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## COMMISSION STAFF WORKING PAPER

This Commission staff working paper includes lists of improvement actions for individual National Statistical Institutes and Eurostat formulated in the reports of the Code of Practice peer reviews, which were carried out during the period March 2006 - January 2008<sup>1</sup>. In this document, actions which had already been implemented by the date of reporting to Eurostat (February and July 2008) have been excluded (for example, actions related to strengthening the professional independence of statistical authorities, which were implemented in France, Portugal, Romania and Iceland through amendments of the statistical law).

It should be kept in mind that some of the actions listed are long-term objectives and their completion was not expected within the three years following the adoption of the Code of Practice. Moreover, it should be noted that the implementation of a number of these improvement actions, mainly related to institutional arrangements and revision of legal acts, is not fully within the control of National Statistical Institutes.

### IMPROVEMENT ACTIONS LISTED IN THE PEER REVIEW REPORT STILL TO BE IMPLEMENTED

#### 1. BELGIUM

	<b>Improvement actions</b>
Principle 1, <b>Professional independence</b>	Draw up and publish statistical programme, following the setting up of the Statistical Coordination Committee Provide information on the High Council of Statistics on web site
Principle 3, <b>Adequacy of resources</b>	Execute upgrading plan for staff: replacing the natural outflow of less qualified staff with a smaller number of more highly qualified persons
Principle 4, <b>Quality commitment</b>	Draw up and systematically execute a quality policy aimed at staff (including communication on quality guidelines) Report on quality commitments and practices on web site Organise a system of quality audits using internal and external experts, tied in with the certification system Organise training for staff on quality issues
Principle 5, <b>Statistical</b>	Implement 2006 Statistical Law on Statistical Supervision Committee (including appointment of data protection officer)

<sup>1</sup> The present paper provides the list of improvement actions by individual statistical authorities referred to in the 2008 Report from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on implementation of the Code of Practice. The Report was adopted by the Commission on 7 October 2008, COM(2008)621 final.

<b>confidentiality</b>	<p>Make signing of the confidentiality document a special occasion</p> <p>Provide staff with printed copies of all legal documents on data protection</p> <p>Publish data protection policy on web site</p> <p>Extend technical protection measures (in order to deal with transmission via data sticks etc.)</p> <p>For all users of microdata files, include a clause in the contracts stating that the files have to be destroyed and get the users to sign a formal written statement that they have done so</p>
<b>Principle 6, Impartiality and objectivity</b>	<p>Generalize dissemination on the basis of public dissemination calendar</p> <p>Systematize procedures for releasing and commenting figures, revising, correcting mistakes</p> <p>Implement systematic approach to presenting metadata (methodological information)</p> <p>Publicize pre-release practices (on web site)</p>
<b>Principle 7, Sound methodology</b>	<p>Define in 2009 a specific domain to improve through an international cooperation on best practices. This domain will be further investigated in 2010</p>
<b>Principle 9, Non-excessive burden on respondents</b>	<p>Gradually extend web-based inquiries to all statistical surveys</p>
<b>Principle 10, Cost effectiveness</b>	<p>Continue Business Process Reengineering (centralized data collection, liberating resources for analysis)</p> <p>Raise statistical productivity by: 1. standardizing surveys; 2. switching from paper to electronic interrogation; 3. switching to administrative data; 4. building data warehouse allowing more flexible data editing</p>
<b>Principle 12, Accuracy and reliability</b>	<p>Document, systematize and harmonize checks and correction procedures</p>
<b>Principle 13, Timeliness and punctuality</b>	<p>Establish and communicate a more comprehensive dissemination calendar in line with production planning</p>
<b>Principle 15, Accessibility and clarity</b>	<p>Reorganize (Business Process Reengineering implementation: Thematic Directions) in order to generate and disseminate more analyses on the data produced</p> <p>Building a Data warehouse allowing easier exploitation and combination of data for dissemination</p> <p>Provide a clearer access to data via the web site, also by listing statistics not available on web site (equal access to all potential users)</p> <p>Draw up clear protocols for accessing microdata</p>
<b>Recommendations of the peer review team</b>	<p>Statistics Belgium should progressively strengthen its statistical authority so as to be able to play a leading and decisional role in the statistical coordination and ensure the complete responsibility on figures it produces. Several types of actions could help to progress in this direction.</p> <p>Statistics Belgium could enhance its visibility and image of independence by a specific logo different from the one of FPS Economy and by a name with statistics as core element.</p> <p>The High Council of Statistics should have a website and put its reports</p>

	<p>on it.</p> <p>The lack of resources is a major issue. Taking account of the present and urgent transformation situation hiring specialized temporary staff in the field of project management, change management and ICT could be a good solution, so that the staff of Statistics Belgium can concentrate on the statistical work. Of course extra budget is necessary for that.</p> <p>Statistics Belgium could increase cooperation actions towards the Regional statistical services by facilitating the access to microdata, in return for an agreement on a coordinated dissemination policy.</p> <p>The peer review team recommends the use of formalised service level agreements (SLA) with the administrations for the procedural details concerning the access to administrative data.</p> <p>In the long term, the cooperation structure of INA (Institute for National Accounts) may perhaps be reconsidered. A larger and more active involvement of Statistics Belgium in the compilation of National Accounts seems to the peer review team a better solution to assure quality, transparency and independence.</p>
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## 2. BULGARIA

	<b>Improvement actions</b>
Principle 1, <b>Professional independence</b>	Revising the dissemination policy of NSI with focus on publishing more and in user-friendly format data on the website
Principle 3, <b>Adequacy of resources</b>	Developing the “Business statistics and metadata component of ISIS” Implementation of an Integrated Statistical Information System (ISIS) Strategy Reviewing and updating the ITC Strategy
Principle 4, <b>Quality commitment</b>	Development of a quality management policy and programme Implementation of the quality management policy Publishing on the website of quality reports and methodological guidelines about the main statistical surveys and activities. Implementation of a system of quality audits (internal and external)
Principle 5, <b>Statistical confidentiality</b>	Improvement of the technical means for data protection Improvement of the internal legal basis for data protection incl. a confidentiality manual Preparation of simple clear statement on the protection of confidentiality of data to be put on NSI website
Principle 6, <b>Impartiality and objectivity</b>	Development of a formalised procedure for reaction against errors when publishing data Working out a specific written policy for reaction against misuse of data
Principle 8, <b>Appropriate statistical procedures</b>	Putting in regular operation the information system "Planning and Design of the Statistical Surveys", which will contribute to the standardisation of procedures of statistical activities Development of ISIS internal metadata components in order to describe the life cycle of the statistical surveys and information, thus promoting the unification and more effective organization of statistical activities (on the intranet)
Principle 9, <b>Non-excessive</b>	Extension of data collection based on electronic questionnaires Elaboration of a programme for reducing respondents' burden incl.

<b>burden on respondents</b>	system for regular measurement of the respondents' burden
<b>Principle 10, Cost effectiveness</b>	Development and implementation of a time recording system Implementation of a system for documenting the management and administrative processes Development of a programme for analyzing NSI expenditures by activities
<b>Principle 11, Relevance</b>	Conducting a regular users' satisfaction survey
<b>Principle 12, Accuracy and reliability</b>	Definition of a minimum set of quality indicators for external users Introduction of regular audits to be conducted by external experts such as academics Regular evaluation of the quality and completeness of the business register.
<b>Principle 14, Coherence and comparability</b>	Putting in regular operation the information system "Planning and Design of the Statistical Surveys", which will contribute to the standardisation of concepts, definitions and procedures of statistical activities
<b>Principle 15, Accessibility and clarity</b>	Definition of a clear dissemination policy Extending the dissemination of more detailed user-friendly data on the NSI website free of charge in the same detail which is available free of charge on Eurostat websites Extending the dissemination of well elaborated metadata for all data available on the website (not only according SDDS standards) On-line dissemination of information Training seminars for various users groups to explain what is available and in particular when there are new developments in statistics
<b>Recommendations of the peer review team</b>	Review the dissemination policy to begin putting more detailed data in a user-friendly form on the website, free of charge to all categories of users, for instance in the same detail which is available free of charge on the Eurostat website. In the short term this could be achieved quite simply by increasing the number and the size of the tables posted on the website. In the medium term it would be useful to have a more structured dissemination database which external users could use (derived from ISIS described below). In parallel, the metadata should be expanded to provide definitions, sources and methods and some indicators of quality. The Quality management programme (April 2007) shows the steps towards applying a systematic TQM based on the EFQM during the period covered by the new statistical programme 2007 – 2012. Improving statistics should become more systematic. The standardised analysis and description of procedures could be integrated as internal metadata into the new Integrated Statistical Information System (ISIS) currently under development. In addition the peer review team proposed a systematic process of audits for all statistical projects. External experts such as academics and main users should be invited to participate in reviewing statistical methods and the quality of processes in detail. The audits should result in identifying potentials for quality improvement and in concrete recommendations. All findings should be published.

### 3. CZECH REPUBLIC

	<b>Improvement actions</b>
Principle 1, <b>Professional independence</b>	In the proposed Civil Service Act (or elsewhere), to introduce a requirement to advertise the post of the President of CzSO openly in future. Also, to agree and legislate for a fixed standard term of appointment. Take steps to improve users' input to statistical programming, including perhaps the appointment of an independent Chair of the Czech Statistical Council
Principle 4, <b>Quality commitment</b>	Consider the use of annual self-assessment questionnaire by survey managers to provide indications of quality problems. Information on data quality to be made available to users
Principle 5, <b>Statistical confidentiality</b>	Establish dialogue with users to increase interest in microdata and to discuss how their needs for confidential microdata might be met within a framework of disclosure risk management.
Principle 6, <b>Impartiality and objectivity</b>	Increase the range of statistics for which comprehensive metadata – including on data quality – is published on the website (Project Statistical Meta-information System (SMS))
Principle 7, <b>Sound methodology</b>	Project Statistical Meta-information System (SMS) which will integrate various requirements on the statistical information system (objectives, processes and procedures, quality aspects, producers and users aspects, data storing, outputs etc.). This project is interlinked with the project Redesign of the Statistical Survey System
Principle 8, <b>Appropriate statistical procedures</b>	Project of the Redesign of the statistical survey system to increase the serviceability of administrative sources (change of national legislation), to implement and enforce increased use of statistical estimation techniques and common approaches throughout the statistical system.
Principle 9, <b>Non-excessive burden on respondents</b>	Redesign of the statistical survey system with a view to reducing response burden, establishing a permanent dialogue with respondents and to increasing the response rates and enforceability Introduce the discipline of measuring the costs to business of complying with statistical surveys, and set targets to reduce this. Develop a methodology to limit the impact of official surveys on small businesses
Principle 10, <b>Cost effectiveness</b>	Redesign of the statistical survey system with a view to spreading common approaches throughout the statistical system applying latest technology and to increasing the serviceability of administrative sources Optimise division of responsibilities between CzSO and Regional Offices to ensure that work is conducted efficiently
Principle 14, <b>Coherence and comparability</b>	The Committee for Coherence and Comparability of Statistical Indicators to extend its work to look at issues such as the relationship between provisional and final estimates.
Principle 15, <b>Accessibility and clarity</b>	Increase range of statistics for which comprehensive metadata – including on quality – is published on the website (advanced statistical metadata system project) Improve the systematic documentation of breaks in series. Develop internal procedures for monitoring the quality of metadata.

#### 4. DENMARK

	<b>Improvement actions</b>
Principle 1, <b>Professional independence</b>	In future amendments in Statistical Law, procedures for appointing the Director General and the Board should be reconsidered to avoid political interference.
Principle 3, <b>Adequacy of resources</b>	The peer review team recommended Statistics Denmark to make a full overview of needs that are not fulfilled and to use this overview in the dialogues about financing with the concerned ministers
Principle 4, <b>Quality commitment</b>	A system should be put in place monitoring quality according to ESS quality components A manual should be developed containing recommendations for new surveys or new data collection methods. A review of the key statistical outputs should be done on a regular basis
Principle 6, <b>Impartiality and objectivity</b>	Meta information for users should be improved including history of changes, definitions of terms and quality aspects.
Principle 7, <b>Sound methodology</b>	Potential co-operation should be discussed by the Research Committee, with the participation of universities and research institutions.
Principle 9, <b>Non-excessive burden on respondents</b>	During the period until 2010, the following initiatives will be taken by Statistics Denmark to reduce the response burden: (1) Cooperation with suppliers of financial planning systems concerning electronic data interchange solutions, so that data reports can be collected directly from the internal systems operated by the businesses. (2) Development of user-friendly digital questionnaires for re-reporting data electronically, where the instructions are integrated in the questionnaires
Principle 10, <b>Cost effectiveness</b>	An annual action plan should be prepared for establishing which surveys are suited for scanning
Principle 13, <b>Timeliness and punctuality</b>	During the period until 2010 the share of published statistics observing the maximum publication times should be gradually increased to 95%. The following special goals should be set for short-term indicators: the goal must for monthly statistics be observed 100%, while for quarterly statistics it must be increased to 95%. Every year the average publication time for monthly statistics must not exceed 1 month (30.5 days). For quarterly statistics it must not exceed 2 months (61 days) and for annual statistics not more than 7 months (214 days) During the period until 2010 the share of statistics published punctually should be gradually increased to 90%. However, the punctuality must be increased to 95 pct. for short-term indicators. At least 92 % of the dates of publication announced in advance must be observed in 2008.
Principle 15, <b>Accessibility and clarity</b>	Statistics Denmark should make public how it treats outputs from services tasks: what it publishes, what it does not publish. The content of StatBank Denmark should be extended, implying that all current statistics in the statistical programme can be extracted from the data bank not later than the first quarter of 2008 – and, as a general rule, at a far more detailed level than other published data. Round-the-clock access to StatBank Denmark all year should be achieved.

