

On Implementation of Principles Governing Activity of the State Statistics Offices

O. Osaulenko, Chair of the SSCU

During many years, international statistical organizations and statistical services of different countries tried to develop standards regarding the organization of activity the adherence to which would permit to ensure the high quality of statistical information.

In the 80-90s of the last century, the world and the European countries actively disseminated the ideology of the total quality management (TQM). The different modes and management systems were in wide spread, particularly Model for Perfection of the European Fund of Quality Management (Model EFQM), standards for system for quality management ISO 9000, etc. These tools have one aim to ensure the output of high quality products, thus in some issues they crossed and supplemented each other.

International statistical community has already become involved into these processes. The statistical institutions wanted to create such standards which would take into account the specifics of statistical production and ensure the compliance with basic principles of guarantee.

The first of such standards was the [Declaration on Professional Ethics](#) developed by International Statistical Institute in 1985.

In 1994, the UN Statistical Commission developed and approved the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics ([UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics](#)) that declared the general approaches that the statistical services should stick to in order to ensure the confidence of the state and the society to statistical information. Though, none of the ten principles directly provided the qualitative characteristics of statistical data, the performance of these principles create the conditions for the production of such information.

In 1999-2001, according to initiative from the EC Committee on Statistical Program, the [ESS Quality Declaration](#) was developed and approved. This Declaration includes the brief description of the European Statistical System (ESS), identifies its mission and objectives, and sets the ten principles of the European statistical cooperation which are based on the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics.

In 2005, following up the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, the UN Committee on Coordination of Statistical Activity adopted the [UN Principles Governing International Statistical Activities](#) aimed at upgrading the effectiveness of the functioning of international statistical system. The mentioned document includes a list of principles for activity of international organizations which develop and disseminate statistical information.

All these developments created the pre-conditions for the next step within the framework of the ESS: the development of the uniform documents that would cover the different aspects of statistical offices activity and include a set of indicators reflecting the recommended norms for statistical practice and provide for the frameworks to assess the compliance to them.

In 2005, on the basis of the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, the ESS Quality Declaration, the Governing Principles of international statistical activity, with the purpose of integration of institutional systems (to which belongs the Model of Perfection of the European Fund of Quality Management) and systems of quality assurance (ISO 9000), the EC Committee on statistical programs developed and approved the [European Statistics Code of Practice](#) (CoP). This CoP established the principles of the ESS activity regarding the institutional environment, statistical processes and products of the European statistical services. The three components of the CoP are based on 15 principles, each of which is characterized by 3-7 relevant indicators. Thus, the CoP is the interrelated system of indicators grouped in separate blocks which establish the rate of results of statistical activity and permit to assess the compliance of these results to the main objectives and functions faced by the statistical services. In other words, the CoP is so-called standard of quality adapted to the specifics of the state statistical activity.

The CoP is aimed at reaching the two purposes mentioned in its preamble: on one hand, the promotion of confidence to the statistical services by the way of implementation of institutional measures, on the other hand, the improvements to statistical data quality due to the implementation of the best statistical practice and methods.

In May of 2005, the European Commission considered and approved the recommendations on implementation of the principles of the CoP for statistical services of the European countries and the conduct of the monitoring of the adherence.

To examine the situation regarding the implementation of the CoP in the statistical services of the EU countries and its accomplishment, the Questionnaire for self-assessment was developed ([Questionnaire CoP](#)) which is a system of indicators permitting to monitor the performance of the CoP. This Questionnaire gives the possibility to obtain the response on to what extent the practical activity of the national statistical service comply with the CoP principles. It also enables to make comparisons between the countries and the main thing: it identifies the directions for further development and improvements to selected statistical services and the ESS.

Also, with the purpose of ensuring the conduct of independent assessment for implementation in practical activity of the CoP principles, the Regulation 235/2008/EU of the European Parliament and Council of March 11, 2008, envisaged the creation of the European Advisory Council on issues pertaining to statistical management. The main objective of the Council was to launch the observations over the implementation of the CoP principles in the ESS, the assessment of this work and preparation of the relevant report to the European Parliament and Council.

