

*National Statistics Code of Practice**

Preamble

Official statistical activity is a public duty regulated by law that serves general information purposes, provides social orientation, and supports evidence-based decision-making through the dissemination of statistical data.

The aim of the official statistical activity is to present a realistic, impartial view on the conditions and the changes of the society, the economy and the environment by publishing high-quality statistical information serving the public, businesses, the financial markets, public organizations, local governments, NGOs, scientific researchers, media stakeholders, the institutes of the European Union and further international organizations.

The aim of the National Statistics Code of Practice (hereafter: Code) is to foster and standardise the performance of this public duty on a high-quality level in Hungary in all national organizations dealing with the development, production and dissemination of official statistics. The members of the Official Statistical Service (hereafter: statistical organizations) have to perform their official statistical activity according to the national needs, and they must comply with Act No. CLV. of 2016 on official statistics. Furthermore, when involved in the development, production and dissemination of European statistics, they must

* The text of the Code was accepted unanimously at the National Statistical Coordination Board meeting on 7th June 2017.

take into account the operational rules of the European Statistical System (ESS) and the United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics. Organizations assigned to the duty of developing, producing and disseminating European statistics must always comply with the principles laid down in the European Statistical System Code of Practice.

The present members of the Official Statistical Service commit themselves to the guidelines laid down in the Code. The members set the target of full compliance with the principles and indicators laid down in the Code. Their aim is to adapt the scope of official statistics to the users' needs. The development, production and dissemination of official statistics have to be performed at a high-quality level and the statistical products have to be clear and understandable to everyone. In order to reach these goals, the statistical organizations commit themselves to the continuous and coordinated improvement of the quality of official statistics, and to the regular assessment of the level of their compliance according to the requirements of the Act.

Every principle contains different indicators, which define requirements to be implemented by the statistical organizations, thus these indicators fill the general description of the principle with detailed content. The indicators define practical expectations and compliance requirements, which need to be implemented by the statistical organizations, based on their joint commitment. Compliance with the principles of Code is examined at the level of the indicators during the accreditation procedure and, after that, during the periodic audits.

As a standard precondition, the statistical organizations accept that only those organizations can be members of the Official Statistical Service which, as a part of their public duty

1. produce, disseminate official statistical data and develop the methodology of this activity;
2. separate their official statistical activity from other activities of the organization, ensure the professional independence of the official statistical activity and of the staff therein involved, and a suitable regulatory action is created to ensure that;
3. carries out its official statistical activity in a regulated and transparent way; and
4. furthermore, the result of its activity is publicly available.

The members of the Official Statistical Service have their official statistical activity accredited, and their level of compliance towards the principles of the Code will be examined and reviewed every five years. The Act No. CLV. of 2016 on official statistics and the Government decree Nr. 184/2017 (VII. 5.) are the legislative basis of the Official Statistical Service and contain the rules related to the accreditation procedure.

The National Statistical Code of Practice is built up starting from general and strategic fundamental principles, such as professional independence, impartiality and objectivity, user-orientation as well as coordination and cooperation. These four principles define the general perspective of the operation and provide a frame to fulfilling the main function of the Official Statistical Service: how to implement the statistical business process, which results in the statistical products. After this, the Code defines the principles of the statistical business process, for its main horizontal professional activities (eg. quality management, confidentiality), and then the principles serving the quality of the statistical products. The quality of the statistical business process is further influenced by operational conditions, covered by the principles dealing with abilities and capacities of the whole Official Statistical Service, or by the efficiency of their operation.

Beyond the basic criteria laid down in the descriptions of the indicators in this document, there are further good practices, methodologies and procedures. These will be collected in additional guidelines for the Official Statistical Service at a later stage. They will contain appropriate solutions according to the experiences gathered in the Official Statistical Service. The statistical organizations categorize, improve and introduce these good practices according to their capabilities with joint efforts, in order to improve the quality of their work.

¹ Based on Article 5, Paragraph 1 of the Act No. CLV. of 2016 on official statistics, the Hungarian National Bank is the member of the Official Statistical Service without further accreditation. In the framework of a self-assessment exercise, the National Bank examines its compliance with the principles of the Code, and according to the results it creates an action plan related to the necessary improvements.

FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES ON THE OPERATION OF THE OFFICIAL STATISTICAL SERVICE

Basic principles needed to guide long-term goals, development directions, the role and operational framework of the Official Statistical Service, and to ensure proper cooperation.

Principle 1: Professional independence

Principle 2: Impartiality and Objectivity

Principle 3: User orientation

Principle 4: Coordination and cooperation

APPROPRIATE ORGANIZATIONAL RESOURCES AND CAPABILITIES

This principle is necessary to ensure the definite operational framework of the Official Statistical Service and the continuity of its operation by focusing on the development and the continuous availability of resources of appropriate quality and quantity.

Principle 5: Appropriate organizational resources and capabilities

EFFICIENT OPERATION

This principle ensures that the organization manages its resources in an optimal way.

Principle 6: Efficient operation

STATISTICAL BUSINESS PROCESS AND SUPPORTING OVERARCHING PROCESSES

*Principles of the statistical business process
and its supporting overarching activities.*

Principle 7: Quality commitment

Principle 8: Sound methodology

Principle 9: Confidentiality

STATISTICAL OUTPUTS

*The most important principles of the products of
the statistical business process.*

Principle 10: Relevance

Principle 11: Accuracy and Reliability

Principle 12: Timeliness and Punctuality

Principle 13: Coherence and Comparability

Principle 14: Accessibility and Clarity

Fundamental Principles on the Operation of the Official Statistical Service



Basic principles needed to guide long-term goals, development directions, the role and operational framework of the Official Statistical Service, and to ensure proper cooperation.

1

Professional independence



INDICATORS

The professional independence of official statistics is ensured by the guaranteed independence of the statistical activities, the persons involved in the production of official statistics, and the decisions in subject matter issues.

1.1. Official statistics are produced by organizations or organizational units whose official statistical activity is independent from any other policy or regulatory governing organization or unit, as well as from actors in the private sector.

The professionally independent service of official statistics as a public duty appears in the law defining the activities of the organisation, in the constitutive document of the body or in its organisational and operational regulation assigned to one or more specific organisational unit.

1.2. The independence of professional decisions, made by the person responsible for managing official statistical activities is guaranteed by the organization.

The leader in charge of official statistics is solely responsible for selecting methodologies, standards, and procedures. In organisations where official statistical activities are pursued at diverse positions of the structure, one of the highest ranking non-political leaders also exercises supervision and bears responsibility for official statistical tasks as well. This responsibility is prescribed in the organizational and operational regulation.

1.3. The persons in charge of producing official statistics act independently in the development, production and dissemination of official statistics.

The leader in charge of official statistics – with attention to the duties declared in the laws – makes decisions solely from a professional point of view about the content of statistical surveys, the methodological development, the content of a release programme and the timing of statistical products. The decision is influenced neither explicitly nor implicitly by political or other interest groups or events.

2

INDICATORS

Impartiality and Objectivity

The statistical organizations – respecting scientific independence – develop, produce and disseminate official statistics in an objective, professional and transparent manner that ensures equal treatment for all users.

2.1. Simultaneous access to official statistics for all users is guaranteed and is free from discrimination. The cases of pre-release access to official statistics are regulated.

All users have the possibility to access official statistical information at the same time. In justified cases, pre-release access for a very narrow group may possible according to internal regulation. The group of users with pre-release access to official statistical information and the extent of the access must be made public.

2.2. The regulation to data access is public.

It is clear and transparent for the users under what conditions and through what channels they can access official statistics. The timing of upcoming publications is accessible in advance. The fees, procedures and conditions of paid data access are made public. The access to official statistical data can be restricted solely to avoid the disclosure of data of individual units.

2.3. The range of published data, the statistical data production process and the manner of disseminating data is specified by solely statistical professional decisions; the statistical publications contain solely professionally, methodologically reasonable statements.

The compilation of official statistics is based on impartial professional decisions. The decision-making about the content, form and timing of the dissemination of data is only possible according to professional statistical aspects.

