

**PEER REVIEWERS' RECOMMENDATIONS AND *STATISTICS DENMARK'S*
IMPROVEMENT ACTIONS IN RESPONSE TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

Peer reviewer's recommendations and improvement actions in response to the recommendations

STRENGTHEN THE INSTITUTIONAL ENVIRONMENT

- 1. NEW LEGISLATION ON DANISH STATISTICS SHOULD BE ADOPTED, BASED ON NATIONAL NEEDS AND IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE RECENTLY AMENDED EUROPEAN STATISTICAL LAW, WHICH SHOULD HAVE SPECIFIC PROVISIONS ON THE STATUS OF THE NATIONAL STATISTICIAN, STATISTICAL INDEPENDENCE, STATISTICAL CONFIDENTIALITY, AND THE COORDINATING ROLE OF STATISTICS DENMARK (EUROPEAN STATISTICS CODE OF PRACTICE, PRINCIPLES 1, 2 AND 5).**

Current situation:

The Act on Statistics Denmark was adopted in 1966 and has since then been amended several times. According to the Act on Statistics Denmark, Art. 2: "Statistics Denmark is an independent institution under the direction of a Board consisting of the National Statistician as chairman, and six other members with insight into social and economic conditions". Equally, the Act states that the "the professional and administrative management of Statistics Denmark rests with the National Statistician". Besides this, the Act does not explicitly spell out the independence of the NSI from political or other external interference in developing, producing and disseminating official statistics. Furthermore, the act does not provide for the existence of a formalised national statistical system and for the governance structures of such a national statistical system. Rules on statistical confidentiality are not included in the Act, but are currently governed by different general laws including the Act on Processing of Personal Data, the Public Administration Act and the Access to Public Administration Files Act.

- 2. THE ROLE OF THE BOARD OF STATISTICS DENMARK SHOULD BE SPECIFIED IN THE NEW LEGISLATION, WITH A CLEAR INDICATION ON THE EXTENT OF ITS MANDATE (EUROPEAN STATISTICS CODE OF PRACTICE, PRINCIPLE 1).**

Current situation:

According to the Act on Statistics Denmark, the Board is composed of six members and chaired by the National Statistician. According to the Act, the Board decides on Statistics Denmark's work programme as well as on the extent of data collection. The procedure for appointment of the members of the Board is not specified in the Act, except that they are to be appointed by the Minister of Economic Affairs and the Interior, and that they shall comply with the criteria of having insight into social and economic conditions, including business, industrial and labour conditions.

4. THE ROLE OF STATISTICS DENMARK AS THE COORDINATOR OF THE PRODUCTION OF OFFICIAL STATISTICS SHOULD BE LAID DOWN IN THE NEW LEGISLATION (EUROPEAN STATISTICS CODE OF PRACTICE, PRINCIPLE 1).

Current situation:

The current Act on Statistics Denmark does not formally provide for the establishment of the national statistical system and the obligations of Statistics Denmark do not extend to other national authorities producing statistics. The Act provides that Statistics Denmark shall be informed when statistical information is collected and processed by another public authority or institution in order to negotiate coordination. Also, article 5 of the Act on Statistics Denmark states that the "Minister for Economic Affairs may establish a committee to assist the co-operation between Statistics Denmark and other public authorities and institutions". However, this provision was never put into effect. A proposal for such a committee was considered in Parliament in 2003, but was rejected by the Government.

Statistics Denmark has established a Coordination Committee for European Statistics, with a formalised membership and set rules of procedures, but this committee mainly acts as a forum for exchange of information and not coordination as such.

5. STATISTICS DENMARK SHOULD ARRANGE FOR A CLEAR DEFINITION OF WHICH NATIONAL STATISTICS ARE CATEGORISED AS OFFICIAL STATISTICS, AND SHOULD CONCLUDE AGREEMENTS WITH THE PRODUCERS OF THESE OFFICIAL STATISTICS, OR UPDATE THEM IF ALREADY EXISTING, IN ORDER TO FORMALISE THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEM (EUROPEAN STATISTICS CODE OF PRACTICE, PRINCIPLE 4 AND INDICATOR 1.4).