On March 11, 2009, adopted the Agenda (EU) 223/2009 on the European statistics which set out that in order to upgrade the confidence in the European statistics the national statistical services should have the professional independence and insure the impartiality and high quality of official statistics according to principles set out in the CoP. The Agenda also mentioned that the CoP in necessary must be revised and updated by the Committee on the European Statistical System (ESS Committee). This ESS Committee should ensure the management of the ESS for the development, production and dissemination of the European statistics in compliance with such statistical principles: professional independence, impartiality, reliability, statistical confidentiality, cost-effectiveness. All these principles are mentioned in details in the CoP.

In 2008, with the purpose of adoption of the normative legal base in the area of statistics according to the EU requirements and the performance of the Strategy to Develop the State Statistics till 2012, approved by regulation 1413-p from the Cabinet of Minister of Ukraine of 05.11.2008, the SSCU launched the work on preparation and implementation of the national principles for the state statistics offices.

To implement this task, in accordance with Decree 263 of 01.08.2008 On self-assessment of the SSCU activity according to the CoP, the Committee set up the work group on preparation and conduct of self-assessment. The measures were developed and time-table was compiled to conduct it.

First of all, on the basis of the CoP Questionnaire the work group developed the national questionnaire to conduct self-assessment for the SSCU activity according to the CoP. The indicators of which were used to conduct the self-assessment.

The conduct of self-assessment allowed the SSCU to obtain information on the compliance level of the national statistical system to the European requirements. It helped obtain certain experience in the conduct of monitoring for the further development of the state statistics due to identification of areas that require improvements.

It should be noted that the successful work on the preparation of this document was due to the developments on implementation of system for quality management. Thus, according to regulation 614 of the Cabinet of Minister of Ukraine of 11.05.2006, On Approval of the Program to Implement the System for Quality Management in Executive Authorities (with amendments), the SSCU during 2007-2008 launched a number of organizational measures during which the main documentation on system for quality management was developed and approved, namely: policy and

objectives in the area of quality, regulation on quality, list of key processes of activities, the responsible persons were identified, as well as list of services provided by the Committee and list of users.

During 2009, the work on implementation of the system for quality management was under way at the level of regional statistics offices. According to its results, SSCU's Decree 500 of 30.12.2009 approved the typical documentation for the system of quality management for regional statistics offices.

On the basis of these materials about the mentioned operations performed by the state statistics offices at the national and regional levels, the SSCU started the compilation of the integrated list of services and users of these services and also the formation of the general list of processes for the state statistics offices which are based on the General model of statistical business process (GSBPM) presented by the UNECE Secretariat during the Work session of UNECE/Eurostat/OECD on statistical metadata (METIS) in Luxemburg in April 2008 and approved by METIS Coordination Group.

During 2009-2010, on the basis of results of work on implementing the system of quality management in the state statistics offices and self-assessment, the SSCU prepared the national principles for activities of the state statistics offices harmonized with CoP ([Principles Governing the Activity of the State Statistics Bodies of Ukraine](#)).

At the final stage of preparation of Activity Principles, this work involved the experts from the National Institute of Statistics Denmark. In February-April 2010, within the framework of Twinning Light Project On Harmonization of Official statistics of Ukraine with the EU Statistical Standards, the project for the Activity Principles was discussed in details with the mentioned experts and in May of this year, the final version of this project obtained their positive estimate and was recommended for the approval.

At the beginning of June the project for Activity Principles for the state statistics offices was considered at the meeting of Board of the Committee and approved by Decree 216 of the SSCU of 14.06.2010. It should be noted that Ukraine was the first country among the CIS countries that started the work on development, implementation and putting into practice the harmonized with the CoP of the national principles of activities of the state statistics offices.

The Activity Principles were implemented with the purpose of providing foundation to the further intensification of the SSCU ability, the implementation of the best practice of the European statistics into the national statistical practice and on this basis, upgrading the high quality of statistical information and positioning of the state statistics offices with ESS.

The Activity Principles comprise of three sections:

1. Institutional structure (principles of general management of the state statistics offices). The principles of this section deal with the aspects of the state statistical activity connected with professional independence of the state statistics offices, their competence regarding data collection, resources, quality and confidentiality of statistical information, impartiality of the state statistical activity and also estimate of its effectiveness and efforts aimed at developing and continuous improvement according to the world best statistical practice.

