



# Economic and Social Council

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## 1-PAGERS ON FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES

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## I. Australia

1. Australia is a lucky country. Australian's live in freedom, have a peaceful society, natural resources, a land of opportunity and value education. Our economy is strong and resilient. How do we know? Australia's official statistics paint the picture.

2. The Australian people and governments rely on independent and trusted institutions and statistics to operate as a democracy. The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) has operated in Australia since Federation (1905) to provide the basis for trusted and independent statistics. ABS statistics are used to determine how many representatives of the people will form Parliament. ABS statistics are used to inform government policy and to hold governments to account in areas including employment, economic management, migration, industrial relations, earnings, inflation, and the provision of services such as education and health.

3. The fundamental principles of official statistics underpin the operations of the Australian Bureau of Statistics but do they underpin the production of all statistics in Australia?

4. Australia's statistical system, like many others, has many producers and users. This plurality of players is increasing as the demand for public information intensifies. The National Statistical Service is the community of government agencies, led by the ABS as Australia's national statistical organisation, to build the rich statistical picture for a better informed Australia. The Service aims to develop and improve a statistical system that ensures providers and users of statistics have the confidence to trust the statistics produced within it.

5. The ABS places considerable emphasis on ensuring the correct interpretation and use of our own, ABS, statistics. Errors, if found, are corrected and the public informed. However, the ABS does not as a matter of course publically comment on the interpretation and use of statistics produced by other members of the National Statistical Service, for example statistics based on small sample sizes or with low response rates. This is an emerging challenge for statistical leaders in National Statistical Offices across the board and reinforces the importance of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics being applicable to all players in a statistical system, not just NSOs.

6. Whilst the demand for a richer statistical picture for a better informed Australia continues to grow, the resources and capacity to do so struggles to keep pace. The limited availability of professionally skilled recruits, the plurality of producers competing for the same small pool of recruits, and the financial environment for both the ABS as well as public information more generally is today's reality. The same mechanisms that are used to demonstrate independence and impartiality can also make the NSO and official statistics one-step-removed from financial decision makers within governments. This is a current challenge for statistical leaders in National Statistical Offices globally - how do we best balance independence and the capacity to deliver statistics that are an indispensable element of the 21st Century information system of a democratic society?

## II. Austria

7. In Austria, the United Nations fundamental principles of official statistics (in the following UN-Principles) are - besides the European Code of Practice – the most important reference of international accepted standards for developing, producing and disseminating

statistics of high quality. The UN-principles are directly accessible on the webpage of Statistics Austria. They also are attached to Statistics Austria's quality guidelines and prominently figure in regular internal training courses on the general quality framework. The Austrian Statistics Act, which forms the main legal reference body for our work, applies the principles in a direct or indirect way:

8. **Principle 1:** Statistics Austria is the central data provider of official statistics in Austria and has to publish all the main statistical results free of charge guaranteeing equal access in an impartial way.
9. **Principle 2:** According to article 24 of the Federal Statistics Act of 2000 Statistics Austria has to apply statistical methods and procedures in line with internationally accepted statistical principles and standards. One of the main tasks of the independent Statistics Council is to monitor the adherence to the quality principles set out in article 24. An annual report of the Statistics Council is drafted on this issue.
10. **Principle 3:** For every statistical product a standard documentation setting out the main metadata information on this product is made available.
11. **Principle 4:** Media reporting on statistical products and issues is monitored on a daily basis. In cases of misinterpretation or even abusive reporting corrective statements are released by Statistics Austria without delay.
12. **Principle 5:** Statistics Austria is free to choose from a variety of data sources when compiling its statistics. Administrative data use was intensified during the past few years, in particular in the course of the first register based census carried out in 2011.
13. **Principle 6:** There are strict rules on data protection and confidentiality in Austria, being respected throughout the whole production chain of statistics, including data processing, storage and publication.
14. **Principle 7:** The Federal Statistics Act is accessible on the internet. Standard Documentations refer to specific citations of legal acts relevant for the respective statistical products.
15. **Principle 8:** Statistics Austria is the central provider of official statistics in Austria. There is permanent contact and collaboration with the very few other statistical producers in Austria. There are ongoing efforts to strengthen the NSIs' coordination role under a revised EU-regulation 223/2009.
16. **Principle 9:** Statistics Austria as part of the European Statistical System applies international standards on concepts and classifications in all statistical domains.
17. **Principle 10:** Cooperation with other National Statistical Institutes is sought in various international fora and conferences, as well as bilaterally.

## II. Azerbaijan

18. The State Statistical Committee (SSC) of the Republic of Azerbaijan extensively uses "Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics" adopted by UNO. Professional independence, principle of objectivity and equity of the statistical system is reflected in the law "On official statistics" of the Republic of Azerbaijan. To ensure the quality and to retain the trust of the public, the principles of reliability, objectivity, relevance, statistical confidentiality and transparency are specifically mentioned in Article 9 of the Law. In accordance with Article 10 (Autonomy/Independence of Official Statistics), the statistical bodies are autonomous/independent and shall not seek or take any instructions from state or local bodies notably in the selection of data sources, statistical methods, forms and time of

dissemination. Their obligation to guarantee the reliability and objectivity of statistical information is mentioned in Article 6.

19. SSC updates and applies its data collection methods according to the related documents. Data collection of official statistics is undertaken completely through sampling. These observations consist of regular and periodic statistical reports, one-time recordings, different censuses, inquiries and surveys. For the purpose to reduce the burden on statistical units, the appropriate state bodies are obliged to provide the SSC with access to all administrative statistical information collected, processed and stored in the domain of their respective competencies, notably to registers and other files, to the extent that is necessary for the production of statistics, within given deadlines and in the form defined in the Programme of Statistical Works.

20. In case of misuse of statistical information by mass media, SSC appeals to directors of the media in question with a letter, notifies about the mistake and explains how to use the statistical information.

21. One of the main objects of SSC was the organization of the state register of statistical units that is the main instrument for transition from complete statistical enumeration to sample observations. The register based on international classifications has enabled applying new methods of data processing.

22. Several protection measures have been implemented to ensure data confidentiality. Data taken from publicly available sources are not considered confidential (Article 16) and the use for the scientific research is available under specific conditions (Article 18). According to the Article 28 staff that are able to access confidential data must sign a data confidentiality commitment and are subject to the provisions of this law even after the cessation of their position. The "Administrative Offences Code" stipulates a fine to be imposed in case of violation of statistical confidentiality. Statistical units also have the right to access the information, with the assurance that the confidentiality of the data is guaranteed. The standard text informing about this obligation is included in statistical questionnaires.

23. In official statistics the regulation of legal relations and the competent functions of state statistical bodies are adjusted by the Law on Official statistics.

24. There are two aspects of coordination in statistical activity: program coordination (especially related to data collection), statistical concepts and harmonization of methods. Program coordination reduces costs and reduces data burden on respondents.

25. After the Republic of Azerbaijan gained its independence one of the basic duties was to carry out reforms in the statistical system. For that purpose, several important programs were implemented according to international recommendations. These include transition to the system of national accounts, development of inter-sectoral balances in the SNA, reorganization of finance and banking statistics and introduction of new statistical areas.

26. One of the main terms for official statistics quality improvement is the international cooperation in the country. SSC has concluded a bilateral contract with statistical units of 13 countries, and based on these contracts some activities have already been implemented. Relations were established with more than 40 international organizations, and statistical figures are regularly exchanged. Technical and other assistance projects of international organizations have been used extensively

### III. Belarus

27. The organization and management of state statistics in the Republic of Belarus are based on the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics adopted by the UN Statistical Commission in 1994, and the European Statistics Code of Practice (CoP).

28. The "Law on State Statistics" of the Republic of Belarus identifies seven basic principles of official statistics:

29. **Principle 1. Professional independence** (Principle 1 of the CoP). Professional independence of national statistics is guaranteed by Article 11 of the Law "On State Statistics", according to which undue interference in state statistical activities is not permitted.

30. **Principle 2. Use of efficient methods for data collection** (Principles 9 and 10 of the CoP). This is implemented through continuous optimization of the forms of statistical reporting, composition of the indicators and frequency of their submission, implementing sample surveys, electronic data exchange, use of administrative records of other government agencies in accordance with the laws of the Republic of Belarus.

31. **Principle 3. The scientific validity, reliability and objectivity of statistical data (information)** (consistent with the principles 4, 6 - 8 and 12 of CoP). State statistics are produced in a transparent, objective and professional manner on the basis of scientific methodology of carrying out statistical surveys and according to international standards. A quality management system is implemented.

32. **Principle 4. Relevance and timeliness of statistical data (information)** (consistent with the principles 11 and 13 of CoP). Statistical data are released to users in a timely manner according to the release calendar and the statistical program, approved annually by the Government of the Republic of Belarus.

33. **Principle 5. Confidentiality of primary statistical data** (consistent with the principle 5 of CoP). The primary statistical data in accordance with international standards and the "Law on State Statistics" of the Republic of Belarus are confidential and used only for statistical purposes.

34. **Principle 6. Comparability of statistical data (information)** (consistent with the principle 14 of the CoP). Statistics are compiled on the basis of common standards and methods to organize and identify the statistical data, to ensure their systematization, standardization and aggregation. Comparability of statistical information is provided through the regular exchange of information with the statistical offices of other countries, including close cooperation in the field of statistical methodology.

35. **Principle 7. Accessibility and transparency of aggregate statistical data (information)** (consistent with the principles 6 and 15 of the CoP). The official website of the National Statistics Committee ([www.belstat.gov.by](http://www.belstat.gov.by)) provides equal access for all users of statistical information, and the statistics are accompanied by metadata and explanations.