	<p>A general documentation system at detailed level will be developed, which can be used for all statistical systems. The system should be first established for the entire area of social statistics.</p>
<b>Recommendations of the peer review team</b>	<p>As the procedures for appointing the Director General and the full Board is concentrated to one Minister, a change of the Statistical law should be considered.</p> <p>The coordinating role of Statistics Denmark could be strengthened in the interest of independence of official statistics and efficient use of resources.</p> <p>Statistics Denmark can improve its systematic approach to quality work: - a system should be put in place monitoring quality according to ESS quality components; - a manual should be developed containing recommendations for new surveys or new data collection methods; - a review of the key statistical outputs should be done on a regular basis.</p> <p>The team proposed that Statistics Denmark communicates to the relevant authorities all cases where proper choice of sources and statistical techniques are hindered.</p> <p>Statistics Denmark should improve the meta-information in "Declaration of contents" on aspects like definition of terms, quality aspects and breaks in time series.</p> <p>Statistics Denmark should make public its policy for dissemination of results from its services tasks.</p>

## 5. GERMANY

	<b>Improvement actions</b>
Principle 2, <b>Mandate for data collection</b>	Further regular monitoring of amendment clauses (authorisation to issue statutory instruments) in national statistics legislation in order to enhance the flexibility of official statistics.
Principle 3, <b>Adequacy of resources</b>	Increased linkage of programme and resource planning regarding a balanced priority-setting on the national level taking into account the European statistical programme.
Principle 4, <b>Quality commitment</b>	<p>Depending on the resources available and taking into consideration the costs-benefit-ratio, an internal data quality network should be established to improve internal quality control and to increase the transparency and comparability of statistics.</p> <p>Development of a pilot project on a self-assessment programme according to DESAP and internal audits in selected statistics.</p> <p>Evaluate the possibilities to link the results of external audits (conducted in different statistics) with the Destatis webpage, especially for national accounts.</p>
Principle 5, <b>Statistical confidentiality</b>	The methods to ensure confidentiality need to be developed further on a continuous basis, e.g. regarding procedures concerning the confidentiality of several tables and against the backdrop of an increasing number of ad hoc analyses. In this context, the work of the CENEX/ESSnets on statistical confidentiality will be taken into account
Principle 6, <b>Impartiality and objectivity</b>	Further harmonising the practise of informing several users in advance. The agreed mode of this practise should be implemented and made transparent
Principle 7,	The transparency regarding the application of methodology and



<b>Sound methodology</b>	<p>procedures in the statistical offices should be improved through suitable documentation measures (e.g. in the context of SteP - standardisation of production processes).</p> <p>The staffing structure should be adjusted by increasing the share of university graduates to 20% of the total staff.</p> <p>Implementation of a systematic internal post-graduate training programme.</p> <p>Further participation in the future European Statistical Training Programme (as provider and user)</p>
<b>Principle 8, Appropriate statistical procedures</b>	<p>Step-wise implementation of a documentation system according to the PDCA (Plan, Do, Check, Act) Cycle in the course of re-engineering of statistical processes, starting e.g. with external trade statistics as best practice.</p> <p>A protocol for carrying out pre-test for different types of questionnaires should be developed and implemented step by step.</p>
<b>Principle 9, Non-excessive burden on respondents</b>	<p>Monitoring of statistical response burden for enterprises, citizens and government based on the SKM (Standard Cost Model) database.</p> <p>Re-design of business statistics and increased utilization of administrative data.</p>
<b>Principle 10, Cost effectiveness</b>	<p>The e.STATISTIK.core system for transferring data from enterprises' business accounts will further be increased in those statistics with the highest potential for reducing cost (and burden). It is planned to cover most of the business statistics. Possibilities to transfer the system to other fields will be explored by 2010.</p> <p>Launching an initiative to amend the Federal Statistical Law (BStatG) with a provision to make online reporting obligatory.</p>
<b>Principle 11, Relevance</b>	Implementation of regular customer satisfaction surveys
<b>Principle 12, Accuracy and reliability</b>	Development of a concept for measurement of errors and error sources from administrative sources
<b>Principle 14, Coherence and comparability</b>	A uniform economic identification number should be introduced.
<b>Principle 15, Accessibility and clarity</b>	<p>The English-language information offered on the Internet should be extended to 90% of the German web content (excluding the GENESIS database and standard publications).</p> <p>Quality reports should be systematically evaluated and standardised with regard to their informational value.</p> <p>Evaluation of possibilities to change the practice of producing and publishing tailor-made analyses especially with regard to customer-paid analysis.</p>
<b>Recommendations of the peer review</b>	Destatis should compose and publish all press releases for all the statistics it produces, including the two exceptional cases where this is

<b>team</b>	<p>not yet the case.</p> <p>Destatis should make transparent the differences between the original technical and methodological proposal for new statistics and the resulting one after the legislation process<sup>2</sup>.</p> <p>Destatis should investigate further use of administrations and registers and develop a long term plan to implement the use of registers and administrative data. This plan accommodates the preparation of the necessary legislation. This may be a part of the Masterplan.</p> <p>Destatis should carry out on a regular basis exit interviews with outgoing personnel. This may facilitate Destatis to increase its attractiveness as an employer.</p> <p>Destatis should look into possibilities to attract new highly qualified employees on a permanent employment basis.</p> <p>Destatis should improve planning facilities to balance resources and needs for new programmes. This may be part of the Masterplan.</p> <p>Destatis should systematically calculate Standard quality indicators for the main dimensions and subdimensions of quality.</p> <p>Destatis should develop a systematic approach to monitor and improve the quality of the statistical production processes and products, including statistical audits by internal and external experts.</p> <p>Together with the other producers of statistics (e.g. Ministries, Statistical Offices of the Länder, Deutsche Bundesbank), Destatis should develop a system of quality management over the whole chain of source statistics up to National Accounts.</p> <p>Destatis should play a more active role in the coordination of the publication of the figures issued by national statistical authorities.</p> <p>Destatis should improve the clarity and completeness of the website. It should invest in simple presentation of concepts and in the publication of tailor - made analyses. It should also conduct on a regular basis usability tests of the website.</p> <p>Destatis should evaluate its quality reports on a regular basis.</p> <p>Destatis should develop a framework to assess the quality of administrative sources.</p> <p>Destatis should investigate the possibilities to permanently fund the Research Data Centres.</p> <p>It is recommended that in the further development of the system of official statistics a mandate should be given to take the lead in the coordination and harmonisation of the official statistics in Germany.</p>
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## 6. ESTONIA

<b>Improvement actions</b>	
<b>Principle 1, Professional independence</b>	Review of the statistical legislation in regard to: explicit reference to independence in the content and timing of releases; greater clarity around the role and status of the Director General; the provisions in the

<sup>2</sup> Destatis pointed out that the implementation of this request is not viable in practice and would furthermore conflict with fields of competence of the German legislators. Moreover, the Office noted that technical or methodological details are in general not defined in German national statistical legislation.

	law whereby the government not only approves the list of official statistical surveys but also the list of data collected and used in conducting official statistical surveys while the Minister of Finance must approve the official statistical questionnaires
<b>Principle 2, Mandate for data collection</b>	Improving the use of administrative data, with particular emphasis on deriving business statistics based on taxation data Drafting an amendment to the Population and Housing Census Act Implementation of a fast-track fining system for imposing penalties in the case of non-response in obligatory business surveys
<b>Principle 3, Adequacy of resources</b>	Establishment of a clear connection in terms of the resources required between the statistical programme and the allocated budget (survey costs calculation based on the recording of working time)
<b>Principle 4, Quality commitment</b>	Implementation of a quality management system by using the EFQM excellence model as a framework Implementation of an internal training programme on quality issues Development of a system of recommendations, guidelines and handbooks; establishment of an action plan for compiling them Development and implementation of process monitoring, assessment and improvement system Development and implementation of the product quality (according to the ESS quality components) monitoring and dissemination system with a common system for editing and imputation
<b>Principle 6, Impartiality and objectivity</b>	Introduce arrangements to make updated information publicly available on methods and procedures. Define the concept of a statistical survey more clearly and reorganise the presentation of the description of surveys incl. the description of the methods and procedures used
<b>Principle 7, Sound methodology</b>	Establishment of a Statistical Population Register to enable the production of improved population and social statistics based on a good quality population framework
<b>Principle 8, Appropriate statistical procedures</b>	Development and implementation of a common system for editing and imputation; in 2006 a project for the development of a unified system for the processing of business statistics was launched
<b>Principle 9, Non-excessive burden on respondents</b>	Development of software systems for extracting statistical information from accounting systems of enterprises; it is planned to start the implementation in the field of foreign trade statistics
<b>Principle 10, Cost effectiveness</b>	Development of a system of cost calculation by product to improve programming and budgeting (survey costs calculation based on the recording of working time)
<b>Principle 11, Relevance</b>	Introduction of improved processes to consult users and monitor the relevance of existing statistics including the possible establishment of a Statistics Council
<b>Principle 12, Accuracy and reliability</b>	Establishment of a system for communicating appropriate accuracy indicators to users
<b>Principle 15, Accessibility and clarity</b>	Documentation of metadata according to a standardised metadata system Redrafting two Government Regulations - "Procedure for Protection of Data Collected and Processed by the Statistical Office" and "Procedure

	for Transmission of Data that Permit Identification of the Data Subject without the Consent of the Data Subject for Purposes of Scientific Research" - in order to better manage statistical confidentiality and microdata access and to make procedures clearer and more transparent
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## 7. IRELAND

	<b>Improvement actions</b>
Principle 1, <b>Professional independence</b>	Develop formal agreements with the other producers whose statistics are to be disseminated under the CSO web portal. These agreements must refer to the Code of Practice.
Principle 2, <b>Mandate for data collection</b>	Develop formal agreements for all exchange of administrative data, with regard to data quality and delivery reliability. Develop the adoption of a common business identifier in the administrative data.
Principle 3, <b>Adequacy of resources</b>	Develop a strategic plan for future capacity building to meet new demands in the medium term within the National Statistics Board strategic plan. This endeavour shall be reflected in the CSO strategy 2007-2009.
Principle 4, <b>Quality commitment</b>	Continue the development of the quality approach formalisation in CSO according to the ESS quality components; in particular: - publish Volume 3 of Quality Standards and Guidelines – Further Statistical Functions & Processes; - implement a communication and training programme specifically supporting the quality requirement. Involve external experts to critically review the main statistical outputs of the Office: -discussion of a plan; -implementation.
Principle 5, <b>Statistical confidentiality</b>	Further develop technical systems to ensure against the inadvertent disclosure of confidential data
Principle 6, <b>Impartiality and objectivity</b>	Complete the background note of the crime statistics release. Ensure that administrative records are unbiased and can be used for quality statistical purposes. Have formal agreements with the other producers whose statistics are to be disseminated under the CSO web portal. These agreements must refer to the Code of Practice.
Principle 7, <b>Sound methodology</b>	Complete the Business Register Quality Improvement Project. Enhance the Statistical Methods and Development capabilities of the Office; set up new internal structured training programme on specified statistical processing topics.
Principle 8, <b>Appropriate statistical procedures</b>	Continue to develop the statistical potential of administrative records based on the SPAR project, which should be extended to cover other areas of potential co-operation. Increase the use of electronic data capture.
Principle 9, <b>Non-excessive burden on respondents</b>	Influence a reduction in EU/ECB data requirements. Investigate the potential of a unique business reference number to streamline sample selection and minimise respondent burden. Introduce XBRL, which should also reduce respondent burden. Continue to co-ordinate statistical data collection by CSO and other agencies. Make greater use of administrative data for statistical purposes.

