



EUROPEAN
STATISTICAL
SYSTEM

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European Statistical System Peer Reviews

Third round: 2021-2023

Guides' Annex V: Questions by interlocutor

Endorsed by the ESS Committee in October 2020

This set of possible questions for peer reviews is to be considered as example questions only and meant to inspire the members of the peer review expert teams to derive their own lists of questions prior to the peer review visit, as it is important that questions are well tailored to the visited institute. Similar sets of questions were used in both the first and the second rounds of the ESS peer reviews. The numbers in the left column refer to the principles and indicators of the European Statistics Code of Practice (ES CoP).

At the very end of this annex, in a separate row “General questions related to the pandemic caused by Covid-19”, some questions are added in relation to the Covid-19 situation. The answers may serve to identify lessons learnt and innovative practices in responding to the crisis and new statistical output with a view to integrate some of these into regular production. The questions are not related to any specific principle of the ES CoP and may serve also for inspiration only. They are not intended to assess compliance with the ES CoP.

The sets of questions might be useful as they could be a good reference point for a brainstorming exercise among the members of the peer review expert teams as well as for steering discussions on certain issues during the peer review visit. Peer review experts can, for instance, first formulate their own questions and then use the document for inspiration and check whether all topics were covered. The set of questions should not pre-empt the way of conducting the interviews and should not prevent the conduct of independent peer reviews. The final set of questions that is used by the peer review expert team during the peer review visit will be different for each team and each peer review visit as it needs to take into account various factors such as (but not limited to):

- the particularities of the different national systems and set-ups under review
- the information presented in the self-assessment questionnaire
- the evidence documentation supplied for the peer review
- the information revealed during the discussions that take place during the visit
- the additional brainstorming exercises taking place after some of the visit’s sessions

In this regard it should be also noted that the set of questions may support NSIs/ONAs to prepare for the peer review visit. However, it is neither useful nor efficient for the interviewees to develop answers to all these questions when preparing for the peer review visit.

Principle Indicator Issue	Users	Other producers	Management	Junior staff
General on governance	What kind of governance structures to oversee the implementation of the ES CoP would you like to see in place for the NSS?		What governance structures to measure the implementation of the ES CoP are in place for your NSS?	

Principle Indicator Issue	Users	Other producers	Management	Junior staff
			What would be the most appropriate/suitable governance structures for overseeing the implementation of the ES CoP for your NSS?	
1 in general	What specific challenges do you see in relation to the implementation of the Code of Practice (independence, legislative framework, mixture of statistical and administrative functions, data, etc.) within the country?	What specific challenges do you see in relation to implementing the Code of Practice (independence, legislative framework, mixture of statistical and administrative functions, data, etc.) within the country?		What do you consider to be the main challenges in relation to implementing the Code of Practice in your institution – and in the national statistical system as the whole?
1.1	Do you perceive the NSI as a professional and independent institution? How important is it to you that your country's NSI is independent from political interference?	Does the independence of NSI provide you with support in resisting political influence on your own activity? Do you ever face political influence when you produce statistics?	Despite your legal political independence do you ever face political pressure? What kinds of complaints / comments / objections on the lack of NSIs professional independence did you observe?	To what degree do you think you are informed about the legislative framework of the institution? How does the legal status of your NSI affect the way you feel about working for it?
1.2	Do you think that the head of your country's NSI has sufficient status and reputation to resist undue influence and gain the access to others that he/she needs? Do you think that it is also the case for the heads of other national statistical	Does the status of the head of ONAs provide you with additional representation, or leverage?	Do you think that you have sufficient status to resist undue influence and gain the access to others that you need? What is the involvement of the NSI top management in	Do you think that the head of your NSI has sufficient status to represent the interests of the NSI in your country?

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	authorities producing official statistics?		government work (working groups, meetings)?	
1.3, 1.4	Do you think that the head of your country's NSI has enough professional responsibility for statistical matters, including in relation to methodology, and the timing and content of releases?	Do you think that the Statistical Head of your ONA has sufficient practical authority for statistical matters, including in relation to methodology, and the timing and content of releases?	Have you ever had to present results for approval of political authorities before dissemination? Has your independence on professional statistical matters been challenged?	If other government agencies try to influence your professional judgement are you confident that your DG will support you?
1.5	Are you aware of the statistical work programme of your country's NSI, and of progress reports?	Do you contribute to a national statistics work programme and progress reports? Do you produce your own work programme?	Are the contents of your work programme and reports ever influenced by non-government users or by politicians? How and when is the statistical working programme evaluated? By whom? What is the procedure if deviations occur? Do you think the staff is committed to the statistical program?	Does your statistical work programme help you to feel part of your NSI? Do you often follow the development/implementation of the statistical program? In which way?
1.6	Are you always able to distinguish between statistical releases and political statements, in your country?	How do you resist pressure to blur the distinction between statistical releases and political comments? Are you always able to distinguish between your ONA's statistical	How do you resist pressure to blur the distinction between statistical releases and political comments?	How do you think that the separation of statistical releases from political statements contributes to the reputation