36. Currently, the statistical office is preparing a dashboard of indicators for each of the principles enshrined in the Law, which will allow creating a detailed standard of conduct for state statistics at the national level and will give a basis for establishing a system for monitoring compliance with legislation in the field of statistics.

### IV. Bosnia and Herzegovina

37. How the application and observance of recommended standards can contribute to the confidence building in the country

38. At the time when the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics were adopted (15. April 1992) by the Conference of the European Statisticians and Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the war was being waged in Bosnia and Herzegovina, a conflict that has not been seen in Europe since the Second World War.

39. Given the very difficult and painful process of restoring trust between conflicted parties after the war, we can freely say that even the biggest optimists in our country could not dream that, just a few years after the conflict, such a statistical system will be established, which will adopt the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, in a very short time, and apply them in its everyday work and daily practice.

40. The direct consequence of the current constitutional structure of Bosnia and Herzegovina is a highly decentralized political-administrative and, therefore, statistical system. However a crucial link, which contributes to building a mutual understanding, confidence and trust among the statistical institutions, within the statistical system of BiH, and strengthening coordination, which is of crucial importance on the road to achieving consistency and efficiency in the statistical system of BiH, is an absolute commitment of all stakeholders in our country to Euro-Atlantic integration. These efforts have been directly supported by the application and observance of the Fundamental Principles, which have been adopted and applied as the first official international recommendation, not just in the domain of statistics but in general in our country.

41. Why do we mention this? In the mid-1990's, during the time when the trust was painfully being built and the focus was on reaching compromise in any sphere of life in this country, what tremendously helped to have the optimism come back slowly in the country was the commitment of all interested parties to move towards European and international integrations, that primarily implies adoption of international standards, recommendations and good practices.

42. What is also worth mentioning is the fact that political authorities in the country observe the Fundamental Principles and this has made the life of the management and staff in statistical institutions easier in the sense of the independence from any political influence, which is very important for BiH that is still in the process of transition. In conclusion, for a country such as Bosnia and Herzegovina, split into two entities and still not strong enough, the Fundamental Principles are very important cohesion factor as all partners have adopted them. As such, the Fundamental Principles provide precious support to the development of the statistical system and the production of good quality statistics for Bosnia and Herzegovina.

## V. Brazil

43. This document presents practices related to the production of statistical information by the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE) that are fundamental to the institutional credibility, which derives from its reputation, the trust in the information it produces and from the way it relates to interlocutors at the national and internationally levels.

**1) Ensuring the relevance of the information production:** IBGE's work program and the respective timeline are discussed by all the technical and infrastructure areas and consolidated in the Strategic Planning. This planning is submitted to the Board of Directors—composed of the President and the Directors of IBGE—for evaluation and approval. The 2012-2015 Strategic Planning and Action Plan is currently being finalized. This process underpins the development of the Multiannual Plan of the Federal Government. The work plan is presented in meetings and forums with users and advisory committees, which discuss methodological issues and assist in setting priorities. It is worth

noting the Committee on Social Statistics, created in 2007 by Ministerial Decree to discuss the Social Statistics System of the country. IBGE holds regular meetings with producers and users of social, economic and territorial information in order to define its line of work in the long term and to revise and extend the General Plan for Statistical and Geographic Information. The V Statistical National Conference - CONFEST was held in 2006 and the next one will be take place in 2014.

**2) Investing in transparency:** In addition to the mentioned initiatives that allow society to understand and follow development of IBGE's activities, it is important to highlight the creation of Municipal Committees of Geography and Statistics for the 2010 Population Census, composed of representatives of the Executive, Legislative and Judicial branches of the municipalities and the local civil society organizations. These committees are still operational, even after completion of the 2010 Census.

**3) Expanding the equal access to results:** Publishing release schedules in the Internet is an established practice at IBGE. They indicate in advance the disclosure date of the various short-term, structural and **census** statistics. According to IBGE's disclosure policy all its products are available on the Internet—[www.ibge.gov.br](http://www.ibge.gov.br)—for free, respecting the legislation concerning confidentiality. These products include microdata files for household surveys with data suppression of geographical level. Other means of access to information are available as well: publications with CD-ROM; a toll-free call center; the Central Library; and the divisions of information, documentation and dissemination on IBGE's state units, in all Brazilian States capitals.

**4) Reinforcing credibility with the general public:** In recent years, IBGE has expanded the role of social communication and the relationship with the press, conducting courses for journalists and workshops in the newsrooms of major newspapers. Releases are made available in the beginning of press conferences. At the same time, indicators and commentary on survey results are published on IBGE's website. Brazilian legislation states that the results of short-term indicators produced by IBGE should be forwarded to certain authorities two hours before the disclosure, which occurs at 9 a.m. The list of authorities is available at IBGE's website. Additionally, the results of structural or special surveys produced by IBGE are sent to the Ministry of Planning, Budget and Management 48 hours prior to disclosure. Besides, all improvements and adjustments in statistics are previously disclosed through technical notes for wide circulation.

**5) The production quality—documentation, adoption of international standards and international interchange:** IBGE has been increasing the availability of methodological documents and metadata on its website. The improvements in the use of methods, techniques and systems and the adoption of international recommendations have contributed to information accuracy and productivity. IBGE has expanded its involvement with the international statistical community, which strengthened IBGE' skills and capabilities and increased the exchange between statistical offices and international agencies. IBGE is expanding its international technical cooperation. IBGE has a programme to build capacity supporting the staff to pursue postgraduate studies. During the last ten years 104 employees completed PhD and 143 got Master Degree.

**6) The role of IBGE and the internalization and application of the Fundamental Principles:** For IBGE the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics represent structuring values for institutional strengthening as they reveal in a transparent and formally recognized way the essential role of IBGE and its institutional space as part of the Brazilian State, granting effectiveness and legitimacy to the discussion of key strategic issues, such as budget management, human resources policies and disclosure of data. Moreover, they represent a mechanism of cohesion and organizational performance as they contribute to make IBGE's staff aware of the importance of the institutional mission. IBGE's mission and the Fundamental Principles are disseminated—in Portuguese—in many ways: at IBGE's

website, on posters available on the premises of the institution, when dealing with the media, users and the government. In addition, training on the Principles is part of IBGE's Annual Training Program, involving servers from different areas. This adherence to the Principles and its dissemination has contributed to institutional credibility.

## VI. Bulgaria

44. The text below is an abstract from an interview of Dr. Reneta Indjova, President of the National Statistical Institute when she took the office in March.

45. "Having assumed my new role as Director of the NSI, I illustrated its inherent vicissitudes in an interview by retelling the well-known mythological story of the ship of Theseus. Needless to say, I did not go on to discuss the statistical paradox under that same name. So, I recounted the story of how the crew - and most of all Theseus himself - being so attached to the ship and so grateful for its service, kept it up as new by always replacing each part that got worn out in battle with an identical one. The audience, however, reacted by asking just the question I had tried to evade, namely which the actual subject of statistics is - Theseus' original ship or the one into which it gradually evolved. I guess that the discussion should now move on to the next logical question, i.e. whether doing statistics isn't indeed a Sisyphean task. After all, we constantly exchange parts between our new and old ships and reincarnate one into the other. I am afraid, though, that in the economically rational world we live in the unappreciated part of our professional effort - Sisyphean as it may be- is becoming greater and greater."

## VII. Canada

46. The principles represent values that are entrenched in our organisational culture. Hence, it so happens that a great number of our staff and colleagues do not have a conscious knowledge of the actual 10 Fundamental Principles, but despite this, their behaviour is fully consistent with them. As a result, we can say that the fundamental principles have applications at Statistics Canada, but it is rather arbitrary to provide specific examples of their direct application.

## VIII. Cyprus

47. In 1992, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) adopted the fundamental principles of official statistics in the UNECE region. In order to ensure that the statistical production process complies with these fundamental principles, the Statistical Service of the Republic of Cyprus (CYSTAT) applies adequate procedures.

48. First of all, CYSTAT focuses on the user and provides users with statistical products and services that meet users' needs. Priority needs are being met and reflected in the annual and five-year statistical work programs and user satisfaction surveys are undertaken annually. In this way, the statistical products are **relevant** to the users' needs. Secondly, the independence of CYSTAT from political and other external interference in producing and disseminating official statistics is specified by law. Statistical releases are issued separately from political/policy statements and according to the release calendar. The annual and five-year statistical work programs are published and evaluated. As a result, statistical products of CYSTAT are **impartial**. Moreover, CYSTAT has the exclusive responsibility for prescribing the time and manner of dissemination of the results of surveys so that all users have **equal and simultaneous access** thereto.



49. In order to decide according to **professional standards and ethics**, CYSTAT maintains its autonomy in technical matters and decides on the methodology, techniques, definitions and procedures for the realization of the programs of statistical activities. For the **prevention of misuse** of statistics, CYSTAT aims first, to provide as much as information is possible clearly, concisely and simply without neglecting quality and second, to enable the development of “statistical culture” in Cyprus.

50. Data are presented using standardized formats and CYSTAT also plans to adopt ESMS (Euro SDMX Metadata structure) so that metadata are documented according to standardized metadata systems. In this way, users will be kept informed on the methodology of statistical processes and the quality of statistical outputs in an **accountable and transparent** way.

51. The legal basis for the collection and publication of official statistics in Cyprus is the **Statistics Law No15 (I) 2000**. According to this law, CYSTAT as a **national coordinator** of the Statistical System in Cyprus informs the ministries or services of the government and public corporations of the classification systems it uses, as well as of any other statistical requirements it may have. During any statistical survey or work carried out, the ministries, the services of the government and the public corporations should apply the principles of suitability, **impartiality**, reliability, **transparency** and statistical **confidentiality**, use the classification systems used by CYSTAT, inform CYSTAT and take into consideration its needs before the setting up or amendment of existing information technology systems. Besides, the Statistics law specifies that during statistical surveys or work, CYSTAT decides about the **sources** of information it will use, taking into consideration, on one hand, the quality, timeliness and cost, and, on the other hand, the minimization of the burden on respondents.