<p><b>Principle 10, Cost effectiveness</b></p>	<p>Complete the Statistical Potential of Administrative Records (SPAR) project in Social and Business Statistics. Develop electronic response systems including XBRL. Continue to improve the database dissemination: re-design statistical release processes to give more interactive on-line access when the new data dissemination strategy is in place</p>
<p><b>Principle 11, Relevance</b></p>	<p>Follow the recommendation of priorities established by the National Statistics Board (progress report 2005 and 2006) to the implementation of Strategy for statistics.</p>
<p><b>Principle 12, Accuracy and reliability</b></p>	<p>Continue the existing policy of encouraging Government Departments to fund the placement of CSO professional staff in its operations. Ensure the quality of new administrative sources and advice to improve the quality of administrative records for the use of CSO. Develop revision analyses and use them to inform statistical processes, commencing with National Accounts Deliver Quality marks on the web portal as a result of the validation process. Progress on the quality of construction statistics : -CSO to publish its new quarterly survey on construction, -CSO to implement the SPAR recommendations on construction</p>
<p><b>Principle 13, Timeliness and punctuality</b></p>	<p>Develop formal agreements for all exchanges of administrative data to secure the process</p>
<p><b>Principle 14, Coherence and comparability</b></p>	<p>The new crime statistics will be compared to the victimisation survey results</p>
<p><b>Principle 15, Accessibility and clarity</b></p>	<p>Further development of metadata – further effort is needed to standardise the documentation. This process will be facilitated by the Database Management System. Implement the result of the existing CSO task-force to improve the presentation and content of the publications (including more graphs for time series, e.g.). Continue the development of a web portal which will contain links to all validated statistics including those produced by public bodies other than the CSO. The documentation on the portal will include structured metadata describing the statistics.</p>
<p><b>Recommendations of the peer review team</b></p>	<p>Long-standing links the Government departments should move towards more formal agreements so as to sustain the process and enhance the quality of statistics. For those government departments or public agencies which will be producers of official statistics (i.e. under the future web portal of CSO), the compliance to the Code of Practice should be mentioned in the agreement. In addition, the CSO could offer broader access to its training program to these producer units. For a larger and better use of administrative sources the team recommends CSO to discuss well in advance with the administrations and agencies the conditions of the introduction of a common business identifier and a PPS personal identification number for persons in their own records and to have a specific detailed plan for the implementation of these registers in CSO. Accuracy and reliability of statistics issued from administrative data</p>

	<p>have to be particularly checked before inclusion under the future web portal. CSO intends to check the coherence between crime statistics using Garda (Police) registrations and the results of the survey on victimisation. It is recommended to check the quality of this administrative source for statistical purpose and if necessary provide advice to the collecting administration to enhance an unbiased registration process.</p> <p>The team recommends including more graphical presentations relating to the figures, to enhance their readability and accessibility to a wider public.</p> <p>The team recommends implementing a more comprehensive communication and training programme to support the quality assurance policy among the staff whilst accepting that quality assurance should not be reduced to tick boxes in check lists.</p>
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## 8. GREECE

	<b>Improvement actions</b>
Principle 1, <b>Professional independence</b>	Establishment of National Statistical Council Publishing of progress status of work programme New statistical law Logo of NSSG
Principle 2, <b>Mandate for data collection</b>	Use of administrative sources is reinforced
Principle 3, <b>Adequacy of resources</b>	Increase the number of training courses and IT seminars Provisions for increasing the number and quality of IT personnel (university degree and postgraduate degrees) Yearly IT maintenance costs to decrease Purchasing of new hardware, software, middleware for the Statistical Portal Evaluation rating to improve (for both magnitude and quality)
Principle 4, <b>Quality commitment</b>	Speed up with the collection of data (electronically) Better planning and better process documentation Consider reviews by external experts and expert users of the portal Impose templates handling procedures and actions at all levels of IT works Implementation of “Quality improvement of the survey processes” project
Principle 5, <b>Statistical confidentiality</b>	Apply statistical disclosure control on micro-data (μ-Argus) Apply confidentiality rules on the published/retrieved statistical data from NSSG’s official website Assignment to an external private company to implement secondary suppression on the SBS tables that are sent to Eurostat Increase Network Security as well as RDBMS user validation levels by applying new techniques and methods
Principle 7, <b>Sound methodology</b>	Improvement of the quality of business registers
Principle 9,	Reduce the burden of enterprises responding to NSSG’s surveys.

<b>Non-excessive burden on respondents</b>	Convert questionnaires to CAWI, CASI; automatic retrieval through the enterprise's logistics systems. Increased use of administrative data
<b>Principle 10, Cost effectiveness</b>	Improve method of electronic survey information collection to cover more than 75% of enterprise data. Alternative data collection techniques will be also developed (CAWI, CAPI to CATI-CAPI-CASI, OCR/OMR administrative sources, revision of questionnaires (other than EU guided surveys), automatic coding procedures) Development of fully operational data warehouse and dissemination database, fulfilling all the confidentiality criteria Digitalisation of historical archives Upgrade of equipment Upgrade the RDBMS, application server and the data warehouse (to version 10g using the Internet developer suite 10g)
<b>Principle 11, Relevance</b>	Enlargement of target population Improve and institutionalize users contacts
<b>Principle 12, Accuracy and reliability</b>	Improvement is expected through the enhancement of the quality of business registers
<b>Principle 13, Timeliness and punctuality</b>	Apply new techniques in acquiring and processing statistical data
<b>Principle 14, Coherence and comparability</b>	Studies are in process to investigate the coherence of (cor)related data which are produced by different surveys -to be completed in cooperation with Eurostat More an institutionalized coordination with other producers
<b>Principle 15, Accessibility and clarity</b>	Increase availability of statistical information through the total reconstruction of the existing web site and the creation of a portal. (Increase more than 75% for both the Greek and English versions) Use of templates for the website in order to ensure uniformity Extension to the dissemination formats (e.g.xls formats, SPSS or SAS output, flat files, etc.) Speed up procedures (through a web form) for ad-hoc (not included in portal) statistical data Application of the SDMX template for metadata and enrich metadata on the web
<b>Recommendations of the peer review team</b>	It is important that NSSG continues to cultivate and further develop the good national relations with users and data providers. There is room for improved use of administrative data. For marked improvements the NSSG would need to strengthen its coordination role. Combined with improved cooperation with other agencies and efforts in the NSSG, urgent actions should be taken to improve the quality of the Greek business register. There was a clear demand from Greek Office's staff, especially the young staff, for more structured training The web pages of the NSSG need to be further improved (more direct possibilities for downloading of data, better access to harmonized metadata). There is a need to set up a National Statistical Council (NSC) and to

	give it a modern mandate, possibly including supervising the integrity of the NSSG. Systematic and institutionalized user contacts (on a technical level) would help to improve both the Greek national statistics as well as the Greek contributions to the ESS.
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## 9. SPAIN

	<b>Improvement actions</b>
<b>Principle 2, Mandate for data collection</b>	Keep existing agreements in place and, if appropriate, seek to enter into further agreements to support the use of individual administrative data.
<b>Principle 3, Adequacy of resources</b>	<p>Create a programme of specific training for INE staff to update specialised knowledge, provide new techniques and statistical best practices</p> <p>Propose to the Ministry of Economy and Finance that budget programme 923.c Compilation and Publication of Statistics, currently used exclusively by INE, be available to ministries for budgetary purposes.</p>
<b>Principle 4, Quality commitment</b>	<p>Write the associated Standard Quality Reports on products (user-oriented) and processes (aimed at survey officers and senior management).</p> <p>Write Standard Quality Reports for INE statistics based on administrative data.</p> <p>Prepare a methodological manual reflecting INE experiences to assess the quality of survey-based and administrative-data-based statistics.</p> <p>Use the various quality reports to identify good practices, with a view to improved planning and implementation of present and future surveys.</p>
<b>Principle 5, Statistical confidentiality</b>	<p>Update the INE data protection manual, make it available to all staff and ensure they use it and abide by it.</p> <p>Create security protocols for links among administrative records, links between administrative records and survey-based data, and data transmission.</p> <p>Develop special-purpose software using open-source platforms to systematise data confidentiality measures.</p>
<b>Principle 6, Impartiality and objectivity</b>	Update the methodological notes associated with publication of the results of statistics in order to highlight the aims, uses and limitations, in terms of information and analysis, of the released data.
<b>Principle 7, Sound methodology</b>	<p>Build up relations of cooperation and support with the academic community, institutions, businesses and experts in general to enhance the methodology and methods applied in INE's output.</p> <p>Improve metadata information.</p> <p>Improve the sampling frame of surveys targeting households and individuals.</p> <p>Use administrative sources to create a directory of agricultural holdings for the next Agricultural Census.</p>
<b>Principle 8, Appropriate statistical procedures</b>	<p>Increase the accomplishment of cognitive analysis in questionnaires of new surveys and the accomplishment of pilot test.</p> <p>Coordinate the introduction of NACE Rev 2 across central government bodies (social security, the tax authority and other entities).</p>



	Widen the functionalities of the DIA system (automatic editing software developed in-house by INE) for qualitative data processing and add quantitative data processing.
<b>Principle 9, Non-excessive burden on respondents</b>	Implement the guidelines prescribed by INE's Report on the statistical burden of surveys addressed to companies to reduce response burden on enterprises. Continue working towards statistical data collection methods directly connected to business management software systems using standard-based developments for information exchange.
<b>Principle 10, Cost effectiveness</b>	Extend the use of the CANOA (Spanish acronym of "standardised analytical accounting for government organisations") system to all INE activities.
<b>Principle 11, Relevance</b>	Propose the admission to the Higher Statistical Council of representatives of user groups not presently represented. Improve knowledge of the opinions and needs of INE website users.
<b>Principle 12, Accuracy and reliability</b>	Systematically monitor the conduct of statistical processes and introduce quality improvements as opportunities are identified.
<b>Principle 14, Coherence and comparability</b>	Identify new instruments to reinforce the calculation of a range of quality indicators on coherence and comparability monitor
<b>Principle 15, Accessibility and clarity</b>	Join the international initiative to foster a standard format for the dissemination of SDMX (standard data and metadata exchange) statistical data and metadata. Update and enlarge the English-language version of the INE website. Hold courses and seminars at EEAP to impart training on official statistics among key users (analysts, employer associations, labour unions, members of parliament, universities, press, etc). Adapt the INE website to the World Wide Web Consortium's Web Accessibility Initiative.
<b>Recommendations of the peer review team</b>	It is recommended that the term of appointment of the President of INE Spain should be specified to a fixed term. INE Spain should use the strength of its mandate to collect statistical data to obtain micro data from other authorities like the tax authorities. It is recommended to enhance the quality network by identifying resources and structures primarily devoted to implement INE Spain's quality strategy. It is recommended to define and set up regular systems for a systematic and thoroughly assessment of statistical processes. In addition to local procedures, tools should be implemented for enhancing the centralised assessment. Such tools might include for example to start a systematic activity of internal auditing, with an external support if necessary, and calculating quantitative Standard Quality Indicators for the main quality dimensions and sub dimensions and their systematic assessment at central level. It is recommended to set up a quality management system over the whole chain of official statistics. It is recommended to set up a regular programme of training on quality tailored to the needs of INE Spain's staff. It is recommended to reconsider the level of detail in the description of the methodology of surveys and statistics on the website.

	<p>It is recommended to produce more specific reports and cross-sectional databases and supplying users with a comprehensive and accurate vision of the investigated event. As far as metadata are concerned, site navigating and the analysis of the available documentation seem to show an orientation towards researchers: improving the communication strategy could be a solution.</p> <p>Junior staff should be stimulated to contribute to papers and articles for (international) conferences and publications.</p> <p>Junior staff turned out to be not actively involved in its follow up of the results of the users' satisfaction survey. A better internal communication about these matters is recommended.</p> <p>To solve the issue of the coordination and harmonisation in the system of official statistics, mainly with the Statistical offices of the Autonomous Communities; it is recommended to give one of the bodies involved a clear mandate to be in the lead of the coordination and harmonisation of the system of official statistics in Spain. INE Spain seems to be the most logical choice to play this role. The question of the mandate should be addressed at the highest possible level.</p>
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## 10. FRANCE

	<b>Improvement actions</b>
Principle 4, <b>Quality commitment</b>	<p>Extend the current quality reporting to the full range of business statistics</p> <p>Draw up and promulgate quality guidelines and make them available on the Insee website</p>
Principle 5, <b>Statistical confidentiality</b>	Dissemination of a handbook about statistical confidentiality in production of statistics
Principle 6, <b>Impartiality and objectivity</b>	Extension of the coverage of metadata on the Insee website; this will be done by considerably extending the coverage of definitions and of sources and methods
Principle 8, <b>Appropriate statistical procedures</b>	Extension of the CORE (Cadre Organisationnel pour la Réalisation des Enquêtes ) project management model to all new household surveys
Principle 9, <b>Non-excessive burden on respondents</b>	Implement RESANE, the new system for structural business statistics; the first phase (shorter deadlines and reduced costs) will go into production in 2009, and the second phase (profiling enterprise groups) in 2010-2011
Principle 10, <b>Cost effectiveness</b>	Census data collection by Internet
Principle 14, <b>Coherence and comparability</b>	Profiling business statistics
<b>Recommendations of the peer review team</b>	<p>To examine the feasibility of establishing some degree of separation between Insee's statistical activities and its administrative activities.</p> <p>To extend the current quality reporting to the full range of business statistics. When this has been completed, the quality reporting should be further extended to cover all household surveys.</p>

	<p>The feasibility of creating of a safe centre on Insee premises for access to personal microdata should be investigated.</p> <p>The peer review team recommends that Insee's policy of pre-release to authorities and the press be generalised and made more readily accessible on the Insee website.</p>
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## 11. ITALY

	<b>Improvement actions</b>
Principle 1, <b>Professional independence</b>	Revision of Statistical Law.
Principle 2, <b>Mandate for data collection</b>	Improvement of the coordination role of Istat within the SISTAN.
Principle 3, <b>Adequacy of resources</b>	Discussion at government level on the flexibility of resources devoted to Istat, aiming at enhancing the autonomy budget.
Principle 4, <b>Quality commitment</b>	Implementation of internal audit. Quality certification of new surveys. Enhancing partnerships. Identifying Users demands.
Principle 5, <b>Statistical confidentiality</b>	Experiment Remote access solution. Creation of regional data analysis centres inside Istat regional offices for the access to microdata (regional laboratories).
Principle 6, <b>Impartiality and objectivity</b>	Introduction of English abstract in all new methodology Notes and procedure. Updating the user survey.
Principle 7, <b>Sound methodology</b>	Improvement of Business register. Increasing use of administrative population sources. Preliminary estimates. Organization of specific events.
Principle 8, <b>Appropriate statistical procedures</b>	Increasing use of statistical concepts and classifications in administrative sources. Dissemination and training on Recommended Practices (RPs) for questionnaire design and testing. Development of RPs for editing and imputation.
Principle 9, <b>Non-excessive burden on respondents</b>	Measuring and reducing response burden.
Principle 10, <b>Cost effectiveness</b>	Increasing use of computer assisted data collection techniques. Exploitation of open source tools.
Principle 11, <b>Relevance</b>	Meeting users needs. Enhancing statistical information contents. Development of an integrated dissemination system.
Principle 12, <b>Accuracy and reliability</b>	Definition of a minimum set of user-oriented quality indicators. Dissemination of Quality Declarations.
Principle 13,	On-line data dissemination.