2. Statistical processes (principles behind the implementation of statistical processes). The principles of this section cover the aspects of the state statistics offices activities which related to the implementation of the European and other international standards and recommendations as well as the best practices in particular modern scientific methodology and the relevant statistical procedures; establishment of partner relations with all entities that participate in state statistical activity including burden per respondents, expansion of interchange of information resources with bodies that collect and use administrative data, coordination of actions of co-producers of statistical information, establishment of cooperation with international organizations and statistical services of other countries, etc. This section include also harmonized with the CoP the activity principle that declare cost-effectiveness.

3. Statistical products (principles behind the production of statistical products). This section includes the principles that identify the criteria for quality of statistical information according to the

ES quality components, namely: relevancy, accurateness/reliability, timeliness and punctuality, accessibility and understanding/clarity. consistency/coordination and comparability.

The Activity Principles are based on the principles of the Code and include the system of PARIS 21 indicators that are used for the global assessment of statistical systems, indicators for implementation of the 2012 Strategy, other monitoring of activity, that can be used to assess the compliance with the ESS standards and for inner revision of the state statistical activity organization.

It should be stressed that the Activity Principles are fully consistent with the Code and at the same time in contrast to this, they include 18 principles. The Activity principles include all 15 principles of the Code. 12 principles are supplemented with a number of indicators characterizing cooperation not only with respondents but with all other entities that participate in implementation of the state statistical activity. This was reflected in the name of the principle which corresponds to the priority of the 2012 Strategy Partner Relations in Implementing the State Statistical Activity (in the Code it is principle 9 Moderate Burden per Respondents). Also, a range of indicators was widened in principle 13 Cost-effectiveness. Also the Activity Principles include the three principles in addition: Management of activity and professional ethics (4 indicators), Effectiveness of activity (3 indicators), and Continuous improvement (3 indicators). The mentioned additions are necessary to implement into the state statistical activity of approaches identified by TQM, EFQM, ISO 9000 and GSBPM to create the relevant environment and clear mechanism for continuous improvement and to ensure on this basis the development of the state statistics offices.

In future, the Activity Principles will serve as the basis to form the Procedure to carry out self-assessment by the state statistics offices, the development of which is envisaged by the 2012 Strategy. This document will identify the rules, procedures and tools for self-assessment and also establish the means and methods to analyze its results to determine the compliance of the state statistical activity in Ukraine to the CoP. Also, the self-assessment should become a tool to determine the directions of activity of the state statistics offices that require further development and improvement. The self-assessment will be based on the results of PER REVEV 2008 in statistical services of the European countries and also the national experience obtained during the functional survey of the SSCU and regional statistics offices, the development of system for quality management in the state statistics offices, the conduct of self-assessment in 2008 as to the compliance of the SSCU activity to the CoP principles, etc.

THE PRINCIPLES GOVERNING THE ACTIVITY OF THE STATE STATISTICS BODIES OF UKRAINE

The principles governing the activity of the state statistics bodies of Ukraine is a summary of statistics- related standards adherence to which ensures official statistical information are compile and disseminated on the basis of professional independence, impartiality, objectivity, reliability, economic and statistical confidentiality.

The principles governing the activity of the state statistics bodies are harmonized with the Code of Practice of European Statistics approved by the Statistical program Committee on February 24, 2005, and based on the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics adopted by the UN Statistical Commission in 1994, and compliant with the principles of the Professional Ethics Declaration adopted by the International Statistical Institute in 1985 (revised in 2009).

I. INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE

(Principles of the overall management of the state statistical authorities)

Principle 1: Professional independence – *The professional independence of statistical authorities is guaranteed by provisions of Article 5 of Ukraine’s Law “On State Statistics”, which implies the prohibition of interference of any authorities and individuals in the state statistical activities and ensures the credibility of the statistical information.*

Indicators:

- 1.1. The independence of the statistical authority from political and other external interference in the state statistical activities, in particular, concerning the content of the statistical information, choosing its sources, the statistical methodology, questionnaires and timeliness for collecting and disseminating the statistical survey data, etc., is specified in law.
- 1.2. The head of the authorised central government body in the area of statistics has high professional qualification and position of an authorised body as says the Ukrainian legislation Code of Practice of European Statistics.
- 1.3. The head of the authorised central government body in the area of statistics and, where appropriate, within specified competences, heads of state statistical regional and functional bodies have responsibility for ensuring that Ukrainian statistics are produced and disseminated in an independent manner.
- 1.4. The head of the authorised central government body in the area of statistics and, where appropriate, within the specified competences, heads of state statistical regional and functional bodies have the sole responsibility for deciding on statistical methods, standards and technologies of producing the statistical information, and on the content and timing of statistical releases based the recommendations of advisory bodies of the authorised central government body in the area of statistics.
- 1.5. The Long-Term State Statistics Development Programme and the annual Plan of Statistical Observations are approved by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine and disseminated. Periodic reports describing progress made are also disseminated on a regular basis.
- 1.6. Statistical releases are clearly distinguished as products of statistical authorities, and issued separately from statements of the government bodies, etc.
- 1.7. Statistical authorities, where appropriate, comment publicly on the statistical information, including criticisms, misinterpretation, and misuses of official statistics.