2.4. The content and the presentation form of official statistical publications is distinguished from other public duties, declarations and statements on these activities made by the organisation.

The official statistical publications published by the statistical organizations are distinguished in timing and also in physical form from their communication of other contents (eg. issues related to their political or administrative authority function). When the organization disseminates statistics in electronic form on its website, it is presented on a separate surface for statistical publications, and the official statistical aim is emphasized.

3



User needs are at the heart of the focus of the operation of the statistical organizations, and the development, production and dissemination of official statistics. The statistical organizations seek to satisfy the user needs to the maximum, and to do so, the organizations take into account the users' needs when planning their

INDICATORS

3.1. The statistical organizations aim to know the users and their needs, and to attest them.

The statistical organizations make steps in order to know the most important user groups of the statistical information, the features and needs of the separate groups, and they also certify the latter ones.

3.2. The level of user satisfaction with the statistical products and services is systematically and regularly measured, evaluated and the results are communicated and further used.

The statistical organizations regularly measure and follow-up the users' satisfaction with the statistical products and services. In parallel, they do their best to avoid placing excessive burden on users with satisfaction surveys. The organization compiles a summary about the results of its survey, which are disseminated within the organization and made publicly available as well. The summary, apart from the synopsis, also comprises improvement measures with the objective of better meeting user needs.

3.3. User needs are taken into account during the planning of data surveys

The statistical organizations seek to know the unsatisfied and changing user needs, and accordingly, they also seek to incorporate the new demands into the statistical surveys. They also make efforts to simplify, modify or terminate certain data collection according to the needs of users.

3.4. Dialogue with users is supported by various communication channels.

The statistical organizations allow for dialogue with users who reach out to the statistical organizations, and the statistical organizations can provide information related to the most important user issues.

INDICATORS

User
orientation

statistical surveys. The users' satisfaction is regularly measured, the results are evaluated, and the circle of the official statistical information and the related services are developed around them. In order to serve the public interest at the highest possible level, the opportunity of dialogue with the users is ensured.

4

Coordination and cooperation



INDICATORS

There are numerous statistical organizations, each with their own operations, organizational structures and functions. Despite such organizational differences between them, the tasks of official statistics must be ensured by common professional fundaments. To achieve that, high-quality and shared professional knowledge

4.1. The statistical organizations closely cooperate with one another.

The statistical organizations review the available, existing solutions and good practices before they individually launch development actions or make organizational and professional decisions on the methodology of official statistics, the procedure of statistical data production, or the development of the dissemination tools and channels. The organizations share their experiences, actively use consultation opportunities within the Official Statistical Service, demand the offered professional support and seek to evolve harmonised solutions within the Service. If necessary and relevant for the fulfilment of official statistical tasks, the organizations inform each other about their other official statistical and related administrative or regulatory data publications and data transmissions.

4.2. The statistical organizations coordinate and supervise the work of their background institutions involved in developing, producing and disseminating official statistics by observing their adherence to the principles of the Code.

The statistical organizations participate in the processes aiming for professional harmonization. The statistical organizations enforce the common standpoints and measurements using coordination tools in the circle of other organisations that are controlled, supervised by them and which are involved in developing, producing and disseminating official statistics. The statistical organisations share the requirements and information related to the official statistics.

4.3. The statistical organizations share their contemporary statistical knowledge among each other in order to foster professional capacity-building.

The statistical organizations support the wide-range sharing of modern knowledge. To ensure this, as far as the available resources allow, the organizations organize common education and

Coordination and cooperation



and the opportunity of a dialogue need to be ensured for all the members.

The HCSO, in charge of the coordination of the Official Statistical Service, ensures an organized framework to discuss and synchronize the opinions, points of views and needs within the Official Statistical Service in order to utilize the synergies

knowledge-sharing programmes. They regularly inform each other about the events. In order to serve the users' needs on a higher level, and to provide users with higher-quality products and services, the organizations actively take part in knowledge transfer and education programmes, and they share their acquired knowledge with the other members.