52. In order to ensure that standard concepts, definitions and classifications are used throughout CYSTAT, the overall methodological framework of CYSTAT follows European and other **international standards**, guidelines and good practices.

53. In addition, staff of CYSTAT is encouraged to participate in working groups and conferences related to their tasks. The purpose is the exchange of experiences, the **international cooperation** but also the representation and support of our country’s position in all decision-making procedures related to the European and International Statistical System.

54. Last but not least, the Confidentiality Committee at CYSTAT ensures that the data resulting from a survey are published in such a manner as to render impossible the direct or indirect disclosure of the identity of those who provided the data or of the persons to whom the data relate. The Confidentiality Committee also decides on the release of micro data on the sole use of scientific research. Micro data may be released after an anonymisation process which ensures **confidentiality** of the data.

55. In conclusion, CYSTAT complies with UNECE fundamental principles of official statistics by implementing the existing legislation and by adopting procedures which allow interacting with the international statistical system and reacting to new challenges.

## **IX. Estonia**

### **A. Quality – stronger than money**

56. Before Census round 2010 there was a strong pressure to conduct register based census in Estonia. While data composition and quality of registers was not on par with statistical requirements, it was still a lucrative money-saving alternative to state

administration and policy makers. Despite the fact that combined method was much more costly, this concept proposed by statisticians clearly prevailed in the end. (Principle 1, Principle 5). All in all Estonia managed to conduct a good web-census and now there are even views that such a method may be better than a pure register based census.

## **B. More than just the tables**

57. Estonian Prime minister [2007] has once said that NSI should present statistics not misinterpreted statistical data. Statistics Estonia has still held a view that even though conclusions and interpretations may bring disagreements with them, statisticians should – without making judgements – help to interpret data. We statisticians should help general public by making pure numbers more digestible. (Principle 1, Principle 3)

## **X. Germany**

„Unconsciously, we work according to these principles...“

58. Destatis took the CES Secretary’s call for contributions on the UN Fundamental Principles as an occasion to conduct a small survey among the junior scientific staff with three questions about the UN Fundamental Principles. After almost 20 years of UN Fundamental Principles it is just about time to find out what young statisticians know about them, if they think that the Fundamental Principles are necessary and, if yes, which values they should contain?

59. The survey showed that around two thirds of respondents do not know the UN Fundamental Principles. However, all of them confirmed the need of international fundamental values in official statistics. Therefore, even if the Principles are not known to all of them, they recognize their importance. Different answers were: “The Fundamental Principles can support the position of official statistics in discussions with politicians or the government.”, “They are important for the comparability of our statistical data.” and “Through the disclosure of the methodologies, the credibility of official statistics can be guaranteed.”. It seems that the asked young statisticians have a good idea about the Fundamental Principles and apply them automatically in their daily work.

60. In context with the current work of the FROCH group on UN Fundamental Principles we also asked the question what kind of values the UN Fundamental Principles should include. In the opinion of one respondent “(...) the important values as professionalism, transparency, consistency and data confidentiality are already included”. Additionally, in the view of our young statisticians, they should contain a reference to “equal data access for the public and science”, to the “importance of data protection”, and a “stronger focus on independence”. Regarding the increasing importance of indicators, “it would be important to have a reference on the development of indicators in the UN Fundamental Principles”.

61. However, it is not only important to have these Fundamental Principles; they also have to be implemented. Several respondents request a stronger focus on the National Statistical Institutes’ measurements to implement the Fundamental Principles. Only then, the Fundamental Principles can be effective and the international comparability of statistical data can be guaranteed. An additional suggestion was to better communicate the Fundamental Principles to the public. If more awareness is raised, the public could act more effectively on the government to create the necessary conditions for the complete implementation of the Fundamental Principles. The UN Fundamental Principles have to be filled with life.

## XI. Hungary

62. At the end of the 1980s in Central and Eastern European countries and the former Soviet Union went through the transformation of their political and economic systems. In Hungary the transition to a more democratic political and economic system was peaceful. The first free parliamentary elections took place in May 1990.

63. Against this background the role and place of the national statistical office changed as well and there was a need to explain and declare the rights and responsibilities of the national statistical office and its role in the statistical system. Due to these developments, the cradle of the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics was Europe in the early 1990s.

64. The Hungarian Central Statistical Office with a past going back to the middle of the nineteenth century has always been an institution enshrined in history.

65. The Hungarian official statisticians supported the transition and welcomed the Fundamental Principles developed by the Conference of European Statisticians. The draft version of the CES document was published in the Hungarian Statistical Review in October 1991. In the same year the first session of the newly formed Hungarian Statistical Association<sup>2</sup> dealt with the actual problems of the relations between the social and economic transition and official statistics. The following years marked the continuous transformation of the organisational structure supporting the continuous improvement of the activity of the HCSO. The Hungarian Act on Statistics<sup>3</sup> adopted in 1993 was already based on the CES Principles.

66. After the adoption of the UN Fundamental Principles in 1994 it was published in the HCSO website<sup>4</sup>. In 1999 the Hungarian Statistical Review published the assessment system<sup>5</sup> of Mr. De Vries on the Performance of National Statistical Systems based upon the UN Principles.

67. According to the global survey on the implementation of the UN Fundamental principles in 2003 the HCSO was largely compliant with the Principles. The results of the global review were presented by Mr. György Szilágyi in 2004 in the Hungarian Statistical Review<sup>6</sup>.

68. In 2004 Hungary joined the European Union and at the end of 2005 the HCSO conducted the self-assessment related to the principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice partly based on the UN Principles.

69. The HCSO experience gathered during the application of the UN Principles and the opinion of Mr. Ivan Fellegi<sup>7</sup> declared about the Canadian lessons with them in a 2010 Conference in Esztergom reinforces our conviction that the UN Principles would merit to be embedded in legislation.

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.ksh.hu/statszemle\\_archive/viewer.html?ev=1991&szam=10&old=78&lap=2](http://www.ksh.hu/statszemle_archive/viewer.html?ev=1991&szam=10&old=78&lap=2)

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.ksh.hu/statszemle\\_archive/viewer.html?ev=1991&szam=02&old=55&lap=6](http://www.ksh.hu/statszemle_archive/viewer.html?ev=1991&szam=02&old=55&lap=6)

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.ksh.hu/act\\_on\\_statistics\\_tart](http://www.ksh.hu/act_on_statistics_tart)

<sup>4</sup> [http://www.ksh.hu/international\\_recommendations](http://www.ksh.hu/international_recommendations)

<sup>5</sup> [http://www.ksh.hu/statszemle\\_archive/1999/1999\\_08/1999\\_08\\_656.pdf](http://www.ksh.hu/statszemle_archive/1999/1999_08/1999_08_656.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> [http://www.ksh.hu/statszemle\\_archive/2004/2004\\_05/2004\\_05\\_453.pdf](http://www.ksh.hu/statszemle_archive/2004/2004_05/2004_05_453.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> [http://www.mstnet.hu/cikkek/\\_doku/Esztergom\\_101014-15\\_I\\_P\\_Fellegi\\_en.pdf](http://www.mstnet.hu/cikkek/_doku/Esztergom_101014-15_I_P_Fellegi_en.pdf)

## XII. Israel

<b>Fundamental principles in Official Statistics</b>		<b>Application in Israel</b>
Principle 1. <i>Official statistics provide an indispensable element in the information system of a democratic society, serving the Government, the economy and the public with data about the economic, demographic, social and environmental situation. To this end, official statistics that meet the test of practical utility are to be compiled and made available on an impartial basis by official statistical agencies to honor citizens' entitlement to public information.</i>	<b>Relevance Impartiality Equal access</b>	Since the beginning of the 2000s the CBS is publishing a weekly Advanced Release Calendar (ARC) of Press Releases. It was extended to be a four months ARC, and in the main series it was extended to one year in advance. Data are published on time on the website of the CBS and it is available free of charge to all. Moreover, answering users needs, brought about a more timely data, including flash estimates and moving from quarterly to monthly LFS. The accession to the OECD was an opportunity to allocate more budget for developing needed statistics
Principle 2. <i>To retain trust in official statistics, the statistical agencies need to decide according to strictly professional considerations, including scientific principles and professional ethics, on the methods and procedures for the collection, processing, storage and presentation of statistical data.</i>	<b>Professionalism</b>	The CBS re-enforced its commitment to professionalism and made it public in a Vision-Mission-Guiding Principles published on the website. In the last years, the Israeli NSS went through several reviews conducted by the OECD and the IMF and these reviews used as a leverage to expand data sources and to improve methodology. EFQM serve as a quality management framework and it includes most CBS departments. The presentation of the data is clear, yet, the CBS website is to go through a change to facilitate navigation and to encourage use.
Principle 3. <i>To facilitate a correct interpretation of the data, the statistical agencies are to present information according to scientific standards on the sources, methods and procedures of the statistics</i>	<b>Accountability</b>	The presented metadata in each publication and for each data series describe data source, methodology used, information on response rates, non-response, imputation, etc. according to scientific criteria and to international standards agreed on. All reviews of the Israeli NSS, that include evaluation of the presented statistical information, were made public.
Principle 4. <i>The statistical agencies are entitled to comment on erroneous interpretation and misuse of statistics.</i>	<b>Prevention of misuse</b>	Comments on erroneous interpretation of statistics are rarely given. However, explanations are provided in order to prevent the situation.
Principle 5. <i>Data for statistical purposes may be drawn from all types of sources, be they statistical surveys or administrative records. Statistical agencies are to choose the source with regard to quality, timeliness, costs and the burden on respondents.</i>	<b>Cost-effectiveness</b>	In the last decade, the CBS is expanding the use of administrative files and built registers for statistical use. The growing number of surveys conducted (households and businesses), made it necessary to design an integrated sampling system in order to reduce response burden.
Principle 6. <i>Individual data collected by statistical agencies for statistical compilation, whether they refer to natural</i>	<b>Confidentiality</b>	The CBS is keeping its individual data strictly confidential. On one hand, CBS toughened the criteria for data release, but on the other hand, the CBS developed