Principle 2: Mandate for Data Collection – *Statistical authorities have a clear legal mandate to collect information for producing statistics. Respondents have clear legally determined responsibilities to deliver the information to the statistical authorities in order to produce the statistical data or allow access to them at the request of statistical authorities.*

Indicators:

- 2.1. The mandate of the statistical authorities to collect, process, analyze, disseminate, store, protect, and use the statistical information is specified in law.
- 2.2. The legislation allows the statistical authorities to obtain and use administrative data for statistical purposes.
- 2.3. On the basis of a legal act, statistical authorities may compel the participation of respondents in the state statistical observations.

Principle 3: Adequacy of Resources – *The resources available to statistical authorities, must be sufficient to meet requirements of the state statistics.*

Indicators:

- 3.1. Staff, financial, and computing resources, adequate both in magnitude and in quality, are available to meet current statistics needs.
- 3.2. The scope, detail and cost of producing statistics are commensurate with needs.
- 3.3. Procedures exist to assess demands for new statistics taking into account the costs of its production.
- 3.4. Procedures exist to assess the continuing need for the statistical information in general, which allows for discontinuing or curtailing production of certain statistics in order to free up resources, where appropriate.

Principle 4: Quality Commitment – *statistical authorities assume the responsibility to act in compliance with the principles fixed in the Quality Declaration of the European Statistical System (ESS, hereinafter).*

Indicators:

- 4.1. Product quality is regularly monitored according to the ESS quality components, reports and reviews are developed and published.
- 4.2. Processes are in place to monitor the quality of the collection, processing and dissemination of statistics.
- 4.3. Processes are in place to use quality indicators, including tradeoffs within quality, and to guide planning for existing and emerging surveys.
- 4.4. Statistics quality methodological guidelines are documented, published and made available for wide public. Staff is well trained in this issue.
- 4.5. There is a regular and thorough review of the key statistical outputs, using external experts where appropriate.

Principle 5: Statistical Confidentiality – *statistical authority guarantee the confidentiality of the information respondents provide and statistics allowing identification of the information of individual respondents, and use of administrative data only for statistical purposes.*

Indicators:

- 5.1. Statistical data confidentiality is guaranteed in law.

- 5.2. Statistical authority staff signs legal statistical confidentiality commitments on appointment.
- 5.3. Substantial penalties are prescribed for any breaches of statistical confidentiality procedures.
- 5.4. Methodological instructions and guidelines on the protection of statistical confidentiality in the collection, processing, analysis, dissemination, storage, protection, and use processes are developed published and made available for wide public.
- 5.5. Organisational and technical provisions are in place to protect the security and integrity of the statistical information.
- 5.6. Strict protocols apply to external users accessing statistical microdata for research purposes.

Principle 6: Impartiality and Objectivity – *Statistical authorities produce and disseminate the statistical information based on scientifically grounded methodology, in an objective, professional and transparent manner, in which all users are treated equitably.*

Indicators:

- 6.1. Choices of sources and statistical techniques are determined by scientifically grounded statistical methodology.
- 6.2. Errors discovered in published statistics are corrected at the earliest possible date; corrected data are published.
- 6.3. Information on the methods and procedures, used by the statistical authority for collection, processing, dissemination, storage, protection, and use of statistics, and procedures of work of statistical authorities are published and made publicly available.
- 6.4. Statistical release dates and times are pre – announced.
- 6.5. All users have equal access to statistical releases at the same time, and any privileged pre-release access to any outside user is limited, controlled and publicised. In the event that leaks occur, pre -release arrangements should be revised so as to ensure impartiality.
- 6.6. Statistical releases and statements made in Press Conferences are objective and depersonalized.

