - Then undergo final review at the management level of participating organizations
  - Then submit for the adoption at the NSS-Wide Governance body
  - Then NQAF may also be adopted at the political level or reflected in the national statistical legislation.
Activities for the development and adoption of NQAF

- Communication and dissemination.
  - Should be distributed to all producers of official statistics and announced to all users of statistics.
  - Should be introduced to the staff at the statistical agencies.
THANK YOU