



EUROPEAN
STATISTICAL
SYSTEM

PEER REVIEW REPORT

ON COMPLIANCE WITH THE EUROPEAN STATISTICS CODE OF
PRACTICE AND FURTHER IMPROVEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE
NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEM

AUSTRIA

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	3
2.	INTRODUCTION	9
3.	BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEM	11
4.	PROGRESS/ADVANCEMENT IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS	16
5.	COMPLIANCE WITH THE CODE OF PRACTICE AND FUTURE ORIENTATION	18
5.1	STRENGTHS OF THE NSI AND THE PARTICIPATING ONAs IN RELATION TO THEIR COMPLIANCE WITH THE CODE OF PRACTICE	18
5.2	ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS	21
5.2.1	ENSURING A COORDINATION ROLE FOR EUROPEAN STATISTICS	21
5.2.2	CREATING THE CONDITIONS FOR THE SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION OF STATISTICS	23
5.2.3	ENHANCING THE QUALITY OF STATISTICS WITH REGARD TO REVISIONS, ASSESSMENTS AND DISSEMINATION	24
5.2.4	STRENGTHENING INVESTMENT TO DELIVER INNOVATION	25
5.2.5	STREAMLINING THE GOVERNANCE OF STATISTICS AUSTRIA'S BODIES AND PREPARING FOR FUTURE CHALLENGES	26
5.3	VIEWS OF THE NSI, AS THE NATIONAL COORDINATOR OF THE NSS AND THE PEER REVIEW, ON THOSE RECOMMENDATIONS WHERE THEY DIVERGE FROM PEER REVIEW EXPERTS' ASSESSMENT	28
	ANNEX A – AGENDA OF THE VISIT.....	29
	ANNEX B – LIST OF PARTICIPANTS	39

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Austria has a strong legal framework (the Federal Statistics Act 2000, Bundesstatistiksgesetz 2000), supporting the Austrian Statistical System and the functioning of the bodies of the Federal Statistical System. The Federal Statistics Act defines Federal Statistics as a government information system providing data on the economic, demographic, social, ecological and cultural situation in Austria. It establishes a general framework for all work carried out by Statistics Austria and those federal agencies appointed by legal act to compile Federal Statistics. It contains all the basic provisions relating to Federal Statistics. Principles such as quality, impartiality, transparency, cost-efficiency and confidentiality are stated in the Federal Statistics Act. It defines Statistics Austria as the leading statistical body in Austria responsible for the vast majority of European and Federal Statistics produced in Austria.

According to other specific legal acts, seven other Austrian bodies and the Austrian Central Bank are identified as producers of European statistics.

Statistics Austria strives to be a modern institution providing high-quality information for society, science, economy, politics and administration. Data is provided in an easily accessible and comprehensible manner for further processing, following scientific principles and using various communication channels. Statistics Austria is perceived, both internally and externally, as an independent and trustworthy organisation. Statistics Austria staff are recognised for their competency, skills and cooperation with respondents and users.

Statistics Austria is headed by two Directors General: the Director General - Statistics and the Director General - Finance. The Director General - Statistics is responsible for the management of Statistics Austria's statistical duties. As stated in the Federal Statistics Act, the Director General - Statistics has sole responsibility for all scientific and methodological matters and is not bound by any instructions in the performance of these tasks. Both Directors General are nominated through an open competition, as regulated by the Austrian Staffing Act that applies to all high-level positions. The nomination procedure is transparent following clear criteria, while the reasons for dismissal do not compromise professional independence.

Statistics Austria has one statistics-related advisory body – the Statistics Council, and one budget-related supervisory body – the Economic Council, as well as several technical sub-committees. The members are highly involved in many of Statistics Austria's processes, among them the so-called Feedback Talks. These two Councils, comprised of resourceful experts, are a great asset to Statistics Austria.

Statistics Austria's Strategy 2025, defining a vision for medium-term statistical priorities and implementation actions, is a key strength. The portfolio management approach used to achieve the strategic goals is supported by the adoption of key milestones and 24 key performance indicators.

Statistics Austria maintains a high-quality culture by means of its Quality Management System, integrating a Risk Management Function, and a well-structured Data Security Management System architecture.

The task of developing an Austrian Micro Data Centre service was assigned to Statistics Austria by the Austrian authorities in January 2022, to be operational by July 2022. This service is an important milestone, not only for Statistics Austria, but for Austria as a country to improve research activities using micro data in a safe environment.

Cooperation with external stakeholders and partnerships are a current practice of Statistics Austria. There are two major cooperation partners: the Austrian Central Bank and the Austrian Economic

Chamber. The cooperation between Statistics Austria and the Austrian Economic Chamber takes a rather unique approach. Both organisations work together through cooperative and constructive efforts to optimise the data collection processes, namely the measurement and management of the response burden and the communication with respondents, aiming to improve response rates.

The peer review team identified several innovative practices at Statistics Austria. These include advanced work on the use of non-traditional data sources for producing experimental statistics, in particular the use of geospatial data sources for the production of official statistics in partnership with research organisations, and open-source software development for implementing generic statistical methods in statistical processes. Finally, in line with its key goals in Strategy 2025, Statistics Austria has started a comprehensive review of its role in the new national data ecosystem, with the support of its governing bodies.

Generally, the peer review team considers that Statistics Austria demonstrates a high level of compliance with the European Statistics Code of Practice (ES CoP). However, the Federal Statistics Law does not assign an effective coordination role to Statistics Austria, making it difficult to ensure that the same principles apply to Other National Authorities developing, producing and disseminating European statistics. This and several other areas were identified where Statistics Austria could further strengthen the Austrian Statistical System. In summary, one compliance-relevant and 15 improvement-related recommendations for further development were identified.

RECOMMENDATIONS

I. Ensuring a coordination role for European Statistics

The ES CoP and the Regulation on European Statistics (223/2009) lay down the principles for the coordination role of a National Statistical Institute, while the ES CoP provides further details regarding the coordination function. No such coordination role has been assigned to Statistics Austria as the National Statistical Institute in the Austrian Statistical System.

During the peer review visit the peer review team noted a very good spirit of cooperation between Statistics Austria and the Other National Authorities, as well as a good awareness of quality issues. However, the coordination role of Statistics Austria should be stipulated in the Federal Statistics Act. Legislation coupled with well-defined and established procedures will allow the existing cooperation to develop into true coordination and to be strengthened by providing clarity in the different roles and better conditions for coordination.

To comply with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

1. The relevant authorities should amend the Federal Statistical Act to assign the role of the national coordination body for the Austrian Statistical System to Statistics Austria. (Compliance-relevant: ES CoP, Indicator 1bis.1)

The peer review team noted a lack of clarity amongst the Other National Authorities involved in the peer review as to whether they are data providers or data producers. Statistics Austria should therefore review the criteria for statistical producers to be considered as Other National Authorities. Examples of criteria could be the assigned tasks and expertise of the producer, the importance of their contribution to the production of European Statistics in the Austrian Statistical System and their commitment to adhere to the ES CoP. Furthermore, Statistics Austria should - in its coordination role - be prepared to support and ensure such adherence.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

2. Statistics Austria should review those national statistical producers who are to be defined as Other National Authorities in order to clarify their status as such. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 1bis.1)

There are no Memoranda of Understanding between Statistics Austria and some of the Other National Authorities. Building upon the existing cooperation, statistical consulting and very good relations, Statistics Austria should find the appropriate means to continue its good practices in establishing Memoranda of Understanding (or a similar type of working arrangement) with all Other National Authorities. Such Memoranda should include quality guidelines supporting the adherence of the Other National Authorities to the ES CoP for the development, production, and dissemination of European Statistics. This will reinforce Statistics Austria's coordination role and clarify the responsibilities of both Statistics Austria and the Other National Authorities within the Austrian Statistical System in relation to the production of European statistics. It will also be beneficial to the system by allowing a more systematic sharing of common approaches in innovation initiatives and statistical methods, standards and common guidelines.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

3. As part of its coordination role, Statistics Austria should establish Memoranda of Understanding with all Other National Authorities, providing quality guidelines for the development, production, and dissemination of European Statistics and aiming to support adherence to the ES CoP. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 1bis.1 and 1bis.2)

As the present role for Statistics Austria to coordinate Other National Authorities is limited to cooperation and giving statistical advice, there is no legal mandate to approve the quality of the statistics produced by Other National Authorities or monitor their compliance with standards and guidelines.