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		releases and political statements in your country?		of the NSI / ONAs ?
1.7	Do you see evidence that your NSI reacts publicly when the reputation of official statistics is threatened?	Do you distinguish between criticism from politicians, and from the media? Do you see evidence that your ONA reacts publicly when the reputation of official statistics is threatened?	How do you judge on which occasions to react to public threats to the reputation of your statistics? Do you distinguish between criticism from politicians, and from the media?	Describe in brief how/if the general mood in the NSI changes when your DG is arguing in public about statistical matters?
1.8	Do you think that the head of your country's NSI is appointed based on professional competence only?	Do you think that the head of statistical production unit in your ONA is appointed based on professional competence only?	Has it ever happened that the incumbency of the head of your NSI has been terminated for reasons compromising professional or scientific independence? Would that be possible?	Has there been a situation in your institution when the appointment or dismissal of higher management was generally perceived not to be in line with ES CoP?
1bis.1	How were you made aware of NSI role as a coordinator of the statistical activities of all other national authorities that develop, produce and disseminate European statistics? Do you see evidence that your NSI acts as the sole contact point for Eurostat on statistical matters?	How do you perceive the role of the NSI as coordinator of the statistical activities your organisation? How were you made aware that the NSI acts as the sole contact point for Eurostat on statistical matters? Describe a situation when you might have to by-pass your NSI in contact with Eurostat. Do you think the NSI's coordination function is clear?	How does your NSI coordinate the statistical activities of all ONAs that develop, produce and disseminate European statistics? What improvements and efficiency gains can be made in relation to the coordinating function of your NSI? Do you think the NSI's coordination function is clear? What can be	When contacting other national authorities that develop, produce and disseminate European statistics, do you think they are fully aware of the coordination role of the NSI? Do you know clearly how the coordination function is developed in NSI?

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			improved in terms of procedures and legislation?	
1bis.2	Have you heard of national guidelines to ensure quality in the development, production and dissemination of European statistics?	<p>How were you made aware of national guidelines to ensure quality in the development, productions and dissemination of European statistics? How do you relate to these guidelines?</p> <p>How relevant is the support provided by the NSI on quality matters?</p> <p>To what degree does the NSI assure quality control of other members of the national statistical System?</p> <p>Are there any coordinated training programmes to address the needs of ONAs concerning the quality, quality reporting and implementation of National quality guidelines?</p>	<p>To what degree does the NSI assures quality control of the statistics produced by other members of the national statistical system?</p> <p>How do you assure the methodological coordination (e.g. guidelines, quality procedures, use of shared definitions stored in a common database) within the national statistical system? What can be improved?</p> <p>Do you find the ESS quality framework a useful way of considering quality? If yes, how does the NSI promote and monitor their implementation inside the national statistical system?</p>	<p>How were you made aware of national guidelines to ensure quality in the development, productions and dissemination of European statistics? How do you relate to these guidelines in your daily job?</p> <p>What advantages do you perceive in the coordinative role of NSI at NSS level?</p>
1bis.3	Are you aware of the cooperation activities of your NSI with other advisory bodies of the European Statistical System, as well as with the	How does your statistical authority maintain or develop cooperation activities with other actors of the European statistical system, members of the	What improvements could you suggest in the NSI's cooperation activities with other actors of the ESS and other	As regards your job, did you had contact with actors of the ESS and other important national and

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	members of the European System of Central Banks, academic institutions and other international bodies?	European System of Central Banks, academic institutions and other international bodies? Are you encouraged to participate and be involved in cooperation on European statistics? How well defined are the cooperation procedures? What is your opinion regarding the relevance of the cooperation activities?	important national and international institutions? How do you encourage involvement in cooperation on European statistics? How well defined are the cooperation procedures? What is your opinion regarding the relevance of the cooperation activities?	international institutions? Do you know of your NSI being involved in cooperation at different levels of the ESS? Are you encouraged to participate in cooperation activities? What advantages do you see in the cooperation between NSIs and the research institution for the promotion of innovation at the production of statistics?
2.1	What advantages do you perceive in there being a legal mandate in respect of collecting and accessing information from multi data sources for the production of statistics? Are you aware that there is a legal mandate to collect and access information for European statistical purposes?	Does the legal mandate extend to your data collection activity? Are you nevertheless able to imply powers from it?	Do you think the NSI legal mandate to collect and access information from multiple sources is adequate enough? Would you like to see a strengthening of the mandate? Do you see difficulties as regards the practical implementation of this mandate?	Does it make it easier in practice to chase non-respondents to surveys if you can refer to a legal mandate?
2.2	Is the existing use of administrative records adequate to produce statistics of	Are you able to use admin records from other government agencies, or only from your own institution?	Is there a clear separation between databases for	What practical difficulties do you face in the use of