4.4. The statistical organizations represent harmonized positions in professional questions on international level.

Based on Article 5, Paragraph 1 of the 223/2009 regulation, and Article 4. and 4.b. of the Act No. CLV. of 2016 on official statistics, it is the HCSO's task in Hungary to coordinate the preparation, implementation and monitoring of professional issues in official statistics, which originate from the EU or international organisational memberships; as well as the provision of access to the results of such iteration procedures. The statistical organizations actively contribute to the evolution of a common standpoint with their opinions and they rely on the international coordinational role of the HCSO. The statistical organizations share the acquired information from the international forums with each other.

4.5. The statistical organizations cooperate during the process of international data transmissions.

The statistical organizations inform the Hungarian Central Statistical Office – as the institution responsible for national coordination – about their data transmissions to the EU and other international organizations in the framework of their official statistical activity. Synchronizing the improvement actions on a national level related to the organization of the data transmissions is the role of the HCSO. The statistical organizations share the experience of international data transfer practice with each other.

Appropriate Organizational Resources and Capabilities



This principle is necessary to ensure the definite operational framework of the Official Statistical Service and the continuity of its operation by focusing on the development and the continuous availability of resources of appropriate quality and quantity.

5

Appropriate Organizational Resources and Capabilities



INDICATORS

An organization that also deals with official statistical activity plans, allocates and ensures appropriate resources both in quality and quantity in order to serve the appropriate quality of the activity as laid down in the Code. The resources are consciously planned and their compliance, effective use and efficiency are measured, evaluated and managed based on facts.

5.1. The required financial resources are provided for the statistical organizations in order to reach the expected level of quality of the official statistical activity.

The members of the Official Statistical Service plan and control their financial resources according to the legal regulations. When allocating the resources of an organization between its different tasks, the members ensure the financial provisions for the official statistical tasks to the related organizational unit, with regard to the abilities and acknowledged needs of the official statistical activity. Furthermore they verify if the expenditures meet the pre-planned organizational budget.

5.2. The statistical organizations provide the appropriate amount of human resources, with suitable knowledge, abilities and skills.

The quantity of human resources allocated to official statistics tasks have to be appropriate to ensure the implementation of the duties, with the appropriate knowledge, professional know-how and skills to supply the official statistical activity.

5.3. The statistical organizations provide the necessary training to their colleagues in order to develop their professional knowledge and skills.

The statistical organizations take charge of the continuous professional vocational training of their colleagues working with official statistics. The organizations provide a personal training plan for their colleagues. In order to implement these training plans, the statistical organizations synchronize and ensure participation in each other's training programs – as far as their opportunities allow it.

5.4. The statistical organizations ensure the appropriate quantity and quality of the infrastructure – in particular the required information and communication technology – resources.

IT, communication and other infrastructure resources are granted in sufficient quality and quantity at the statistical organizations in order to ensure the reliability of the statistical activities. During the planning of the organizational development and investment into technology, the needs of the official statistical activity are also taken into account.

5.5. The statistical organizations register the resources of official statistical activity separately in their records.

The statistical organizations keep financial records from which the amount and use of the resources related to the official statistical activities can be stated.

INDICATORS

Appropriate Organizational Resources and Capabilities



The organizations take the necessary actions according to their statements, they adjust their tasks to the changing needs, and they continuously develop their organizational capabilities as far as their opportunities allow.

Efficient Operation



This principle ensures that the organization manages its resources in an optimal way.

6

Efficient operation



Efficient operation generally means the optimal connection between the outputs and the utilized resources.

The statistical organizations – paying

INDICATORS

6.1. In order to achieve higher efficiency while reducing the burden on respondents, the assessment of available data sources and the regular review of statistical surveys during the planning of statistical surveys are held as core elements of the official statistical activity.

When the statistical organizations plan the National Statistical Survey Programme, they evaluate the availability of potential data sources of the statistical surveys. Based on the result of the evaluation they make decisions about the application of the sources, with regard to the justification and to the non-excessive burden on the data providers. In order to reduce response burden, the organizations seek to minimize the collection of multiple and redundant information and seek to share data with other statistical organizations. They aim to use secondary data sources – in particular administrative data sources which were not designated for the purposes of official statistics – and to provide electronic data capture solutions and other contemporary technology to assist statistical surveys.