An enhancement of the relationship with Other National Authorities should provide an opportunity for both parties – Statistics Austria and Other National Authorities – to exchange technical expertise, for example with respect to statistical methodology, for the good of the Austrian Statistical System.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

4. Statistics Austria should facilitate the use of its quality guidelines and standard tools for data processing for Other National Authorities by providing appropriate training and advice. Statistics Austria should also monitor compliance with standards and guidelines in the Austrian Statistical System regarding metadata reports and dissemination. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 1bis.2 and 4.2)

Administrative and other types of data from new sources play a prominent role in the Austrian Statistical System, for both Statistics Austria and the Other National Authorities developing, producing and disseminating European statistics. As with other statistical processes, the production of statistics based on these types of sources needs an adequate quality framework to ensure that quality is met at all stages of the processes.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

5. Statistics Austria should develop quality assurance guidelines for administrative and other types of data from new sources for use in the Austrian Statistical System. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 1bis.2, 2.2 and 4.2)

II. Creating the conditions for the sustainable production of statistics

A new financial framework is needed to support Statistics Austria's ongoing production of statistics and its strategy to use innovative solutions to meet user needs. The current framework is inadequate, resulting in an insufficient level of resources, an issue recognised by Statistics Austria and both Councils. This may jeopardise the quality of Statistics Austria's products and services.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

6. The relevant authorities should establish a new sustainable financial framework to ensure that the resources assigned to Statistics Austria are adequate for the institution to carry out its tasks. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 3.1 and 3.4)

The need to assess and anticipate competency gaps in statistical and data science skills to address the statistical challenges of the future is of utmost importance in light of the emerging changes in the statistical production processes and the introduction of new statistical methods aligned with Statistics Austria's Strategy 2025.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

7. Statistics Austria should develop and implement a roadmap to address the need to develop the competencies required in the medium term to achieve its strategic goals. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 7.6, 7.5 and 7.7)

While some of Statistics Austria's processes are standardised, the application of a more systematic approach would be beneficial in terms of cost-effectiveness and output quality. A systematic approach is needed to better support further standardisation and automation of statistical production and to ensure a holistic and efficient approach.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

8. Statistics Austria should develop its statistical production system based on further standardisation of domain-specific processes and the reuse of generic digital solutions for the implementation of statistical production activities. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 8.3)

III. Enhancing the quality of statistics with regard to revisions, assessments and dissemination

Clarification on the categorisation of revisions in the context of Statistics Austria's Revision Policy is needed for users and producers alike. This primarily involves making a distinction between planned and unplanned revisions. Specifically, the revision policy should be aligned with the European Statistical System framework, as communicated in the *European Statistical System Handbook for Quality and Metadata Reports, version 2020*.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

9. Statistics Austria should update its revision policy to align it with the European Statistical System framework. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 6.6, 8.5 and 12.3)

Statistics Austria releases preliminary results of acceptable aggregate accuracy and reliability when this is considered useful for users. However, users need more guidance and support in conjunction with such releases regarding which sets of statistics can and should be compared to each other

between different time periods. For example, whether the preliminary statistics for time period t should be compared to the preliminary statistics for time period $t-1$, or rather with the final statistics for time period $t-1$.

In addition, information on previous revisions is very useful to facilitate comparisons between preliminary and final statistics. Analysing revisions also provides input to producers to make improvements in preliminary statistics. The peer review team did not see sufficient evidence that revisions analyses were carried out as regular practice, even though Statistics Austria's Revision Policy advocates this. It would also be helpful if methodological support could be given to those statistical producers that publish preliminary and final statistics and need to make revisions analyses.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

10. Statistics Austria should design and implement a process for analysing planned revisions and review how preliminary statistics are presented in order to provide more clarity and understanding to users and producers alike. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 12.3, 13.5 and 8.5)

The Statistical Council regularly carries out Feedback Talks to evaluate the implementation of Statistics Austria's standard documentation of quality for different statistical outputs. Indication was given that issues regarding ES CoP Principle 12, Accuracy and Reliability, do not receive the same attention and in-depth assessments within these quite thorough reviews as the other user-oriented ES CoP Principles. Accuracy and Reliability is a key aspect of quality in statistics, and it is therefore vital that statistical agencies have an adequate understanding of the critical issues affecting the accuracy of statistical outputs and can subsequently explain these sufficiently to users. The ES CoP advocates the regular assessment of accuracy and the expert team encourages Statistics Austria to focus more on the assessment and communication of issues of accuracy with users.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

11. Statistics Austria should devise a systematic scheme to improve the review of critical accuracy issues, particularly for key statistical outputs. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 4.4, 12.1 and 12.2)

Despite the provision of new visualisation possibilities on the Statistics Austria website, suitable technology is not in place for users to export graphical presentations for further portrayal to the public. Media users in particular need to be able to further relay such useful presentations to a broader audience. This is a limitation that should be resolved to promote equal and wider access to impartial and objective statistics for the public.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

12. Statistics Austria should enable users to reuse data more easily, including solutions to export statistical presentations that are visualised in different ways. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 15.2 and 11.1)

IV. Strengthening investment to deliver innovation

Statistics Austria has made progress in exploring the use of non-traditional data sources, including the use of mobile phone data and earth observation data in collaboration with external research partners and data holders. Nonetheless, the introduction of a portfolio approach could help to accelerate the transition from experimental studies to the production of mature statistical products.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

13. Statistics Austria should develop a strategic approach to explore the potential of new data sources for statistical production. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 9.5)

Given the recent progress in cooperation with the scientific community, such as the planned establishment and operation of the Austrian Micro Data Centre, Statistics Austria should focus its efforts on continuously fostering collaboration with academic partners to achieve more rapid results in terms of maturity of experimental statistics to be released as part of the regular official statistics portfolio. In particular, attention should be given to the development of statistical methods and to providing additional services to support the use of statistical data by researchers, including through the establishment of Centres of competence.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

14. Statistics Austria should strengthen the cooperation with the research community to provide better services for researchers. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 7.7)

V. Streamlining the governance of Statistics Austria's bodies and preparing for future challenges

The peer review team considers the division of statistical and financial responsibilities at senior management level and the set-up with two councils, the Statistics Council and the Economic Council, which combine advisory and supervisory roles towards Statistics Austria, to be a sub-optimal governance model. An analysis of the situation is therefore, needed with the aim of optimising the allocation of responsibilities.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

15. The relevant authorities should consider the extent to which the existing division of statistical and financial responsibilities, both at Statistics Austria's senior management level and at Council level, serves the core tasks of Statistics Austria. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 1.2)

Against the background of a fast-changing national data ecosystem accompanied by an emerging European legal framework to support the reuse of data, Statistics Austria could play a more critical role in statistical data management and data quality within its Strategy 2025, to ensure data interoperability and harmonisation. Pro-active measures to anticipate future challenges should be discussed with key stakeholders in order to secure the necessary investments to build the new structures.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

16. Within its Strategy 2025, Statistics Austria should consider harnessing the new opportunities offered by the changing European and national data policy frameworks, and further develop its vision for its role in the emerging national data ecosystem. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 2.4)

In the spirit of continuous improvement integral to the European Statistical System (ESS), Statistics Austria will translate the recommendations in this report into improvement actions for implementation within the National Statistical System (NSS).

2. INTRODUCTION

It is recognised that quality is one of the European Statistical System's (ESS) comparative advantages in a world experiencing a growing trend of instant information and new challenges, driven by exceptional circumstances or the continuous need for faster but quality-assured data. The European Statistics Code of Practice (ES CoP) is the cornerstone of the ESS common quality framework, and the ESS statistical authorities have committed themselves to adhere to it.

In this context, it is crucial for the ESS to be equipped with a review mechanism, the peer reviews, supporting with credible evidence this self-commitment to adhere to the ES CoP. The objective of this review mechanism is to enhance the integrity, professional independence and accountability of the ESS statistical authorities. The first round of peer reviews was carried out in 2006-2008, followed by a second round in 2013-2015.

In 2017, the ES CoP was reviewed and extended and now encompasses 16 principles. This revised version of the ES CoP triggered a third round of peer reviews, being carried out in the Member States of the European Union and of the European Free Trade Association, and Eurostat from 2021 to mid-2023. This round of peer reviews aims at improving the quality and trust in European Statistics by assessing the compliance of the ESS with the principles of the revised ES CoP. The peer reviews cover the ESS statistical authorities (Eurostat, the National Statistical Institutes (NSIs) and selected Other National Authorities (ONAs)) developing, producing and disseminating European Statistics. The peer reviews will be followed by a period of annual monitoring of the implementation of the improvement actions developed by the NSIs to address the recommendations laid down in the peer review reports.

The third round of peer reviews has the following two objectives:

- To review the compliance/alignment of the ESS with the ES CoP, in order to demonstrate to the ESS and to external stakeholders that the ESS is a system based on the principles of the ES CoP;
- To help NSIs, ONAs and Eurostat in their further improvement and development by indicating future-oriented recommendations; at the same time they should stimulate government authorities to support the implementation of these recommendations.

Each peer review is conducted by a team of four statistical experts (both from inside and outside the ESS). The peer review has four phases: completion of the Self-Assessment Questionnaires (SAQs) by a country; analysis of these SAQs by the peer review team; a country visit by the peer review team; and the preparation of the final report and ensuing recommendations by the peer review team. These recommendations are of two types:

- Compliance related (ensuring compliance/alignment with the ES CoP);
- Improvement related (less critical/technical supporting improvements).

A combination of an audit-like and a peer review approach is used when assessing the national statistical systems (NSS) in the countries to benefit from the positive aspects of both approaches. The audit-like approach requires the provision of documents as evidence, the ownership of the recommendations by the peer review expert team, and the right for the NSIs to express diverging views on the recommendations and to formulate the corresponding improvement actions. Whereas the peer review approach allows for common agreement within the ESS on the methodology, the objectives, scope and implementation arrangements, the focus on improvements and a peer learning process.

Although all principles of the ES CoP will be reviewed for all countries through the SAQ, the peer review experts are free to customise the country visit to concentrate on those principles where more clarification/explanation is needed. However, certain principles such as those concerning professional

independence and coordination and cooperation, as well as principles including elements of modernisation, will be assessed during the peer review visit for every member of the ESS.