Current situation:

The current statistical legislation – the Act on Statistics Denmark - does not provide for the establishment of a formalised statistical system and there is no formal definition of official statistics in Denmark.

Improvement action 1.1/2/4: *Open discussions with the Government*

Statistics Denmark will facilitate and take part in the preparation for new legislation in close cooperation with the Ministry of Economic Affairs and the Interior. First of all, Statistics Denmark will provide input to and discuss with the Ministry of Economic Affairs and the Interior on issues relating to the implications of the revised regulation on European Statistics, the European Statistics Code of Practice and the recommendations from the 2014-2015 peer review exercise. Statistics Denmark will provide input regarding the status of the National Statistician, statistical independence, statistical confidentiality and the coordinating role of Statistics Denmark.

Timeline:

T: Q1 2016

Improvement action 1.2/4/5: *Launch national consultation regarding official statistics*

Statistics Denmark will launch a national consultation process with the aim of establishing a clear definition of official statistics and discuss modalities for coordination and quality assurance of official statistics. Statistics Denmark has prepared an action plan for official statistics and for ways to enhance coordination within the NSS, which has been sent to all national statistical producers for comments. On this basis, Statistics Denmark will arrange dialogue meetings with national producers with the aim to establish a clear definition of official statistics, common quality criteria for official statistics and modalities for monitoring the quality of official statistics (periodic reviews). This in order to provide a basis for including provisions on the coordinating role of Statistics Denmark in a new law.

Timeline:

T: Q1 2016

Improvement action 1.3/2/4: *Take active part in inter-ministerial committee for the preparation of a new law on Danish statistics*

Depending on the scope of a new law on Danish Statistics, an inter-ministerial committee will be established to prepare the proposal for a new law and in that case Statistics Denmark will take active part in the work of this committee.

Timeline:

T: Q4 2016

3. STATISTICS DENMARK SHOULD BE ENTITLED BY THE NEW LEGISLATION TO CONDUCT A FORMAL REVIEW OF WHETHER THE EUROPEAN STATISTICS PRODUCED BY OTHER NATIONAL AUTHORITIES COULD IN SOME CASES BE PRODUCED WITH BETTER COST-EFFECTIVENESS AND QUALITY BY STATISTICS DENMARK (EUROPEAN STATISTICS CODE OF PRACTICE, PRINCIPLE 10).

Current situation:

Statistics Denmark is responsible for producing about 90 percent of all European Statistics. Over the latest years, Statistics Denmark has taken over the responsibility of producing European statistics in a number of statistical domains (research statistics, cultural statistics, fishery), while in other domains it has been decided to transfer responsibility from Statistics Denmark to an ONA (environment statistics). Such decisions are made on a case-by-case basis depending on the specific statistical domain.

A revision of the current Act on Statistics Denmark is foreseen within the next few years and one of the main purposes of the revision is to strengthen the coordination in the national statistical system in order to promote quality and efficiency of all official statistics. This should also ensure a better sharing of knowledge and best practices within the national statistical system, including allowing ONAs to benefit to a higher extent from Statistics Denmark's experiences and standards, e.g. in relation to statistical processing of administrative data, as recommended by the review team.

Improvement action

Statistics Denmark has a divergent view on this recommendation and therefore no improvement actions are foreseen.

Timeline:

N.A.

6. STATISTICS DENMARK SHOULD PRODUCE NATIONAL GUIDELINES, IN LINE WITH EUROPEAN QUALITY STANDARDS, FOR THE DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTION AND DISSEMINATION OF OFFICIAL STATISTICS (EUROPEAN STATISTICS CODE OF PRACTICE, PRINCIPLE 4 AND INDICATOR 1.4).

Current situation:

The current statistical legislation – the Act on Statistics Denmark - does not provide for the establishment of a formalised statistical system. There is no formal definition of official statistics in Denmark, no quality requirements for official statistics and no procedures for monitoring quality of official statistics.