<b>Timeliness and punctuality</b>	
Principle 14, <b>Coherence and comparability</b>	Metadata Integration.
Principle 15, <b>Accessibility and clarity</b>	Implementation of WEB site in English. Introduction of Catalogue in English on all publications. English version of SiQual.
<b>Recommendations of the peer review team</b>	<p>To look into the implications of the current organisation of the Italian statistical system in order to prepare for the implementation of the Code of practice to the whole system.</p> <p>To improve user consultations and user contacts in order to improve the usage of statistics in different sectors of society.</p> <p>To develop and put in place a more consistent and complete metadata solution, also in English.</p> <p>To have a program for improving the ISTAT and SISTAN web pages in order to improve user orientation and accessibility also of data bases and historical data, and to establish links to statistics produced by Banca d'Italia.</p> <p>To continue implementing more efficient data collection solutions, including modern technology and improved sample design, in line with the positive experiences of the LFS.</p> <p>To consider improving coordination with Banca d'Italia on statistical surveys conducted by the Central Bank and by SISTAN.</p> <p>To implement a quality certification procedure for planning new surveys.</p> <p>To consider the development of a common portal, providing access to websites of ISTAT, SISTAN, and to statistics produced by the Central Bank of Italy.</p>

## 12. CYPRUS

	<b>Improvement actions</b>
Principle 1, <b>Professional independence</b>	The status of the Director of CYSTAT should be upgraded. CYSTAT will introduce a formal process of evaluation and reporting on the execution of the five-year and annual work programmes as well as a mid-term evaluation of the five-year programmes.
Principle 2, <b>Mandate for data collection</b>	The use of administrative sources for statistical purposes should be strengthened. It is necessary to identify a number of basic registers to be dealt with first (e.g. population register, tax register, social insurance, etc). CYSTAT will propose a revision to Section 10 of the Statistical Law in order to eliminate the risk of potential conflict with other legislative acts.
Principle 3, <b>Adequacy of resources</b>	The number of permanent staff positions at CYSTAT should be increased to effectively carry out the present work program.
Principle 4, <b>Quality commitment</b>	A strategic plan for CYSTAT will be developed based on the Code of Practice and the Quality Declaration of the ESS. An entity dealing with quality management will be established at

	<p>CYSTAT.</p> <p>For all statistical outputs of CYSTAT quality will be monitored according to the ESS components of quality.</p> <p>The quality of the stages in the statistical production process will be monitored for all statistics produced by CYSTAT.</p> <p>A regular and thorough review of the key statistical outputs using external experts will be carried out.</p> <p>Systematic training in quality matters of staff members at CYSTAT and other producers of official statistics in Cyprus will be organized.</p> <p>Systematic training in quality matters of users of statistics in Cyprus will be organized.</p>
Principle 5, <b>Statistical confidentiality</b>	<p>The Confidentiality Committee should look at the security within the work area of CYSTAT to ensure that procedures are in place to ensure areas producing market sensitive statistics (GDP) are located in secure areas with restricted access.</p> <p>The Confidentiality Committee should review office documentation for managing unit record data (questionnaires / data files) to ensure that they are secure within the office.</p> <p>The Confidentiality Committee should continue to review the risk to confidentiality of improved technology over time and of changed circumstances.</p>
Principle 6, <b>Impartiality and objectivity</b>	<p>CYSTAT will complete the publication of information on methods and procedures.</p> <p>CYSTAT will provide ongoing training to staff in dealing with the media and document good practice. This will also be emphasized as one of the values of the office.</p>
Principle 7, <b>Sound methodology</b>	<p>A centralized methodological unit will be established at CYSTAT.</p>
Principle 10, <b>Cost effectiveness</b>	<p>The organisational structure of CYSTAT will be reviewed with the intention to establish certain specialized units like a quality management unit, a centralized methodological unit, an IT-unit, a data-collection unit and a corporate services unit.</p>
Principle 15, <b>Accessibility and clarity</b>	<p>Develop standard metadata for release with statistical data.</p> <p>Provide ongoing training to staff in writing for the media and document good practice. Provide documentation on presentation standards (style guides, graphics).</p> <p>To better balance the work of the office to contribute a greater proportion of resources to more analysis of data.</p> <p>To provide training to the media so that they understand better the concepts of the statistics that are being produced and the methods and procedures underlying the data.</p>

### 13. LATVIA

	<b>Improvement actions</b>
Principle 1,	CSB, together with national legal services, should examine the options

<b>Professional independence</b>	available and propose a legal mechanism which more clearly demonstrates the CSB's professional independence.
Principle 3, <b>Adequacy of resources</b>	Implement the new HR strategy with new approaches to staff selection, induction, professional training and career development. Implement the Balanced Scorecard to align resource utilisation with the needs of the CSB.
Principle 4, <b>Quality commitment</b>	Identify and document statistical and organizational processes in accordance with TQM standards. Work out strategic aims for quality management in respect of finances, clients, internal processes and human resources.
Principle 5, <b>Statistical confidentiality</b>	Document confidentiality principles for aggregated data.
Principle 6, <b>Impartiality and objectivity</b>	Prepare a data revision manual. Provide comprehensive information on data collection methods and procedures applied in statistics. Prepare and make public the plan for updating of external statistical databases.
Principle 7, <b>Sound methodology</b>	Organize courses in statistical theory. Improve the methodological descriptions of surveys and the documentation of procedures. Provide an enlarged quality report, also including detailed descriptions of survey methodology.
Principle 10, <b>Cost effectiveness</b>	Improve the annual evaluation of the work performance of civil servants and employees, using a competency-based approach. Train and enable statisticians to extract summaries and analysis from the ISDMS, with programming work done by IT specialists (to use the system to its full potential).
Principle 12, <b>Accuracy and reliability</b>	Document a methodology of accuracy assessment (supported by relevant training and staff participation). Assess the accuracy of each survey. Alter data collection/storage methods where necessary, so that all information necessary for calculating accuracy indicators is recorded.
Principle 15, <b>Accessibility and clarity</b>	Ensure the full availability of all indicators included in the National Programme of Statistical Information, in the CSB internet databases.

#### 14. LITHUANIA

	<b>Improvement actions</b>
Principle 1, <b>Professional independence</b>	To submit to the Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania the amendments of the Law on Statistics and other related acts with the specification of principles of the Code of Practice and strengthened coordinating role of Statistics Lithuania (SL).
Principle 2, <b>Mandate for data collection</b>	To submit to the Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania the amendments of the Law on Statistics and other related acts rendering more powers to influence administrative sources to adapt their data for statistical needs and vesting households with more clear responsibility of response to statistical surveys.
Principle 3,	To improve the system for training of internal trainers in SL.

<b>Adequacy of resources</b>	To improve the time recording system by linking it with budget planning. To gradually replace the existing statistical information system by a metadata-driven integrated statistical information system.
Principle 4, <b>Quality commitment</b>	To test previously approved questionnaires according to the approved procedures, which are currently applied to new questionnaires. To develop recommendations how to deal with quality trade-offs.
Principle 5, <b>Statistical confidentiality</b>	To submit to the Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania the amendments of the Law on Statistics improving provisions to access individual data for research purposes.
Principle 6, <b>Impartiality and objectivity</b>	To publish English summaries on statistical methods used for the production of all statistical outputs. To create a database for recording and analysis of discovered errors (on the internal website).
Principle 8, <b>Appropriate statistical procedures</b>	To implement e-questionnaires in the remaining business statistical surveys (with few exceptions caused by particularities of the surveys).
Principle 9, <b>Non-excessive burden on respondents</b>	To submit to the Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania the amendments of the Law on Statistics forbidding collecting statistical data if corresponding data are available in administrative sources and including the right to exchange confidential data between institutions producing official statistics. To develop an IT system allowing direct data extract from business accounting systems.
Principle 10, <b>Cost effectiveness</b>	To develop and implement the business information system. To prepare a methodological framework for cost benefit analysis.
Principle 11, <b>Relevance</b>	To submit to the Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania the amendments of the Law on Statistics defining users' rights.
Principle 15, <b>Accessibility and clarity</b>	To publish the remaining user-oriented quality reports on the SL website in English. To investigate the possibilities on the establishment of a common portal for official statistics.

## 15. LUXEMBOURG

	<b>Improvement actions</b>
Principle 1, <b>Professional independence</b>	Efforts to get the new legislation which Statec is preparing drafted, discussed and passed. The principles of the Code of Practice should be mentioned in the law explicitly. Prepare an intensive communication process with main stakeholders on the new legislation. Extend the annual report to cover all statistical activities (Statec and other producers) which are part of the ESS and use it as a management tool for a better co-ordination. Progress reports should be made available. Inclusion of a policy in the case of misuse of statistical results into the mission statement.
Principle 2, <b>Mandate for data</b>	Continued and intensified efforts to enable access to administrative data free of charge on the basis of special agreements.

<b>collection</b>	Full access to administrative data for statistical purposes should be made possible with the new legislation (in particular with respect to fiscal data).
<b>Principle 3, Adequacy of resources</b>	Formulation of a medium term business plan based on the medium term statistical program. Extension of the existing training to systematic quality management, dissemination strategies and the like.
<b>Principle 4, Quality commitment</b>	Implementation of the Common Assessment Framework (CAF model) – a self assessment tool for public administration. Reinforce the tools and means to monitor product quality regularly. Quality guidelines have to be finalised and made known to the public. Reinforce training sessions on quality issues for Statec staff. Review of key statistical outputs also relying on external experts. Feedback actions as a means for motivating respondents and thus increasing quality.
<b>Principle 5, Statistical confidentiality</b>	Publication of the existing guidelines on statistical confidentiality in the production and dissemination processes. Making the handbook on statistical confidentiality in production of statistics available to the public.
<b>Principle 6, Impartiality and objectivity</b>	Development and implementation of a policy in order to make the distinction between statistical data and forecast even clearer. Making the system of pre-access to data under embargo transparent to the general public. Improvement of access to metadata for all products. An English version of metadata is of particular importance. Establish standards on how to proceed in the case of serious errors. This policy document should be published. Strengthening of the public awareness of the SDDS release calendar. The release calendar should cover a period of more than 4 month in advance. The concept of "impartiality and objectivity" has to be explicitly foreseen in the reform of the Luxembourg NSI statistical law.
<b>Principle 7, Sound methodology</b>	Intensify cooperation with the research community and other NSIs. Promote the application of "sound methodology" at the level of the Advisory Body ("Conseil supérieur de la statistique"). Creation of an administrative coordination commission where methodology issues could be discussed (in the context of the project reforming the Luxembourg NSI statistical law).
<b>Principle 8, Appropriate statistical procedures</b>	Further development of the Quality Management System at Statec, with a focus on the generalisation and standardisation of the description of processes and documentation.
<b>Principle 9, Non-excessive burden on respondents</b>	Creation of an administrative coordination commission of all public producers in the context of the project of reforming the Luxembourg NSI statistical law, with a view to improve the coordination of surveys. Monitoring the response burden of firms should be systematically and regularly. The results of this exercise should be made public. Reinforce electronic means of reporting in order to increase timeliness and to reduce the response burden. Within the context of the cooperation aiming at establishing a



	standardised approach of data collection (chart of accounts) between Statec, the administrative business registers and the Ministry of Justice: Discussions on the use of the XBRL format for the transmission of accounting data should be enforced and cooperation with companies and software producers should be developed as soon as the legal framework is adopted.
<b>Principle 10, Cost effectiveness</b>	Promote the paperless transmission of data in order to reduce manual encoding of data.
<b>Principle 11, Relevance</b>	Carry out user satisfaction surveys on a regular basis (but not annually).
<b>Principle 12, Accuracy and reliability</b>	Development and publication of quality reports and indicators as part of the work program.
<b>Principle 13, Timeliness and punctuality</b>	Standardized review of the implementation of the annual work program with special reference to timeliness and punctuality of all major statistical products on a regular basis.
<b>Principle 14, Coherence and comparability</b>	Intensify and promote work on coherence and comparability in the context of existing or new internal working groups. The new legislation should aim at strengthening the coordination role and improve coherence within the system.
<b>Principle 15, Accessibility and clarity</b>	Intensify the process of informing users of major changes in key statistical products. Increase the visibility of revisions. Systematic training in statistical literacy. Increase the visibility of revisions. Make an English version of “Statistics Portal” Internet Websites accessible. To elaborate metadata for all statistical outputs and disseminate them together with the statistical figures to all users.
<b>Recommendations of the peer review team</b>	First priority should be given to the efforts to get a new legislation which is fully in line with the principles of the Code of Practice drafted, discussed and passed. In this context the institutional set-up of Statec needs to be re-examined carefully. If a clear separation of the production of European Statistics and the modelling and forecasting activities is not stipulated in the new legislation the new law should request a clear distinction as far as the dissemination of results is concerned. Whereas full compliance with the Code of Practice should be mandatory for European Statistics different rules could apply for example for forecasting results. The pre-release of forecasts does not conflict with the Code of Practice as long it is made clear to the non-professional user also that these results do not belong to official statistics. In the medium term a systematic process of audits for all statistical projects should be installed. External experts (also from neighbouring regions), academics and main users should be invited to participate in reviewing statistical methods and the quality of processes in detail. The findings and recommendations of these reviews ought to be published. The availability of such reports could help to improve quality and increase the trust of users in the reliability of results considerably. The size and the distribution as well as the development of the response burden should be monitored systematically. The results of this exercise