In addition to the common principles to be addressed for every member of the ESS, the peer review team placed particular emphasis on aspects related to the Mandate for Data Collection and Access to Data, Adequacy of Resources, Impartiality and Objectivity, Sound Methodology, Appropriate Statistical Procedures, and Accuracy and Reliability.

Aspects related to coordination (ES CoP Principle 1bis), were especially important in this peer review, considering the absence of an effective coordination role assigned to Statistics Austria for coordinating the Other National Authorities developing, producing and disseminating official statistics.

Careful attention was given to the financial framework in place in Statistics Austria (ES CoP principle 3 on Adequacy of Resources). According to Statistics Austria's Strategy 2025, this issue is a matter of concern, with particular regard to the restructuring of the framework so that the quality of official statistics can be delivered according to the highly demanding European and national agendas. Human resources were also addressed in terms of competency gaps for implementing the Strategy 2025. As such, Sound Methodology (ES CoP, Principle 7) was also a relevant principle to discuss, as it plays an important role in the current strategy.

The motivation to review in more detail aspects related to the Mandate for Data Collection and Access to Data (ES CoP, Principle 2) and Appropriate Statistical Procedures (ES CoP, Principle 8) was to provide an opportunity for Statistics Austria to reflect on its future role in the Austrian data ecosystem in light of the forthcoming EU Data Act, including access to other public and privately held data.

Even though Statistics Austria has a Revision Policy in place with requirements to provide clarity to users when revising statistics, the peer review team found that there was a need for further discussion in relation to Impartiality and Objectivity (ES CoP, Principle 6) and Accuracy and Reliability (ES CoP, Principle 12).

Also, although the reports should not be used to compare one country to another, much effort has been made to ensure the harmonisation of the reports and the ensuing recommendations across the countries so that all countries are treated equitably.

The peer review of Eurostat was conducted by the European Statistical Governance Advisory Board (ESGAB).

3. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEM

Legislation and outline of the Austrian Statistical System

The Federal Act on Federal Statistics (Federal Statistics Act 2000, Bundesstatistikgesetz 2000), Federal Law Gazette I no. 163/1999, as amended, defines Federal Statistics as a non-personal government information system providing data on the economic, demographic, social, ecological and cultural situation in Austria. It establishes a general framework for the activities carried out by Statistics Austria and those federal agencies appointed by legal act to compile Federal Statistics. It contains all the basic provisions relating to Federal Statistics.

Federal Statistics assist the Austrian federal bodies in planning activities and in laying down the proper grounds for decision-making and the monitoring of implemented measures. Also, other stakeholders such as the scientific community, businesses and the public are served with adequate information. Federal Statistics also comprise other kinds of statistics, including associated analyses, forecasts and statistical models, as long as these are of interest for more than one province in Austria.

According to Article 24, Statistics Austria shall apply the general principles set out in Article 14 (1), i.e. objectivity, reliability, relevance, cost-efficiency, transparency and the strive for consistency. In addition, Statistics Austria shall apply the following principles:

1. The compiling of statistics shall be objective and impartial.
2. Statistical methods and procedures shall be applied using internationally accepted statistical principles and standards, and shall be published.
3. Statistics shall be subject to permanent control with the aim of improving quality.
4. Statistics shall be kept as up-to-date as possible.
5. The burden on data subjects and respondents shall be minimised and they shall be provided with sufficient information.
6. There shall be compliance with the principles of publication set out in Article 30, whereby publications, regardless of their format, shall be made objectively.
7. Confidential data shall be protected and the principles of data protection pursuant to Article 5 of the General Data Protection Regulation shall be preserved.

Statistics Austria is an independent and non-profit federal institution under public law. It is the principal provider of scientific services in the area of Federal Statistics in Austria. Statistics Austria is responsible for the vast majority of European and Federal Statistics produced within Austria (around 96%). Besides Statistics Austria, seven other Austrian bodies and the Austrian Central Bank are producers of European Statistics.

According to the Federal Statistics Law, other federal institutions may also act as organs of federal statistics. The Austrian Statistical System is highly centralised and has no regional offices.

As for advisory and supervisory bodies, Statistics Austria has one statistics-related advisory body – the Statistics Council, and one budget-related supervisory body – the Economic Council, as well as several technical sub-committees. Both councils are under obligation to hold meetings at least four times per year. Members of the councils may not hold positions in both councils simultaneously. The Director General - Statistics and the Director General - Finance are entitled to attend the Council meetings. The

councils may make their attendance obligatory. Both councils report to the Federal Chancellor annually, while the Statistics Council also reports to Parliament.

The Statistics Council has set up internal sub-committees on quality and on the work programme. The Quality Sub-committee, consisting of five members of the Statistics Council, meets several times per year to discuss general cross-sectional topics as well as product-specific issues.

The main task of the Economic Council is to supervise the management of Statistics Austria and to examine the annual statement of accounts and the status reports, including reports to the Federal Chancellor. The Economic Council may request the management, i.e. the two Directors General, to submit a report on operational issues and the vision for the future of Statistics Austria at any time. The Economic Council can audit any of Statistics Austria's books and records that are not subject to statistical secrecy. The duties of the Economic Council include approving the accounts presented by the Director General - Finance. The Economic Council informs the Federal Chancellor of any issue affecting Statistics Austria's asset position.

Statistics Austria operates 13 technical sub-committees established by the Director General - Statistics for the main statistical areas. The task of the technical sub-committees is to advise the federal ministries, the federal statistics bodies and Statistics Austria on technical matters related to Federal Statistics. The provinces appoint representatives to the technical sub-committees and nominate one member of the Statistics Council.

According to its **Mission Statement**, Statistics Austria strives to be a modern authority providing high-quality information for society, science, economy, politics and administration. Data information is provided in an easily accessible and comprehensible manner for further processing, following scientific principles and using various communication channels. Customer orientation, product quality, staff orientation, reducing respondent burden, data protection and efficiency constitute the core principles of statistical practices aligned with the ES CoP.

The Strategic Concept for the years 2021 to 2025 is currently in force. **Strategy 2025** presents the medium-term strategic considerations for Statistics Austria for the years 2021 to 2025. The goal of Strategy 2025 is to ensure that Statistics Austria continues to achieve and increase its benefits to society. Innovative action that includes the use of digitalisation is a fundamental principle of the work performed by Statistics Austria. In addition, close attention is paid to the objectives of increasing efficiency and quality, reducing the burden on respondents through the use of new data sources and innovative methods, and assuring the further development and satisfaction of employees.

Organisation

Statistics Austria is organised in four statistical directorates (population statistics, business statistics, spatial statistics and macro-economic statistics), one horizontal division for Information Technology and several central services and other units.

Appointment procedure for the head of the NSI

Statistics Austria is headed by two Directors General – the Director General - Statistics (DG Statistics) and the Director General - Finance (DG Finance). They are nominated through an open competition, as regulated by the Austrian Staffing Act that applies to all high-level positions. Nominations are based on public tenders and the term of both Directors General is fixed at a maximum of five years and can be renewed an unlimited number of times on the basis of a public tender. The dismissal procedures are regulated in Article 37 (3) of the Federal Statistics Act. The appointment of DG Statistics and DG Finance may be revoked by the Federal Chancellor on serious grounds at any time, notwithstanding any compensation claims that might be made on the grounds of existing contracts. The comments on

Article 37 of the Federal Statistics Act refer to Article 27 of the Angestelltengesetz. There is a list of six possible reasons for terminating an incumbency. These reasons do not compromise professional independence.

DG Statistics is responsible for the management of Statistics Austria with regard to all statistical and sovereign duties. DG Statistics has sole responsibility for all scientific and methodological matters and is not bound by any instructions in the performance of these tasks. This is stated in Article 38 of the Federal Statistics Act. DG Finance is responsible for the business management of Statistics Austria and for all other tasks that DG Statistics is not in charge of. DG Finance must act with the diligence of a prudent businessman/businesswoman, has sole responsibility for Statistics Austria's accounts and is discharged by the Economic Council of Statistics Austria and the Federal Chancellor of Austria. The cooperation between DG Statistics and DG Finance is laid down in a division of responsibilities which requires the approval of the Federal Chancellor. If no agreement is reached, the opinion of DG Finance is decisive.

Statistical Programmes

In accordance with the provisions of the Federal Statistics Act, the senior management of Statistics Austria shall submit an Annual Work Programme for the ensuing calendar year and an outlook for the ensuing four calendar years to the Statistics Council for comments and to the Economic Council for its decision.

The Annual Work Programme is compiled annually and follows a fixed procedure. The work process is coordinated by the Head of Quality Management, Methods and Classifications. All the directorates and affected organisational units put forward proposals over a year ahead to be discussed among the senior management of Statistics Austria. This results in a draft put forward to the Statistics Council's work programme sub-committee. The Annual Work Programme is then presented to the Statistics Council which gives its opinion before final approval by the Economic Council.

This detailed Annual Work Programme covers cross-sectional projects, projects relevant to Strategy 2025, main projects (covering the core production of statistics) and new projects for the given year. A feature of the Annual Work Programme is to provide, when appropriate, an outlook on these projects for the coming four years. The Annual Work Programme is followed up through a performance report reflecting the progress on each type of project.

Resources

In 2021, the annual budget of Statistics Austria amounted to 80,024 million Euro and the number of staff was 781, 39 percent of whom hold an academic degree (Masters or Ph.D.).