Improvement action 6.1 *Publish guidelines on European statistics*

Statistics Denmark will produce and publish national guidelines in line with the European Statistics Code of Practice, for the development, production and dissemination of European statistics.

Timeline:

T: Q1 2016

Improvement action 6.2 *Launch national consultation regarding official statistics*

As part of the national consultation process regarding official statistics described above (improvement action 1.2/4/5), Statistics Denmark will discuss the establishment of common quality standards for official statistics - including the publication of national guidelines on quality - with other national producers of statistics.

Timeline:

T: Q1 2016

7. STATISTICS DENMARK SHOULD ARRANGE PERIODIC REVIEWS OF THE COMPLIANCE OF OFFICIAL STATISTICS WITH THE NATIONAL QUALITY GUIDELINES, AND SHOULD ISSUE A QUALITY LABEL WHEN CONDITIONS ARE MET (EUROPEAN STATISTICS CODE OF PRACTICE, PRINCIPLE 4 AND INDICATOR 1.4).

Current situation:

The current statistical legislation – the Act on Statistics Denmark - does not provide for the establishment of a formalised statistical system. There is no formal definition of official statistics in Denmark, no quality requirements for official statistics and no procedures for monitoring quality of official statistics.

Improvement action 7: *Establish procedure for conducting periodic reviews of official statistics*

The mandate to conduct periodic reviews should ideally be specified in a new law on Danish statistics together with a mechanism to enforce quality standards such as the issuing of an official quality label. This is part of improvement action 1.1/2/4., 1.2/4/5. and 1.3/2/4. If such provisions are not included in a new law, Statistics Denmark will discuss and make a proposal for an alternative procedure for review and labelling of official statistics based on voluntary participation of other national producers.

Timeline:

T: Depends on the legislative process. Estimate 2017

8. STATISTICS DENMARK SHOULD ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN A COMMON DISSEMINATION PORTAL FOR OFFICIAL STATISTICS WITH THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE OTHER NATIONAL PRODUCERS, INCLUDING A COMMON RELEASE CALENDAR (EUROPEAN STATISTICS CODE OF PRACTICE, PRINCIPLE 15).

Current situation:

All statistics produced by Statistics Denmark are published on Statistics Denmark's website and in the Statbank.dk. In some areas, statistics produced by other national producers are also published in the Statbank.dk, e.g. statistics produced by the Danish central bank. However, most statistics produced by other national producers are published independently by the respective authorities.

Improvement action 8: *Establish a common dissemination portal for official statistics*

As Statistics Denmark does not currently have the mandate to make other producers publish statistics via a common portal Statistics Denmark will put forward a proposal to include provisions on common dissemination of official statistics (including a common release calendar) in a revised law on Danish statistics (cf. improvement action 1.1/2/4. – 1.3/2/4). If such provisions are not included in a new law, Statistics Denmark will take the initiative to design a common dissemination portal and a common release calendar based on voluntary participation by other national producers.

Timeline:

T: Depends on the legislative process. Estimate 2017

ENSURE THE SUSTAINABILITY OF THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEM

9. THE DANISH FINANCIAL AUTHORITIES SHOULD ENSURE THAT THE RESOURCES OF STATISTICS DENMARK ARE SUFFICIENT TO MEET FORTHCOMING EUROPEAN UNION DEMANDS, TAKING ACCOUNT OF ANY EFFICIENCY GAINS GENERATED BY THE ORGANISATION (EUROPEAN STATISTICS CODE OF PRACTICE, INDICATOR 3.1).

Current situation:

Like every other government agency in Denmark, Statistics Denmark's general government appropriation is annually reduced by a minimum of 2%. 62% of Statistics Denmark's budget is covered by the general government appropriation, 23% are provided by sales and 15% by co-financing from ministries and the EU. The annual budget cut in the general government appropriation is to be covered by efficiency gains in the organisation. Efficiency gains generated by the organisation are also to cover new EU statistical demands, the planned modernisation (reform initiatives) in Statistics Denmark as well as other activities requiring resources (e.g. new national user needs).