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	<p>sufficient quality from the widest range of sources?</p> <p>Do you consider important that commitments exist in order to guarantee the quality of the production of official statistics through administrative sources?</p>	<p>At your ONA, do you cooperate with your NSI when designing a new admin database also usable for statistical purposes? What are the obstacles?</p> <p>Do you think there are difficulties to access to administrative sources?</p>	<p>administrative use and databases for exclusively statistical use?</p> <p>Do you participate in the design of administrative sources?</p> <p>What kind of support do you need to set up agreements with administrative data holders?</p>	<p>administrative records?</p>
2.3	<p>Is the legal mandate to collect data exercised with sufficient vigour and clarity?</p>	<p>How do you judge the circumstances in which to compel response?</p>	<p>How do you judge the circumstances in which to compel response?</p> <p>Could you provide us with the figures of households and enterprises refusing to respond?</p>	<p>Do you have a clear sense of when you are allowed to threaten non-respondents that you will compel response?</p>
2.4	<p>Do you keep trust in NSI when privately data are used for the statistical production when it comes to statistical confidentiality and data protection?</p> <p>Do you think that NSIs should have free access to privately held data, for statistical purposes and ensuring anonymization?</p>	<p>Do you have access for statistical purposes, to privately held data? How do you ensure confidentiality and data protection?</p> <p>Could you describe the process adopted to identify possible new data sources?</p>	<p>Do you have access for statistical purposes, to privately held data? How do you ensure confidentiality and data protection?</p> <p>Could you describe the process adopted to identify possible new data sources?</p> <p>Is statistical access to privately held data encouraged and facilitated?</p>	<p>Do you treat confidentiality and data protections differently for privately held data, compared to publicly held data?</p>
3.1	<p>Do you think that your country's NSI is adequately</p>	<p>Do you think that you are adequately</p>	<p>Do you think that you are adequately resourced to meet</p>	<p>Do you distinguish between</p>

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	<p>resourced to meet users' needs?</p> <p>Is the distinction between European and national statistics meaningful to you?</p>	<p>resourced to meet users' needs?</p> <p>Do you think the training provided is adequate to produce European Statistics and other statistics ?</p> <p>How are resources monitored in your organization?</p>	<p>users' needs?</p> <p>Do you explicitly prioritise European Statistics ahead of other statistical production and dissemination, or vice versa?</p> <p>Do you think the training provided is adequate to produce European Statistics and other statistics ?</p> <p>How are resources monitored in your organization?</p>	<p>European Statistics and other statistics in your daily production and dissemination work?</p> <p>Do you know how the resources monitoring is done in NSI?</p>
3.2	Are you aware of a possible conflict in priorities between European Statistics and national statistics?	How do you discuss with stakeholders the scope of statistics, its costs and benefits?	How do you discuss with stakeholders the scope of statistics, its costs and benefits?	
3.3	Do you present your country's NSI with business cases to justify your requests for new data?		Do you have procedures in place to define priorities among demands for new statistics?	
3.4			What activities have been taken recently in order to free up resources?	
4 in general and 4.1	<p>Are you aware of your country's NSI's quality policy and management?</p> <p>Do you trust your NSI as regards the quality of the statistics it produces?</p>	<p>Are you aware of your country's NSI's quality policy and management? Does this help you in your quality work?</p> <p>How do you deal with quality management in</p>	<p>In what way do quality policy and quality management exist in your daily statistical work?</p> <p>Are you familiar with ESS quality</p>	Are you aware of your institution's quality policy and management system?

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		<p>your statistics production?</p> <p>Do you have any risk management plan?</p>	<p>tools (such as quality reports, quality indicators, self-assessments, quality reviews /audits)?</p> <p>Do you use such tools in your work?</p> <p>How does the organisational structure support the quality management?</p> <p>Do you have any risk management plan?</p>	<p>Did you receive training in quality issues when you were recruited?</p> <p>Do you feel that such training available on a regular basis?</p> <p>Did you participate in ESTP courses on quality or quality reporting?</p>
4.2	<p>Are you aware of any procedures to plan, monitor and improve the quality of the statistical processes?</p>	<p>How do you monitor the quality of your statistical production process?</p> <p>What quality improvements have you done recently?</p>	<p>How do you monitor the quality of your statistical production process?</p> <p>For which stages of the statistical value chain do you find it most difficult to define and measure quality?</p> <p>What quality improvements have you done recently?</p>	<p>Do you know about some quality improvements done recently?</p> <p>What kind of methodological and technical support, guidelines, training for staff or tools for dealing with the quality of new data sources are in place?</p>
4.3	<p>What do you perceive as quality of statistics?</p> <p>Are you familiar with the ESS product quality dimensions?</p>	<p>How do you monitor the quality of your statistical products?</p> <p>How do you deal with trade-offs between different product quality dimensions (e.g. timeliness/accuracy)</p> <p>What decisions have you taken recently</p>	<p>How do you monitor the quality of your statistical products?</p> <p>How do you deal with trade-offs between different product quality dimensions (e.g. timeliness/accuracy)</p>	<p>Are you familiar with the ESS product quality dimensions?</p> <p>Do you feel able to explain the relationships between different elements of quality to your users?</p>