Coordination of the Austrian Statistical System

Statistics Austria's role to coordinate Other National Authorities developing, producing and disseminating official statistics (ONAs) is limited to cooperation and giving statistical advice. The Federal Statistics Act provides no legal mandate to approve the quality of the statistics produced by ONAs or to impose any corrective measures or sanctions in the event that ES CoP principles are disrespected. Other producers of European Statistics act independently and there is, for example, no mandate for Statistics Austria to influence the work programme or the choice of statistical methods applied by ONAs. There are, however, memoranda of understanding between Statistics Austria and the following ONAs:

- Energie-Control Austria (E-Control).
- Umweltbundesamt – Environment Agency Austria (UBA).

- Allgemeine Unfallversicherungsanstalt (AUVA) – the Austrian Workers' Compensation Board.

The memoranda of understanding include a commitment to the ES CoP, quality reporting according to Statistics Austria's standards and adherence to the fact that Statistics Austria acts as the single point of contact to the European Commission. However, as the rest of the ONAs do not have such memoranda of understanding, they can act according to their own standards. Even though there are regular meetings between Statistics Austria and the ONAs at expert level, a real coordination function is missing.

ONAs involved in the peer review process

Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology (BMK)

The BMK is responsible for some parts of waste statistics. In terms of quantity, the Ministry transmits, via EDAMIS, the highest number of datasets to Eurostat (53% of all datasets transmitted by Austrian ONAs) which are related to a broad variety of statistical products. It should be noted that since the last revision of the Austrian Federal Ministries Act, the tasks concerning waste statistics were transferred from the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Regions and Tourism (BMLRT) to the BMK.

Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Regions and Tourism (BMLRT)

The BMLRT is responsible for a large part of data on water. However, the Ministry does not transmit the data to Eurostat via EDAMIS but delivers it directly to the European Environment Agency, from where Eurostat extracts the figures relevant for European Statistics. Statistics Austria does not produce any information related to water statistics. Therefore, the data provided by BMLRT complete the statistical portfolio in the area of environmental statistics.

Umweltbundesamt – Environment Agency Austria (UBA)

UBA is responsible for certain parts of waste and water statistics and also provides statistics on greenhouse gas emissions as a relevant part of climate statistics. UBA collaborates closely with BMK and BMLRT and has a strong coordination role in this regard. The data which is used to develop European aggregates is transferred via several channels. A small part is delivered directly through EDAMIS to Eurostat, while other data is transferred to the European Environment Agency and a small part is sent via Statistics Austria.

Energie-Control Austria (E-Control)

E-control covers the whole range of electricity statistics, which include consumption, prices and the supply of electricity and gas. Statistics Austria uses the data to complete important parts of energy statistics and does not produce any data on electricity and gas on its own. E-Control is an important actor in completing the portfolio of energy statistics. All data produced by E-Control is sent to Eurostat via Statistics Austria.

Data access

According to Statistics Austria's quality guidelines, data collection and the choice of data sources are considered during the planning phase and are to be based on a cost/value analysis. The Federal Statistics Act also sets out a priority list which states that data that is already available at Statistics Austria is to be used first, followed by administrative data, and lastly by the acquisition of data via a statistical survey with direct data collection. The use of new data sources is envisaged within the framework of experimental statistics, which is also an action field of Statistics Austria's Strategy 2025.

Whenever a new data source is to be used, intensive testing is done with the aim of securing sustainable data access.

To a great extent, Statistics Austria makes use of online tools for its data collection surveys – eQuest for economic surveys and STATsurv for social surveys. The standardised data collection tool STATsurv allows for the collection of a broad variety of paradata which is used continuously to improve questionnaires as this data includes the length of interviews and other characteristics of respondent behaviour. For mandatory economic surveys, the response burden is measured by the Response Burden Barometer. The results of the response burden barometer and other paradata gathered from fieldwork are analysed on a regular basis. These results are used to improve questionnaires.

Statistics Austria's centralised data collection units are responsible for questionnaire testing, regular assessment of the data collection processes, the provision of relevant documents to respondents, training of staff and organising a help desk.

Relations with users/dissemination of statistical products and services

According to the Federal Statistics Act, official statistics are to be made available for the general public, be disseminated without delay and respect the confidentiality of data subjects. As a profoundly user-oriented institution, Statistics Austria offers a variety of modern services for different user groups, including researchers, policy makers, etc.

Statistics Austria disseminates a large amount of statistics on its website, which experienced users have learned to navigate to locate what they need amidst the wealth of information provided. Other dissemination channels are used, as well as adapted channels directed at targeted users such as the Austrian Economic Atlas, interactive maps, the open data website and Twitter.

Statistics Austria also has substantial dissemination of statistics via publications, access to which is governed by the Federal Statistics Act. Access to online publications and one of the sections of Statistics Austria's statistical database (STATcube) is free of charge, while Statistics Austria charges a cost-coverage fee for access to the other section of the STATcube comprising more detailed data.

A user satisfaction survey among key users and stakeholders has been conducted by Statistics Austria every two years up to now, the results of which are publicly available on Statistics Austria's website. In 2021 the user satisfaction survey was redesigned in order to reach all relevant user groups and indicators are used to feed five of the performance indicators already mentioned to assess progress regarding Statistics Austria's work with its Strategy 2025. The results of the survey, which is to be conducted annually after the relaunch, yield a rich source of feedback to Statistics Austria on the quality dimensions of timeliness, accuracy and comparability for the main topical statistical areas such as population, social statistics, trade, labour market, transport, agriculture, etc. In addition, users are invited to rate other areas such as the website, statistical releases and the open data portal.

4. PROGRESS/ADVANCEMENT IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS

Strategy 2025

Statistics Austria has developed a future-oriented framework to achieve important modernisation goals for the quality of official statistics. The current strategy covers 2021-2025 and lays down the key priorities for future work, responding to changing conditions regarding the demand for official statistics in a dynamic environment. Strategy 2025 sets out the medium-term goals for Statistics Austria, taking into account the existing European and national legal frameworks for official statistics, the main developments in the ESS and technological developments. A key goal of the strategy is the modernisation of statistical production through the use of innovative methods to harness digital data. In addition, the greatest attention is paid to the objectives of increasing efficiency and quality, relieving the burden on respondents, such as through the use of new data sources, and the further development and satisfaction of employees. Implementation of the strategy is monitored by a set of 24 key performance indicators (KPIs) and the actions are steered at senior management level and supported with dedicated resources.

Austrian Micro Data Centre

Access to confidential data is regulated by Article 31 of the Federal Statistics Act 2000. The legal conditions, arrangements and rules for granting access were amended in January 2022 and the “**Austrian Micro Data Centre**” operated by Statistics Austria is to be put into operation by July 2022 at the latest. According to Article 31 of the Federal Statistics Act 2000, in the version valid until the end of 2021, the use of non-anonymised confidential statistical data for scientific purposes was prohibited and Statistics Austria could only offer researchers anonymised data. If Statistics Austria grants access to non-confidential statistical data, it must implement data security measures in order to prevent the identification of confidential data. This new service is an important milestone, not only for Statistics Austria, but for Austria as a country. It aims to improve research activities using micro data in a safe environment.

STATsurv for social surveys

The standardised system for data collection through social surveys (STATsurv) has been implemented since the last peer review and is now in use, enabling better process efficiency in the coordination of social surveys.

Dissemination practices and communication

Statistics Austria implemented a special webpage containing statistical topics relating to the COVID-19 crisis and its possible impacts on the Austrian economy and society. Moreover, it initiated the “Austrian Recovery Barometer” and a quarterly press conference giving information on Austria’s recovery with regard to health, economy and the labour market.

Statistics Austria has further developed an Open Data platform to provide users with the possibility of using data in a machine-readable form according to open data principles.

By dedicating a webpage to experimental statistics, users are informed of innovative activities and feedback on experimental statistical products is encouraged.

Pre-release practices

During the last five years Statistics Austria has improved its pre-release practices through an equal treatment policy that grants no-one access to information by default. There is also full transparency on the website about those who are entitled to receive data – under embargo rules - before its release, and access is granted by request only and is duly justified.

Risk Management Function

An Internal Audit and Risk Management System has been developed and is now in place office-wide. Synergy effects were achieved by merging Risk Management with Internal Audit and increasing cooperation with Quality Management. For example, Quality Management participates in risk-assessment workshops and vice versa. Risk Management also participates in the Feedback Talks with the Statistical Council. In addition, common projects are chosen to be audited from both quality and risk perspectives. The head of the unit is regarded as the risk manager and reports directly to the Directors General.

Information Security Management System

An Information Security Management System has been put in place in Statistics Austria based on ISO 27001:2013 – Information Security Management and complying with the ESS IT security framework. The System comprises a set of Information Security Policy Documents as well as data protection procedures and rules. Implementation of controls in the system ensures adherence to the highest international standard of information security and increases stakeholders' trust in the statistical system.

5. COMPLIANCE WITH THE CODE OF PRACTICE AND FUTURE ORIENTATION

5.1 STRENGTHS OF THE NSI AND THE PARTICIPATING ONAs IN RELATION TO THEIR COMPLIANCE WITH THE CODE OF PRACTICE

An independent and trustworthy organisation

Both internally and externally, Statistics Austria is perceived as an independent and trustworthy organisation. Its staff are recognised for their competency, skills and cooperation with respondents and users.

