



Certification by an external body

- ❖ Certification is an activity that assesses whether a product, service, process or system (e.g., a quality management system) complies with requirements defined by an internationally recognized standard or other formal criteria.
- ❖ It attaches a kind of “label” because the standard is internationally recognized as a guaranteed level of quality.
- ❖ It is conducted by an external independent certification body which can be located at the national or international level. The result of a successful certification is that the certification body, such as ISO, awards a certificate to the organization. The ISO standards are general and apply to any organization.



Certification by an external body

- ❖ Certification to ISO standards is an advanced method and tool of process quality management. It requires documentation, quality reports, quality indicators, self-assessments and audits. There are significant benefits, but also costs, associated with certification.
- ❖ ISO standards supplement but are not alternatives to frameworks such as the UN NQAF, which are specifically developed for statistical agencies.
- ❖ There are examples of national statistical offices that have been ISO certified: For example, the State Statistical Committee of Azerbaijan, Statistics Lithuania, Statistics Netherlands and the Statistical Office of Slovakia.



Certification by the NSO ?

- ❖ Unrelated but similar to this external certification process is the certification of statistical agencies and statistical outputs by the NSO.
- ❖ NSOs may be called upon to assess and certify the **quality of statistical agencies** and **statistical outputs of other members of the NSS** (possibly to label their statistics as official) or even of **statistics produced outside the NSS** (e.g., for Sustainable Development Goal indicator data and statistics).
- ❖ In such cases, the NSO may develop and deploy a checklist for the assessment of statistical outputs in consultation with the concerned stakeholders. A checklist based on the UN NQAF can be used as a self-assessment tool by all producers of statistics.

^a For example, the Hellenic Statistical Authority has the responsibility to certify as “official” the statistics produced by other agencies of the Hellenic Statistical System.
See www.statistics.gr/documents/20181/1195539/Principles_ELSS_EN.pdf.

Session 8: Group discussion on Certification by the NSO ?

Organization

- Four groups as follows:

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4
Cameroon	Ghana	Botswana	Ethiopia
Ethiopia	Egypt	Ethiopia	Kenya
Liberia	Ethiopia	Malawi	Sudan
Niger	South Africa	Mozambique	Uganda
Nigeria	Zambia	Namibia	Zimbabwe
AUC (support)			EAC (support)

- Each group needs to determine
 - 1 note taker/facilitator
 - 1 presenter
- Time
 - 30 minutes for discussion and preparation
 - 10 minutes for presentation (oral)

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Questions

0. Do you have a similar practice to certification?
1. Do you think your office may consider to certify (i) statistical outputs and (ii) other members of the NSS in the near future (1-3 years)?
2. If yes, what could be the scope and objectives?
3. Where do you see obstacles in your country for the NSO to certify statistical outputs and other members of the NSS?