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		<p>with regard to such trade-offs?</p> <p>Do you have procedures in place to define priorities among new demands for new statistics?</p>	<p>What decisions have you taken recently with regard to such trade-offs?</p>	<p>Do you use quality reports as a reference in your work?</p>
4.4	<p>What kind of possibilities do you have to express an opinion on quality considerations of your NSI (such as accuracy versus timeliness)?</p>	<p>Do you have quality audits (external/internal) of your main statistical outputs?</p> <p>How do you use the outcome of the reviews (e.g. action plans to be followed up)?</p> <p>Do you carry out User Satisfaction Surveys?</p>	<p>What is the extent (percentage, number, examples) of outputs reviewed by external and/or internal experts?</p> <p>What are the criteria of selection output for revisions?</p> <p>How do you use the outcome of the reviews?</p> <p>Do quality reviews have impact on changes in methodology?</p> <p>If your budget was increased 10% to improve quality, then: How would you decide what to spend it on?</p>	<p>What do you think of your products being reviewed?</p>
5.1	<p>Do you think that statistical confidentiality is managed properly in your country?</p>	<p>Are you aware that anyone has tried to identify an individual from data or a statistical output you have released?</p>	<p>Are you aware that anyone has tried to identify an individual from data or a statistical output you have released?</p>	<p>Are you aware of the legal basis on statistical confidentiality and data protection?</p>
5.2			<p>How can you tell if a member of your staff breached their confidentiality commitment?</p>	<p>Why do you think that it is important to sign a legal confidentiality commitment?</p>

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5.3			Do you always seek to have penalties imposed?	
5.4	<p>Are you aware of the ways in which confidentiality is protected by your NSI?</p> <p>Are you aware of legal basis of the statistical confidentiality and data protection?</p>		Do you have a clear view about the amount of risk (of disclosure) your organisation is prepared to accept in making data or statistics available?	<p>To what degree do you think there is a common policy for handling confidential data?</p> <p>Do your organisation's confidentiality protection policies or methods lead to problems in your relationships with users?</p>
5.5	Do confidentiality protection measures impact on your uses of data or statistical outputs?	What kind of IT security structure do you have in place to ensure confidentiality?	<p>Do you regularly review your confidentiality protection policy/practices to take account of technological developments?</p> <p>In which level do you have an IT security plan implemented?</p>	Are you aware of the IT security policy?
5.6	<p>What kind of policy is in place for you as researchers to access micro data for research?</p> <p>How do you evaluate the availability of micro data for research?</p> <p>Does the organisation offer services for the provision of anonymised data and carry out safe output checking? Are users educated regarding</p>		<p>Would you say that you actively debate with the user community about the balance between usability and protection?</p> <p>Do you treat different user communities differently?</p> <p>What do you see as the single biggest</p>	<p>Are you aware of the strict protocols applying to external users accessing statistical microdata for research purposes?</p> <p>Do you know if your NSI makes micro data available for</p>

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	the provision of such services?		risk to confidentiality in your organisation? Does the organisation offer services for the provision of anonymised data and carry out safe output checking? Are users educated regarding the provision of such services?	research purposes?
6.1, 6.2	Do you have any concerns about the objectivity of the NSI in your country?	How do you ensure that decisions on statistical matters are taken in an objective manner? Is there a system-wide policy?	How do you ensure that your staff are objective in their statistical decision making?	Do you feel sufficiently well trained and informed to make objective and high quality statistical decisions?
6.3	Are you aware of how the NSI has reacted when an error has been discovered in its data?	What lessons did you draw from your most recent experience of publishing information found to have an error in it? Is there a system-wide policy?	What lessons did you draw from your most recent experience of publishing information found to have an error in it?	If you found an error in a statistics you had published, would you know what to do?
6.4	How useful have you found the NSI's published information about its methods?	Do you systematically engage with users about the quality and accessibility of the information you release about methods and procedures? Is your NSI of help in this regard? Do you have a plan to improve this type of information?	Do you systematically engage with users about the quality and accessibility of the information you release about methods and procedures? Do you have a plan to improve this type of information?	Do you use the information about methods and procedures that you publish, or do you use a more detailed version?
6.5	Do you know where to find a calendar of forthcoming	What lessons did you draw from your most recent experience of	What lessons did you draw from your most recent	Under what circumstances

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	<p>releases?</p> <p>Do you have the perception that the publicly available release calendar is regularly refreshed and deadlines announced are followed?</p>	<p>missing a preannounced publication date? Is there a system-wide policy?</p> <p>Under what circumstances would you consider changing a pre-announced publication date?</p>	<p>experience of missing a pre-announced publication date?</p> <p>Is there a systematic overview of the number of releases before and after planned release time in calendar?</p> <p>How often is the publicly available release calendar refreshed?</p>	<p>would you consider changing a pre-announced publication date? At what stage would you raise the issue with your managers?</p>
6.6	Do you know where to find information on forthcoming changes in methodologies?	What lessons did you draw from missing to inform users in advance on changes in methodologies? (if ever happened)	What lessons did you draw from missing to inform users in advance on changes in methodologies? (if ever happened)	
6.7		<p>If your Minister or your colleague from a policy unit asks for pre-release access to statistical information, how would you deal with this request?</p> <p>Do all the users, including users in your own organisation and ministry get access to statistical releases at the same time?</p>	<p>Do all the users get access to statistical releases at the same time?</p> <p>What steps do you take to ensure pre-release access is as limited as you understand it to be?</p> <p>What is the procedure to prepare statistical releases – who is in charge, what supporting tools are in charge, how is data leakage prevented in the system?</p>	How do you react to a question from a user who asks for statistics which are not released?