There is a strong legal framework for the Austrian Statistical System (and for the bodies of the Federal Statistical System) which is very exhaustive regarding content. The framework is comprised of the Federal Act on Federal Statistics (Federal Statistics Act 2000, Bundesstatistikgesetz 2000), Federal Law Gazette I no. 163/1999, as amended, and it sets out general principles of objectivity, reliability, relevance, cost-efficiency and transparency. It also stipulates the application of further professional standards with respect to quality in statistics.

The Statistics Council and the Economic Council

The peer review team was impressed by the expertise, commitment and dedication of the members of the two Councils that serve the interests of Statistics Austria. The members are highly involved in many of Statistics Austria's processes, among others the so-called Feedback Talks through which the Statistics Council gains insight into the strengths of the organisation as well as areas for improvement. The two Councils work in a solution-oriented manner and are highly involved in acting as parts of the solution, for example in governance and funding issues. These two groups of resourceful experts are a great asset to Statistics Austria.

Strategy 2025

The approach taken towards the implementation of Strategy 2025 is an additional strength. The strong, dedicated governance of the initiative through the leadership of senior management supported by dedicated resources has enabled fast progress to be made in the implementation actions on all strategic pillars. The portfolio management approach used in Strategy 2025 has been supported by the adoption of key milestones and a set of 24 key performance indicators (KPIs) to monitor the implementation and interdependencies of the various actions. This has led to important progress in the area of production efficiency measures, development of innovative statistical methods and approaches to using new data sources, and better dissemination services for users.

The Quality Management, Methods and Classifications unit

The unit's tasks include the mathematical-statistical consulting and supervision of projects in all the directorates and departments of Statistics Austria, advising them on methodological issues and collaborating in research and development activities for official statistics purposes. This involves tasks such as the design, selection and estimation regarding sampling, imputation, seasonal adjustment, ensuring confidentiality of results and clearance regarding new data sources. Moreover, the unit acts as a central hub for all aspects related to the usage of R-software. Instances when other areas of Statistics Austria should turn to the unit for support are clearly set out in Statistics Austria's Quality Guidelines, adherence to which was clear. The head of the unit is represented on the senior management team and is consulted in nearly every cross-sectional project. The high level of trust that

the unit has built up in the organisation over the years is noteworthy, and is empowering other staff and enabling knowledge-sharing and cooperation within the organisation, as well as decision-making on the part of management. There is obviously an atmosphere of openness and transparency which enhances communication and motivates and brings people together. The Quality Management, Methods and Classifications Unit is clearly a strategic resource for Statistics Austria.

Quality commitment

Statistics Austria has a long-standing Quality Management System and a quality culture is visible in the organisation. To ensure the highest quality, Statistics Austria is managed according to the principles of Total Quality Management (TQM), seen as an ongoing process with the objective of continuous improvement. The Quality Management function is also led by the quality management, methods and classifications unit.

In accordance with the Federal Statistics Act (§ 24), Statistics Austria must use statistical methods and processes in compliance with internationally recognised scientific principles and standards, conduct ongoing analyses of the statistics with a view to quality improvements and ensure that statistics are as up-to-date as possible. It is worth noting as well that the Statistics Council has set up a quality sub-committee, a primary focus of which is the ongoing examination of potential quality improvements.

Even though the recent lack of resources has not allowed Statistics Austria to perform internal quality auditing as frequently as in previous years, reviews are systematically conducted and, amongst other things, the approach of the Feedback Talks has been improved, with the involvement of the Statistical Council through its quality sub-committee. For example, the development of an integrated information model (information cascade) has improved the communication between technical subcommittee feedback talks and the Statistics Council. This facilitates the inquiry of user needs in order to improve the relevance of statistical products.

Risk Management and Quality Management

A Risk Management function has been introduced, linked to Statistics Austria's Quality Management, which also deals with data protection issues in its processes and sub-processes. The Risk Management function is placed in a separate unit for Internal Audit and Risk Management. The head of the unit is seen as the Risk Manager and reports directly to the Directors General. The Risk Management function comprises tasks in several areas, namely: strategic and operational risks and their consequences at financial, quality and compliance levels; system-technical processing; IT-supported monitoring of compliance; analysis and optimisation of system and process flows; amongst others, providing information to the Directors General and assisting them with risk-based analyses.

An organisation highly committed to data protection

The Data Security Management System's architecture, its integration with Risk Management and link to Quality Management were acknowledged as an important strength by the peer review team. The architecture of the Information Security Management System put in place in Statistics Austria is based on the ISO 27001:2013 and is compliant with the ESS IT Security Framework. The System comprises a set of Information Security Policy Documents as well as data protection procedures and rules.

The following are the relevant aspects of the system: the information security awareness education of all staff; data classification, labelling and data handling; identification, access management and recertification of access rights run on a regular basis; the identification of physical security zones; the implementation of vulnerability scans and penetration tests on a regular basis; network segmentation and network security appliances; the implementation of secure data transfer (STATbox).

As such, strict rules are in place for staff on how to deal with data protection and confidentiality. The appointment of a data protection agent and an official information security officer supports the implementation of the GDPR. This is supported by division information security officers for specific domains.

The high level of expertise in the Quality Management, Methods and Classifications unit related to methods on maintaining confidentiality is worth mentioning, as are the intense research activities based on proactive monitoring and contact with the scientific community aiming to develop tools (R-packages) for confidentiality.

Cooperation and Partnerships

Cooperation with external stakeholders and partnerships are a current practice of Statistics Austria. There are two major cooperation partners: the Austrian Central Bank (die Österreichische Nationalbank) and the Austrian Economic Chamber. Additionally, there are many other organisations which cooperate closely with Statistics Austria, for example in providing data, participating in scientific research projects, etc. The cooperation with the Central Bank follows by and large the general model between NSIs and Central Banks. Both partners also have specific needs (“Vital Interests”) which make the cooperation deeper in certain aspects of production of official statistics in Austria than in many other European countries. The cooperation can be described as a partnership.

The cooperation between Statistics Austria and the Austrian Economic Chamber seems to take a unique approach, and both organisations work together, through cooperative and constructive efforts, to optimise the data collection processes, namely the measurement and management of the response burden and communication with respondents, aiming at higher response rates. The Austrian Economic Chamber also contributes to systematic quality assurance regarding the assignment of industrial activity codes to companies.

Relationship with Academic Researchers

The Austrian Micro Data Centre (AMDC) is a very important milestone, not only for Statistics Austria, but for Austria as a country to improve research activities using micro data. The peer review team learned that the AMDC is already well known and that there are high expectations, not only from the staff, but also from other ministries and in particular from the scientific community. The AMDC is also regulated in the Federal Statistics Act.

Relationship with Data Providers

Statistics Austria has a legal mandate for its data collection activities, including access to a considerable amount of administrative data from various sources. The main data providers expressed their appreciation of their relationship with Statistics Austria, which provides adequate technical support, good information and communication.

The main challenge for the future is to apply the automatic transfer of data to more processes (automatic data access/machine to machine), while maintaining quality standards. It is also important that the access to and integration of more administrative and new data sources will lead to a lower response burden.

New data sources and their providers have been introduced recently in the statistical production managed by Statistics Austria. This access to new data sources has been based on voluntary cooperation agreements and research programmes. There is cooperation on the use of satellite image data for various spatial statistics. Another example is the use of mobile phone data to improve tourism

statistics. There are no legal problems, such as confidentiality issues with those projects, but their implementation requires considerable methodological and technical support.

Innovative Practices

The peer review team identified several actions carried out by Statistics Austria which are innovative and could be an inspiration for other statistical organisations in Europe. These actions are a combination of ongoing activities and current reflections on a potential extended role of Statistics Austria in the context of the future national data ecosystem. The innovative practices worth noting include the following:

- Using new data sources for the development of experimental statistical products in cooperation with external stakeholders. Statistics Austria has developed advanced cooperation mechanisms for the use of mobile phone data for statistical analyses of demographic indicators with a major national mobile network operator. It has also developed a project for the exploration of earth observation data with a national geospatial data analysis service provider. These collaborations have resulted in fast progress on the use of non-traditional data sources for the production of statistical indicators, underpinned by joint investment in methodologies and quality assurance processes (ES CoP, Principles 7 and 8).
- Harnessing the power of open-source digital solutions to advance the reuse of standard tools for the implementation of generic methods in statistical production processes. This has built on a long-standing investment in technical and human capital capacity in the central methodological team of Statistics Austria on the use of open-source statistical languages, such as R, to develop software to implement statistical methods in statistical production processes. This activity has been complemented by learning and developing actions to create capacity in this area within Statistics Austria and active engagement in European and international research networks (ES CoP, Principle 10).
- Developing a vision for the strategic positioning of Statistics Austria in the changing national data ecosystem. In the context of the Strategy 2025 goals, reflection has started within Statistics Austria and its governance bodies on the challenges and opportunities stemming from the fast-changing data ecosystem in Austria. This is complemented by the opportunities stemming from the national implications of the renewed European legal framework based on the implementation of the EU Data Strategy by the European Commission and the proposed Data Governance Act and Data Act regulations. Building on these analyses, the concept of a potential future role of Statistics Austria as a data steward in the context of the forthcoming national data strategy has been formulated and can be further discussed with relevant stakeholders (ES CoP, Principle 1)

5.2 ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.2.1 Ensuring a coordination role for European Statistics

The ES CoP (Principle 1bis) and the Regulation on European Statistics (223/2009) lay down the principles for the coordination role of a National Statistical Institute while the ES CoP provides further details regarding the coordination function. No such a coordination role has been assigned to Statistics Austria as the National Statistical Institute in the Austrian Statistical System.