Improvement action 9: *Establish systematic documentation on Statistics Denmark's finances and on new demands for resources*

Statistics Denmark will further strengthen transparency in its reporting to the Danish financial authorities regarding on the one hand the development in Statistics Denmark's appropriation and financial contributions and on the other hand new EU obligations, national obligations and necessary development of Statistics Denmark. Furthermore, this includes documentation regarding the development in Statistics Denmark's efficiency gains.

Timeline:

T: Fully implemented by the end of 2016

10. STATISTICS DENMARK SHOULD COMPLETE FORMAL AGREEMENTS WITH ALL PROVIDERS OF ADMINISTRATIVE DATA, AND ANY EXISTING ARRANGEMENTS SHOULD BE REVIEWED, TO ENSURE THAT THEY INCLUDE PROVISIONS REGARDING ADVANCE NOTIFICATION OF SYSTEM CHANGES AND THE POSSIBILITY FOR STATISTICS DENMARK TO GIVE ITS VIEWS BEFORE SUCH CHANGES ARE FINALISED (EUROPEAN STATISTICS CODE OF PRACTICE, PRINCIPLE 2 AND INDICATORS 8.8, 8.9, AND 10.3).

Current situation:

Statistics Denmark makes extensive use of register and administrative data for the production of statistics. The right to do so is provided for in the Act on Statistics Denmark, which states that: "Within the framework of the working programme adopted by the Board, public authorities and institutions shall supply such information as they possess when called upon to do so by Statistics Denmark." In most cases, delivery of administrative data has been conducted for a long period of time without any problems. However, formal agreements do not exist for all administrative sources, specifying the time frames and format for data delivery as well as involvement of Statistics Denmark regarding changes to the registers.

Improvement action 10: *Establish a standard procedure for collaboration with administrative data providers*

Statistics Denmark will take stock of existing arrangements and, on that basis, establish a standard procedure for collaboration between Statistics Denmark and providers of administrative data including completion of formal agreements (service level agreements) with all providers of administrative data.

Timeline:

T: Q4 2016

11. STATISTICS DENMARK SHOULD DEVELOP A PROJECT AIMED AT IDENTIFYING THE STATISTICAL POTENTIAL OF NEW DATA SOURCES (BIG DATA), AT PROMOTING THE CHANGE IN THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK TO ALLOW ACCESS, AND AT UPGRADING PRODUCTION SYSTEMS TO ALLOW ITS USE (EUROPEAN STATISTICS CODE OF PRACTICE, PRINCIPLES 2, 8, 9, 10, 11, AND 13).

Current situation:

Statistics Denmark is closely following developments in the area of big data and is a member of the United Nations' Global Working Group on Big Data for Official Statistics. Since 2011, Statistics Denmark has been receiving scanner data from the largest supermarket chains with the aim to use them in the calculation of the price statistics.

Improvement action 11.1: *Host conference on Big data*

Statistics Denmark will together with the University of Copenhagen host a conference on Big Data in the fall of 2015. The conference will focus on the need to ensure legal access to Big Data for Statistics and Research.

Timeline:

T: Q4 2015

Improvement action 11.2: *Open discussions with government to include provisions on access to big data in a new law*

As part of the process related to the preparation of a revised statistical legislation (jf. improvement actions 1.1/2/4 and 1.3/2/4), Statistics Denmark will work to include provisions regarding access to big data in a new law on Danish statistics.

Timeline:

T: Q4 2016

Improvement action 11.3: *Carry out the project on the use of scanner data in the production of price statistics*

Statistics Denmark is working on a Big Data project investigating the potential for replacing some survey information with scanner data from supermarket chains in the production of price statistics. Conclusions based on the project will be ready by Q2 2016.