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			Are statistical releases produced by the other producers of official statistics other than the NSI accessible for all users at the same time?	
6.8	Have you ever perceived releases and statements from the NSI made in press conferences not to be objective?	<p>How do you ensure that your staff are objective in their press briefings? Is there a system-wide policy?</p> <p>Are there clear guidelines regarding who can communicate with the media?</p> <p>Does the NSI provide training in communication with the mass media?</p>	<p>Are there clear guidelines regarding who can communicate with the media?</p> <p>How do you ensure that your staff are objective in their press briefings?</p> <p>Does the NSI provide training in communication with the mass media?</p> <p>What do you think will be the major challenges in relation to impartiality and objectivity of official statistics in your country in the future? What could be the major actions to be undertaken in this area?</p>	<p>To what degree do you feel there is a common policy for analysis and presentation in a professional, impartial and relevant way?</p> <p>Did you have training in this area?</p> <p>Do you feel sufficiently well trained to ensure that your written and oral presentation of statistical material is objective?</p>
7.1	Are you aware of your NSI's methodological framework?	<p>Are you aware of your NSI's methodological framework? Does this help you in your work?</p> <p>Do you consider that the methodological framework could have any improvement?</p>	How do you ensure that your methodological framework follows European and other international standards and good practices?	Are you aware of your institution's methodological framework?

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		Have you recently introduced any improvement regarding the new data collection modes and sources (e.g. electronic data collection, use of privately held data/big data)?	Do you consider that the methodological framework could have any improvement? Have you recently introduced any improvement regarding the new data collection modes and sources (e.g. electronic data collection, use of privately held data/big data)?	
7.2	Have you ever experienced that standard concepts, definitions and classifications are not consistently used by the NSI? Are the concepts and classifications clear enough for a good interpretation of the outputs?	How do you ensure that you use agreed European/national standard concepts, definitions and classifications?	How do you ensure that you use standard concepts, definitions and classifications?	Are the concepts and classifications clear enough for a good interpretation of the outputs?
7.4	Have you ever noticed non-concordance between national classifications and corresponding European systems	How do you ensure concordance between national classifications and corresponding European systems?	How do you ensure concordance between national classifications and corresponding European systems?	
7.5		Do you feel that your institution recruits graduates with appropriate qualifications? In which level do you maintain regular cooperation with universities?	Do you feel that your institution recruits graduates with appropriate qualifications? In which level do you maintain regular cooperation with universities?	Do you feel that your institution recruits graduates with appropriate qualifications?
7.6		Do you have a policy to promote the	Do you have a policy to promote	Do you feel that your institution

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		<p>participation of the staff in international meetings? Examples of participation?</p> <p>How is the training programme implemented and evaluated?</p>	<p>the participation of the staff in international meetings? Examples of participation?</p> <p>How is the training programme implemented and evaluated?</p>	<p>implements continuous vocational training in practice?</p> <p>What do you perceive as the NSI policy to support and promote the participation of the staff in international meetings?</p> <p>Do you think there is a policy for exchange of staff with statistical authorities in other ESS countries? Do you know examples of this?</p> <p>Do you participate in ESS training, such as ESTP courses?</p>
7.7	For users from scientific community: Are you aware that your NSI cooperates with the scientific community on methodology? Examples?	Do you keep a regular cooperation with the scientific community regarding the improvement of the methodology process?	<p>Do researchers advice your NSI on designing statistical processes?</p> <p>Do you keep a regular cooperation with the scientific community regarding the improvement of the methodology process?</p> <p>Does your NSI have a policy to foster participation of its staff members in presentations,</p>	<p>Are you aware that your NSI cooperates with the scientific community on methodology?</p> <p>Does your NSI establish a policy to foster participation of its staff members in presentations, conferences at national and international level?</p>

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			conferences at national and international level?	
8 in general				Which measures do you know about to improve your production processes? Are you aware of the statistical business process model (GSBPM)? Do you use it and for what?
8.1		Do you have procedures to guarantee the use of the administrative data for statistical purposes?	Do you have procedures to guarantee the use of the administrative data for statistical purposes?	
8.2		Do you have regular processes to test and evaluate the questionnaires? Is this process documented?	How do you assess questionnaires in terms of the complexity of each question, questionnaire paths and expected fraction of the sample/population that should fill in each path? Do you have regular processes to test and evaluate the questionnaires? Is this process documented?	
8.3			Is the GSBPM implemented within the office and how is it being used in practice?	