	<p>should be made public.</p> <p>Providing some feedback to households and enterprises participating in surveys could help to reduce unit- and item-non-response and could improve the quality of the answers given.</p> <p>A better endowment with resources (and human resources in particular) would facilitate the realization of the improvement measures already planned by Statec.</p>
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## 16. HUNGARY

	<b>Improvement actions</b>
Principle 1, <b>Professional independence</b>	<p>Strengthening of the co-ordinating and supervising role of the HCSO within the official statistical service, with the transformation of the role of the National Statistical Council (NSC) by making a proposal for the amendment of the Act on Statistics.</p> <p>Publication of the annual report on the operation of the HCSO both in Hungarian and English language.</p>
Principle 2, <b>Mandate for data collection</b>	<p>Elaboration of the conditions for extending the co-ordinated use of administrative records for statistical purposes: - a full-scale review of usable records; - strengthening the co-operation between the bodies belonging to the official statistical service, extension of the legal framework, implying the amendment of Act on Statistics.</p>
Principle 3, <b>Adequacy of resources</b>	<p>Introduction of mobile devices for data capture in surveys.</p>
Principle 4, <b>Quality commitment</b>	<p>Establishment and introduction of a product and process quality measurement system.</p>
Principle 5, <b>Statistical confidentiality</b>	<p>Revision and amendment of Act on Statistics concerning researchers' access to micro data.</p>
Principle 6, <b>Impartiality and objectivity</b>	<p>Introduction of a more interpretable but fully detailed description of methods, standard concepts, definitions and classifications linked to the ongoing project of making the meta database on HCSO's website accessible.</p>
Principle 7, <b>Sound methodology</b>	<p>Preparation for the introduction of the new version of SNA/ESA.</p> <p>Modernisation of the Meta database promotes to ensure that standard concepts, definitions and classifications are consistently applied throughout the statistical authority.</p>
Principle 8, <b>Appropriate statistical procedures</b>	<p>Integration of process quality indicators into the internal information system.</p> <p>Publication of reference books containing proposed methods for all stages of the production process in the frame of the process quality project.</p> <p>Development of integrated data capture system for interview surveys ("LAKOS").</p> <p>Development of integrated data processing system ("EAR").</p>
Principle 9, <b>Non-excessive burden on</b>	<p>Create internal working group for deciding in subject matter questions, simplification of questionnaires for reducing response burden on enterprises.</p>

<b>respondents</b>	Regular assessment of response burden indicators based on the finished project. Introduction of CRM (customer rights management) - like contact management system to handle contact data and other information of respondents easier.
<b>Principle 10, Cost effectiveness</b>	Introduction of mobile devices in surveys for data capture. Introduction of process quality management. Introduction of a general production process management system.
<b>Principle 11, Relevance</b>	Elaboration of methods for measuring user satisfaction and introduction of regular measurements.
<b>Principle 12, Accuracy and reliability</b>	By establishing the integrated data processing system (“EAR”), information on data receipt may be managed and analysed via a single information technology interface. Following the introduction of the continuous product quality measurement, elaboration of formal procedure rules for what data can be published, when and at what level of detail depending on the accuracy of data.
<b>Principle 14, Coherence and comparability</b>	The planned product quality indicators ensure the measurement of comparability too. Modernisation of the Meta database promotes the improvement of product coherence and comparability.
<b>Principle 15, Accessibility and clarity</b>	Assure direct access to the meta database of methods, standard concepts, definitions and classifications on HCSO’s website.
<b>Recommendations of the peer review team</b>	The systematic introduction of more formalised procedures to ensure the quality of statistical outputs and processes in line with the Quality Declaration of the ESS. The successful completion of the wide ranging development programme (including a wide variety of improvement actions) so that maximum use can be made of available resources in the full delivery of the statistical programme. The National Statistical Law should be revised to allow more automatic access to administrative sources for statistical purposes and to permit freer access to microdata to researchers. The team working on quality should be strengthened and the work of the team in implementing a more structured use of quality guidelines and tools for monitoring process and output quality should be speeded up. The role and composition of the NSC should be re-considered in order to promote greater co-ordination of official statistics and to facilitate more effective communications between HCSO, other governmental organisations and users in general. HCSO publications and releases should contain more comments and explanations to help both specialists and general users to use and understand statistics in a more effective manner. The HCSO might consider developing a system for gathering feedback from different groups of users and a system of reflecting the results of user-surveys in the statistical output, incl. developing clearly targeted statistical products. Usability tests of the website of the HCSO might also be introduced.

	The HCSO should consider publishing, and/or making available on its website, information on the pre-release arrangements in place for some statistical series.
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## 17. MALTA

	<b>Improvement actions</b>
Principle 1, <b>Professional independence</b>	Achieve as soon as possible a definite appointment of Director General. Publish a synopsis of the three-year working programme which is currently submitted to the Ministry of Finance to provide the necessary funds to NSO.
Principle 3, <b>Adequacy of resources</b>	Further increase the number of staff to fulfil the growing demand for statistics, in particular from the European side. Increase investment in Information Technology. Align salaries of qualified staff with those offered by competitors. Draw up an intensive training programme with the assistance of a foreign expert.
Principle 4, <b>Quality commitment</b>	Consider the implementation of quality management approach. Set up a specific unit in charge of coordination of systematic and regular monitoring of the quality of all statistical products in NSO in accordance with ESS quality dimensions and national guidelines on data quality. This unit will also be in charge of planning regular audits, coordinating the production of internal handbooks and guidelines for staff and internal training in the field of quality. Implement systematic monitoring of quality according to ESS quality dimensions. Engage external experts, where appropriate, for reviewing statistical outputs and processes. Carry out customer/user satisfaction surveys on a yearly basis.
Principle 5, <b>Statistical confidentiality</b>	Set up and publish the procedure to give access to micro data to researchers.
Principle 9, <b>Non-excessive burden on respondents</b>	Intensify permanently the use of administrative sources (NSO has put forward a proposal to set up a Central Administrative Register).
Principle 11, <b>Relevance</b>	Identify better users' specific needs and integrate findings into the planning process of NSO.
Principle 12, <b>Accuracy and reliability</b>	Continue to strive in implementing best practices for reducing survey non-response.
Principle 15, <b>Accessibility and clarity</b>	Develop structured and standardized metadata and make them available to the users on the website.

## 18. THE NETHERLANDS

	<b>Improvement actions</b>
Principle 2, <b>Mandate for data</b>	The need for more legal power to get better access to records of semi-government organizations.

<b>collection</b>	Explicit notification on reasons why the legal mandate for data collection in the Netherlands does not include the obligation of individuals or households to cooperate in surveys.
Principle 3, <b>Adequacy of resources</b>	Relation between quality of staff and ICT Master plan: in order to develop the necessary quality in the production process of statistics, knowledge of the corporate process is needed.
Principle 4, <b>Quality commitment</b>	Adoption and implementation of a quality management model as a framework for the existing activities on quality assurance. The implementation of a security organisation.
Principle 9, <b>Non-excessive burden on respondents</b>	Reduce the demand for data from companies directly to the absolute minimum. Improved coordination of administrative with statistical definitions.
Principle 10, <b>Cost effectiveness</b>	Development and implementation of a methodology for mapping more precisely the cost of statistical outputs.
Principle 12, <b>Accuracy and reliability</b>	Introduction of systematic measurement and documentation of errors, further research into output quality, improvement of process assurance.
Principle 14, <b>Coherence and comparability</b>	Action point: development and implementation of consistent metadata system (StatLine 4). Describe concrete plans. StatLine 4 will become operational. This will achieve considerably more consistency in the metadata. In addition, this will be the starting point for the further completion of the metadata system.
Principle 15, <b>Accessibility and clarity</b>	The implementation of StatLine 4 will facilitate the translation into English of StatLine. All new tables from that date will be bilingual.
<b>Recommendations of the peer review team</b>	Improved metadata are needed; development of real metadata systems integrated with the process chain for data.
<b>Conclusion from the interviews with other national producers</b>	National responsibility for Community statistics should be reinforced and centralised by explicitly embedding a formal coordination mechanism and role for Statistics Netherlands in Act on Statistics Netherlands.

## 19. AUSTRIA

	<b>Improvement actions</b>
Principle 4, <b>Quality commitment</b>	Quality guidelines to be elaborated in the framework of the European Statistics Code of Practice also incorporating the organisation's error treatment policy.
Principle 6, <b>Impartiality and objectivity</b>	To develop and publish a policy on pre-release access, consistent with European best practice. To publicise – e.g. on its website - its pre-release arrangements, including details (statistical products, timescales, and names of recipients) of instances when Ministers have early access.
Principle 9, <b>Non-excessive burden on respondents</b>	Systematic, comprehensive assessment of whether administrative sources can be used for the production of statistics (covering all statistical products). Formal agreements with institutions responsible for administrative data with regard to data quality and delivery reliability.

<b>Principle 11, Relevance</b>	Customer/user satisfaction surveys on a regular basis.
<b>Principle 12, Accuracy and reliability</b>	General quality guidelines to be elaborated (covering also questionnaire testing, management of overcoverage, undercoverage and misclassification, review of the survey design, calculation of quality indicators, supervision of field operations, data entry and coding, editing and imputation). Extension of calculation of quality indicators to be included in quality reports.
<b>Principle 14, Coherence and comparability</b>	Further efforts to extend analysis of coherence, e.g. in cooperation with the scientific community.
<b>Principle 15, Accessibility and clarity</b>	Improve accessibility of database following a transparent publication and simplified pricing policy. Integrated metadata system to extend provision of metadata – including (parts) in English language - to all dissemination channels.
<b>Recommendations of the peer review team</b>	<p>Statistics Austria should consider the steps it might wish to take in order to move from an approach of (disclosure) risk avoidance, to risk management.</p> <p>According to the team, at some stage there will be pressure to update the Federal Statistics Act, and Statistics Austria should consider making it more flexible and light touch, and based more on contemporary thinking about sound statistical principles – perhaps simply by cross-referring to the Code of Practice. It should also review the (baseline) funding position, in order to minimise the risk that Statistics Austria be forced to seek additional tasks in order to raise revenue. And it should define a co-ordination role for Statistics Austria.</p> <p>Statistics Austria might consider systematically its relationship with other national data providers in terms of standards and guidance, and methodological support, with a view to formalising and strengthening a co-ordination role.</p> <p>More “secondary analysis” could be a priority within the framework of working relationships with the university sector in Austria, particularly to help improve understanding of the coherence of different data sources and statistical estimates.</p> <p>Statistics Austria should consider undertaking an opinion survey to understand better the views of the general public, about confidence in official statistics and about trust in Statistics Austria.</p>

## 20. POLAND

	<b>Improvement actions</b>
<b>Principle 3, Adequacy of resources</b>	Taking the actions to increase financial resources for remuneration in statistics pointing at the rate of average remuneration in statistics to average remuneration in other administration branches.
<b>Principle 4, Quality commitment</b>	<p>Elaboration of the long-term quality program for the official statistics for 2008-2012.</p> <p>Elaboration of the annual quality program for the official statistics.</p> <p>Wider dissemination of ESS quality standards: Quality Declaration of the ESS, Leadership Group on Quality recommendations, the Code Of</p>

	<p>Practice within units of official statistics - basic trainings, complementary trainings.</p> <p>Elaboration of rules and procedures for monitoring of statistical surveys outputs quality according to the ESS quality components.</p> <p>Wider dissemination of quality assessment results of the statistical surveys outputs among external users, also by the CSO Information Portal.</p> <p>Implementation of all stages of the statistical production process quality monitoring.</p> <p>Implementation of the ESS standard questionnaire for statistical processes self-assessment.</p> <p>Increase the number of surveys, which quality will be described by means of standard quality reports and standard quality indicators.</p> <p>Preparation of guidelines concerning surveys quality for external users.</p>
<b>Principle 5, Statistical confidentiality</b>	Elaboration of methods of automatic hiding of confidential data.
<b>Principle 6, Impartiality and objectivity</b>	Provide targeted methodological information aimed at specific user groups.
<b>Principle 7, Sound methodology</b>	<p>Quality improvement of the frames using administrative sources.</p> <p>Elaboration of the procedures for assessment of frames quality.</p> <p>Elaboration of organisation and realisation rules for surveys implementation including classification standards, concepts and definitions for application by other than the CSO of Poland producers of statistics.</p> <p>Improvement in surveys methodology in the range of: eco-industry, environment expenditures accounts, material flow accounts, and NAMEA Air Emission under co-operation with Eurostat.</p> <p>Intensification of co-operation with scientific units.</p> <p>Creation of the research and development unit in the CSO of Poland.</p> <p>Establishment of separate Commission, which will be engaged in assessment of statistical surveys methodology.</p>
<b>Principle 8, Appropriate statistical procedures</b>	<p>Elaboration of common system for imputation of data.</p> <p>Intensification of co-operation of official statistics with bodies running administrative systems - in particular organisation of periodical meetings with these administrative bodies; current submit the needs of official statistics, at design phase in case of new administrative systems.</p> <p>Wider dissemination of standards used in official statistics.</p> <p>Evaluation and improvement of informatics systems of data editing.</p>
<b>Principle 9, Non-excessive burden on respondents</b>	<p>Elaboration of conception of respondent burden survey.</p> <p>Introduction of conception of wider use of administrative registers into the statistical practice.</p> <p>Increasing the number of digital (on-line) forms used in statistical surveys.</p>
<b>Principle 10, Cost effectiveness</b>	<p>Intensification of work on the use of administrative data sources.</p> <p>Introduction of electronic questionnaires for the most of statistical questionnaires.</p> <p>Preparation to direct use of business accounts and electronic means.</p>
<b>Principle 11,</b>	Carrying out actions referring to prioritization of the surveys.