Timeline:

T: Q2 2016

CONTINUE EFFORTS ON QUALITY AND EFFICIENCY

12. STATISTICS DENMARK SHOULD EXPLAIN THE RATIONALE FOR THE QUESTIONS BEING ASKED IN SURVEYS AND PROVIDE MORE INFORMATION ON THE RESULTANT STATISTICS TO WHICH THE RESPONDENTS ARE CONTRIBUTING, AND SHOULD IMPROVE THE FEEDBACK GIVEN TO BUSINESS RESPONDENTS BY PROVIDING THEM WITH INFORMATION ON HOW THEY COMPARE WITH SIMILAR COMPANIES IN THEIR ECONOMIC AREA (EUROPEAN STATISTICS CODE OF PRACTICE, PRINCIPLE 9).

Current situation:

Statistics Denmark carries out various activities to improve response rates, including the use of a sound methodology for testing questionnaires, and user-friendly methods to collect the data.

Statistics Denmark provides information to enterprises regarding reporting deadlines and the purpose of the surveys and the questions asked. This is done via the reporting solutions (web-questionnaires and system-to-system solutions) and the reporting portal on Statistics Denmark's homepage.

Improvement action 12: *Improve information and feedback to respondents*

Statistics Denmark gradually improves the information to enterprises about the reporting deadlines and about the purpose of the surveys and the questions asked. Statistics Denmark will as from the end of 2015 provide each reporting enterprise with an enterprise specific overview of our information requests and provide feedback with statistical results (specific to the enterprises' line of activity) to which the reporting enterprises have contributed.

Furthermore, Statistics Denmark will focus on information and feed back to respondents in the call for tender for the LFS that will be conducted in the fall 2015.

Timeline:

T: 2015 Gradually improving information to enterprises

Q4 2015 Information and feedback to respondents in the call for tender for the LFS

From end 2015 enterprise specific overview and feedback with statistical results

13. STATISTICS DENMARK SHOULD FURTHER EXTEND THE PROVISION OF USER-FRIENDLY WEB-BASED QUESTIONNAIRES FOR ALL SOCIAL SURVEYS, TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION POSSIBLE IMPACTS, AND TAKE INITIATIVES TO ENCOURAGE THEIR USE (EUROPEAN STATISTICS CODE OF PRACTICE, PRINCIPLE 9).

Current situation:

Web based questionnaires are used to collect data in most of the social surveys conducted by Statistics Denmark, except for the Labour Force Survey (LFS). The LFS is carried out by a private research institute on behalf of Statistics Denmark.

Improvement action 13: *Include requirements on the use web questionnaires in new LFS tender*

In order to extend the use of web based questionnaires to all social surveys conducted under the responsibility of Statistics Denmark, Statistics Denmark will include requirements on the use of web questionnaires as part of the demands in the new tender for the LFS.

Timeline:

T: Q4 2015 Include requirements on the use of web questionnaires in new LFS tender

T: Q1 2016 Implementation of the use of web questionnaires in LFS according to new tender

14. STATISTICS DENMARK SHOULD REVIEW THEIR METHOD OF SPREADING THE STATISTICAL BURDEN IN THE LIGHT OF MANDATORY ELECTRONIC DATA COLLECTION, ESPECIALLY FOR SMALL COMPANIES (EUROPEAN STATISTICS CODE OF PRACTICE, PRINCIPLE 9).

Current situation:

Statistics Denmark carries out many activities to reduce the burden on business respondents, including the use of digital and user-friendly reporting solutions. In business surveys, the probability of selection increases as the size of the company increases. A limited number of small businesses are included, while all large companies are selected. The samples are usually obtained as panels, so that the same enterprise is part of the sample over a period of time. For smaller enterprises this is followed by a period outside the sample when they are exempted from reporting. This ensures continuity in the statistical basis, while reducing the burden on smaller enterprises.

Improvement action 14.1: *Examine whether a maximum number of surveys for enterprises with 10-20 employees could be defined*

For many years Statistics Denmark has ensured that enterprises with less than 10 employees do not report to more than three surveys within a calendar year. In 2015, we will examine whether we could extend this with a limit for enterprises with 10-20 employees. If feasible this initiative could be implemented starting from 2016. Also, we will use panels as the primary sampling method – i.a. with a view to spreading the reporting burden further.