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8.4			How are current metadata systems generalised/made suitable to consider administrative or privately held data?	
8.5	Are you aware of the revision policy of the NSI?	Do you monitor the size/scale of revisions to key series which you publish? How do use your revisions analyses to: (a) improve users' understanding of the series (b) improve the quality of the statistics?	Do you monitor the size/scale of revisions to key series which you publish? How do use your revisions analyses to: (a) improve users' understanding of the series (b) improve the quality of the statistics?	Do you know the revision policy of your NSI?
8.6			How does the NSI promote the sharing of metadata standards with the owners of privately held data sources?	
8.6, 8.7		Does your NSI use administrative data for statistics? If so, do you have an agreement on this?		
9 in general			What communication plan do you put in place to improve survey response rate?	Do you feel that there is a common policy for limiting the response burden? Which measures to do this do you know about?
10 in general				Do you feel that improvement of processes and cost effectiveness

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				are emphasised in your organisation? Which measures do you apply?
10.2			What kinds of methodological and technical support, guidelines or tools for dealing with new data sources transformation and data integration are in place? What are the most challenging issues in keeping up with methodological/technological innovation and how do you approach these challenges?	
10.4		Do you assess solutions implemented in other ESS countries and/or ESS level when designing or redesigning a statistical product?	What standardized solutions are taken in order to improve cost effectiveness? Does the organisation maintain a questionnaire library to facilitate the reuse of questions and related attributes?	To what degree do you feel that your organisation uses standardized solutions? Examples? How is the internal sharing of best practices organized, supported and stimulated? Are you aware of SDMX as the standard tool for exchange of data and metadata?
11 in general	Do you think that the statistics from your NSI in		What measures are taken in order to	What steps do you know

Principle Indicator Issue	Users	Other producers	Management	Junior staff
	<p>general is relevant? Is something lacking? Have you been consulted or made representations to the NSI about this? Have these been considered?</p>		<p>establish priorities in satisfying different user needs?</p> <p>What experimental data do you produce and how do you decide on whether to produce them/classify them as experimental statistics?</p>	<p>about to improve the relevance of your statistics?</p>
11.1	<p>What kind of (online) systems exist to facilitate the analysis of user needs?</p> <p>What kind of fora exist for user dialogues?</p> <p>Are statistical publications / releases subject to consultations (reviews) with the scientific community before they are available?</p>		<p>What kind of (online) systems exist to facilitate the analysis of user needs?</p> <p>Is there an assessment on if and how lack of timeliness can affect the relevance of the statistics?</p> <p>How can you reach a significant share of your actual users? How can you make sure that they have been reached? How can you address your potential users?</p> <p>How do you evaluate if unfulfilled needs have to be fulfilled or not?</p> <p>Does the organisation participate in/organise dedicated seminars/workshops to discuss data-related topics and gather feedback from users?</p>	

Principle Indicator Issue	Users	Other producers	Management	Junior staff
11.3			What kind of transparent mechanism exists proving how emerging user needs and requirements from user consultations are followed up?	
12 in general	Do you think that the accuracy of your NSI's statistics is sufficient?		How do you reduce sampling and non-sampling errors in statistical surveys?	Do you think that the accuracy of your NSI's statistics is sufficient? Improvement steps?
12.1	Are you aware of systematic differences between provisional and final estimates? Is adequate information made available to you to make such assessments?			
12.2	Are you aware that the NSI has procedures in place for preventing and reducing errors?		Which role does the Total Survey Error play in your statistical office? Is it used in statistical production processes according to a standardised approach? Which role does it play when communicating quality to users?	
12.3	Are you aware that the NSI analyses the effects of revisions on the accuracy and reliability of the outputs? Are you aware of any quality indicators of the revisions?	Which procedures are in place to analyse the effects of revisions on the accuracy and reliability of the outputs? Are quality indicators on the revisions (e.g. size and direction of revisions and their	Which procedures are in place to analyse the effects of revisions on the accuracy and reliability of the outputs? Are quality indicators on the revisions (e.g. size	

Principle Indicator Issue	Users	Other producers	Management	Junior staff
		means) regularly calculated in accordance with the current standards? Are they publicly available?	and direction of revisions and their means) regularly calculated in accordance with the current standards? Are they publicly available?	
13.1	Are you concerned about the timeliness of any statistics published by your country's NSI? Have you made representations to the NSI? Have these been considered?	Do you meet all deadlines specified by Eurostat? Do you monitor your publication schedules against those of other countries?	Do you meet all deadlines specified by Eurostat? Do you monitor your publication schedules against those of other countries?	What steps do you try to take to improve the timeliness of publications you work upon?
13.2, 13.3	Do you know where to find the release schedule of statistics published in your country? Are you aware of any problems with this scheduling?	How far in advance do you publish your release schedule? What factors do you take into account in setting the schedule? Have you received representations to change the release schedule?	How far in advance do you publish your release schedule? What factors do you take into account in setting the schedule? Have you received representations to change the release schedule?	Have you ever experienced significant difficulties in meeting a pre-announced publication target?
13.4	Do you have any concerns about any changes to preannounced Publication schedules?	Do you have procedures that enable you to judge when and how to change the publication schedule for a particular statistics, as opposed to taking additional steps to stick to the pre-announced timing?	Do you have procedures that enable you to judge when and how to change the publication schedule for a particular statistics, as opposed to taking additional steps to stick to the pre-announced timing? Do you tell known users/experts explicitly about any changes to timing?	How do you judge when to raise with senior management that there is a risk of delay with a publication?