<b>Relevance</b>	
Principle 12, <b>Accuracy and reliability</b>	Work on quality improvement of the frames using administrative sources. Implementation of modern methods of data collection e.g. electronic forms.
Principle 14, <b>Coherence and comparability</b>	Focusing more attention on coherence and comparability during the work on the methodology of the statistical surveys.
Principle 15, <b>Accessibility and clarity</b>	Publish long time series on the website. Elaboration of conception of complex metadata system according to standard metadata systems. Establish a new system of providing custom-designed analyses, in accordance with the Code of Practice.
<b>Recommendations of the peer review team</b>	The work with quality has to move forward and modernise and adapt to EU Principles. The contact with and services towards research community is also an arena with a potential for improvements. The internet presentations should be improved and it will be valuable if more will be available in English language.

## 21. PORTUGAL

	<b>Improvement actions</b>
Principle 1, <b>Professional independence</b>	Following the approval of the new Law, Statistics Portugal will sign contracts for delegation powers with other National Producers. This will include specific quotations of the Code, particularly the Principle on Professional Independence. Statistics Portugal gives the highest importance to these principles, from which important obligations will apply to other producers. Coordination, supervision and audit functions are also foreseen to be included in the contract. Given the perception that Statistics Portugal approach in dealing with criticisms or misquotation of figures may be weak, Statistics Portugal Dissemination Policy will have a chapter on relations with the Media, and a more pro-active approach will be considered.
Principle 2, <b>Mandate for data collection</b>	Early participation of Statistics Portugal in the concept and design of administrative data instruments will continue – as per the recently created Simplified Business Information. Intensification of production of statistics using administrative data has been set as a major strategic goal for 2008 – 2012, as a consequence of previous steps in this same direction.
Principle 3, <b>Adequacy of resources</b>	The Training Plan for 2007-2008 under implementation is opened to all National Statistics Authorities – This plan is oriented towards the needs of all areas of activity in the National Statistical System, and aims at a major step in the re-qualification of Statistics Portugal staff. Statistics Portugal struggles for hiring new experts in statistical fields, and this lack of resources is a major weakness at the moment. The recent Public Administration reform process will enable Statistics Portugal to take some strides towards this process (yet with limited impact). Statistics Portugal will give a serious consideration to adopt a formal



	Mobility Policy.
Principle 4, <b>Quality commitment</b>	<p>Implementation of a Standard Quality Report for all statistical surveys, covering the ESS quality components, on a stepwise approach.</p> <p>100% coverage of methodological documents, according to the template already approved for the National Statistical System.</p> <p>Application of the Quality Reports and the Handbook for Statistical Production Process at National Statistical System level.</p> <p>A proposal will be made to include in the training programme a course on quality components/quality management.</p> <p>A plan for internal and external audits to be carried out in 2008 is to be approved by the end of February. The frequency of internal audits will depend upon staff/resources availability. This action reflects main emphasis given to this matter by the National Strategy 2008-2012.</p>
Principle 5, <b>Statistical confidentiality</b>	<p>Statistics Portugal will re-establish the mandatory signature of a confidentiality commitment, separate from the staff regulations, upon entry into service, as soon as it will begin recruiting new staff, or when gets staff from any other partnership relation; In addition, Statistics Portugal will ensure/take action in order to strength the importance of this principle amongst current staff.</p> <p>In the context of the 2008 Work Plan the Handbook on Procedures on Confidentiality will be produced, bearing in mind the recommendations of this report, with the systematization of the practices already in place. Ways and means will be explored how to check and control the disclosure risk amongst information supplied to researchers.</p> <p>Moreover, the Statistical Council is preparing a regulation for the application of the Statistical Secrecy following the approval of the new Law, to be applied by Statistics Portugal and other Entities of the National Statistical System.</p>
Principle 6, <b>Impartiality and objectivity</b>	<p>A Revisions Policy is foreseen in the context of the 2008 Work Programme.</p> <p>Statistics Portugal will assess the practice of two potential release times a day.</p> <p>In future Press agencies and Journalist will have equal access in time to press releases.</p> <p>Pre-release arrangements will be clearly publicised at Statistics Portugal Dissemination Policy and on the Website.</p> <p>Statistics Portugal has initiated actions towards improving the analytical content of its publications. In the current Annual Work Programme, specific areas were identified to develop further the analytical content and broaden the analysis in some social and economic statistics. This effort is to be enlarged, translating the emphasis and the actions lines of the National Strategy for 2008-2012.</p>
Principle 7, <b>Sound methodology</b> Principle 8, <b>Appropriate statistical procedures</b>	<p>Increase of data collection through internet/webinq tools and CATI.</p> <p>More pro-active stance within the "respondent management" unit (under the data collection department), regarding the responses coming from the most important business units.</p> <p>Adoption of recommended practices in questionnaire design.</p>
Principle 9,	Development of a sampling management system of statistical units, in

<b>Non-excessive burden on respondents</b>	<p>order to better control the response burden.</p> <p>Development of actions towards an increased use of administrative data for statistical purposes in different areas.</p> <p>Benchmarking with other NSIs of the ESS to define, measure and monitor the response burden.</p> <p>The increase of IT solutions in data collection processes. (WebInq/CATI).</p> <p>The management of respondent process.</p>
Principle 10, <b>Cost effectiveness</b>	<p>Development of a new IT solution in order to integrate: human resources allocation, budget and work plan per activity.</p> <p>Improvement of the overall technological IT infrastructure.</p>
Principle 11, <b>Relevance</b>	<p>In pursuing user orientation, and building upon past experience, Statistics Portugal is preparing an action plan for future satisfaction surveys of different target groups (the plan will include an updated on-line questionnaire on the website and a survey towards customers who request tailored statistics).</p> <p>Adoption of a Dissemination Policy for Statistics Portugal.</p> <p>Development of a Dissemination Policy for the National Statistical System, per the National Strategy for 2008-2012.</p> <p>Implementation of a CRM system is being put in place in the New Website.</p> <p>Improvement of data dissemination via Website, making available data bases per selected themes.</p>
Principle 12, <b>Accuracy and reliability</b>	<p>Implementation of a Standard Quality Report for all statistical surveys, covering the ESS quality components, on a stepwise approach.</p>
Principle 13, <b>Timeliness and punctuality</b>	<p>Further improvement in order to increase performance concerning timeliness and punctuality of all products and services at National Statistical level, within the Statistical Council.</p> <p>Improvement of the current system of indicators and tools for management of timeliness and punctuality.</p> <p>Enlargement of application of the management system to other national producers.</p>
Principle 14, <b>Coherence and comparability</b>	<p>Adoption of a Revisions Policy for Statistics Portugal.</p> <p>Development of a Revisions Policy for the National Statistical System, per the National Strategy for 2008-2012.</p>
Principle 15, <b>Accessibility and clarity</b>	<p>Further development of the Metadata Integrated System, for use by internal and external users.</p> <p>Extending the Metadata Integrated System to the other national producers.</p> <p>Statistics Portugal will do its utmost to simply and speed up the access to micro-data by researchers. This also depends on researchers being precise and specific concerning their demands.</p> <p>Statistics Portugal is exploring ways to grant remote micro-data access to researchers.</p> <p>Although the accreditation system of researchers is beyond Statistics Portugal powers, in the context of revising the protocol with the Ministry of Science, Technology and Higher Education will discuss this matter.</p> <p>During 2008, Statistics Portugal will prepare its systems for the use of</p>

	SDMX.
<b>Recommendations of the peer review team</b>	<p>The review team recommends that the office of President of Statistics Portugal, together with its role, authority and tasks, its technical independence and the appointment process, should be defined in the national statistical law.</p> <p>The review team recommends that the institutional barriers to recruitment should be lifted urgently.</p> <p>The review team recommends that Statistics Portugal and the appropriate authorities review the institutional status of Statistics Portugal, with a view to identifying how Statistics Portugal can be enabled to respond flexibly and effectively to the needs of national and European statistics.</p> <p>The review team recommends that Statistics Portugal prepare a staff mobility policy and actively implement its training plan, as key elements of its overall staff / skills development policies.</p> <p>The review team recommends that Statistics Portugal implement plans to formalise guidelines on confidentiality, assign roles and responsibilities relating to confidentiality, and carry out periodic controls and audits.</p> <p>The review team recommends that renewed efforts be made in the area of quality audits and that regular quality reports according to the ESS quality components, covering all statistical domains, should be compiled and published.</p> <p>The review team recommends that Statistics Portugal's plans for formalising its correction procedures and developing a common revision policy be carried out.</p>

## 22. ROMANIA

	<b>Improvement actions</b>
Principle 1, <b>Professional independence</b>	Extend annual activity reports to include evaluation in terms of progress in the implementation of multi-annual programme. This report should be reviewed by the Statistical Council and made available public
Principle 2, <b>Mandate for data collection</b>	Prepare the use of administrative sources that have not yet been used for official statistics (Ministry of Labour; tax data; buildings and population registers), and examine possible duplicative data collection from enterprises for administrative purposes and in statistical surveys. Reduce response burden by examining need for continuing regional break-downs in selected business surveys
Principle 3, <b>Adequacy of resources</b>	Bring in line the earnings of staff of INS with those in ministries Increase the number of permanent staff positions at INS to a level that allows the effective carrying out of the present work programme and the implementation of new EU regulations/directives Make more use of the possibility of other ministries or the Central Bank to co-finance new INS surveys Develop an IT-strategy for the INS that minimises dependence on application development for specific surveys and minimises the variety of software to be maintained. The implementation is also an opportunity to examine and streamline the business processes throughout INS
Principle 4,	Define a strategic plan for quality as regular part of all production (not

<b>Quality commitment</b>	<p>only ex-post reports for EUROSTAT) to be realized through concrete actions strictly correlated to the multi-annual and annual statistical programmes</p> <p>Create a quality unit as a permanent structure within the organization with the mandate of acting as central body to support the monitoring of quality in the production processes and to promote a higher integration between the different production sectors in terms of methodologies, techniques, tools, software to adopt during the various phases of the work</p> <p>Develop standards of documentation (metadata) that accompany all production processes and become a prerequisite for validating microdata sets and official results; make this documentation available centrally and (concerning results) publicly</p> <p>Include other quality parameters than timeliness and punctuality in the targets for all production departments</p>
<b>Principle 8, Appropriate statistical procedures</b>	<p>Apply consistently methods of treatment of partial non-response, editing and imputation</p>
<b>Principle 10, Cost effectiveness</b>	<p>Introduce a system to monitor cost of activities, products and projects</p>
<b>Principle 14, Coherence and comparability</b>	<p>Develop and implement a concept of central repository of validated results of official statistics including metadata (data warehouse), from which all dissemination products are generated</p>
<b>Principle 15, Accessibility and clarity</b>	<p>Increase and harmonise the availability of metadata in or from the Tempo database</p>
<b>Recommendations of the peer review team</b>	<p>The main improvement to be made possible by a new law on statistics to be adopted by the Parliament in 2008 is to bring other producers of official statistics more in line with the modern concept of official statistics as exemplified in Code of Practice. The Peer Review team recommends that INS devotes enough resources to prepare implementation, and to assist other producers who are willing to take on themselves the task of producing and disseminating their part of statistics in a way that fully complies with the Code. A special unit in INS might be created for system-wide coordination issues, and to follow and react to draft legislation in other areas that may contain provisions on statistics or regulate administrative sources that are relevant for statistics. When the first multi-annual programme is prepared under the new law, other producers should be assessed by INS for their willingness and ability to operate under this law, and their proposed activities should be checked for duplications, synergies and conformity with EU standards.</p> <p>The Peer Review team recommends that some new mechanisms be created by which staff from various departments can exchange their practical problems in using the quality codes (fundamental principles of official statistics, the Code of Practice, the ESS quality framework, the INS internal codes) in their work and be assisted in difficult implementation issues. The awareness of these principles and of their relevance for current work should be kept high for all INS staff and</p>

	<p>staff from other producers of official statistics.</p> <p>It is crucial that staff receive more incentives for lateral thinking and acting beyond the boundaries of their respective areas of activity. Horizontal groups for cross-cutting issues, and project teams composed of staff from various departments for the development phase of new activities, are recommended by the team.</p> <p>The team recommends to the INS to follow the general trend regarding the accessibility of data (make full statistical information on the web accessible and downloadable free of charge; charges are only made for products in other forms (hard-copy publications) or tailor-made services), to extend the content of the TEMPO database, and to reduce gradually the number of series that are only available against payment.</p>
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### 23. SLOVENIA

	<b>Improvement actions</b>
Principle 2, <b>Mandate for data collection</b>	SORS to intensify its efforts to give better feedback to respondents by providing them with the (aggregate) survey results (including an analysis). If all these "positive" measures do not lead to improved response rates legal action to compel response should be seriously considered by SORS.
Principle 8, <b>Appropriate statistical procedures</b>	To introduce a more systematic approach to analysing fieldwork for personal and household surveys. To introduce, within the ISIS project, more automated editing which will facilitate the survey managers' access to quality indicators (rate of edited observations, rate of imputed data). To set up clear procedures for publishing data revisions.
Principle 9, <b>Non-excessive burden on respondents</b>	To study the possibility of co-ordinated sampling To calculate an indicator reflecting the burden on respondents (e.g. by introducing a question for respondents on how much time they spent filling in the questionnaire). To introduce an electronic reporting infrastructure and standardize questionnaires within the ISIS project
Principle 10, <b>Cost effectiveness</b>	To expand the implementation of automatic and selective data editing in business statistics – as a result of the introduction of the ISIS system.
Principle 12, <b>Accuracy and reliability</b>	To continue work on the quality indicators database, which includes all parts of the statistical process (implemented within ISIS system) To set up a system for revisions and to use the Intranet site for reporting good practice and exchanging the opinions of methodologists.
Principle 14, <b>Coherence and comparability</b>	To set up a system for comparing annual and short-term statistics, comparisons over time, and comparisons with national accounts To set up a system to document breaks in time series
<b>Recommendations of the peer review team</b>	Enable business survey respondents to provide their data electronically (especially via the internet).