<b>Fundamental principles in Official Statistics</b>		<b>Application in Israel</b>
<i>or legal persons, are to be strictly confidential and used exclusively for statistical purposes.</i>		working environments to work with anonymous individual records (MUC) in a Research Room and from a remote location. No identified records are released and even within the CBS accessibility is limited to workers who prepare the data only.
Principle 7. <i>The laws, regulations and measures under which the statistical systems operate are to be made public.</i>	<b>Legislation</b>	The Statistical Ordinance and its amendments are posted on the CBS website. Links to it are provided in different pages and on websites of the international organizations.
Principle 8. <i>Coordination among statistical agencies within countries is essential to achieve consistency and efficiency in the statistical system.</i>	<b>National Co-ordination</b>	The pressure of growing statistical needs, the new classifications and standards of official statistics, along with the accession to the OECD, necessitated coordination of the NSS more than ever. The CBS changed its organizational structure to include a department of international relations and statistical coordination. Implementation of the international organizations recommendation included the nomination of inter-ministerial coordination committees. Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the Bank of Israel (the central bank) in 2009. The coordination of the statistical work vis-à-vis (mainly) the international organizations, proves to be beneficial to all parties.
Principle 9. <i>The use by statistical agencies in each country of international concepts, classifications and methods promotes the consistency and efficiency of statistical systems at all official levels.</i>	<b>International Co-ordination</b>	Standardization and harmonization to international standards are done across the NSS. As the rest of the world, the Israeli NSS goes through an extensive process of adoption of new classifications and guidelines in many statistical domains.
Principle 10. <i>Bilateral and multilateral cooperation in statistics contributes to the improvement of systems of official statistics in all countries.</i>	<b>International statistical co-operation</b>	Managers and workers in the Israeli NSS participate in a growing number of international activities and contribute to the development of shared knowledge base. Extensive international cooperation and professional involvement are required with the membership in the OECD. MoU was signed with Eurostat. An EU Twinning project is to start in 2013. Medstat regional programme is in its 3 <sup>rd</sup> phase and it includes sub-regional activities with the closer neighbours.

### **XIII. Japan**

“FP is adopted as the Soul of New Statistics Act in Japan.”

70. In Japan, after the war, in the course of democratization, we have been always conscious of how to ensure the truthfulness, reliability and neutrality of official statistics and respected conceptually what UNSC decided in 1997 as the fundamental principles for official statistics.

71. In 2007, Japan established the new Statistics Act. When the government drafted this cutting-edge statistical legal framework, it explicitly brought in the fundamental principles as the basic and indispensable concepts supporting the total structures of this Act. That is the article 3; this is called the soul of Japan Statistics Act.

72. This article provides; “Official statistics shall be produced with appropriate and reasonable methodologies, so as to ensure neutrality and reliability.” “Official Statistics shall be provided widely for the citizens so that they are easily accessible for their effective use.” “Confidential matters concerning individuals or juridical persons, or other organizations that were used for producing official statistics shall be protected.”

73. We consider that the current Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics is universal and eternal. Particularly, the Principle 6 -Confidentiality- is recognized generally as the important concept not only for official statistics but also non-official statistics.

### **XIV. Kazakhstan**

74. In 2012, twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics by the UN Economic Commission for Europe is celebrated. The importance of this initiative for the formation of the existing global statistical system cannot be overstated. Each thesis of the text adopted by the UNECE, and then by the UN Statistical Commission, made a significant contribution to the development of statistics at the national, regional and global levels.

75. The Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics have been applied in Kazakhstan as well. At the beginning of 90th years of the twentieth century, the Republic of Kazakhstan, like many countries in Europe and the former Soviet Union, switched to a new stage of development. Political and economic systems were changing. The sphere of official statistics was subject to reconstruction, it was necessary to determine which place will take the official statistics in the context of changed conditions.

76. Today, the national statistical system of Kazakhstan is developing on the basis of compliance with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and the laws of the country. The Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan "On State Statistics" contains the following principles:

- (a) Consistency and comparability of state statistics with accepted international standards, classifications and methods;
- (b) Professional independence and autonomy in the implementation of statistical activities;
- (c) Ensuring equal access of users to the official statistical information;
- (d) Confidentiality and use of primary statistical data solely for statistical purposes;
- (e) Use of all types of information sources with regard to quality, timeliness, costs and burden on respondents;

(f) Accuracy, scientific validity, timeliness and accessibility of official statistical information;

(g) Ensuring safety and security of statistical information, primary statistical and administrative data.

77. In connection with the jubilee I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all those who participated in the development, as well as dissemination and clarification of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics during the past twenty years.

## **XV. Kyrgyzstan**

78. The National Statistical Committee (NSC) of the Kyrgyz Republic constitutes a well-functioning information system that meets the requirements of market economy and provides the public authorities and general public with reliable, objective and truthful information, allowing integration into the global economic and information environment.

79. This has been facilitated by the adoption of the Law "On State Statistics", which takes into account the accumulated experience, the European Commission's recommendations on independence, integrity and accountability of statistical offices, and the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics. The current legal framework gives professional independence to official statistics. According to the law "On State Statistics" the intervention of government authorities and local authorities, associations of citizens, officials and other persons in state statistical activity is not permitted.

80. The state statistical agencies have the necessary authority. They have the right to take decisions on statistics, accounting and reporting that are mandatory for all entities that are covered by the legislation of the Kyrgyz Republic on state statistics. Thus, the Government of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan in 2011 supported the proposal of the National Statistics Committee to hold the next agricultural census in Kyrgyzstan in 2014, in conjunction with a regular program of the World Agricultural Census Round 2006- 2015, as recommended by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO ).

81. The quality of statistical information is supported by the statistical work plans, user satisfaction, using competent and qualified staff, and good quality statistical work processes. All these components are reflected in the approved annual statistical program and the program of improvement and development of state statistics of the Kyrgyz Republic for 2010-2014.

82. The full professional independence of national statistics means high responsibility towards the users of statistical information, and requires effective communication between partners, including the general public. In this regard, much attention is paid to the dissemination of the results of statistical activities. Strict attention is paid to the coverage, periodicity, timeliness, availability, reliability and quality of the disseminated data. In February 2004, the Kyrgyz Republic became the 57th country to join the Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) of the International Monetary Fund. The NSC website is regularly updated to ensure accessibility, transparency and timeliness of statistical information dissemination to the public and efficient information exchange between internal and external users. The NSC has established an effective system of statistical indicators that adequately reflect the process and impact of ongoing reforms in the country, following the methodology based on international statistical recommendations and standards, international experience and use of international comparisons.

83. Successful implementation of measures to improve statistics to a large extent depends on international cooperation. The NSC is ready for the broadest integration of the

Kyrgyz statistics in international statistical cooperation programs with international organizations and national statistical offices of other countries.

## XVI. Latvia

Principle	LV practice
<p>Principle 1. <i>Official statistics provide an indispensable element in the information system of a democratic society, serving the Government, the economy and the public with data about the economic, demographic, social and environmental situation. To this end, official statistics that meet the test of practical utility are to be compiled and made available on an impartial basis by official statistical agencies to honor citizens' entitlement to public information.</i></p>	<p>The Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia (CSB) annually prepares the National Programme of Statistical Information (NPSI) based on needs of international, European and national data users. Statistical information included in NPSI is publicly available for users for free. Statistical data produced by CSB are available on the CSB homepage. CSB encourages other data producers to publish official statistics on their homepages.</p>
<p>Principle 2. <i>To retain trust in official statistics, the statistical agencies need to decide according to strictly professional considerations, including scientific principles and professional ethics, on the methods and procedures for the collection, processing, storage and presentation of statistical data.</i></p>	<p>The Official Statistics Law lays down the basic provisions regarding official statistics such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The methodology to be used and the information prepared for official statistics shall be objective and independent of political processes and interest groups;</li> <li>- The methods and procedures for the acquiring and processing of official statistics shall be scientifically based;</li> <li>- Official statistics shall be objective, reliable, useful and effective, and shall be based upon the principles of confidentiality and openness of statistics.</li> </ul> <p>As for European statistics, main requirements are defined by EU legal documents.</p>
<p>Principle 3. <i>To facilitate a correct interpretation of the data, the statistical agencies are to present information according to scientific standards on the sources, methods and procedures of the statistics.</i></p>	<p>For national users CSB prepares standardized quality reports in Latvian covering all the statistical output of CSB. Metadata compatible with SDDS metadata standard are available in the CSB internet databases next to the data tables.</p> <p>Concerning European statistics, Article 12 of Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 on European statistics states that Member States shall provide the Commission (Eurostat) with reports on the quality of the data transmitted. CSB prepares quality reports in English for selected European statistics based on EU legal requirements.</p>
<p>Principle 4. <i>The statistical agencies are entitled to comment on erroneous interpretation and misuse of statistics.</i></p>	<p>When applicable, CSB as soon as possible clarifies the issues, mainly by means of publishing its comments in online social networking websites, through special/adjusted press releases and interviews with journalists.</p>
<p>Principle 5. <i>Data for statistical purposes may be drawn from all types of sources, be they statistical surveys or administrative records. Statistical agencies are to choose the source with regard to quality, timeliness, costs and the burden on respondents.</i></p>	<p>Based on the Official Statistics Law, CSB has the right to receive free of charge from the State registers or databases information necessary for completion of NPSI including individual statistical data regarding private individuals. CSB, whenever the quality of administrative data is acceptable, uses these data hence reducing the</p>