Principle 7: Management and professional ethics – *activities of statistical authorities are logical and consistent. Moralities and behaviour standards are prescribed and ensured for statistical staff.*

Indicators:

- 7.1. All statistical activities by statistical authorities are considered as logically ordered processes.
- 7.2. Professional ethics of statistical staff implies professional competence, scientific impartiality, neutrality, confidentiality protection, partnership relations with co-producers of statistics, respondents and administrative data providers, respecting users' needs in statistics production and dissemination processes.
- 7.3. Culture of conduct of statistical staff is supported with existing rules and transparency of statistical processes. Transparency implies the dissemination of the information about the status and condition of statistical processes, including pre – announcements of changes in them.
- 7.4. Process management methods and techniques and statistical staff's professional ethics are documented, published and made available for wide public.

Principle 8: Effectiveness of activities – *effectiveness of statistical authorities is characterized with the level of achievement of planned outputs.*

Indicators:

- 8.1. Statistical authorities measure their performance and the satisfaction level of parties involved in these activities and users, using self-assessment indicators, including those describing the implementation status of the Long- Term State Statistics Development Programme, functioning quality management system, etc.
- 8.2. Performance analysis is carried out and decisions are taken based on the reliable information only.
- 8.3. Statistical authorities produce reports on their performance.

Principle 9: On-going improvements – *statistical authorities improve their activities on regular basis through revision of the Long- Term State Statistics Development Programme based on analysis of monitoring and audit information.*

Indicators:

- 9.1. On-going monitoring is performed and self-assessment is carried out, using external audit, where appropriate.
- 9.2. The Long- Term State Statistics Development Programme is revised on a regular basis, as well as objectives and functions of statistical authorities.
- 9.3. Priorities for improvements in statistical authorities work are identified.

II. STATISTICAL PROCESSES (*principles of statistical processes*)

Principle 10: Sound Methodology – *up-to-date and scientifically grounded statistical methodology, which is based on international standards and recommendations, underpins quality statistics. This requires adequate tools, procedures, rules, techniques, and expertise.*

Indicators:

- 10.1. The overall methodological framework of the statistical authority follows European and other international standards, guidelines, and principles, and also best achievements of modern statistical practices.
- 10.2. Procedures are in place to ensure that standard concepts, definitions and classifications are consistently applied throughout the statistical authority.
- 10.3. The business register and the frame for population (household) surveys are regularly evaluated and adjusted if necessary in order to ensure high quality.
- 10.4. Detailed concordance exists between national and European classifications.
- 10.5. Graduates with the relevant academic background are recruited.
- 10.6. Statistical staff attends international relevant conferences, training courses, etc. and liaises with statistician colleagues at international level in order to learn from the best and to improve their expertise.
- 10.7. Co -operation with the scientific community to improve methodology is organised and external reviews assess the quality and effectiveness of the methods implemented and promote better methodological tools, when feasible.

Principle 11: Appropriate Statistical Procedures—*statistical procedures implemented from data collection to data evaluation, underpin production of quality statistics.*

Indicators:

- 11.1. Where administrative data are used by statistical authorities, their definitions and concepts are a good approximation to those required for statistical purposes.
- 11.2. Administrative data are assessed in terms of their accuracy and meeting statistical purposes, consolidated statistics are compared with consolidated data from other sources, and their comparability and internal consistency are checked.
- 11.3. The inventories of available questionnaires used in statistical surveys are regularly taken, and the questionnaires are revised as required. Questionnaires are systematically tested prior to the data collection, and revised as required.
- 11.4. Survey designs, sample selections, and sample weights are well based and regularly reviewed, revised or updated as required.
- 11.5. Field operations, data entry, and coding are routinely monitored and revised as required.
- 11.6. Appropriate editing and imputation computer systems are used and regularly reviewed, revised or updated as required.
- 11.7. Revisions follow standard, well-established and transparent procedures.