### 24. SLOVAKIA

	<b>Improvement actions</b>
Principle 1,	Amend the Act on State Statistics to include the independence in the

<b>Professional independence</b>	field of dissemination.
Principle 2, <b>Mandate for data collection</b>	Intensify explanatory campaign focused on entrepreneurs with the aim to strengthen reporting duty of respondents.
Principle 3, <b>Adequacy of resources</b>	Implement objectives formulated in the ICT development strategy for the SO SR.
Principle 4, <b>Quality commitment</b>	Achieve further progress by extending the monitored quality components and statistical domains – National Accounts, social statistics and business statistics.
Principle 5, <b>Statistical confidentiality</b>	Promote knowledge and skills regarding statistical confidentiality within the NSS.
Principle 6, <b>Impartiality and objectivity</b>	Implement in a consistent manner the SOSR’ Directive on External Communication to the media, extend the directive to the public in general.
Principle 7, <b>Sound methodology</b>	Strengthen the existing methodology unit and create conditions also for monitoring of the methodological developments in order to comply with these developments.
Principle 8, <b>Appropriate statistical procedures</b>	Develop further the Quality Management System – focus on processes.
Principle 9, <b>Non-excessive burden on respondents</b>	Introduce a proper way of response burden assessment directly on respondent side. Implement software for electronic collection of questionnaires and promote mutual advantages of electronic data collection among respondents.
Principle 10, <b>Cost effectiveness</b>	Review division of labour between different SOSR’ branches. Introduce the additional cost indicators for individual surveys into annual programming.
Principle 12, <b>Accuracy and reliability</b>	Improve further the measurement of this quality dimension in the concrete statistics within further development of the Quality management system
Principle 13, <b>Timeliness and punctuality</b>	Improve further the measurement of this quality dimension in the concrete statistics within further development of the Quality management system
Principle 14, <b>Coherence and comparability</b>	Achieve data comparability of selected indicators of social and economic statistics. Improve further the measurement of this quality dimension in the concrete statistics within further development of the Quality management system
Principle 15, <b>Accessibility and clarity</b>	Use the new SOSR’ portal to improve communication about changes in statistical processes - methodology, revisions, related problems. Increase the coverage of metadata for all domains on the SOSR’ Portal and implement appropriate (realistic) measures on metadata quality.

25. FINLAND

	<b>Improvement actions</b>
Principle 3, <b>Adequacy of resources</b>	Developing leadership and supervisory work at Statistics Finland (SF) Implementation and finalisation of the productivity programme of SF
Principle 4, <b>Quality commitment</b>	Increasing the efficiency of quality work (process quality, product quality, internal and external audits), better communication Support of the implementation of Code of Practice in the whole Official Statistics of Finland (OFS)
Principle 5, <b>Statistical confidentiality</b>	A project investigating how to integrate automatic disclosure control better to our IT-techniques
Principle 6, <b>Impartiality and objectivity</b>	Completing metadata on website (quality description, methodological description, concepts and definitions)
Principle 7, <b>Sound methodology</b>	The second phase of the personnel training program (training in statistical processes, methodology, IT techniques) Implementation of the results of the Production Model project
Principle 8, <b>Appropriate statistical procedures</b>	Development of data cleaning and editing/imputation systems
Principle 9, <b>Non-excessive burden on respondents</b>	Measurement of response burden of direct data collection from enterprises, local governments and institutions
Principle 10, <b>Cost effectiveness</b>	Project management training and adoption of standardised project tools
Principle 12, <b>Accuracy and reliability</b>	A minimum standard for (process and product) quality indicators to be developed and implemented
Principle 14, <b>Coherence and comparability</b>	Launching three coherence producing statistical programs: internationalisation of enterprises, data collection from enterprises, measurement of prices and volumes Developing the standard presentation of OSF statistics on the Internet
Principle 15, <b>Accessibility and clarity</b>	Thematic and user oriented interfaces on the Internet Developing the communication to and feedback from different customer groups Implementation of common metadata standards for all statistics Developing free statistical self-service on the Internet for the whole OSF (common portal of different producers for external users)
<b>Recommendations of the peer review team</b>	Better communication of pricing policy. Look into the possibility of “campus use files” for students, perhaps on a European scale. Better links between statistical authorities on the website. Investigate the possibility of more external reviews of statistical products.

26. SWEDEN

	<b>Improvement actions</b>
Principle 4, <b>Quality commitment</b>	Implementation of the chosen quality management system. Implementation of a revised auditing approach connected to the quality management system and adapted to the changed environment after the Lotta project.
Principle 5, <b>Statistical confidentiality</b>	The guidelines developed during 2007 will be built into a common IT system to be used by all surveys.
Principle 7, <b>Sound methodology</b>	Common tools will be developed for the whole production process. The tools will incorporate the current best methods that have been identified internally and externally.
Principle 8, <b>Appropriate statistical procedures</b>	The methods referred to under Principle 7 will be well-documented and available to all staff via a system for process documentation on our Intranet.
Principle 9, <b>Non-excessive burden on respondents</b>	Statistics Sweden has proposed the Government to introduce in the statistical legislation a provision to statistical authorities to firstly utilise administrative sources for the production of official statistics. Data collection from enterprises and other organisations may take place only when such data are not available. Further development of the system for electronic data collection (ELIS) to be able to offer an electronic method of reporting data in more surveys including the transmission of data files
Principle 12, <b>Accuracy and reliability</b>	Systems to control and obtain information on quality, including accuracy, will be introduced, mainly concerning the data collection process. Process data will be measured and analysed to a greater extent than currently.
Principle 14, <b>Coherence and comparability</b>	Increase the number and length of time series in the National Accounts.
<b>Recommendations of the peer review team</b>	When revising the legal regulations it is recommended to consider the clarifications regarding the professional independence. To increase Statistics Sweden's commitment in the area of statistical analysis: there is a need for quality figures but also some robust comments based on sound analytical work. To fully exploit the competencies of young statisticians or economists working at Statistics Sweden in doing more economic studies or statistical analyses. It is recommended that a fraction of productivity gains generated by for instance the LOTTA project should be reinvested in more analytical work. This work could be done in partnership with universities or economic and social research institutes.

27. UNITED KINGDOM

	<b>Improvement actions</b>
Principle 3, <b>Adequacy of resources</b>	The ONS modernisation programme will both standardise and modernise the statistical and IT systems.
Principle 8,	A systematic programme of reviews of statistical procedures including



<b>Appropriate statistical procedures</b>	survey design, sample designs, editing and imputation systems will be put in place, subject to the availability of funding.
<b>Principle 9, Non-excessive burden on respondents</b>	ONS will continue with its programme of electronic data delivery as part of the modernisation programme.
<b>Principle 10, Cost effectiveness</b>	The ONS modernisation programme is both standardising and modernising the statistical systems and reducing clerical operations.
<b>Principle 12, Accuracy and reliability</b>	Quality reports which cover all the ESS quality components will be developed and implemented across all major outputs
<b>Principle 15, Accessibility and clarity</b>	ONS will relaunch the website featuring a far more accessible navigation and taxonomy, with improved meta-tagging of the content to ensure that the search is far more effective than the current search The relaunched ONS website will be double A compliant with WC3 throughout and triple A compliant where possible, allowing for some of the complex data presentation and visualisation content it will feature A charging and access policy for custom designed analysis will be implemented across the organisation
<b>Recommendations of the peer review team</b>	The enforcement of the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 is under way: there is a need for secondary legislation being drafted and enacted, in order to allow the new system to actually function from April 2008. For instance, pre-release access arrangements have to be defined; data sharing between public authorities and the Board have to be specified in concrete terms; etc. It is important to improve the website of ONS. Many users of statistics produced and published by the ONS, as well as a number of stakeholders have pointed out the need for a rapid renovation of this site, especially the structure of it, its navigation tools and search facilities, but also the way of presentation of metadata and more frequent updating of metadata. The development of IC technologies could be used to improve the collection of business surveys, using internet.

## 28. ICELAND

	<b>Improvement actions</b>
<b>Principle 1, Professional independence</b>	An annual work programme should be published with subsequent monitoring on progress against the plans being published.
<b>Principle 3, Adequacy of resources</b>	Statistics Iceland needs to review the balance between its current work programme and the resources it has. There is a clear need for additional and more timely outputs to satisfy the user needs and comply with ESS regulations. If additional resources are not available or efficiencies can not be found, priorities should be reviewed with users.
<b>Principle 4, Quality commitment</b>	For all statistical outputs of Statistics Iceland quality should be monitored according to the ESS components of quality. Systematic training in quality matters for staff and users of statistics in Iceland should take place.

	<p>Documentation and written procedures for Quality and Project Management should be put in place, including written documentation for new surveys.</p> <p>Monitoring elements of data quality should be made publicly available, perhaps as part of Quality Reports.</p> <p>A regular and thorough review of the key statistical outputs using external experts should take place.</p>
Principle 5, <b>Statistical confidentiality</b>	Need for a deliberate policy of Statistics Iceland with respect to the participation in Eurostat programmes of giving research projects access to microdata either in general and/or on the basis of individual projects
Principle 7, <b>Sound methodology</b>	Statistics Iceland should establish a methodology unit or group of staff, with responsibility including the promotion of standard concepts, definitions and classifications.
Principle 11, <b>Relevance</b>	To continue with a regular user survey to provide indications of satisfaction levels with the service provided.
Principle 14, <b>Coherence and comparability</b>	Introduce a standard practice to compare annual and short term results for all relevant statistics.
Principle 15, <b>Accessibility and clarity</b>	The pricing policy for access to statistics, such as customised tables, should be published on the web.

## 29. LIECHTENSTEIN

	<b>Improvement actions</b>
Principle 1, <b>Professional independence</b>	<p>The independence of the statistical authority from political and other external interference should be specified in the statistical law.</p> <p>The head of the statistical authority should have responsibility for ensuring that the statistical publications are produced and disseminated in an independent manner.</p>
Principle 2, <b>Mandate for data collection</b>	A revision of the statistical law should take place to allow by national legislation to use administrative records for statistical purposes.
Principle 3, <b>Adequacy of resources</b>	Procedures to assess the continuing need for all statistical publications should be introduced.
Principle 4, <b>Quality commitment</b>	<p>Quality guidelines should be spelled out in writing and existing monitoring procedures should be further specified.</p> <p>Internal handbooks for the production process of the main statistical publications should be drafted where they are still missing.</p>
Principle 5, <b>Statistical confidentiality</b>	A revision of the statistical law should take place to adapt the requirements on statistical confidentiality.
Principle 6, <b>Impartiality and objectivity</b>	<p>A revision of the statistical law should take place to strengthen the requirements on impartiality and objectivity.</p> <p>Information on the methods and data sources used by the Statistics Division of Liechtenstein should be made public for all statistical publications.</p>
Principle 7, <b>Sound</b>	Cooperation with the scientific community, with experts from Eurostat and with statisticians' from other NSI's to improve methodology should

<b>methodology</b>	be strengthened.
Principle 8, <b>Appropriate statistical procedures</b>	Quality indicators for statistical procedures should be introduced and procedures for revisions should be established.
Principle 9, <b>Non-excessive burden on respondents</b>	Registers should be used for the next population and housing census to reduce response burden. Questionnaires should be reduced to the questions which are necessary for statistical purposes.
Principle 10, <b>Cost effectiveness</b>	New software for statistical analysis should be introduced. Cost accounting should be introduced.
Principle 11, <b>Relevance</b>	An analysis of the hits on the Internet site of the Statistics Division should be carried out regularly.
Principle 12, <b>Accuracy and reliability</b>	Additional quality indicators for accuracy and reliability should be introduced.
Principle 13, <b>Timeliness and punctuality</b>	Causes of delay in publications should be analysed on the basis of End-of-Process-Reports.
Principle 14, <b>Coherence and comparability</b>	Documentation of breaks in time series should be improved.
Principle 15, <b>Accessibility and clarity</b>	The internet-address of the Statistics Division should be more concise to improve access to the internet-site. The layout of the statistical publications should be improved and unified.
<b>Recommendations of the peer review team</b>	All statistical publications should have a methodological part, consisting of information about data sources and especially information about the comparability of the data of Liechtenstein with Community Statistics. The range of existing methodological manuals and/or guidelines should be completed to cover all statistics production in the medium term future. Existing manuals and guidelines should be made known to the public - at least partly. Efforts on the ESS level to develop a metadata structure proposal should be analysed and, if possible, the structure adopted as standard. Existing and comparable data should be integrated in the European statistical databases. Metadata should explicitly comment on the degree of compliance to ESS definitions. In the long run, a concept for making historical data and texts available to the public should be developed. The scientific community should be represented in the Commission for Statistics. Statistics Liechtenstein should hold its own press conferences. The Internet presentation should evolve: -The presentation of the statistical office should be clearly separated from the presentation of the government. This should take effect not later than the moment the new Statistical Law comes into force. -Tables with data should be available not only in pdf format but also as excel format. -If available, data of other countries should be made available through the Internet if relevant

	for comparing (by direct download or e.g. link to Eurostat). -In the long-run, an interactive tool should be integrated that offers the possibility to the users to generate tables on their own.
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### 30. NORWAY