	response burden and costs.
Principle 6. <i>Individual data collected by statistical agencies for statistical compilation, whether they refer to natural or legal persons, are to be strictly confidential and used exclusively for statistical purposes.</i>	Through administrative, technical and organisational measures CSB ensures confidentiality and protection of the information received from respondents, as well of individual information received from other sources pursuant to the requirements of national legislation in force. Confidentiality is protected by the Official Statistics Law, the Freedom of Information Law and Personal Data Protection Law. The collected individual data are used for statistical purposes only.
Principle 7. <i>The laws, regulations and measures under which the statistical systems operate are to be made public.</i>	General documents which define the operation of statistical system (Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 on European statistics, the Official Statistics Law, NPSI, the By-Law of CSB, the European Statistics Code of Practice, the CSB Quality Guidelines etc.) are published on the CSB homepage. For example, the CSB Quality Guidelines describe the production environment of official statistics in a simple and understandable way, so the CSB clients can introduce themselves with the main operational aspects of CSB.
Principle 8. <i>Coordination among statistical agencies within countries is essential to achieve consistency and efficiency in the statistical system.</i>	The main coordination tool of official statistics is NPSI, which is annually reviewed and approved by the Cabinet. CSB in close co-operation with national statistical agencies prepares a draft programme based on current needs of users. The programme defines the list of official statistics and responsible authorities for its production.
Principle 9. <i>The use by statistical agencies in each country of international concepts, classifications and methods promotes the consistency and efficiency of statistical systems at all official levels.</i>	The Official Statistics Law provides that internationally accepted methodological principles should be applied when producing official statistics. The legal acts defining requirements regarding concepts and methods in specific statistical domains are listed in NPSI. The list of classifications to be used in the production of official statistics is approved by the Cabinet and maintained by CSB.
Principle 10. <i>Bilateral and multilateral cooperation in statistics contributes to the improvement of systems of official statistics in all countries.</i>	The CSB staffs participate quite actively in bilateral and multi-lateral activities, sharing its best practice and learning from other MS NSIs. The obtained knowledge stimulates the improvement of the Latvian statistical system.

## XVII. Lithuania

84. Implementation of the Fundamental Principles (FP) in Statistics Lithuania (SL) is largely ensured by the national Law on Statistics. Official statistics are produced based on FP and provisions of the European Statistics Code of Practice which to a large extent are close to FP.

85. **Principle 1. Relevance, Impartiality and Equal Access.** Procedures to consult users, monitor relevance of existing statistics in meeting their needs are in place. The Work Programme of Official Statistics is prepared and approved by SL without any political

interference. The Advance release calendar is made public and users are informed about any deviations from it; equal access to statistical information is granted to all users, and any prior access given to governmental bodies is publicly identified on the SL website.

86. **Principle 2. Professionalism.** Methodological framework and procedures used for all statistical processes are based on European and international standards. Methodologies are periodically reviewed involving scientific community. Standards and methodologies used are publicly available.

87. **Principle 3. Accountability (and Transparency).** User oriented metadata descriptions, quality reports on statistical indicators based on the ESS quality requirements for statistical information are publicly available on the SL website.

88. **Principle 4. Prevention on Misuse.** The national Law on Statistics empowers SL to publicly comment on erroneous interpretation and misuse of statistics and this right is frequently exercised.

89. **Principle 5. Cost-effectiveness (Sources of Official Statistics).** The national Law on Statistics gives the right to access administrative data for statistical purposes. Administrative data is widely used and enables to reduce the response burden and costs for production of official statistics.

90. **Principle 6. Confidentiality.** The statistical confidentiality is ensured by the national Law on Statistics; Confidentiality procedures and measures are introduced and permanently developed.

91. **Principle 7. Legislation.** The national Law on Statistics, the Regulations of SL, the annual Work Programme of Official Statistics and its implementation reports, other national and EU legislation regulating SL activity are published on the SL website; respondents are informed about the nature of surveys and their rights and duties.

92. **Principle 8. National coordination.** The national Law on Statistics empowers SL to coordinate activities of other institutions managing official statistics in the field of production of statistics as defined in the Work Programme of Official Statistics. SL develops and implements public policy in the field of organization, harmonization and methodology of statistics.

93. **Principle 9. International standards.** According to the national Law on Statistics and Regulations of SL, international classifications and standards are applied in organisation of official statistics in Lithuania.

94. **Principle 10. International statistical cooperation.** SL actively participates in regular ESS (like ESSC, WGs, TFs meetings) and other international activities. Participation in international co-operation by taking over best practices of and transferring accumulated expertise to other countries facilitates the development of official statistics.

95. The importance of the Fundamental Principles and the European Code of Practice was pointed to and discussed at the Conference to celebrate the World Statistics Day in 2010. This event convened all partners of the statistical system of Lithuania, its stakeholders, respondents and users of official statistics.

96. Such a high-level UN initiated event, which was organised in the National Parliament and supported by the joint Eurostat-NSIs news release, opened the door wide for discussions about the importance of official statistics, its impartiality, confidentiality and other principles which lead to strengthening the coordinating role of Statistics Lithuania and raising the interest of the general public in statistics.

## XVIII. Mexico

### A. Code of ethics for the members of the national system of statistical and geographical information

#### Standards of Conduct

97. **Statistical and Geographical Culture:** ensure that the statistical and geographical information responds to society's needs and that the latter has possibilities to interpret it and evaluate it based on its spreading in a transparent, simple, and accessible manner, abiding by reality.

98. **Quality:** work and cooperate on the integration of the System by making more efficient use of resources, based on the attributes of importance, conceptual rigor, reliability, timeliness, accessibility, comparability, sufficiency and ease of consultation.

99. **Excellence:** carry out the tasks entrusted with a high level of dependability and commitment, and seek in an ongoing manner updating in theory and the methods to improve the performance of functions.

100. **Cooperation:** participate in national cooperation activities within the scope of the members of the System, as well as at international level in order to contribute to improving statistical and geographical information systems and the comparability of the information.

101. **Legality:** act in accordance with the regulatory framework of the System and comply with the functions and commitments as professionals of statistical and geographical activities.

102. **Transparency:** guarantee access to the information generated by the System in the broadest and simplest manner, with no further limit than that imposed by the public interest and the right to privacy of individuals, which are established in the laws governing this matter.

103. **Confidentiality:** guarantee, in accordance with the criteria established in the Law of the National System of Statistical and Geographical Information, the privacy of the informants of the System (natural and legal persons), as well as the reserve of the data provided by the latter for statistical or geographical purposes.

104. **Equality:** understand and value diversity with regard to lifestyles, beliefs and customs of the different groups in the country. In developing the functions of the System, respect should be shown for ethnic or national origin, gender, age, disabilities, social condition, health conditions, religion, opinions, preferences, marital status, and persons should not be discriminated under any circumstance.

105. **Impartiality:** act neutrally and objectively in the production and dissemination of statistical and geographical information, seeking complete independence as regards the scientific methodology used, and equity toward users.

106. **Integrity:** proceed with uprightness and rectitude, orienting the work toward meeting the information needs of users of the System, and use public resources in an optimum manner under criteria of quality and rationality.

107. Never use public office to obtain personal benefits, nor accept payment or compensation from any person or organization for any reason other than that which corresponds according to the Law by virtue of the assigned employment, post or commission.

108. **Respect:** recognize and consider at all times the rights, freedoms and qualities inherent to the human condition in the tasks of the System and prevent the taking of statistical and geographical information from creating situations or effects that are unfavorable for communities or individuals.

109. **Responsibility:** be answerable for the actions undertaken in the exercise of statistical and geographical activities, assume the consequences of the decisions taken and reorient the work to remedy any mistakes that might have been made.

110. **Solidarity:** collaborate extensively and without reserve with the different actors and in the different processes in which there is participation within the System.

111. **Commitment:** act with availability, conviction and spirit of service in attaining the objectives of the System.

112. **Learning:** adopt and share in favor of the improvement of the public service, the knowledge, abilities and experiences acquired in carrying out the functions entrusted, in favor of the integration of the System.

113. **Leadership:** assume the direction of statistical and geographical activities to align the actions of State Units with compliance with the objectives of the System.

114. **Accountability:** employ human, financial and material resources responsibly and in line with the regulations, and report, explain and justify the activities inherent to the assigned job, post or commission.

## **XIX. Montenegro**

115. The Statistical Office of Montenegro is an independent administration body according to the Law on State Administration. Parliament of Montenegro on its 24th assembly, on third meeting of the first regular (spring) conference, on 21 March 2012, has adopted the Law on Official Statistics and System of Official Statistics. The Law on Statistics and Statistical System of Montenegro specifies the legal frame for the production and dissemination of official statistics and also for the organization of the system of official statistics of Montenegro. Monstat, based on corresponding regulations of the Law, produces and disseminates official statistics respecting in practice the principles of Statistical Code of Practice.

116. Strategic areas of development of Montenegrin statistics in the period 2009-2012 are determined by priority of harmonization of Montenegrin statistics with EU standards from one side and from the other current situation and real possibilities of statistical system. One of the strategic goals is to implement the Statistical Code of Practice. The EU Statistical Code of Practice was included in the new Statistical Law that was adopted, on 21 March 2012.