Principle 12: Partnership relations in statistical activities – *partnership between statistical authorities and other statistics producers, administrative data providers, respondents, international organisations, and statistical institutions of other countries in production of statistics is grounded on mutual respect, smooth data exchange and cost efficiency of statistical operations.*

Indicators:

- 12.1. The level and details of the national statistics are limited with absolutely necessary information.
- 12.2. The reporting burden on respondents is measured and reduced, where appropriate.
- 12.3. The list of respondents is based on widest possible survey populations through using appropriate sampling techniques.
- 12.4. The information sought from businesses is, as far as possible, readily available from their accounts and electronic means are used where possible to facilitate its return.
- 12.5. Best estimates and approximations are accepted when exact details are not readily available.
- 12.6. Exchange of the information is extended with bodies, collecting and using administrative data.
- 12.7. Statistical activities of bodies, which are partners of statistical authorities, are coordinated, in particular, when coordinated long-term state statistics development programmes are developed, including avoiding duplicating requests, and joint actions and/ or joint use of information, where necessary.
- 12.8. In order to obtain comprehensive and unbiased statistics, and improve statistical methodology, cooperation with international organisations and statistics institutes of other countries is established, in particular, in order to exchange the information.

Principle 13: Cost Effectiveness— *resources must be effectively used by statistical authorities.*

Indicators:

- 13.1. Internal and independent external measures monitor the statistical authority's use of available resources.
- 13.2. Routine clerical operations (e.g. data entry, coding, and validation) are automated to the extent possible.
- 13.3. The productivity potential of information and communications technology is being optimized for data collection, processing and dissemination.
- 13.4. Efforts are made to use administrative data to the extent possible in order to avoid costly state statistical surveys.
- 13.5. Organisational and methodological approaches to statistical surveys are revised regularly in order to ensure efficient use of resources and cost effectiveness.

III. STATISTICAL OUTPUT (*principles of production of statistical output*)**Principle 14: Relevance** – *statistics must meet current and potential needs of users.*

Indicators:

- 14.1. Processes are in place to consult users, monitor the relevance and practical utility of existing statistics in meeting their current needs, and advise on their emerging needs and priorities. Users' level of satisfaction with statistics quality is assessed.
- 14.2. Priority needs are being met and reflected in the Long-Term State Statistics Development programmes.
- 14.3. User satisfaction surveys are undertaken regularly.

Principle 15: Accuracy/ Reliability – *statistics must be accurate and reliable.*

Indicators:

- 15.1. Source data, intermediate results and statistical outputs are assessed and validated in terms of their accuracy.
- 15.2. Sampling errors and non -sampling errors are analysed and systematically documented according to the framework of the ESS quality components.
- 15.3. Studies and analyses of revisions are carried out routinely and used internally to improve statistical processes.

Principle 16: Timeliness and Punctuality – *Statistics must be disseminated in a timely manner according to established release schedule.*

Indicators:

- 16.1. Timeliness of statistics dissemination meets international standards and requirements.
- 16.2. A standard daily time is set for the release of statistics.
- 16.3. Periodicity of Statistics takes into account user requirements as much as possible.
- 16.4. Any divergence from the dissemination time schedule is publicised in advance explained and a new release date set and publicised.
- 16.5. Preliminary results of acceptable aggregate quality can be disseminated when considered useful for users.

Principle 17: Accessibility and Clarity – *Statistics should be presented in a clear and understandable form, disseminated in a suitable and convenient manner, available and accessible on an impartial basis with supporting metadata and guidance.*

Indicators:

- 17.1. Statistics are presented in a form that facilitates proper interpretation and meaningful comparisons.
- 17.2. Dissemination services use modern information and communication technology and traditional hard copy.
- 17.3. Custom-designed analyses are provided when feasible and are made public.
- 17.4. Access to microdata can be allowed for research purposes. This access is subject to strict protocols.
- 17.5. Metadata are documented according to standardized metadata systems.
- 17.6. Users are kept informed on the methodology of statistical processes and the quality of statistical outputs with respect to the ESS quality criteria.

Principle 18: Coherence and Comparability – *Statistics should be consistent, internally, over time and comparable between regions and countries; it should be possible to combine and make joint use of related data from different sources.*

Indicators:

- 18.1. Statistics are internally coherent and consistent (e.g. arithmetic and accounting identities observed).
- 18.2. Statistics are coherent or reconcilable over a limited period of time.
- 18.3. Statistics are compiled on the basis of common standards with respect to scope, definitions, units and classifications in the different surveys and sources.
- 18.4. Statistics from the different surveys and sources are consistent and comparable.
- 18.5. Cross -national comparability of the data is ensured through periodical exchanges between the National Statistical Institutes of Ukraine and other countries; methodological studies are carried out in close co -operation with Eurostat, where possible.