

HOW TO BE SURE THAT EUROPEAN STATISTICS ARE PRODUCED ACCORDING TO THE CODE?

One instrument to assess compliance with the Code = the **ESS peer reviews!**

Who participates in the peer reviews?

- All members of the ESS

Who conducts the peer reviews?

- The NSAs are reviewed by teams of independent experts, experienced in statistics, auditing, governance and quality;
- Eurostat is reviewed by an expert team from the European Statistical Advisory Board (ESGAB).

How are the peer reviews conducted?

They are carried out country-by-country according to the following steps:

- Each NSA assesses itself against the principles of the Code and provides extensive documentation on its functioning;
- These documents are reviewed by an expert peer review team, which subsequently undertakes an in-depth country visit and then compiles a report with recommendations for improvement;
- This report is submitted to the NSAs who then develop improvement actions to address the recommendations.



How is the implementation of the improvement actions monitored?

- For the NSAs: on an annual basis by Eurostat and a report issued to the European Statistical System Committee (governance body of the ESS);
- For Eurostat: on an annual basis by ESGAB and included in its annual report.

WHAT BENEFITS DO THE PEER REVIEWS HAVE FOR THE QUALITY OF EUROPEAN STATISTICS?

- They improve the efficiency and credibility of the ESS;
- They strengthen its capacity to produce European statistics;
- They reassure stakeholders on the quality and trustworthiness of European statistics and the ESS.

In the past, peer review recommendations have led to **improving the ESS and the quality of the statistics.**

Examples of such improvements:

- **Strengthening of the national statistical systems:**
 - Reinforcing the coordination within the national statistical systems;
 - Facilitating access to administrative data;
 - Sharing knowledge and providing training on quality within the national statistical systems;
 - Revisions of the statistical laws to better correspond to the European statistical law.
- **Increasing accessibility for users to statistical data:**
 - Redesigning of websites;
 - Providing more data in English in addition to the native language of the country;
 - Creating communication materials with a pedagogical aim.
- **Improving the statistical production processes:**
 - Regularly reviewing statistical processes;
 - Involving external experts in the assessment of products;
 - Using new techniques to produce data (web scraping, retail shop scanners...).



The ESS Peer Reviews 2021-2023



eurostat 

Ensuring the quality
of European statistics

ec.europa.eu/eurostat

GET THE DATA
YOU CAN
COUNT ON



EUROPEAN STATISTICS ARE:

- Built on reliable, fact-based data.
- Produced free of political or any other influence.
- Comparable between countries and regions.

Who needs high-quality statistics?

Well, practically everybody...

- **Governments and political decision-makers** to base their policies and decisions on facts that reflect reality.
- **Researchers, academia, journalists** to base their articles and findings on facts that reflect reality.
- **Businesses** to base their investments and decisions on facts that reflect reality.
- **The citizens** who want to be informed about facts that reflect reality.

Who produces European statistics?

Eurostat and the national statistical authorities (NSAs) of all the EU Member States and EFTA countries form a partnership called the European Statistical System (ESS).



Together they produce
European statistics

HOW IS THE HIGH QUALITY OF EUROPEAN STATISTICS ENSURED?

- They are produced within a common quality framework based on the European Statistics Code of Practice;
- The Code sets the standard for developing, producing and disseminating European statistics;
- All members of the ESS are strongly committed to producing high-quality statistics and to respecting the Code.



THE EUROPEAN STATISTICS CODE OF PRACTICE:

- 16 principles covering the institutional environment, statistical processes and statistical outputs;
- 84 indicators of best practices and standards;
- The indicators provide guidance and reference for reviewing the implementation of the Code.

THE PRINCIPLES OF THE EUROPEAN STATISTICS CODE OF PRACTICE

Institutional environment:

- Professional independence;
- Coordination and cooperation;
- Mandate for data collection and access to data;
- Adequacy of resources;
- Commitment to quality;
- Statistical confidentiality;
- Impartiality and objectivity.



Statistical processes:

- Sound methodology;
- Appropriate statistical procedures;
- Non-excessive burden on respondents;
- Cost effectiveness.



Statistical output:

- Relevance;
- Accuracy and reliability;
- Timeliness and punctuality;
- Coherence and comparability;
- Accessibility and clarity.

