

Item 3b and item 3c: Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics - Open data

Switzerland takes note of the various documents and reports relating to this topic. The work done in this context and the reflections concerning this make sense and support the implementation of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics in a pertinent way. The suggestion of carrying out an evaluation similar to the previous exercise is also a logical continuation. However, Switzerland would like to point out that for the member countries of the European statistical system, a Peer Review planned for 2021/22 is another initiative moving in a similar direction. For this reason, Switzerland suggests that the countries already taking part in the Peer Review for 2021/22 should not have to participate in the exercise proposed by the United Nations. But it should be made possible for the United Nations to use the results of the Peer Review for its own analysis.

In regard to open data, Switzerland has examined with great interest the documentation provided. The Swiss Federal Statistical Office (FSO) has recently been mandated by the Swiss Government with the implementation of the new Federal Open Government Data Strategy 2019-2022 in collaboration with the Ministry of Home Affairs and the national Open Government Data initiative. For this reason we particularly welcome the initiative of the FOC-FPOS to provide valuable support for the implementation through a sub-group. In particular, we are thinking of the electronic space “Welcome to the Data Interoperability: A Practitioner's Guide to Joining Up Data in the Development Sector”. Concerning the future “survey on the self-assessment by countries of the implementation of the FPOS and open data” Switzerland would like to suggest that an alignment with the methodology used by the OECD’s “OURdata Index” (see <http://www.oecd.org/gov/digital-government/open-government-data.htm>) may be considered to enable cross-domain comparisons and thus offer more insights.