117. Monstat undertakes in the framework of the Eurostat funded project 'Global assessments of statistical systems of candidate and potential candidate countries as well as ENP countries', two Assessment missions Adopted Global Assessment (in March 2010) and Light Peer Review (in March 2012). The objectives of these reviews are, in particular, to assess compliance of the reviewed National Statistical Institute (NSI) with Principles 1-6 and 15 of the European Statistics Code of Practice, to evaluate the coordination role of the NSI within the statistical system, to highlight transferable practices suitable to foster compliance with the Code of Practice and to recommend improvement actions needed in view of fully complying with the Code.

118. The new Law gives to Monstat explicit responsibility for coordinating the National Statistical System. The current coordination arrangements, by the assessment, are very

informal, however, and it is recommended that Monstat set up a Coordination Committee comprising all producers of official statistics to manage the multifarious tasks required in developing and reporting on the Development Strategy, the 5-year programme and the annual plans.

119. Montenegro already has a comprehensive suite of instruments to operate a decentralized National Statistics System (NSS) in an effective manner. This suite includes the Statistical Law, the Development Strategy, the 5 year Programme, the Memoranda of Understanding between Monstat and other official producers and the Monstat Annual Plan. Furthermore, Article 8 of the draft new Law will give Monstat a leading role in the coordination of the NSS, explicitly referring to coordination of official statistics as one of Monstat's activities. Monstat will actively work on the implementation of his coordination and monitoring role in the Montenegro statistical system.

## **XX. New Zealand**

### **A. Applying NSO Statistical Principles and Protocols to Government of the Day Initiatives**

120. The Prime Minister has set 10 challenging results for the New Zealand public sector to achieve over the next three to five years. Ministers and a public sector chief executive have been appointed to lead each result and will be accountable for demonstrating real progress against his or her result.

121. Specific and measurable targets for each result will be agreed and made public. Cabinet agreed to regular public reporting on progress towards achieving Better Public Services results. There is a strong alignment between the measures and specific Tier 1 statistics that could be used to monitor the progress of the result areas.

122. Government envisages that the reporting process will include data being released according to current protocols and processes, and that responsible ministers will sign-off result information and the results story prior to any public release.

### **B. Challenges**

123. Whilst it is encouraging that Tier 1 statistics are being used as they should (reflecting the most important statistics of the country), a core characteristic of these statistics is meeting the requirements of the Integrity principle of New Zealand's "Official Statistical System - PRINCIPLES AND PROTOCOLS FOR PRODUCERS OF TIER 1 STATISTICS"

124. The Integrity principle requires that official statistics gain public trust by being produced and released using objective and transparent methods. A clear area of tension is related to release procedures and in particular ensuring that compilation and release of data is free from external influences, and that release is by the chief executive of the producing agency according to a pre-advised calendar of release dates.

125. The challenge is that Ministers can be reluctant to support such processes when they either do not receive pre-release notification of the official statistics, or release the information themselves or determine what will be released and how.

126. Statistics New Zealand is actively engaging with Ministers to manage these concerns and resolve barriers and issues. The Department is encouraging Ministers to understand the benefits of robust release processes, and the links between this real example for Ministers

of how public perceptions of trust and confidence in government are partly dependent on trust and confidence in Official Statistics.

127. No final decisions have yet been made, but this will be a major test for an NSO of government support for independent and trustworthy statistical production.

## **XXI. Norway**

128. The UN Fundamental Principles (FPs) of Official Statistics is as a document a cornerstone for our national statistical system. The opening paragraph mentions in one sentence tasks as the obligation to serve democracy, to be user relevant and to be independent. In the next paragraph more substance is added to the role as an independent statistician – the official statistics should be based on the best professional and scientific principles. This combination of the right to be independent with the obligation to be professional scientific is crucial for the understanding of the value of the FP:

129. Official statistics will gain value if it is trusted, and the FPs represents the first coherent formulation of requirements necessary to achieve this. Today, the principles are reflected in most national statistical laws, and they have inspired and provided a basis for more comprehensive quality frameworks for official statistics, such as the European Statistics Code of Practice (ESCoP) and the recently developed UN National Quality Assurance Framework (NQAF).

130. In Statistics Norway the FP have guided our strategies, and constitute parts of our basis. Even though ESCoP during later years have been more important for us as they go a bit further in detail and specification. However, both systems are referred and linked to from our websites, [www.ssb.no](http://www.ssb.no). Statistics Norway has a comprehensive international cooperation, including advising statistical institutes in countries both in Africa and Asia. In this context the FPs is an important part of our toolbox. The simplicity and limited number of principles of the FPs is an advantage in many cases.

131. All the FPs are still valid. Increased complexity of the society, globalisation and in some parts of the world economic integration (e.g. Europe), have increased the need for more evidence-based policies, and thus the demand for and the significance of official statistics. Independence and professionalism in producing such statistics are more important than ever, issues that are emphasised in the FPs.

132. The Fundamental Principles stand firmly also for the coming 20 years!

## **XXII. Poland**

133. "Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics" is a kind of "Ten Commandments" that defines the rules of the system of official statistics. Central Statistical Office of Poland (GUS) initiated to develop this document. In 1990, at the 38th Session of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) the GUS President put forward a proposal to adopt rules to official statistics of CES Member States, which were to establish common values for statistical services. The Polish proposal gained active support not only of the President of the Conference, Carlo Malaguerra (President of the Swiss Federal Statistical Office), but also other participants. The working group was formed under the leadership of Poland and its task was to design the Principles. In 1991 the rules were approved at the 39th CES session. The first international meeting on the adoption by the UN the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics was held in Poland at the GUS Centre for Statistical Training in Jachranka in September 1993. The meeting was attended by the representatives of 25 countries and international organizations. The organizers of the meeting were: GUS,

UN Statistical Commission, Economic Commission for Europe, Conference of European Statisticians Eurostat, International Statistical Institute and the Polish Statistical Association.

134. Meeting in Jachranka was groundbreaking because it determined the ways of implementation of the uniform Principles in countries with different statistical systems. Promoting the Principles, which aimed at building trust in statistics and development of its credibility, was crucial in the integration of world statistics.

135. Implementation of the Principles was extremely important for countries which, like Poland, were in transformation period. First of all, they highlighted the need to create politically independent services of official statistics. In addition, they guaranteed security of unit data, contributing to the increase of respondents' confidence. They have also defined the relationship between statistical services and the public, administrative and other information systems. Furthermore, they formed the basis for effective international cooperation. The current shape of the European Statistical System is largely the result of the implementation of the Principles adopted almost 20 years ago.

136. The adoption of the Principles by Poland was reflected in the Law on Official Statistics of 1995. All of the recommendations deriving from this document have been thus raised to the rank of the law. This solution provided the conditions for building good relationships with respondents and users of statistical data. It guaranteed all interested parties availability of statistical information on the same terms and conditions. In addition, it positively affected the development of Polish statistics, contributed to a more disciplined implementation of the same Principles and their positive social assessment.

137. Although modern statistics are facing new challenges which need further action with a view to ensuring improvement of the quality of statistics (ex. socio-economic transformation, changing needs of democratic societies, broad international cooperation), the twenty year experience in applying the "Principles" affirms their universal nature and shows that they have not lost their validity. Their additional advantage is the stability and reproducibility over the period. For this reason, we do not see the need for significant changes neither in the rules nor in the preamble.

### **XXIII. Republic of Moldova**

138. Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics (FPOS) adopted by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe 20 years ago, and later by the United Nations Statistical Commission in 1994, represent the milestone of official statistics of the Republic of Moldova.

139. These important Principles are reflected integrally by the revised Law on Official Statistics, adopted by the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova in 2004, thus offering a sound basis to ensure adequate information of public authorities and civil society on the country situation and development from economic, social, demographic and environment perspectives.

140. All 10 Fundamental Principles are as actual today as they were at the moment of their development by UNECE. Moreover, official statistics, which according FPOS must correspond to requirements of public usefulness, must face new major challenges related to providing political and economic stakeholders and civil society with high quality statistical information, in particular, from the viewpoint of its relevance, reliability, timeliness, accessibility, integrity, coherence and time and space comparability of statistical data.

141. Fundamental Principles which cover both the requirements for official statistics as a public good, and the conditions necessary for the functioning of statistics in a democratic

society outline the importance to ensure the professional independence of national statistical office, respect of deontological principles, easy and equal user access to official statistics, confidentiality of individual statistical data, efficiency of statistical system, transparency in activity, internal and international cooperation and the creation of adequate conditions (institutional, financial, human, and of access to administrative data for statistical purposes) for good functioning of statistical offices.

142. The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) undertook important activities in developing the dissemination of statistical information, in particular, via electronic channels in order to provide all categories of users with qualitative statistical information. In this context, the new webpage of the NBS was launched and became the main dissemination channel of official statistics, and, recently, was supplemented with interactive tools such as Statistical Databank based on PX Web tools, Consumer Price Index calculator, Population Pyramid, and animated diagrams in Labour Force, etc. These achievements became possible grace our fruitful cooperation with Statistics Norway and other national and international institutions. An important dimension of NBS activity is the development of communication with users, organisation of user trainings in order to improve the availability, understanding, use, and reliability of official statistics by the main groups of users, in particular, mass-media.

143. There are still major challenges on continuous quality improvement, credibility and use of official statistics despite the important achievements of Moldova Statistics in implementing the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics. We count on our active cooperation with our partners and international community for being able to face all these challenges.

## **XXIV. Romania**

144. The 90s, as it is known, brought crucial changes to the global picture of Europe's political and economic structures by breaking down the division between the two great blocks and by aligning the countries with a centrally planned economy to the democratic values. The inevitable consequences were both dramatic and favourable to the process that would start, namely the provision of a new basis for the statistical system of the countries called, at the time, "transition countries", a system that had been in place for half a century.