6.2. The statistical organizations seek to achieve a balance between the expected quality of outputs, the amount of resources to be used and the extent of the reporting burden.

During the planning of the statistical surveys, the statistical organizations plan the optimal level of the quality expectations, the amount of the required resources and the amount of the burden in advance, and control their balance. During planning, the organizations also examine the expected results and their possible utilization, and in response they evaluate the necessity of further quality improvement actions. At the same time they carefully examine plans for improvement to avoid disproportionate need for additional resources and excessive burden on data providers.

6.3. The statistical organizations harmonize their applied IT tools and systems to the highest possible extent.

The members of the Official Statistical Service follow commonly accepted optimization norms, in order to improve the efficient use of the resources, the applications of statistical methodology and the statistical dissemination activities. The organizations synchronize their IT developments and seek to eliminate parallel actions to avoid similar and overlapping development activities, serving similar purposes independently from each other. However, they limit this synchronization in order not to endanger the primary goals of their own IT infrastructure, the internal structure and the integrity of the organization.

6.4. The statistical organizations document professional and supporting activities in an appropriate manner and follow-up on them by using management tools in order to increase transparency and improve management decision support.

Beyond the mandatory documentation tasks laid down in law, the professional and supporting processes of the official statistical activity are documented in an accessible way to serve transparency, without going beyond the necessary administrative measures. With the help of such tools the processes can be repeated the same way and monitored with modern management tools in order to change or intervene during the process if necessary.

INDICATORS

Efficient operation



*attention to the goals
of the organization and
considering the optimal
use of resources – seek to
produce statistics of the
highest possible quality.*

Statistical Business Process and Supporting Overarching Processes



Principles of the statistical business process and its supporting overarching activities.

7

Commitment to quality



The fundamental indicator of the proper functioning of the statistical organizations is the high quality of the official statistical information they produce. To achieve that, the statistical organizations are committed to regular and systematic planning, evaluation and development of the quality

INDICATORS

7.1. The quality management of official statistical information is defined in a publicly accessible framework.

The statistical organizations have a framework which supports the quality management of the official statistical information. The framework is publicly available.

7.2. The implementation of quality management of official statistical information is supported by appropriate organizational, operational solutions.

The operational order and the internal regulation of the statistical organizations explicitly determine the tasks, the authority and the responsibility order related to quality management of official statistical information. All of these activities can be identified within the organizational and operational order, determining where and by what procedures the quality management tasks of official statistics are carried out.

7.3. The expectations of the quality of the statistical business processes are regularly planned, compliance is monitored, assessed, and the process quality is improved.

The statistical organizations regularly plan their expectations of the quality of the process, measure and evaluate compliance, and develop the quality of the statistical business processes. The organizations plan the expectations, monitor the statistical business processes and measure the quality process, in order to be able to compare the results with the expectations. If the organizations detect an error during the statistical business processes, they intervene in the process – insofar as possible –, in order to prevent the infiltration of the error into the products, influencing the quality of the product. If the result of the compliance assessment of the statistical business processes shows that there is a need to develop and redesign the processes in order to reach a higher level of process quality – and also product quality –, the organizations define improvement actions and they control their implementation.

7.4. The expectations for the quality of the statistical products are regularly planned, the compliance is monitored, evaluated, and the quality of the products is improved.

The statistical organizations regularly plan their expectations for the quality of the products, measure and evaluate the compliance, and develop the quality of the product. They plan the expectations for product quality, then during the implementation, they measure the achieved quality of the product, in order to evaluate whether the results meet the expectations. If the result shows that there is a need to develop product quality, the organizations define improvement actions and control their implementation.

7.5. Information regarding the quality of statistical products is disseminated to users in an appropriate manner.

The users receive information about the quality of the product, helping their orientation and decisions.

INDICATORS

Commitment to quality



*of their statistical products
(quality management).*

*The implementation
– with regard to
the abilities of the
organization –
is supported by a
quality framework
and organizational,
operational procedures
and norms.*

8



In line with the commitment to quality, official statistics are built on sound methodologies. The statistical organizations commit themselves to develop and apply the best methodologies in

INDICATORS

8.1. The methodologies developed and applied in the statistical business process are harmonised with the national and international obligations and recommendations.