During the peer review visit involving both Statistics Austria and the selected Other National Authorities developing, producing and disseminating European statistics (ONA), the peer review team noted a very good spirit of cooperation between them, as well as a good awareness of quality issues.

The peer review team stressed that those authorities considered as ONAs need to be aware that they should comply with the ES CoP and that Statistics Austria within its coordination role should provide support to the ONAs in finding the best possible ways to do so. As examples, the peer review team referred to important issues such as the release and pre-release practices, when appropriate, and a clear separation between statistical and administrative functions and tasks.

Given the lack of an effective coordination role embodied by Statistics Austria, as laid out in ES CoP Principle 1bis, it is difficult for Statistics Austria to ensure the same level of compliance with the ES CoP among other producers of official statistics. Against this background, it is however the peer review team's firm belief that the present cooperation will be strengthened by an even closer relationship and mutual support between the organisations concerned, based on an effective coordination role.

As such, the coordination role of Statistics Austria should be stipulated in the Austrian Federal Statistics Act. Legislation coupled with well-defined and established procedures will allow the existing cooperation to develop into true coordination and to be strengthened by providing clarity in the different roles and better conditions for coordination.

To comply with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

R1. The relevant authorities should amend the Federal Statistical Act to assign the role of the national coordination body for the Austrian Statistical System to Statistics Austria. (Compliance-relevant: ES CoP, Indicator 1bis.1)

The peer review team noted a lack of clarity amongst the ONAs involved in the peer review as to whether they are data providers or data producers. Statistics Austria should therefore review the criteria for statistical producers to be considered as ONAs developing, producing and disseminating official statistics. Examples of criteria could be the assigned tasks and expertise of the producer, the importance of their contribution to European Statistics in the Austrian Statistical System and their commitment to adhere to the ES CoP. Furthermore, Statistics Austria should - in its coordination role - be prepared to support and ensure such adherence.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

R2. Statistics Austria should review those national statistical producers who are to be defined as Other National Authorities in order to clarify their status as such. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 1bis.1)

There are no Memoranda of Understanding between Statistics Austria and some of the ONAs. Building upon the existing cooperation, statistical consulting and very good relations, Statistics Austria should find the appropriate means to continue its good practices in establishing Memoranda of Understanding (or a similar type of working arrangement) with all ONAs. Such Memoranda of Understanding should include quality guidelines supporting the adherence of the ONAs to the ES CoP for the development, production and dissemination of European Statistics. This will reinforce Statistics Austria's coordination role and clarify the responsibilities of both Statistics Austria and the Other National Authorities within the Austrian Statistical System in relation to the production of European statistics. It will also be beneficial to the system by allowing a more systematic sharing of common approaches in innovation initiatives and statistical methods, standards and common guidelines.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

R3. As part of its coordination role, Statistics Austria should establish Memoranda of Understanding with all Other National Authorities, providing quality guidelines for the development, production,

and dissemination of European Statistics and aiming to support adherence to the ES CoP. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 1bis.1 and 1bis.2)

As the present role for Statistics Austria to coordinate ONAs is limited to cooperation and giving statistical advice, there is no legal mandate to approve the quality of the statistics produced by ONAs or monitor their compliance with standards and guidelines.

An enhancement of the relationship with ONAs should provide an opportunity for both parties – Statistics Austria and ONAs – to exchange technical expertise, for example with respect to statistical methodology, for the good of the Austrian Statistical System.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

R4. Statistics Austria should facilitate the use of its quality guidelines and standard tools for data processing for Other National Authorities by providing appropriate training and advice. Statistics Austria should also monitor compliance with standards and guidelines in the Austrian Statistical System regarding metadata reports and dissemination. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 1bis.2 and 4.2)

Administrative and other types of data from new sources play a prominent role in the Austrian Statistical System, for both Statistics Austria and Other National Authorities. As with other statistical processes, the production of statistics based on these types of sources needs an adequate quality framework to ensure that quality is met at all stages of the processes.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

R5. Statistics Austria should develop quality assurance guidelines for administrative and other types of data from new sources for use in the Austrian Statistical System. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 1bis.2, 2.2 and 4.2)

5.2.2 Creating the conditions for the sustainable production of statistics

The financial framework of Statistics Austria is an issue that has been discussed and voiced by all of Statistics Austria's bodies for several years now. The peer review team is concerned that the high standards of quality associated with Statistics Austria in its delivery of products and services may be in jeopardy, because quality standards require continuous maintenance and further development, which is not possible without the necessary financial resources.

A new financial framework is needed to avoid the constant erosion of resources and the risk of over-reliance on customer-financed services, while meeting the demand of a changing statistical environment. This new financial framework would need to support Statistics Austria's work in the ongoing production of statistics and its strategy to work with innovative solutions to meet user needs. It should also be sufficiently flexible to meet future changes in the scope of the statistical production portfolio.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

R6. The relevant authorities should establish a new sustainable financial framework to ensure that the resources assigned to Statistics Austria are adequate for the institution to carry out its tasks. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 3.1 and 3.4)

The assessment and anticipation of competency gaps in statistical and data science skills to address the statistical challenges of the future is of utmost importance in light of the emerging changes in the

statistical production processes and methods, in alignment with Statistics Austria's Strategy 2025. Statistics Austria should develop a roadmap that covers the development actions required to upskill its current staff. Further development of the partnership with scientific stakeholders would also enhance knowledge transfer and exchange amongst partners.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

R7. Statistics Austria should develop and implement a roadmap to address the need to develop competencies required in the medium term to achieve its strategic goals. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 7.6, 7.5 and 7.7)

While some of Statistics Austria's processes are standardised, the application of a more systematic approach would be beneficial in terms of cost-effectiveness and output quality. A full mapping of the statistical production processes based on the Generic Statistics Business Process Model (GSBPM), could help support further standardisation and automation of statistical production and to ensure a holistic and efficient approach. Additional investments are also required when developing and operating generic methodologies at process level for key horizontal statistical activities and implementation of the supporting technical tools.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

R8. Statistics Austria should develop its statistical production system based on further standardisation of domain-specific processes and the reuse of generic digital solutions for the implementation of statistical production activities. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 8.3)

5.2.3 Enhancing the quality of statistics with regard to revisions, assessments and dissemination

A new, modernised website will be launched by Statistics Austria during 2022 particularly targeting new users. Improvements will be made regarding the presentation of key statistics, visualisation and user accessibility of Statistics Austria's services and tools.

Statistics Austria's users are generally very satisfied according to the latest user satisfaction survey performed in late 2021. Users expressed particularly high satisfaction when asked about the service they received from Statistics Austria's experts when making enquiries. This aspect was echoed by several of the users during the peer review visit.

Statistics Austria has a Revision Policy in place with requirements to provide clarity to users in cases where published statistics are revised for various reasons. Revisions are categorised into current revisions, which are planned, and occasional revisions, which are made for the following reasons: changes in data sources, changes in methodology and the correction of errors. Evidently, the first two reasons – changes in data sources and/or methodology – could in fact be planned. Furthermore, the ES CoP advocates that advance notice should be given on major revisions or changes in methodologies. It would therefore be clearer for users and producers alike if Statistics Austria could align their revisions policy to the ESS categorisation of revisions, namely: planned revisions; benchmark revisions; unplanned revisions; revisions due to conceptual and/or methodological changes.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

R9. Statistics Austria should update its revision policy to align it with the European Statistical System framework. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 6.6, 8.5 and 12.3)

Statistics Austria releases preliminary results of acceptable aggregate accuracy and reliability when this is considered useful for users. However, users need more guidance and support in conjunction with such releases regarding which sets of statistics can and should be compared to each other between different time periods. For example, whether the preliminary statistics for time period t should be compared to the *preliminary* statistics for time period $t-1$, or rather with the *final* statistics for time period $t-1$.