Timeline:

T: Q4 2015: Examining if it is possible to extend the limit to cover enterprises with 10-20 employees.

In case the extension is possible, the implementation will start in Q1 2016.

Improvement action 14.2: *Centralize sampling procedures and implement sampling coordination*

Statistics Denmark will further centralize sampling procedures in order to better manage the burden. For small and medium size enterprises, we will aim to use negative co-ordination of the samples, but for the large companies we will aim to use positive coordination due to the needs of micro data users.

Timeline:

T: The centralization of the sampling procedures is expected to begin in the beginning of 2016. This process will go on for several years. It is currently not possible to set an end deadline.

Improvement action 14.3: *Extend reporting deadlines for a number of annual surveys*

Statistics Denmark will set longer reporting deadlines for a number of annual surveys. This initiative was started in 2014 and will finish in 2015.

Timeline:

T: End of 2015

15. THE METHODOLOGY UNIT OF STATISTICS DENMARK SHOULD TAKE STEPS TO ENSURE THAT THE AGREED METHODOLOGICAL STANDARDS FOR THE ORGANISATION, PARTICULARLY FOR SAMPLING, EDITING (INCLUDING SELECTIVE EDITING), IMPUTATION, AND SEASONAL ADJUSTMENT ARE FOLLOWED BY THE RELEVANT STATISTICAL AREAS (EUROPEAN STATISTICS CODE OF PRACTICE, PRINCIPLE 7).**Current situation:**

Statistics Denmark's methodology unit has prepared written guidelines covering the three main methodological areas - survey sampling and estimation, editing and imputation, and seasonal adjustment. Each document states the preferred options for standard operations, but still leaves room for differences between individual statistics. Centralised monitoring and validation is only partly implemented. Also, the methodological unit has recommended a range of tools for different stages, including variance estimation, seasonal adjustment and editing, but the use of these tools is at the discretion of the survey units.

Improvement action 15.1: *Implementation of 'Data Archive'*

Work regarding data editing and imputation is partially designed (GSBPM phase 2) and will be built (phase 3) during 2015. The main component is the "Data Archive" project. The aim of the "Data Archive" project is to standardise the use of statistical data editing and imputation. The proposed standards are already designed and described (GSBPM phase 2) in methodological reports and use cases targeted at IT implementation. The model for standardised data editing and imputation includes elements from selective micro editing and subsequent modules for both automatic and interactive editing. The associated IT-tool (the actual "Data Archive") is currently being built (GSBPM phase 3) using solid IT- architectural principles, and is planned to be finalised during the third quarter of 2015.

Timeline:

T: The Data Archive will be used in the production of at least 2 statistics by the end of 2016. A tentative plan for migration of the remaining statistical areas will be compiled during 2016 as well.

Improvement action 15.2: *Implementation of JDemetra + 2.0.0*

For seasonal adjustment, implementation of JDemetra+ 2.0.0 (to replace the currently used software Demetra 2.1 and X-12-ARIMA 0.3) is currently being planned and implementation will start in 2015.

Timeline:

T: Implementation will be completed by end of 2016.

16. WHEN AUDITING THE PROCESSES THAT PRODUCE KEY STATISTICS, STATISTICS DENMARK SHOULD CONSIDER STRENGTHENING THE AUDIT THROUGH THE PARTICIPATION OF EXTERNAL EXPERTS (EUROPEAN STATISTICS CODE OF PRACTICE, PRINCIPLE 4).**Current situation:**

Until now, Statistics Denmark has not carried out quality audits at survey level. However a Quality Coordinator was recently appointed, and will take the lead in conducting quality audits for surveys (including processes that use administrative sources).

Improvement action 16: *Establish procedure for quality audits*

A pilot on the future auditing process is currently ongoing. Based on the results of the pilot, a proposal for a future model for audits and for the composition of the expert group conducting the audit will be presented to the steering group on quality for approval. The steering group on quality will ensure that external experts will be involved where relevant. The plan is to audit 3-5 surveys each year. The more important statistics will be prioritised for early audit.