	<b>Improvement actions</b>
Principle 3, <b>Adequacy of resources</b>	Continuing to improve staff competencies through active training, development and recruitment of staff. This can be implemented through using the recently developed Human Resource Strategy. Statistics Norway should review the balance of work between that provided from its basic funding and that provided by Commissioned work. The outcome of the review should provide a view as to the core work of the office that should be baseline funded, and options for setting priorities for resource allocation.
Principle 4, <b>Quality commitment</b>	For all statistical outputs of Statistics Norway quality should be monitored and made publicly available according to the ESS components of quality. This should provide more comprehensive and systematic quality measures than are now produced. Statistics Norway develops a programme of systematically reviewing statistical outputs and processes using external experts where appropriate. Develop a guide to planning new surveys
Principle 8, <b>Appropriate statistical procedures</b>	Statistics Norway will continue to standardise methods and processes.
Principle 9, <b>Non-excessive burden on respondents</b>	Statistics Norway will implement actions outlined in their Strategy for data collection. In particular methods of improving electronic data collection need to be applied
Principle 12, <b>Accuracy and reliability</b>	Statistics Norway will implement best practices for reducing survey non response. Development of improved and more automatic routines for avoiding errors in publishing, in accordance with the dissemination policy.
Principle 14, <b>Coherence and comparability</b>	Statistics Norway will implement the new standard industrial classification (NACE revision 2).
Principle 15, <b>Accessibility and clarity</b>	The Statistics Norway web site will be further improved (user accessibility with better search functions and navigation). Statistics Norway should continue the work of developing their metadata. There needs to be an evaluation of the quality of information in the About Statistics web pages. More detailed metadata needs to be made available to satisfy the requirements of researchers. Statistics Norway works on improving the infrastructure for providing researchers access to microdata. Statistics Norway aims at improving the Statistics Bank with better functionality, guidelines and more content in English. Statistics Norway is encouraged to publish scientific articles in Norwegian newspapers explaining and illustrating the impact of

	alternative definitions on statistics regarding some phenomena of major public concern (unemployment, poverty, cost of living, etc.).
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### 31. SWITZERLAND

	<b>Improvement actions</b>
Principle 1, <b>Professional independence</b>	<p>Insertion of clear rules into the ordinance to the statistical law for dealing with external partners to guarantee professional independence. This is very important when statistics are fully or partly paid for by other federal offices, cantonal ministers or industry associations (up to 10% of the total regular FSO budget)</p> <p>External study to investigate improvements for coordination</p>
Principle 2, <b>Mandate for data collection</b>	<p>Change from the traditional stove pipe survey approach to an integrated system based on using registers and supplementary surveys:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• implementation of the general program for enterprise statistics (GUS)</li> <li>• implementation of the system of household and population surveys (SHAPE)</li> <li>• implementation of the new concept for the population census (approved by the Swiss parliament in June 2007)</li> </ul>
Principle 3, <b>Adequacy of resources</b>	<p>Relevant actions are assured by a careful annual planning (MAP) as well as by a controlling conducted every 4 month</p> <p>Communication of the Peer Review findings concerning resources to the Swiss Federal Audit Office</p>
Principle 4, <b>Quality commitment</b>	<p>Introduction of the CAF Model</p> <p>Establishment of a quality pool of people for knowledge transfer</p> <p>Implementation of the concept "Restructuring of the quality management – implementation of the Code of Practice", comprising quality guidelines, process and product quality monitoring and reviews and quality trainings</p>
Principle 5, <b>Statistical confidentiality</b>	<p>Confidentiality statement signature of employees who joined the FSO before 2007</p> <p>Concept and implementation of a common strategy with the new data and information centre at the University of Lausanne</p> <p>Workshop for key people of the FSO who have to manage exceptions according to Art. 14 of the Federal Statistics Act to discuss possibilities for improvement</p> <p>Amendment of the ordinance to the Federal Statistics Act to increase clarity on confidentiality measures</p>
Principle 6, <b>Impartiality and objectivity</b>	<p>Discussions of the Peer Review Results with other federal and regional statistical offices at the next "Swiss Statistics Meeting" in general and in particular regarding impartiality and objectivity</p> <p>Further measures regarding pre-release access, i.e. application of the Code of Practice by other key Federal Offices</p> <p>Establish formal agreements for exceptions to the equal access rules.</p> <p>Increase transparency on equal access measures by explaining these exceptions also in the documentation of the different surveys and</p>

	metainformation pages.
<b>Principle 7, Sound methodology</b>	Build up a research cooperation on “Questionnaire Testing and Survey Management” with the new research centre at the University of Lausanne Continue methodology research cooperation with the University of Neuchâtel
<b>Principle 8, Appropriate statistical procedures</b>	Introduction of integrated statistical frameworks based on registers, comprehensive sample management and harmonisation of variables in both enterprise and household surveys (GUS, SHAPE)
<b>Principle 9, Non-excessive burden on respondents</b>	The same improvement actions as for principle 2 apply
<b>Principle 10, Cost effectiveness</b>	Continuation of existing controlling procedures
<b>Principle 11, Relevance</b>	Repeat user satisfaction survey
<b>Principle 14, Coherence and comparability</b>	Systematic coordination of single statistics to move to integrated statistical systems (similarly to the Eurostat program MEETS or the UN Statistical Commission FOC activity lead by the FSO on integrated economic statistics) according to the strategic objectives of the MAP 2007 – 2011
<b>Principle 15, Accessibility and clarity</b>	Upgrade of the current Statistics Portal to a version conforming to WAI AA standard Enlarge the number and optimise visibility of standardised metadata descriptions Improve metadata documentation using the ongoing IT project SIS@BFS (Statistical Information System) Workshop to discuss improvement measures for methodology information
<b>Recommendations of the peer review team</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To look into the possibility of revising the existing statistical law and related ordinances both to clarify the independence, confidentiality and the coordinating role of the FSO.</li> <li>• To seek a clearer split between statistical and administrative tasks, for instance by allocating the task registers that also are used for administrative purposes, to a separate administrative body.</li> <li>• The FSO should develop its coordination role through active usage of the tools available, such as cooperation agreements and review the functioning of the present coordinating bodies.</li> <li>• To put in place overall quality management and clear procedures for quality control and documentation in all areas.</li> <li>• To put in place a more clear and transparent policy in relation to pre-releases of statistics.</li> <li>• To improve the overall status and profile of official statistics through a better communication policy and by producing analytical articles</li> </ul>

	<p>explaining the use of statistics for different purposes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Swiss statistical system faces a major challenge, due to the integration into the European statistical system. This might require additional resources and not least the reorganisation of tasks and responsibilities, especially in the field of economic and short term statistics, where some coordination for the moment is missing. This might also help to pool competences and resources and ensure a better integrated product for instance related to national accounts/quarterly accounts and different price indexes.</li> <li>• The clarification and strengthening the coordination and strategic role of some existing coordinating bodies, such as the Commission for federal statistics, might be enhanced.<sup>3</sup></li> </ul>
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### 32. EUROSTAT

	<b>Improvement actions</b>
<b>Principle 1, Professional independence</b>	<p>Intensify the efforts for getting the new legislation – Proposal for a Regulation on European Statistics - adopted by the European Parliament and the Council</p> <p>Discuss with and seek advice of the ESGAB on how to best reconcile European statistical legislation with the need for leaving decisions on methods, standards and procedures in the hands of statisticians</p> <p>Seek to establish public open competition and to clarify the need for professional expertise for the filling of posts of the Director General of Eurostat. A similar procedure should also be used for the selection of other senior managers.</p>
<b>Principle 3, Adequacy of resources</b>	<p>Review whether resources allocated to training and development activities are adequate.</p> <p>Consider more regular programs of external recruitment of statistically qualified staff.</p> <p>Review allocation of resources between core statistical and horizontal activities</p> <p>Consider in the framework of the forthcoming screening the merits of introducing efficiency targets to generate internal resources for allocation to high priority new work.</p>
<b>Principle 4, Quality commitment</b>	<p>Action Plan on Management Development</p> <p>To implement fully the recently approved quality assurance framework, including an office-wide assessment of data quality based on quality reviews</p> <p>Invest in following-up quality reports on a systematic basis</p> <p>Complete coverage of quality profiles for all SI and SDI indicators envisaged</p> <p>To feed quality information into the strategic planning process.</p> <p>To extend the use of external experts in data validation and quality reviews of key activities</p>

<sup>3</sup> Swiss Federal Statistical Office considers this recommendation as a repetition (e.g., of the first recommendation)

	To increase data validation of data delivered from NSIs in the framework of the implementation of the Validation Building Block (CVD)
<b>Principle 5, Statistical confidentiality</b>	Statistical Disclosure Control handbook and harmonisation of NSI rules
<b>Principle 6, Impartiality and objectivity</b>	<p>Arrive at a clear delineation between official statistics and other statistics in order to improve transparency (label for European Official statistics)</p> <p>Intensify the efforts to further limit early data access in respect of the range of statistics and the number of people to whom access is granted</p> <p>Review release calendar arrangements with a view to adopting a rolling 12 month calendar for Euro-indicators and to extend release calendar for other data releases to give longer notice</p> <p>Increase the visibility of the release calendar on Eurostat's website</p> <p>Review pre-embargo arrangements to assess risks involved with insider trading for market sensitive outputs</p> <p>Consider the possibilities of having a spokesperson for Eurostat</p> <p>Hold Eurostat press conferences on statistical matters</p>
<b>Principle 7, Sound methodology</b>	<p>General improvement actions on governance issues for production of PEEIs like back-calculation of time series, flash estimates</p> <p>Handbook on Composite Indicators</p> <p>Seasonal Adjustment Guidelines</p> <p>Manuals and inventories of sources and methods (EDP)</p> <p>Updating the database on national methodologies and data sources used for statistics on food consumption and organic farming and expanding it to the area of food and feed control and monitoring activities</p> <p>Implementation plan of specific components of CVD</p> <p>Knowledge transfer with research community</p> <p>Concepts of ESS net to be further pursued in the context of TF3</p> <p>Update Guidelines for the Implementation of the Intrastat legislation</p>
<b>Principle 8, Appropriate statistical procedures</b>	<p>Single Data Entry Point for data transmissions to Eurostat</p> <p>Plan for collaborative IT Development with the Member States</p> <p>Census HUB using SDMX</p> <p>Draft Manual: Introduction to data validation in Eurostat</p>
<b>Principle 9, Non-excessive burden on respondents</b>	<p>To develop a policy for intensifying the dialogue with other DGs on their data collection plans and on administrative data collected in order to better streamline production of statistics within the Commission and to improve communication on/allocation of related costs</p> <p>Promote cross-checks of data availability on a broader basis within Eurostat</p> <p>Implementation of Objectives 3 and 4 of MEETS (obj. 3: support the implementation of a more efficient way of collecting data, obj. 4: modernise and simplify Intrastat)</p>
<b>Principle 10, Cost effectiveness</b>	<p>All new statistical projects likely to impose a significant additional burden on the data providers, in particular enterprises, will be subject to a cost-benefit analysis before they are implemented</p> <p>All the fields covered by the next multi-annual statistical programme (2008-2012) will be subject to a cost-benefit analysis before the end of the programme.</p>



<p>Principle 11, <b>Relevance</b></p>	<p>PG TF 2 "Statistical challenges" Eurostat quality and rolling reviews involving main stakeholders Revision of the tourism directive with a view to improving timeliness, coverage and comparability</p>
<p>Principle 12, <b>Accuracy and reliability</b></p>	<p>Central recommendations for publication where accuracy concerns Quality reports and indicators should become a regular exercise including calculation of accuracy (quality) measures (CVs where possible). As far as possible, the requirements should be included in legal acts</p>
<p>Principle 13, <b>Timeliness and punctuality</b></p>	<p>Compression of transmission deadlines for a number of indicators to align national and EU release calendars</p>
<p>Principle 14, <b>Coherence and comparability</b></p>	<p>Reconciliation exercise between foreign trade statistics and goods item in balance of payments Implementation of Objective 2 of MEETS (streamline the framework of business related statistics: integration of the legal framework and the methodology, development of statistics on enterprise groups, European surveys to minimise the burden on business) Comprehensive quality review of the European Labour Force Survey focusing in particular on the quality dimensions, accuracy and coherence Establishment of an action plan for improving SILC data quality, and particularly data comparability and coherence</p>
<p>Principle 15, <b>Accessibility and clarity</b></p>	<p>Revision of legal framework in confidentiality aspects User Satisfaction surveys/Usability on Eurostat internet site. Particular attention should be given to the reliability, user friendliness, and search facilities of the website. New metadata model including more on quality dimensions. Particular attention should be given to the completeness of the metadata and its association with the data themselves. Review the balance of hard copy and electronic releases. Review with key users the layout, content, and quality of the analytical material presented in data releases. Improve the process for informing users in advance of major revisions to series. Improve the visibility of the revisions in statistical releases.</p>