

Item 3I: Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics

Switzerland supports this proposal and its various initiatives. For countries who are already members of the European Statistical System, as is Switzerland's case, the CoP, the QAF and the Peer Review exercises are the main tools which the INS turn to for approaching and assessing the idea of quality, quality assurance and quality management. Nevertheless, in our opinion, the complementary vision afforded by the fundamental principles and the implementation guide, particularly by means of the indicators defined there, are important elements that we shall include in our deliberations.

With regard to the Peer Review proposal, we wonder to what extent the results from Eurostat's Peer Review for European Statistical System members and a UN Peer Review could be integrated, in order to avoid duplication. This could mean, for example, that the result of the peer review for a member country could be communicated (and possibly monitored) at the same time by Eurostat and the UN.

The "certification" proposal is interesting as it could motivate an INS to actively use the implementation guide but we are not convinced that it would be a sufficient motivation. To encourage the INS to become certified, the certification should bring certain advantages, such as being able to undergo a "light" peer review, or not having to undergo peer review at all (the INS is already assessed as part of the certification).