



What do the Fundamental Principles mean for official statistics?

Quotes from contributions on
Fundamental Principles by countries



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- Only by looking into the past can one realize the true **value** of these Principles. The basic principles may be just a letter, beautifully framed, hanging on the office walls. But only conduct in line with the Principles improves the confidence of users, and quality and professionalism of official statistics. – Slovenia



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- The current shape of the European Statistical System is largely the result of the implementation of the Principles adopted 20 years ago. Promoting the Principles was crucial in the **integration** of world statistics. – Poland



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- We see that one of the main tools for improvement of the **quality** of statistics is **international cooperation**. – Azerbaijan



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- Today, the FP 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 and the UN National Quality Assurance Framework. – Norway



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- The Principles give the opportunity to build up statistics in a way that it works for the **benefit of both producers and users of statistics.** – Russian Federation



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- Users have to be considered not only as potential customers but **strategic allies** to better understand what is going on in different domains, to maximise the use and re-use of existing information, and to support the statistical office's work. - Italy



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- The Australian people and governments **rely** on **independent** and **trusted** institutions and statistics to operate as a democracy. – Australia



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- 20 years since the adoption of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics give us a cause to **assess the results** and **reflect on** the current **challenges**. We need especially to focus on the principles that are more problematic to implement. – Ukraine



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- The Fundamental Principles are an important **cohesion** factor as all partners have adopted them. - Bosnia and Herzegovina



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- 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. – Switzerland



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- The full professional independence of national statistics means high **responsibility** towards the users of statistical information. –
Kyrgyzstan



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- This combination of the **right to be independent** with the **obligation to be professional** is crucial for the understanding of the value of the FP. – Norway



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- The Principles are a good stimulus for development of **efficient relationships** in statistics. They do not limit the possibilities but extend them. – Russian Federation



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- We encourage our government to understand that the **trust and confidence** in government is partly dependent on the trust and confidence in official statistics. – New Zealand



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- The Principles gave official statisticians an **identity**: the international statistical community has strong core values and a spirit of partnership. – Switzerland



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- We are thankful to **international statistical community** for the clear guidelines which helped to lay the foundation for the transformation and new priorities of the state statistical activity. – Ukraine



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- The Fundamental Principles are adopted as the **Soul of New Statistics Act** in Japan. -
Japan



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- Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics are a kind of "Ten Commandments" that define the rules of the system of official statistics and establish **common values** for statistical services. – Poland



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- The aim of FP was to introduce a **mentality** to strive for a common goal: statistical progress. The FP became part of the philosophy of the statistical system. - Romania



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- The Fundamental Principles represent values that are entrenched in our **organisational culture**. A great number of our staff do not have a conscious knowledge of the actual Principles, but despite this, their behaviour is fully consistent with them. – Canada



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- For the prevention of misuse of statistics, we aim first, to provide as much information as possible, and second, to enable the development of “**statistical culture**” in the country. – Cyprus



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- We statisticians should help general public by making pure **numbers** more **digestible**. – Estonia



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- Statisticians need to **talk directly to the public** - to make citizens perceive statistical offices not as distant and nosy bureaucracies, but as a **neutral source of information** on aspects of their life. – Switzerland



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- We monitor statistical news and articles in the Media on a **daily basis**. In cases of misinterpretation or abusive reporting we release **corrective statements without delay**.
– Austria



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- The national Law on Statistics empowers the national statistical office to **publicly comment** on erroneous interpretation and misuse of statistics. This right is frequently exercised. – Lithuania



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- We are preparing a dashboard of indicators for each principle to create a detailed standard of conduct for national statistics and to establish a system for **monitoring** compliance. - Belarus



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- Up to a certain moment, the FP were not supported by an organisational framework or by tools and mechanisms for their use in practice. The adoption of the European Statistics Code of Practice and the peer reviews marked the beginning of the actual **monitoring** of the implementation of the principles. – Romania



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- If more **awareness** is raised, the public could act more effectively on the government to support implementation of the Fundamental Principles. The UN Fundamental Principles have to be **filled with life**. - Germany



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- In Lithuania, the **World Statistics Day** in 2010 opened the door wide for discussions about the importance of official statistics which lead to raising the interest of the general public in statistics. - Lithuania



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- The twenty year experience in applying the "Principles" affirms their **universal** nature and shows that they have not lost their **validity**. – Poland



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- We consider that the current Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics are **universal and eternal**. – Japan



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- All 10 Fundamental Principles are as **actual** today as they were at the moment of their development. – Republic of Moldova



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- Aware of the challenges in statistics in future, and taking into account the experience, we believe that the two decades of implementation of the basic principles of official statistics will certainly be prolonged by another decade. – Slovenia



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- All the FP are still **valid**. Growing complexity of the society, globalisation and the economic integration have increased the need for evidence-based policies, and thus the significance of official statistics. Independence and professionalism in statistics are **more important than ever**. The Fundamental Principles stand firmly also for the coming 20 years! – Norway



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