The statistical organizations – beyond mandatory professional regulations – determine their methodologies based on scientifically verified and widely accepted national and international professional recommendations, and apply those in their statistical business processes.

8.2. The methodologies applied during the production of official statistical information are documented in a structured way, the documentation is regularly updated and made available to users.

The statistical organizations document the methodologies applied in their statistical data production, update the documentation, and make it available to the users.

8.3. The statistical concepts used in statistical surveys comply with the national and international recommendations and standards, they are documented and made publicly available.

The concepts, applied during the planning of the statistical surveys by the statistical organizations and in the released products are defined, and the related information is made available to the users.

8.4. The statistical classifications used in statistical surveys are defined, they comply with the national and international recommendations and standards, and are made publicly available.

The statistical classifications applied during the planning of the statistical surveys by the statistical organizations and in the released products are defined, and the related information is made available to the users.

8.5. The planning of statistical surveys and the statistical business process are supported by survey frames, describing the target population.

The statistical surveys, applied by the statistical organizations are – insofar as possible – based on survey frames. The quality of the survey frames and the information about the multitude by the survey are documented. The selection of the frame takes place in accordance with the aim of the statistical survey, also regarding the factors of quality, efficiency and sample coordination.

8.6. Data revisions are documented and the documentation is made publicly available.

The statistical organizations carry out planned and unplanned data revisions, as part of the statistical business process. Information on the timing of the planned revisions, and particularly on the methodology of the planned and unplanned revisions, is documented, and the information is made available to the users.

INDICATORS

*Sound
methodology*

*the statistical business
process, in order to
produce official statistical
information of the highest
quality.*

9

Confidentiality



INDICATORS

The statistical organizations guarantee the protection of the data managed for statistical purposes on individual units, according to the legal provisions. In order to achieve this, the organization – under its entire operation – develops and applies suitable legal, methodological and IT security rules, which serve confidentiality.

9.1. The protection of the data managed for statistical purposes on individual units is guaranteed by appropriate operational rules.

The statistical organizations have regulatory tools which control the operation from the point of view of data protection and IT security, regulating the responsibilities and operational framework of data protection activities. Within the statistical organization, the only persons who can have access to data on individual units managed for statistical purposes participate in a process that requires access to individual data, and who have established responsibilities for the specific process step. They are trained on disclosure issues and have signed a written agreement on statistical confidentiality protection rules.

9.2. The confidentiality of published data is ensured by statistical disclosure control.

The statistical organizations examine the publicly available official statistical information from the point of view of confidentiality rules, and if necessary, protect the information with sound methodologies of statistical disclosure control in an appropriate manner.

9.3. Protection of the data maintained for statistical purposes is guaranteed by safe IT work processes and continuously maintained and updated IT tools and rules, keeping up with technological developments.

The statistical organizations possess an IT security policy, IT security regulation, an efficient IT defense system, and personnel in charge of IT security. The statistical organizations manage the official statistical information separately from other systems of the organization. Any access to the data stored for statistical purposes is allowed to happen only after the statistical purpose is justified. The organizations continuously control the security level of their IT system, according to the appropriate laws and their internal procedures.

9.4. Protection of the data maintained for statistical purposes is secured by appropriate physical safety tools and measures.

Access to the data processed for statistical purposes at the statistical organizations is secured by physical and technical safety tools.

Statistical Outputs



The most important principles of the products of the statistical business process.

10

Relevance



INDICATORS

The statistical organizations collect and disseminate relevant information, which describes or measures phenomena that are able to characterize a basic social, economic, and environmental micro- or macro-level process.

10.1. The statistical organizations collect and publish data which are considered important by the users in order to understand and follow-up social, economic and environmental processes.

The statistical organizations examine if there are phenomena that are important to the users, but there is no available information on them. They also examine if the published statistics are still relevant.

10.2. Results of all statistical surveys are available to the public or are utilized in other ways.

The results produced by official statistics are made publicly available in a defined form. They are presented itemized to the lowest possible level that does not interfere in their understandability, and the itemization has to be consistent with the confidentiality rules and user needs.