Principle Indicator Issue	Users	Other producers	Management	Junior staff
13.5	<p>Do you have adequate access to preliminary (aggregate) results?</p> <p>Are the quality limitations flagged up appropriately?</p> <p>Do you know the data revision policy of the NSI?</p>	<p>Do you have a policy concerning the dissemination of preliminary (aggregate) results, or do you make assessments on a case-by-case basis?</p> <p>How do you balance users' interests in preliminary results against (other) quality considerations?</p>	<p>Do you have a policy concerning the dissemination of preliminary (aggregate) results, or do you make assessments on a case-by-case basis?</p> <p>How do you balance users' interests in preliminary results against (other) quality considerations?</p> <p>For what percentage of statistics/products are there preliminary results as well? Based on what factors do you make the decision on producing preliminary data?</p>	<p>Do you know the data revision policy of your institution?</p>
14.1		<p>Do you know how your users feel about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. discontinuities b. classification inconsistencies c. linkages between different but related sources, and concepts? 	<p>Do you know how your users feel about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. discontinuities b. classification inconsistencies c. linkages between different but related sources, and concepts? 	<p>Do you think that you receive adequate training to help you assess the coherence and comparability of the statistics you produce?</p> <p>What methods are applied when making consistency checks?</p>
14.2	<p>Are you satisfied with the information you have about the existence of discontinuities in time series?</p>	<p>What procedures do you have in place to address difficulties caused to users by breaks in time series?</p>	<p>What procedures do you have in place to address difficulties caused to users by</p>	

Principle Indicator Issue	Users	Other producers	Management	Junior staff
	Are you able to advise your NSI when it is considering making a change that will lead to a discontinuity?	Do you have a policy of documenting time series breaks? Under what circumstances do you consider back-adjusting a series, to make it comparable?	breaks in time series? Do you have a policy of documenting time series breaks? Under what circumstances do you consider back-adjusting a series, to make it comparable?	
14.3	Are you aware of any divergence between definitions and classifications used in your country's statistics and those with other countries/Europe?	Are you aware of any divergence between definitions and classifications used in your country's statistics and those with other countries/Europe? Do you seek to ensure that more detailed (than EU) user needs in your country can be met, for example by using more detailed levels of classification or categorisation? Do you ensure that any deviation from EU/international classifications and guidance are clearly indicated to users, and to Eurostat?	Are you aware of any divergence between definitions and classifications used in your country's statistics and those with other countries/Europe? Do you seek to ensure that more detailed (than EU) user needs in your country can be met, for example by using more detailed levels of classification or categorisation? Do you ensure that any deviation from EU/international classifications and guidance are clearly indicated to users, and to Eurostat?	
14.4	Do you think that your country's major statistical products (such as National	Do you attempt to reconcile systematically	Do you attempt to reconcile systematically	

Principle Indicator Issue	Users	Other producers	Management	Junior staff
	<p>Accounts, labour market, population) are sufficiently coherent?</p> <p>Are you aware of unexplained differences between estimates of related concepts such as unemployment and state benefit receipt, or between the components of population change?</p>	<p>estimates from different sources, and about related concepts?</p> <p>When you revise estimates (e.g. population) do you systematically review related estimates (e.g. unemployment rates)?</p> <p>When releasing detailed economic statistics do you assess their coherence with macroeconomic trends?</p>	<p>estimates from different sources, and about related concepts?</p> <p>When you revise estimates (e.g. population) do you systematically review related estimates (e.g. unemployment rates)?</p> <p>When releasing detailed economic statistics do you assess their coherence with macroeconomic trends?</p>	
14.5	<p>Are you aware of attempts to compare data about your country with those of others, in order to improve the quality of the data themselves?</p>	<p>Do you attempt to compare data about your country with those of others, in order to improve the quality of the data themselves?</p> <p>What improvements have such comparisons led to?</p>	<p>Do you attempt to compare data about your country with those of others, in order to improve the quality of the data themselves?</p> <p>What improvements have such comparisons led to?</p>	<p>Do you discuss with counterparts in other countries the quality/comparability of your data, with a view to improving the data?</p>
15.1	<p>Could you give an example of unclear presentation of official statistics in your country?</p> <p>Is a common portal on national level available in order to ensure one, structured access point for users of official statistics (including: data, metadata, release calendar)?</p> <p>Does one, structured access point for users of official statistics (e.g., portal) exist on national</p>	<p>What did you do as a result of the last media criticism of the presentation of information in one of your publications or your website? Is there a system-wide policy?</p>	<p>Do you think there is a common understanding within your organisation of what are good principles for user oriented and clear presentation of statistical information?</p> <p>What did you do as a result of the last media criticism of the presentation of</p>	<p>Do you feel you have sufficient training in presenting statistics clearly?</p> <p>Do you think that the statistics published by your NSI are sufficiently clear with easy-to-understand metadata?</p>

