The Manual and the plans going forward - introduction to the work of the Expert Group

Matthias Reister
United Nations Statistics Division

The Manual (adopted in 2019)

- Contains
  - UN recommendations on quality assurance,
  - the UN National quality assurance framework
  - guidance for development and implementation of a national quality assurance framework
  - Addresses new sources, new data providers and SDG indicators
**Expert Group on National Quality Assurance Frameworks (EG-NQAF)**

- The Manual was developed by the Expert Group
  - re-established by the Statistical Commission at its 48th session in March 2017.
  - includes 22 countries and 9 international and regional organizations
  - Co-Chairs: United Kingdom and Philippines
Expert Group on National Quality Assurance Frameworks (EG-NQAF)

The objective of the Expert Group is to support countries in the development and implementation of their national quality assurance frameworks – by providing additional materials and – by conducting activities that promote quality assurance and support implementation.

A new engagement plan has been developed:

- Will include country experience showcase sessions, webinars, and working groups on specific topics to supports and promote knowledge sharing and cross-fertilization of best practices.

- Priority topics: use of new sources of data, measurement of Covid-19 and its impact, and data stewardship.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Part</th>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>Chapter 1</td>
<td>Contents of the Manual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recommendations</td>
<td>Chapter 2</td>
<td>Recommendations on quality assurance for official statistics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UN-NQAF</td>
<td>Chapter 3</td>
<td>UN-NQAF: principles and requirements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implementation</td>
<td>Chapter 4</td>
<td>Assessment tools and risk management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chapter 5</td>
<td>Development and implementation of a NQAF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chapter 6</td>
<td>Implementation of quality assurance within the national statistical system</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chapter 7</td>
<td>Quality assurance for statistics compiled from different data sources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chapter 8</td>
<td>Quality assurance for data and statistics on SDG indicators</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>References</td>
<td>Chapter 9</td>
<td>Quality assurance in the global statistical system</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UN-NQAF annex</td>
<td>Annex</td>
<td>Detailed list elements to be assured</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

First UN recommendations on quality assurance

Five core recommendations

#1 Integrate Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics in the legal and institutional frameworks

#2 Include the requirement for quality assurance in the statistical legislation

#3 Establish national quality assurance framework (NQAF); all national statistical system (NSS) members to commit to quality assurance

#4 Base or align your NQAF with international or regional quality frameworks

#5 Implement NQAF at the NSO, throughout the NSS and apply to data and statistics produced outside the NSS as appropriate
UN NQAF arranges its quality principles and associated requirements into **four levels**, ranging from the over-arching institutional and cross-institutional level through the statistical production processes to the outputs:

- **Level A**: Managing the statistical system
- **Level B**: Managing the institutional environment
- **Level C**: Managing statistical processes
- **Level D**: Managing statistical outputs
Self-assessment checklist

- For conducting regular and rigorous quality assessments with the objective to identify improvement actions.
- Also be used to provide an initial assessment for learning purposes or to introduce staff to quality assurance.
- Can be used to draft quality assurance framework.

19 Principles
87 Requirements
356 Elements to be assured (good practices)
Thank you

For further information:
https://unstats.un.org/unsd/methodology/dataquality/