In addition, information on previous revisions is very useful to facilitate comparisons between preliminary and final statistics. Analysing revisions also provides input to producers to make improvements in preliminary statistics. The peer review team did not see sufficient evidence that revisions analyses were carried out as regular practice, even though Statistics Austria's Revision Policy advocates this. It would also be helpful if methodological support could be given to those statistical producers that publish preliminary and final statistics and need to make revisions analyses.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

R10. Statistics Austria should design and implement a process for analysing planned revisions and review how preliminary statistics are presented in order to provide more clarity and understanding to users and producers alike. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 12.3, 13.5 and 8.5)

The Statistical Council regularly carries out Feedback Talks to evaluate the implementation of Statistics Austria's standard documentation of quality for different statistical outputs. Indication was given that issues regarding ES CoP Principle 12, Accuracy and Reliability, do not receive the same attention and in-depth assessments within these quite thorough reviews as the other user-oriented ES CoP Principles. Accuracy and Reliability is a key aspect of quality in statistics, and it is therefore vital that statistical agencies have an adequate understanding of the critical issues affecting the accuracy of statistical outputs and can subsequently explain these sufficiently to users. The ES CoP advocates the regular assessment of accuracy and the expert team encourages Statistics Austria to focus more on the assessment and communication of issues of accuracy with users.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

R11. Statistics Austria should devise a systematic scheme to improve the review of critical accuracy issues, particularly for key statistical outputs. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 4.4, 12.1 and 12.2)

Despite the provision of new visualisation possibilities on the Statistics Austria website, suitable technology is not in place for users to export graphical presentations for further portrayal to the public. Media users in particular need to be able to further relay such useful presentations to a broader audience. This is a limitation that should be resolved to promote equal and wider access to impartial and objective statistics for the public.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

R12. Statistics Austria should enable users to reuse data more easily, including solutions to export statistical presentations that are visualised in different ways. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 15.2 and 11.1)

5.2.4 Strengthening investment to deliver innovation

Statistics Austria has numerous ongoing experimental projects. These include the use of mobile phone data and earth observation data in collaboration with key data providers and research organisations. The main aim of these collaborations is the production of experimental statistics. While the

implementation of these projects has led to successful preliminary results, a more sustained approach to harness new data sources could be helpful. In particular, a more structured portfolio approach to develop innovation activities with key targets could help to accelerate the transition from experimental studies to the production of mature statistical products and indicators based on the use of new data sources.

Building on the Strategy 2025 goals, Statistics Austria should also develop a dedicated strategy with broad user consultation and collaboration with key partners to enable the sustainable use of new data sources for statistical production.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

R13. Statistics Austria should develop a strategic approach to explore the potential of new data sources for statistical production. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 9.5)

Given the recent progress in cooperation with the scientific community, such as the planned establishment and operation of the Austrian Micro Data Centre (AMDC), Statistics Austria should focus its efforts on continuously fostering the collaboration with academic partners to achieve more rapid results in terms of maturity of experimental statistics. There is strong interest in the research community to further the collaboration with Statistics Austria in a number of fields, ranging from the development of new statistical indicators to methodological research.

A stronger partnership with research organisations could entail extending the portfolio of datasets released for scientific analysis in compliance with data protection rules to support further research. It could also involve developing integrated datasets (such as Employer-Employee data), building privacy-preserving data integration methods and providing additional services to support researchers' use of statistical data.

Furthermore, there is room for structural collaboration based on common scientific areas of interest between Statistics Austria staff and academic researchers, which could take new forms and build on existing experiences of joint projects which could be extended in new modalities, such as the establishment of Centres of Competence.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

R14. Statistics Austria should strengthen the cooperation with the research community to provide better services for researchers. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 7.7)

5.2.5 Streamlining the governance of Statistics Austria's bodies and preparing for future challenges

The issue concerning the division of statistical and financial responsibilities at senior management level, addressed in Recommendation 7 of the 2014 peer review, is still relevant. The situation has not changed since then and, after weighing the advantages and disadvantages of such a governance model, the present peer review team considers it to be sub-optimal. A similar division also exists at the level of the Councils, which combine advisory and supervisory roles towards Statistics Austria. An analysis of the situation is therefore, needed with the aim of optimising the allocation of responsibilities.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

R15. The relevant authorities should consider the extent to which the existing division of statistical and financial responsibilities, both at Statistics Austria’s senior management level and at Council level, serves the core tasks of Statistics Austria. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 1.2)

Against the background of a fast-changing national data ecosystem accompanied by an emerging new European legal framework to support the reuse of data, Statistics Austria, could play a more critical role in future data management and data quality functions. This role could be based on the preliminary internal reflections about a possible data stewardship function for Statistics Austria in the context of a forthcoming national data strategy. Pro-active measures to anticipate future challenges should be discussed with key stakeholders in order to secure the necessary investments to build the new structures.

Such initiatives and investments in capabilities could prepare Statistics Austria for a pro-active role in the future data ecosystem, to ensure data interoperability and harmonisation.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

R16. Within its Strategy 2025, Statistics Austria should consider harnessing the new opportunities offered by the changing European and national data policy frameworks, and further develop its vision for its role in the emerging national data ecosystem. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 2.4)

5.3 VIEWS OF THE NSI, AS THE NATIONAL COORDINATOR OF THE NSS AND THE PEER REVIEW, ON THOSE RECOMMENDATIONS WHERE THEY DIVERGE FROM PEER REVIEW EXPERTS' ASSESSMENT

Statistics Austria appreciates the work of the peer review team and has no diverging views on any of the recommendations.

ANNEX A – AGENDA OF THE VISIT

Timing	Topic	Participants
Day 1 – 4th April 2022		
09:30 – 09:45	Preparatory Meeting between the peer review team and the National Coordination desk	<p>The peer review expert team: All</p> <p>The NSI: Austrian National Peer Review Coordinator & Head of Quality Management, Methods and Classifications) National Coordination desk</p>
09:45 – 10:00	Welcome and introduction to the programme, adopting the agenda and organisational matters	<p>The peer review expert team: All</p> <p>The NSI: Director General Finance Director General Statistics Deputy Director General Statistics & Head of Population Statistics Directorate Head of Business Statistics Directorate Statistics Directorate Head of Spatial Statistics Directorate Statistics Directorate Head of Macro-economic Statistics Directorate Head of IT Division Head of Internal Audit and Risk Management Head of International Relations Head of Media Information Head of Controlling Head of Finance and Accounting Head of Legal Affairs Head of Dissemination Head of Staff Administration National Peer Review Coordinator & Head of Quality Management, Methods and Classifications</p>
10:00 – 11:00	General description of the NSS	<p>The peer review expert team: All</p> <p>The NSI: Director General Finance Director General Statistics Deputy Director General Statistics & Head of Population Statistics Directorate Head of Business Statistics Directorate</p>

		<p>Head of Spatial Statistics Directorate Head of Macro-economic Statistics Directorate Head of IT Division Head of Internal Audit and Risk Management Head of International Relations Head of Media Information Head of Controlling Head of Finance and Accounting Head of Legal Affairs Head of Dissemination Head of Staff Administration National Peer Review Coordinator & Head of Quality Management, Methods and Classifications</p>
11:00 – 11:15	Coffee break	
11:15 – 12:15	Coordination and cooperation	<p>The peer review expert team: All</p> <p>The NSI: Head of Directorate Spatial Statistics Head of International Relations National Peer Review Coordinator & Head of Quality Management, Methods and Classifications</p>
12:15-13:15	Lunch	
13:15– 15:15	Professional independence and the Law on Official Statistics and related legislation	<p>The peer review expert team: All</p> <p>The NSI: Director General Finance Director General Statistics Head of Legal Affairs National Peer Review Coordinator & Head of Quality Management, Methods and Classifications</p>
15:15 – 15:30	Coffee break	
15:30 – 16:00	Strategy 2025	<p>The peer review expert team: All</p> <p>The NSI: Director General Finance Director General Statistics Deputy Director General Statistics & Head of Population Statistics Directorate Head of Business Statistics Directorate Head of Spatial Statistics Directorate Head of Macro-economic Statistics Directorate</p>

		Head of IT Division Head of Internal Audit and Risk Management Head of International Relations Head of Media Information Head of Controlling Head of Finance and Accounting Head of Legal Affairs Head of Dissemination Head of Staff Administration National Peer Review Coordinator & Head of Quality Management, Methods and Classifications
16:00 – 17:15	Programming, planning and resources	The peer review expert team: All. The NSI: Head of Business Statistic Directorate Head of IT Division Head of Controlling Head of Staff Administration Head of Finance and Accounting Head of Internal Audit and Risk Management National Peer Review Coordinator & Head of Quality Management, Methods and Classifications
17:15 – 18:00	Peer review expert team discussion	

Timing	Topic	Participants
Day 2 – 5th April 2022		
09:00 – 10:30	Quality Management System (organisational structure, tools, monitoring)	The peer review expert team: All The NSI: Head of Directorate Macro-economic Statistics Head of Internal Audit and Risk Management Head of Dissemination National Peer Review Coordinator & Head of Quality Management, Methods and Classifications
10:30 – 10:45	Coffee break	
10:45 – 12:00	Dissemination and confidentiality	The peer review expert team: All

		<p>The NSI: Deputy Director General Statistics & Head of Population Statistics Directorate Head of Legal Affairs Head of Dissemination Deputy Head of IT Division National Peer Review Coordinator & Head of Quality Management, Methods and Classifications</p>
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch	
13:00 – 14:45	Methodology, data collection, data processing and administrative data	<p>The peer review expert team: All</p> <p>The NSI: Deputy Director General Statistics & Head of Population Statistics Directorate Head of Methods National Peer Review Coordinator & Head of Quality Management, Methods and Classifications</p>
14:45 – 15:45	Progress and plans for the future	<p>The peer review expert team: All</p> <p>The NSI: Director General Finance Director General Statistics Deputy Director General Statistics & Head of Population Statistics Directorate Head of Business Statistics Directorate Head of Spatial Statistics Directorate Head of Macro-economic Statistics Directorate Head of IT Division Head of Internal Audit and Risk Management Head of International Relations Head of Media Information Head of Controlling Head of Finance and Accounting Head of Legal Affairs Head of Dissemination Head of Staff Administration National Peer Review Coordinator & Head of Quality Management, Methods and Classifications</p>
15:45 – 16:00	Coffee break	
16:00 – 17:00	Meeting with junior staff only	The peer review expert team:

		<p>All</p> <p>The NSI: Statistics on Motor Vehicles and Road Safety: Agriculture And Forestry Quarterly National Accounts Balance of Payments Business Register Short-Term Statistics Statistics on Dwellings Labour Force Survey</p>
17:00 – 18:00	Peer review expert team discussion	

Timing	Topic	Participants
Day 3 – 6th April 2022		
09:00 – 10:45	Meeting with other national authorities (ONAs):	<p>The peer review expert team: All</p> <p>The NSI: Head of Spatial Statistics Directorate Head of Statistics on Energy and Environment National Peer Review Coordinator & Head of Quality Management, Methods and Classifications</p> <p>Austrian Environment Agency (UBA): Head of Quality Management Expert on Circular Economy Head of Water Statistics</p> <p>Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Regions and Tourism (BMLRT): Expert on Water Statistics</p> <p>Federal Ministry of Climate Action, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology (BMK): Expert on Waste Statistics</p>
10:45 – 11:00	Coffee break	
11:00 – 12:15	Meeting with other national authorities (ONAs):	<p>The peer review expert team: All</p> <p>The NSI: Head of Spatial Statistics Directorate Head of Statistics on Energy and Environment</p>

		<p>National Peer Review Coordinator & Head of Quality Management, Methods and Classifications</p> <p>E-Control: Head of Macro-economic Department Expert on Statistics on electricity and gas</p>
12:15 – 14:00	Lunch	
14:00 – 14:45	General closing session with all the Other National Authorities	<p>The peer review expert team: All</p> <p>The NSI: Head of Spatial Statistics Directorate Head of Statistics on Energy and Environment National Peer Review Coordinator & Head of Quality Management, Methods and Classifications</p> <p>Austrian Environment Agency (UBA): Head of Quality Management Expert on Circular Economy</p> <p>Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Regions and Tourism (BMLRT): Expert on Water Statistics</p> <p>Federal Ministry of Climate Action, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology (BMK): Expert on Waste Statistics</p> <p>E-Control: Head of Macro-economic department</p>
14:45 – 16:15	Meeting with the Statistics Council	<p>Peer review expert team: All</p> <p>The NSI: Director General Finance Director General Statistics National Peer Review Coordinator & Head of Quality Management, Methods and Classifications</p> <p>Statistics Council: Chair of Statistics Council Deputy Chair of Statistics Council Chair of the Statistics Council's Quality Subcommittee</p>

		Chair of the Statistics Council's Work Programme Committee
16:15 – 17:45	Meeting with the Economic Council	<p>Peer review expert team: All</p> <p>The NSI: Director General Finance Director General Statistics National Peer Review Coordinator & Head of Quality Management, Methods and Classifications)</p> <p>Economic Council: Chair of Economic Council Member of Economic Council</p>
17:45 – 18:45	Peer review expert team discussion	

Timing	Topic	Participants
Day 4 – 7th April 2022		
09:00 – 10:30	Meeting with main data providers	<p>The peer review expert team: All</p> <p>The NSI: National Peer Review Coordinator & Head of Quality Management, Methods and Classifications</p> <p>Agrarmarkt Austria (AMA): Head of Crisis- and Nutritional prevention</p> <p>Federal Ministry of Finance: Head of IT for Tax Administration Expert on IT of Tax administration</p> <p>Austrian Economic Chamber: Head of Methods and Labour Statistics</p> <p>Austrian Labour Market Service (AMS): Expert Statistics of Labour Market service</p>
10:30 – 10:45	Coffee break	
10:45-11:45	Meeting with providers of new data sources	The peer review expert team: All

		<p>The NSI: Deputy Head of Spatial Statistics Directorate Expert on Tourism Statistics Head of Environmental and Energy Statistics National Peer Review Coordinator & Head of Quality Management, Methods and Classifications</p> <p>Earth Observation Data Centre For Water Resources Monitoring (EODC): Central Executive Officer</p> <p>A1 Telekom Austria: Representative of Sales</p>
11:45-12:45	Meeting with selected cooperation partners	<p>The peer review expert team: All</p> <p>The NSI: Head of Business Statistics Directorate Head of Macroeconomic Statistics Directorate National Peer Review Coordinator & Head of Quality Management, Methods and Classifications</p> <p>Austrian Economic Chamber: Head of Statistics Department</p> <p>Austrian Central Bank: Head of Supervisory Statistics, Models and Credit Quality Assessment Division.</p>
12.45-13.45	Lunch	
13.45-15:00	Meeting with main users – Ministries and other public/private institutions (including Central Bank as a user)	<p>The peer review expert team: All</p> <p>The NSI: National Peer Review Coordinator & Head of Quality Management, Methods and Classifications</p> <p>Austrian Central Bank: Statistical expert</p> <p>Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Regions and Tourism (BMLRT): Head of Department</p> <p>Federal Ministry of Finance: Expert on tax statistics</p>

		<p>Federal Ministry on Labour: Expert on Labour Market Statistics</p> <p>Federal Ministry of Social Affairs; Healthcare and Consumer Protection: Expert on Social Statistics</p> <p>Austrian Economic Chamber: Head of Statistics and Business Intelligence</p>
15:00-15:45	Meeting with main users – Media	<p>The peer review expert team: All</p> <p>The NSI: Head of Media Information National Peer Review Coordinator & Head of Quality Management, Methods and Classifications</p> <p>Salzburger Nachrichten: Journalist</p> <p>Der Standard: Data Journalist</p> <p>Austrian Press Association: Journalist</p>
15:45-16:00	Coffee break	
16:00-17:00	Meeting with scientific users	<p>The peer review expert team: All</p> <p>The NSI: National Peer Review Coordinator & Head of Quality Management, Methods and Classifications</p> <p>Institute for Advanced Studies (IHS): Deputy Head and Senior Researcher</p> <p>Austrian Institute of Economic Research (WIFO): Senior Researcher</p> <p>Austrian Institute of Technology (AIT): Senior Researcher</p>
17:15-18:15	Peer review expert team discussion	

Timing	Topic	Participants
Day 5 – 8th April 2022		
09:00-10:30	Peer review expert team discussion	
10:30-10:45	Coffee break	
10:45-13:15	Peer review expert team discussion	
13:15-14:15	Lunch (plus PR team meeting)	
14:15-16:15	Meeting with the senior management of the NSI: conclusions and recommendations	<p>The peer review expert team: All</p> <p>The NSI: Director General Finance Director General Statistics Deputy Director General Statistics & Head of Population Statistics Directorate Head of Directorate Business Statistics Head of Spatial Statistics Directorate Head of Macro-economic Statistics Directorate Head of IT Division Head of Internal Audit and Risk Management Head of International Relations Head of Media Information Head of Controlling Head of Finance and Accounting Head of Legal Affairs Head of Dissemination Head of Staff Administration National Peer Review Coordinator & Head of Quality Management, Methods and Classifications</p>

ANNEX B – LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Statistics Austria:

Director General Finance
Director General Statistics
Deputy Director General Statistics & Head of Population Statistics Directorate
Head of Business Statistics Directorate
Head of Directorate Spatial Statistics
Deputy Head of Directorate Spatial Statistics
Head of Macro-economic Statistics Directorate
Head of IT Division
Deputy Head of IT Division
Head of Internal Audit and Risk Management
Head of International Relations
Head of Media Information
Head of Controlling
Head of Finance and Accounting
Head of Legal Affairs
Head of Dissemination
Head of Staff Administration
National Peer Review Coordinator & Head of Quality Management, Methods and Classifications
Head of Methods Unit
Head of Environmental and Energy Statistics

Statistics Council:

Chair of Statistics Council
Deputy Chair of Statistics Council
Chair of Statistics Council's Quality Subcommittee
Chair of Statistics Council's Work Programme Subcommittee

Economic Council:

Head of Economic Council
Member of Economic Council

Austrian Environment Agency (UBA):

Head of Quality Management
Expert on Circular Economy
Head of Water Statistics

E-Control:

Head of Macro-economic Department
Expert on Statistics on electricity and gas

Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Regions and Tourism (BMLRT):

Head of Department
Expert on Water Statistics

Federal Ministry of Climate Action, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology (BMK):

Expert on Waste Statistics

Federal Ministry of Finance:

Head of IT for Tax Administration
Expert on IT for Tax administration
Expert on tax statistics

Federal Ministry on Labour:

Expert on Labour Market Statistics

Ministry of Social Affairs; Healthcare and Consumer Protection:

Expert on Social Statistics

Austrian Central Bank:

Head of Supervisory Statistics, Models and Credit Quality Assessment Division.
Statistical Expert

Austrian Economic Chamber:

Head of Statistics Department
Head of Statistics and Business Intelligence
Head of Methods and Labour Statistics

Agrarmarkt Austria (AMA):

Head of Crisis- and Nutritional prevention

Austrian Labour Market Service (AMS):

Expert on Statistics of Labour Market service

Earth Observation Data Centre For Water Resources Monitoring (EODC):

Central Executive Officer

A1 Telekom Austria;

Representative of Sales

Salzburger Nachrichten:

Journalist

Der Standard:

Data Journalist

Austrian Press Association:

Journalist

Institute for Advanced Studies (IHS):

Deputy Head and Senior Researcher

Austrian Institute of Economic Research (WIFO):

Senior Researcher

Austrian Institute of Technology (AIT):

Senior Researcher