145. The Conference of European Statistics was the forum and tribune where developed European countries first proposed that transition countries adopt new statistical concepts, methods and techniques with a view to a common vision characterised by the cohesion and comparability of statistics at European level.

146. But the turning point was the inspiration of the Polish delegation, which suggested that, in the framework of the Conference, countries agree on common principles and values meant to generate goals and aspirations shared by all the actors involved in statistics at European level. The aim was the adoption of a mentality that would be dominated by an unanimous goal, namely statistical progress. A series of other delegations, among which Romania, subscribed to this initiative, strongly supporting the adoption of common principles on the functioning of statistics, viewed as indispensable for convincing the decision-makers in their countries to commit to acknowledge and comply with fundamental principles.

147. The 10 fundamental principles, which were adopted at the 39th Session of the Conference of European Statisticians in September 1992 and then at the 47th Session of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, would fully prove their consistency, efficiency and worth in the period that followed and even today, as they became part of the philosophy of the statistical system and were also used in statistical practice.



148. Romania, alongside the other European states, not to mention that the principles were adopted in almost all the states of the world, immediately made use of them to draw up the first Law on statistics in a democratic context. The Law was issued as early as 1992, the year when the principles had been adopted by the Conference.

149. Subscribing to the fundamental principles in the legal framework of statistics was certainly extremely important, but it was not enough to make statistics efficient to society. A series of concrete actions aimed at making these principles known, adopting and implementing them so that they could be understood and applied in practice as an indispensable condition for guaranteeing statistical credibility would follow. Symposia, round tables and debates were organised at national level and dialogues with all categories of statistical data users were initiated. Assessments of the degree to which the significance of each principle was understood were made in the light of the experience acquired by the Romanian statisticians while participating in numerous actions of similar nature that took place at international level. Nevertheless, up to a certain moment, these principles did not have enough strength to be applied automatically as they were not supported by an organisational framework or by tools and mechanisms that would give them consistency and would increase their use in theory and practice. The situation changed in 2000, when the European Statistics Code of Practice was issued and the peer reviews conducted under the auspices of Eurostat started, which marked the beginning of the actual monitoring of the implementation of the principles.

150. Now, at the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the principles, a new step, maybe equally important, is about to be taken. That can be seen in Eurostat's initiatives to strengthen the European Statistical System, which involve increasing the acknowledgement of statistics, ensuring the independence of statistics from state authorities, making sure the co-ordinating role of statistical offices is acknowledged, providing unlimited access to administrative sources in order to increase the efficiency of the system, with the overall goal of improving the credibility of statistics.

151. Romanian statistics, which, alongside other statistical offices, has been a pioneer in the matter of the principles, contributing to the drawing up of a coherent and viable document containing these principles, is determined to fully participate in the new efforts meant to make the entire society aware of the vision, mission and values of statistics as a fundamental institution that is indispensable to a state where the rule of law prevails.

## **XXV. Russian Federation**

152. The Fundamental Principles were adopted in the beginning of 1990th – the period when Russian statistics developed to be harmonized with international standards. Within this process we based on the Principles and now the legal system that underlies the Russian official statistics fully complies with them. The Principles give the opportunity to build up statistics in a way that it worked for the benefit of both producers and users of statistics. Decision makers may address to them more skeptically but this again proves its importance for independence of official statistics.

153. Important issue of the last decade is transparency of statistical methodology. Users want to know more about data, how we collect them and calculate. The Principles force us to be open with our data. Main lesson learned by using of the Principles is that they are a good stimulus for development of efficient relationships in the statistics framework. They do not limit the possibilities but extend ones.

## XXVI. Serbia

154. Official statistics in the Republic of Serbia was established in 1862 and since that time Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia (SORS) has been developing basic principles for statistical performance. Today, the Official Statistics Law specifies the legal frame for the production and dissemination of official statistics as well as for the organization of the system of official statistics of the Republic of Serbia including full implementation of Fundamental Principles (FP).

155. The Official Statistics Law, together with the five-year Statistical Programme and the annual Implementation Plan, provides SORS with a clear and broad legal mandate to collect and access the data needed for the execution of the Statistical Programme and the Implementation Plan. In that sense the SORS is producing and disseminating official statistics respecting in practice the principles of professional independence, impartiality and objectivity, and statistical confidentiality.

156. SORS is recognised as the coordinator of the Statistical System by the other producers of official statistics. With the most important ones, the National Bank and the Ministry of Finance, a joint memorandum of understanding regarding the division of work in the fields of macroeconomic and government finance statistics and the sharing of data between the institutions was signed. Memoranda with some other producers also exist. Memoranda of understanding should be agreed with all other authorized producers of official statistics.

157. There are several issues, in this period, that the SORS assess as priorities which contributes to better implementation of FP. They can be seen as:

(a) An increased use of administrative data for statistical purposes is still of high priority to the SORS. At the same time, SORS investigates how its influence on the content of administrative data sources can be strengthened;

(b) For the systematic and standardized approach to quality, the Quality Management Framework and other related documents were adopted by SORS. These documents and initial steps currently being made in this area (basic training), confirm the commitment of the top management of SORS to implementing the EFQM model;

(c) SORS pays great attention to data dissemination, including the electronic presentation of statistics. A new website has been launched recently (which includes a public database). The standardization of metadata (including selected quality indicators) is planned; the aim being to increase the clarity and better understanding of statistics. Increased promotion of the use of micro-data for research purposes is planned to expand the knowledge of the scientific community about this useful source of statistical information. Anticipating users needs, further orientation on modern ways of data presentation (for potential and future users), as well as statistical literacy activities should continue and should be further developed.

158. The good qualification of its staff is the main strength of SORS with regard to its capacity to ensure the adequacy of its resources. Although the present staff numbers and qualification levels might be sufficient for the current work, there are clear indications which show that the number of staff of SORS is too small to carry out future development actions necessary to reach compliance especially with European requirements in due time.

## XXVII. Slovakia

159. **Principle 1:** Official statistics provide an indispensable element in the information system of the Slovak Republic. According to the Act on state statistics Nr 540/2001 the

Statistical Office (SOSR) is a body of state administration and its President has sufficiently high hierarchical standing to have access to policy authorities and administrative public bodies. Statistical information is granted to the President of the SR, Parliament, Government, National Bank, ministries, and other state and local administration bodies, to Eurostat and to international organizations. The right of citizens to have access to public information in the field of state statistics is embedded in the Act as well. All users have an equal access to statistical information at the same time.

160. **Principle 2:** Professional independence of the SOSR from political, managing or administrative bodies is guaranteed by the Act on state statistics. The SOSR is solely responsible for decisions on statistical methods of data collection and processing, standards and processes, as well as on data release calendar. Information on used methods is publically accessible, substantial revisions and changes in methods are announced in advance.

161. **Principle 3:** Statistics are presented according to scientific standards on the sources, methods and procedures. Principles for dissemination are defined in internal legal measures of the SOSR: Policy of Statistical Dissemination, Directive on External Communication, and Principles for Release of Statistical Information; these are available on the SOSR's web site ([www.statistics.sk](http://www.statistics.sk)).

162. In the light of those documents, the SOSR issues all of its statistical products and outputs under its logo and separately from any political and strategic declarations. A standard form is used in publishing and providing information. Statistical information is released in the way to be easily understandable and usable, to avoid misinterpretation, erroneous interpretation and misuse.

163. **Principle 4:** The SOSR publicly comments on criticism and misuse of statistics. The procedure for application of this principle is defined as „crisis communication“, which is a communication with public in case of extraordinary situation, criticism or misuse of official statistics endangering integrity or reputation of the Office. The principles are explicitly stipulated by the „Policy for dissemination of statistical data “and in „Concept of external communication with media“.

164. **Principle 5:** For the purposes of official statistics, the SOSR draws information from both statistical surveys and administrative sources. This is authorized by the Act on state statistics. Agreements on data provision and on the way of handling them are signed with the owners of administrative data.

165. **Principle 6:** Confidentiality of statistical data provided by natural and legal persons is guaranteed by the Act on state statistics and by an internal directive. It is a system of interconnected legislative, organizational, technical, precautionary, and personnel measures preventing a leakage of confidential statistical data or release of statistical information before the schedule. Legal obligation to keep a confidentiality principle is signed by each respective new employee. Wilful breach of statistical data confidentiality could be fined substantially. Policy of confidentiality is available to the public. Organizational and technical measures are in place to protect integrity and security of statistical databases. Access to statistical micro-data for scientific purposes is secured by legal provisions, protocols and agreements between the SOSR and scientists.

166. **Principle 7:** The Statistical Act and the Programme of Statistical Surveys, classifications (as a decree of the SOSR) are published in the Official Journal of the SR and on the web site of the Office. Other measures are available on the web site.

167. **Principle 8:** The SOSR acts as a coordinator within the national statistical system. The Programme of Statistical Surveys is developed in close cooperation with all producers

of statistics in the SR, and beside statistical surveys conducted by the SOSR it also contains the surveys to be conducted by other statistical institutions that are a part of the NSS.

168. **Principle 9:** As a member of European Statistical System, the SOSR applies international concepts, classifications and methods, and in its production of statistics takes into account the needs of users.

169. **Principle 10:** The SOSR cooperates closely with the ESS Members, Eurostat, OECD Statistics Directorate and UN Statistical Division, and has established close cooperation with the NSIs of neighbouring countries.