Timeline:

T: End of 2015

17. THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE QUALITY AND METHODOLOGY STEERING GROUPS, CURRENTLY AT DIRECTOR LEVEL, SHOULD BE EXPANDED TO INCLUDE THE PARTICIPATION OF SOME EXPERTS FROM VARIOUS AREAS OF STATISTICS DENMARK (EUROPEAN STATISTICS CODE OF PRACTICE, PRINCIPLE 4).

Current situation:

Statistics Denmark has set up a steering group on methodology and a steering group on quality. The members of the steering groups are the five directors of the organisation as well as the head of the Management Secretariat. This is to ensure high-level decision making. The groups meet three or four times a year. They conduct an annual review and appraisal of the guidelines issued by the methodological unit and monitor progress on quality issues. The steering groups may set up working groups and task forces involving relevant experts. Secretarial support is provided to the steering groups by the methodology and quality unit respectively.

Improvement action

Statistics Denmark has a diverging view on this recommendation and therefore no improvement actions are foreseen.

Timeline:

N.A.

18. STATISTICS DENMARK SHOULD FURTHER DEVELOP ITS QUALITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM BY CONSIDERING THE ALIGNMENT, WHERE PRACTICABLE, OF ITS INTERNAL ORGANISATION WITH THE GENERIC STATISTICAL BUSINESS PROCESS MODEL (EUROPEAN STATISTICS CODE OF PRACTICE, PRINCIPLE 4).

Current situation:

Statistics Denmark has adopted the GSBPM process model and is in the process of developing descriptions of methods to monitor the quality at each stage of the GSBPM. In general, Statistics Denmark prepares moving towards more standardization in the production processes by preparing more detailed guidelines and examples of best practices on single processes in GSBPM.

In Statistics Denmark parts of the production processes are already organized by functions e.g. dissemination and data collection.

Improvement action 18.1: *Establish a unit to handle large enterprise groups*

As a part of current reform initiatives in Statistics Denmark, Statistics Denmark aims to align even further to GSBPM by establishing a unit to handle large enterprise groups.

Timeline:

T: End of 2016

Improvement action 18.2: *Centralize IT-personnel*

Statistics Denmark also plans to align further to the GSBPM by centralizing IT-personnel.

Timeline:

T: Beginning of 2016

ENHANCE ANALYSIS AND DISSEMINATION

19. IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT ITS STATISTICS ARE MORE WIDELY USED AND RELIABLY INTERPRETED, STATISTICS DENMARK SHOULD TAKE STEPS TO ENSURE THAT ITS STATISTICAL RELEASES PROVIDE MORE IN-DEPTH ANALYSIS ACCOMPANIED BY ADDITIONAL GRAPHICS (EUROPEAN STATISTICS CODE OF PRACTICE, PRINCIPLE 15).

Current situation:

On most weekdays at 9 am, Statistics Denmark publishes statistical releases in the form of news releases called “News from Statistics Denmark”, which in a short, factual and objective manner presents the newest statistical numbers.

Statistics Denmark is currently in a process of implementing a number of organisational reforms. One of the main aims is to enhance the relevance and usability of the statistics produced and published by the institution, i.a. by presenting statistics in a more interesting and accessible way, providing more descriptive analysis in the form of comparisons over time, across countries etc.

Improvement action 19: *Establish an analysis-function*

Statistics Denmark will establish an analysis-function that will support the expansion of analytical content in publications. The analytical content should i.a. focus on signal and content in the statistics. This will affect the way we communicate including visual communication.

Timeline:

T: In Q3 2015 the function will be set up and staffed by two people. By the end of 2016 the function will be expanded to full size, equivalent to four to five full-time employees.

20. STATISTICS DENMARK SHOULD PROVIDE USERS WITH THE OPTION OF USING AN INTERACTIVE MAPPING TOOL TO ANALYSE THE WIDE RANGE OF GEOGRAPHIC DATA AVAILABLE ON THEIR WEBSITE (EUROPEAN STATISTICS CODE OF PRACTICE, PRINCIPLE 15).