Principle Indicator Issue	Users	Other producers	Management	Junior staff
	<p>level which provides for standardised data, metadata and release calendar?</p>		<p>information in one of your publications or your website?</p> <p>Do you provide regular internal training in analysis and presentation of statistical information?</p> <p>What do you consider the major challenges in the future regarding access to and understanding/using statistics in a proper way?</p> <p>What do you consider to be the major actions to be undertaken in order to improve the accessibility to information on your website (readability of text, combination of text/graphics/tables, use of different data formats, language)?</p> <p>What information sources do you use to verify the comprehensibility of statistical publications?</p>	
15.2	<p>Can you access statistics in the format you want?</p> <p>Does the structure of the website allow users to easily find the desired information (e.g. intuitive navigation on the site, easy navigation in result tables)?</p>	<p>How do you reconcile demands from users who want data presented in different media?</p>	<p>How do you reconcile demands from users who want data presented in different media?</p> <p>What is the social media strategy of the NSI and how do</p>	<p>Do you feel you have sufficient IT training to do your job satisfactorily?</p> <p>What is the social media strategy of the NSI and how do</p>

Principle Indicator Issue	Users	Other producers	Management	Junior staff
	Is the type, scope and scale of information to be / are transmitted using modern communication channels defined?		<p>you evaluate the visibility of the NSI in social networks?</p> <p>What kind of data-visualisation methods do you use to disseminate your statistics?</p> <p>What system did the NSI put in place to enable the users to customise and build their own search results?</p> <p>What's the amount of data that NSI/ONAs put on open data portals?</p> <p>How does the organisation diversify metadata recognising that there are different views corresponding to different uses of the data?</p>	<p>you evaluate the visibility of the NSI in social networks?</p> <p>What kind of data-visualisation methods do you use to disseminate your statistics?</p>
15.3	Have you ever requested a tailor-made statistical analysis? Were you satisfied with it?	<p>What is your charging policy for tailor-made analyses? Is there a system-wide policy?</p> <p>Do you have publicly available pricing rules for tailor-made requests?</p>	<p>What is your charging policy for tailor-made analyses?</p> <p>Do you have publicly available pricing rules for tailor-made requests?</p>	
15.4	Do you know the rules and procedures for access to micro data?	Do you have publicly available rules and procedures on giving access to micro data to researches?	What is the time allowed / foreseen for the implementation of the micro data order from the moment it is placed?	How would you answer a request from a researcher for access to micro data?

Principle Indicator Issue	Users	Other producers	Management	Junior staff
			Do you have publicly available rules and procedures on giving access to micro data to researches?	
15.5	<p>Have you ever made use of your NSI's published metadata? Were you satisfied with it?</p> <p>Are metadata easily retrievable, properly labelled and with a clearly indicated retention period?</p>	<p>How do you gather feedback about statistical metadata?</p> <p>Is data and metadata produced by ONAs available on NSI websites? If so, what tools and procedures are used?</p> <p>Do you provide training for users in accessing, using and understanding statistical information?</p>	<p>How do you gather feedback about statistical metadata?</p> <p>How is metadata dissemination monitored? Are there procedures and / or organizational structures ensuring and checking the correctness and timeliness of metadata? What is the scale of inquiries (by phone, e-mail, etc.) on data, methodology and / or explanations provided?</p>	
15.6	Are you content with arrangements for seeking users' views of changes in methodology?	Do you have a formal policy about consulting with users before making a change in methodology?	<p>Do you have a formal policy about consulting with users before making a change in methodology?</p> <p>Do you provide training for users in accessing, using and understanding statistical information?</p>	
15.7		Does your website have publicly available quality reports on statistical products?	Which role does the Total Survey Error play in your statistical office? Is it used in statistical production	

Principle Indicator Issue	Users	Other producers	Management	Junior staff
		Are they available for all statistical products?	<p>processes according to a standardised approach? Which role does it play when communicating quality to users?</p> <p>Is there a schedule to update quality reports for external users?</p>	

General questions related to the pandemic caused by Covid-19	Which data specifically related to Covid-19 did you need during the pandemic and were you content with the official data available?	<p>Which processes/sub-processes of statistical production have been mostly affected by the pandemic and could you elaborate on the consequences?</p> <p>Which of the ES CoP principles and indicators were mainly affected?</p> <p>Have there been any trade-offs between the various quality components resulting from the pandemic?</p> <p>What changes and new organisational rules have been implemented in your ONA in connection with the pandemic (new procedures, investments)?</p> <p>Which IT elements should be (further) developed to ensure continuity during a pandemic?</p> <p>Which role should Eurostat play and what type of support would</p>	<p>Which processes/sub-processes of statistical production have been mostly affected by the pandemic and could you elaborate on the consequences?</p> <p>Which of the ES CoP principles and indicators were mainly affected?</p> <p>Have there been any trade-offs between the various quality components resulting from the pandemic?</p> <p>What changes and new organisational rules have been implemented in the NSI in connection with the pandemic (new procedures, investments)?</p> <p>Which IT elements should be (further) developed to</p>	In your view, which IT elements could be (further) developed to ensure continuity and more efficiency during a pandemic?
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		be needed during a pandemic?	ensure continuity during a pandemic? Which role should Eurostat play and what type of support would be needed during a pandemic?	
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