11

Accuracy and Reliability

INDICATORS

*The official statistics
collected and disseminated
by the statistical
organizations describe the
reality with the highest
accuracy, while informing
users about their
limitations.*

11.1. The statistical organizations define the accuracy criteria of the statistical products.

The statistical organizations determine – in a documented way – the criteria regarding the levels of accuracy and reliability they aim to reach. The criteria are made publicly available.

11.2. The statistical organizations inform the users about the accuracy of results.

The statistical organizations make the relevant indicators of the accuracy of statistical products publicly available.

12

Timeliness and Punctuality

*Official statistics are
published as fast as
possible and at the pre-
announced time.*

INDICATORS

12.1. Dissemination timing of the data is as close to the reference time or period as possible.

The statistical organizations plan the statistical business process in a way that the elapsed time between the reference time, the time of statistical survey and the date of dissemination are as close as possible, with considerations to the actual methodological and quality expectations.

12.2. The official statistical data are published according to the indicated timing of a release program, which is up-to-date, publicly available and disseminated in advance.

The statistical organizations have a release program or calendar from which the users can be informed about the timing of the planned publications of the official statistical information.

13

Coherence and Comparability

INDICATORS



13.1. The internal and external consistency of statistical datasets is ensured.

The preliminary and final, short-term and annual, local and national data are consistent with each other. Such consistency is also implemented within the indicators of the relevant statistics and between the related statistical topics as well.

13.2. The possibility of the territorial comparison below the national level of official statistical information is ensured.

If the privacy policy, the speciality of the statistical survey and the quality of the produced data make it feasible, territorial data are available according to user needs.

13.3. Methodologies used in the statistical business process and the dissemination manner of the data are comparable with the dissemination practices of international organizations.

The national statistical methodologies, classifications, and grouping methods comply with the practices of international organizations. The national data are suitable for international comparison, granted that comparison is meaningful.

13.4. Consistency of the data between different time periods is ensured.

The statistical organizations seek to make comparable time series available to users which go back in the time as far as possible.

13.5. Users' attention is drawn to factors that limit comparability.

The statistical organizations point out the limiting factors of chronological, territorial and international comparability to the users clearly.

Official statistics are consistent with themselves and through time, and are comparable between territorial units, including international comparability. There is a possibility of connecting and using appropriate data obtained from different sources jointly.

14

Accessibility and Clarity

INDICATORS

*Official statistics
are published in a
comprehensible way,
in forms and channels
that ensure maximum
utilization by as many
users as possible.*

14.1. The statistical organizations publicly document dissemination regulations.

There is a publicly available documentation of practical rules for the publication of official statistical information at the statistical organizations, particularly addressing their timing, possible design, the place and form of their appearance.

14.2. Information from statistical surveys is released in aggregated form and also as microdata via channels designed to meet user needs.

The statistical organizations set up adequate channels for data access. They bear in mind that different user groups have different needs. They regulate access to the channels in a public and transparent way. In addition to aggregated data releases, statistical organizations seek to provide users with microdata access for scientific purposes, subject to appropriate data protection guarantees.

14.3. Beyond releasing statistical products, descriptive metadata are also public and explained to users, which help them interpret statistics.

When publishing statistical products, statistical organizations also produce and publish descriptive metadata to help in the interpretation of statistical information. Metadata are structured and regularly updated.

**14.4. The primary form of access to statistical products is by electronic release.**

Statistical organizations have a surface dedicated to electronic publishing of official statistical information on their website and publish official statistical products in a transparent structure. The content is updated as the availability of data is updated, and the website also provides the highest possible level of access opportunities for disabled users. Archived and non-archived contents are clearly separated. The organizations seek to use modern information and communication technologies to publish statistical products.

14.5. The most important official statistical information is also available in English.

Up-to-date information on the operation, subject-matter statistics, data access and dissemination practices of statistical organizations, as well as the latest, most relevant official statistical releases are available in a foreign language, primarily English.

The better clarity of the official statistical data is supported by metadata and analysis.



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