Current situation:

The www.Statbank.dk contains a basic facility to generate maps based on extracted data. The use of interactive maps in the presentation of statistics on the website and in news releases is limited.

Improvement action 20: *Test and implement a new interactive mapping tool*

Improving the users' understanding of statistics through visualization - such as the use of interactive maps - should be a service in publications and on the website. Statistics Denmark is conducting a study testing different map applications and demos are made. Based on the results of the study, a proposal for a solution on the use of interactive mapping tools will be presented to the management for decision by Q3 2015.

Timeline:

T: A new mapping tool is expected to be implemented by end 2016.

21. FOR EACH RESEARCH PROJECT THAT RESULTS IN A PUBLISHED PAPER OR REPORT, A BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT AND CONCLUSIONS SHOULD BE PROVIDED ON A SPECIAL PAGE ON STATISTICS DENMARK'S WEBSITE (EUROPEAN STATISTICS CODE OF PRACTICE, PRINCIPLE 15).

Current situation:

Statistics Denmark's Research Service offers remote access for researchers to micro data in Statistics Denmark and is widely used. At any one time, hundreds of researchers are using Statistics Denmark's Research Service and much of this use results in papers published in journals and elsewhere.

Improvement action 21: *Develop collaboration with academia*

Statistics Denmark will as part of the development of a new strategy (Strategy 2020) develop its collaboration with 'academia' including collaboration with researchers using the access to micro data at Statistics Denmark. The promotion on Statistics Denmark's website of research results based on this access will be part of this.

Timeline:

T: A new strategy for Statistics Denmark will be developed by Q4 2015

22. STATISTICS DENMARK SHOULD ALLOW USERS TO ASSESS PUNCTUALITY BY KEEPING TRACK, ON THE WEBSITE, OF ANY LATE CHANGES MADE TO THE RELEASE CALENDAR (EUROPEAN STATISTICS CODE OF PRACTICE, INDICATOR 13.4).

Current situation:

All of Statistics Denmark's releases are announced in advance in the release calendar on the website. Initially, the date is set a year in advance. This can be changed later if there is a professional reason for doing so. However, eight days before the release date, the date is fixed. Any change after that time has to be approved by the National Statistician and will be communicated on the website aside with the new date (this only goes for the Danish version of the website). Such late changes happen only very rarely. Statistics Denmark does not provide information on changes made to release dates in the past.

Improvement action 22.1: *Include information on delays in the English version of the release calendar*

The information on delays will be included in the English version of the calendar.

Timeline:

T: End of 2015

Improvement action 22.2: *Present information on punctuality to users*

Statistics Denmark will consider how to best present information on punctuality to users. Every quarter Statistics Denmark produces an in-house overview of the number/percentage of statistical releases delayed. This overview might be made available to the public. The solution has to be defined in accordance with what creates value to the public e.g. which information to include and how to present it.

Timeline:

T: End of 2016

23. STATISTICS DENMARK SHOULD PUBLISH ENGLISH VERSIONS OF THE KEY HIGH-PROFILE EUROPEAN STATISTICS IT PRODUCES (EUROPEAN STATISTICS CODE OF PRACTICE, PRINCIPLE 15).

Current situation:

All statistics are available in English on the website and in www.StatBank.dk along with the quality declarations documenting the statistics. However, only some publications are available in English: The Statistical Yearbook, Denmark in Figures, the introduction to topics on the subject pages at www.dst.dk, and Key economic indicators. The statistical releases “News from Statistics Denmark” are not provided in English.

Improvement action 23: *Explore possibilities to publish “News from Statistics Denmark” in English*

Statistics Denmark will conduct a feasibility study to assess whether part of the daily “News from Statistics Denmark” could be written in English and presented on the website. This might be done by the authors of the individual “News” (“News” are written by the statistical subject matter experts in consultation with the dissemination unit). It will also be considered to have the authors of the “News” write the headline of the “News” in English in the same process as writing the Danish version. However, it must be ensured that an English translation does not delay statistical releases.

Timeline:

T: A feasibility study will be conducted by the end 2016.