## XXVIII. Slovenia

170. In 2014, the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia (SORS) will celebrate the seventieth anniversary of the Slovenian official statistics, which is not a long period, but for a young country, Slovenia, which became independent only in 1991, this is a remarkable success. In the last two decades, since gaining independence, Slovenia has been involved and participated in various international organizations; it became full member of the European and Monetary Union and member of the OECD. In the very year of the adoption of the Resolution on the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, SORS became member of the Conference of European Statisticians at the UN Economic Commission for Europe. The transition of the Slovenian society to a market economy and its integration in international cooperation demanded the Slovenian statistics to be an independent and professional statistical organization. International principles of official statistics and best practices of national statistical systems of the most developed countries (especially the Nordic ones) set for us an example and were of key importance in the development of the modern framework of the Slovenian national statistics.

171. With the National Statistics Act, which was adopted in 1995, we became an independent government office. The Act provided for important elements of national statistics: the coordination and programming of the activities of national statistics; cooperation in the development and acquisition of data from administrative sources; the independence of the institution, implementation of the activities and Head of the Office; statistical confidentiality, use and transmission of data; the Statistical Council of the Republic of Slovenia and statistical advisory committees. SURS is the main provider and coordinator of programs of statistical surveys, as certain surveys are conducted by other institutions, defined and authorized by the program. The amended Act, which was adopted during the preparations for entry of Slovenia into the EU in 2001, facilitated the preparation and adoption of the program of statistical surveys, consolidated the independence of the SORS and closely defined the role of the authorized producers of national statistics. These are obliged to organize statistical activities separately from other activities and to fully respect the principles of official statistics, especially the principle of statistical confidentiality.

172. In the last two decades active participation that was in line with fundamental principles of official statistics and in accordance with the Slovenian legal framework, brought to SORS a series of best practices, recognized by both domestic and international expertise. International peers, having viewed at compliance with the principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice, recognized the following as best practices: the Slovenian National Statistics Act, the operation of statistical advisory committees, error reporting and access to micro data for researchers. Among good practices there is also to be mentioned the use of administrative sources: with the majority of holders of administrative sources there exist formalized arrangements for cooperation; and forwarding to the data users relevant information on the statistical sources, methods and procedures - as published

methodology is available for all fields of statistics and in most cases also for Quality Reports.

173. To young statisticians it seems natural, self-evident, to operate in line with the basic principles of official statistics, but the older ones are aware that things can be done differently. Only by looking into the past can one realize the true value of these principles. The basic principles may be just a letter on paper, beautifully framed, hanging on the walls of offices. Conduct in line with the basic principles, however, improves the quality of the processes and products, improves the confidence of data providers and data users, and increases the professionalism of the producers of official statistics. During the general economic and financial crisis, most NSI face financial and staffing constraints, which directly affect the implementation of the statistical surveys, incl. censuses. The register-orientation which had a long tradition in the Slovenian statistics, largely facilitated that the last population census in Slovenia was carried out in full on the basis of existing sources - without no data collection in the field which represents the biggest cost. Implementation in this manner is professionally more demanding, but it is not so time-consuming and is cost-efficient.

174. Aware of the challenges in statistics in future, and taking into account all the experience of the Slovenian statistics, we believe that the two decades of implementation of statistical programs in line with the basic principles of official statistics will certainly be prolonged by another decade.

## XXIX. Spain

175. During the last two decades the Fundamental Principles of official statistics have become an essential element in the production of official data in Spain. We have come a long way but there is still much to do in a process of continuous improvement of official statistics.

176. INE-Spain (INE) follows the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and the European Statistics Code of Practice. Moreover, it has been decided the inclusion of a commitment to comply with the Code of Practice in the Spanish law.

177. The professional independence is a fact in Spain. The National Statistics Act gives INE the competence to independently decide on statistical methods and the production and dissemination of official statistics.

178. INE plays a central role in the National Statistical System (NSS). Although, the Spanish NSS is a decentralised model, the INE *coordinates* by law the statistical production with other producers by means of the *Interministerial Statistics Commission* (coordinates the statistical activities of the State Central Administration) and the *Interterritorial Statistics Committee* (manages the actions with Autonomous Communities).

179. Opinion of experts, users and producers, has been collected through a detailed consultation procedure. It has been a key input when drafting the **National Statistical Plan 2013-2016**.

180. In the current context of global crisis and budgetary constraints, it is essential to improve the *efficiency* of the statistical systems. A big effort is being made to design a multi-channel data collection integrated system, which benefits from the possibilities of the **new information and communication technologies**. It also allows integrating the use of administrative registers and the combination of data from surveys and registers. The intensive *use of administrative records* is one of the basic strategic lines for official statistics in Spain. In fact, registers have been used in combination with surveys for the last agricultural census and the recent housing and population censuses.

181. *Communication* with users and respondents is considered vital to explain the Institute's work better to society. The INE website is a good example of a fast information and communication service using modern technologies. Besides, INE has led, together with Eurostat, the Sponsorship Group on Communication whose mission was to achieve greater visibility of the ESS. Among others, the main outcomes of this group are to create a website and a logo of the ESS, to display a common set of information on the websites of the MS, and to set up a network of press offices (press-net).

182. The *international cooperation* in statistics is a key tool for the improvement of systems of official statistics. The International Technical Cooperation Programme in Statistics of INE has over 30 years of history. This program allows transfer of INE's know-how to other partners. It has also led to that our institution is considered an international reference in cooperation, especially by the statistical offices and central banks in Latin America. This program allows meeting some strategic demands to strengthen the statistical systems of other countries.

### **XXX. Switzerland**

183. The Principles gave official statisticians an identity: the international statistical community has strong core values and a spirit of partnership. The Principles give Chief statisticians an international backing, a shield against political influence, and the right to respond to inappropriate use of data notably in the media.

184. We come to the conclusion that] the principles that are the least implemented are precisely those that imply not only an action by the NSOs but also a certain behaviour by third parties, such as political actors above the Chief Statisticians, officials from other government agencies, or the media (including political/commercial publications).

185. So, the Fundamental Principles brought a lot to the work of official statisticians. The main problem is that in practice they apply to statisticians only.

186. Statistical offices need to find allies in the media and in the general public. Nowadays the press is more about interpreting data and telling stories than re-printing releases. [...] Statisticians need to talk directly to the public (using "I" or "we" and explaining what they are doing instead of "it" and focusing on data only). The aim is to make citizens perceive statistical offices not as distant and nosy bureaucracies, but as a neutral source of information on aspects of their life. It is important to act proactively in order to establish a relationship and trust, rather than just intervening in debates.

### **XXXI. Turkey**

187. Both Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics (FPs) and the accession process of Turkey to European Union has become the driving forces of Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat)'s capacity building efforts realized in the last decades. In this process, TurkStat has gained huge experience in various aspects of statistics. It produces many of its statistical data according to international standards and classifications, namely UN and EU. Therefore, this creates a real accumulation of knowledge in strengthening institutional and statistical capacity. Additionally, the new Law on statistics was adopted in 2005 that brought new understanding of the management of the Turkish Statistical System as well as increasing institutional capacity. TurkStat has also adopted a strategic management approach in restructuring the statistical system.

188. The FPs encourage statistical agencies to make bilateral and multilateral cooperation in statistics. Since cooperation and technical assistance activities have a fundamental role in

institutional strengthening and the development of official statistics, TurkStat attaches great importance to the collaboration activities at bilateral, regional and international levels. Under the vision of sharing information and experiences, TurkStat has been involving in bilateral and multilateral cooperation activities with the countries and international organizations, namely Caucasian and Central Asian Countries, Balkan Countries, Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) Countries, Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) Countries and Organization of Islamic Conference Countries. In the last decade, more than 200 TurkStat experts carried out consultancy services in partner countries and over 400 experts from the beneficiary countries participated in the training programmes organized at TurkStat in Ankara. Means for this cooperation are the followings: 1. Technical assistance (consultancies, missions, workshops, meetings, etc); 2. Bilateral missions; 3. On the job training; 4. Electronic exchange of documents; 5. Short-term traineeship programs; 6. Bilateral and/or multilateral projects.

189. As a brief assessment of Turkish Statistical System from the FPs perspective, Statistics Law (SL) of Turkey specifies the importance of quality considerations and the legal basis for the production and dissemination of official statistics as well as for the organization of the system of official statistics of Turkey. The SL establishes some important features of the wider co-ordination role – in relation to the Statistical Council, the Official Statistics Programme, a statistical release calendar, and the provision of support in relation to methods and quality. The SL not only regulates the production and dissemination of official statistics by TurkStat, it also regulates the production and dissemination of all official statistics by all producers (stake holders) of official statistics. The SL stipulates that official statistical data shall be available to all users in an equal way and at the same time. TurkStat publishes a national release calendar for all official statistics, not only those produced by TurkStat.

190. Last but not least, TurkStat produces and disseminates official statistics in ways that respect the principles of professional independence, impartiality, objectivity and statistical confidentiality.

## **XXXII. Ukraine**

191. After Ukraine gained independence in 1991, the country faced the necessity to radically reform the national statistics and establish the effectively functioning statistical system that meets the requirements of forming up the market economy and democratic society as well as allows the effective integration into the globalized world economy.

192. The Fundamental principles of official statistics became the basis for further strengthening the institutional capacity of the Ukrainian official statistics, introducing the best practices of the European and world statistics into the national statistical practice and on this basis raise the trust of users to the activity of the state statistics bodies and guarantee the high quality of statistical information.

193. We are thankful to international statistical community for this clear guidelines which helped to lay the foundation for the transformations and identify the priorities for carrying out the state statistical activity, particularly, in the Law of Ukraine "On the State Statistics", the Concept to build the national statistics, and approved Principles of the state statistics bodies' activity.

194. 20 years since the adoption of the Fundamental principles of official statistics gave us a cause to assess the results of work performed during this period, reflect on the current challenges and take the concrete steps to resolve them, make special emphasis on the principles that are problematic for solution. In this context, the coordinated position of

international statistical community will permit to nail down the achievements aimed at employing the Fundamental principles at the national level.

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