

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

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

Legal aspects and strengthening the role of Statistics Austria

Recommendation 1

Article 6 (3) of the Statistics Law should be amended clarifying that Statistics Austria is the decision-making institution as to whether existing administrative databases can be used for European statistics or whether a survey must be carried out. (European statistics Code of Practice, indicators 1.4, 6.2, 8.1 and 9.4.)

Recommendation 2

Article 6 (2) of the Statistics Law should be amended clarifying that Statistics Austria is the decision-making institution as to whether a survey is voluntary or compulsory. (European statistics Code of Practice, indicators 1.4 and 2.3.)

Recommendation 3

The Statistics Law should be amended to require an electronic response for all business statistics. (European statistics Code of Practice, indicators 1.4 and 2.3.)

Recommendation 4

The Statistics Law should be amended with regard to the permanent involvement of Statistics Austria at an early stage in the legislative process when administrative data sources of official statistics are affected. (European statistics Code of Practice, indicators 2.2, 7.7, 8.1, 8.7, 8.8, 8.9 and 10.3.)

Current situation

Data collection at Statistics Austria is based on two pillars. Besides direct data collection by surveys the Austrian National Statistical System relies solidly on the use of administrative data and is obliged whenever possible to use these sources in preference to direct surveys (Statistics Law Article 6). Currently Statistics Austria's freedom on deciding about conducting a survey is limited. Article 6 (2) of the Austrian Statistics Law stipulates that while conducting a survey the data collection should be voluntary whenever possible and article 6 (3) states that a survey could only be conducted in the case that data are not available from administrative databases, registers or other databases. On the other hand Statistics Austria efforts based on the strategic goal to move as much as possible to electronic data collections modes are not legally supported to compel response in electronic form for all business statistics. As already mentioned administrative data play a significant role when collecting data for the purpose of producing European Statistics in Austria. Currently it is not anchored in law that Statistics Austria has to be involved in a relevant legislation process at an early stage, which would be beneficial in order to receive administrative data fit for statistical purposes. Moreover, the Statistics Law does not grant Statistics Austria access for evaluation purposes to administrative data that could be used for official statistics when access is not explicitly covered by legislation.

Improvement action 1-4 - Informing relevant authorities about recommendations of amending the statistical law

Statistics Austria will send a letter to the relevant authorities, indicating that the final peer review report on Statistics Austria recommends an amendment of the statistical law and reconsiderations regarding internal governance and coordination of the national statistical system. In the letter Statistics Austria will point out the important role of the principles of the Code of Practice and will propose to launch a dialogue striving for an improvement of the legislation in line with the recommendations of the peer's.

Timeline:

Sending of letter: Second half of 2015

Start of dialogue: Beginning of 2016

Recommendation 5

The Statistics Law should be amended granting Statistics Austria access for evaluation purposes to administrative data that could be used for official statistics when access is not explicitly covered by legislation. (European statistics Code of Practice, indicators 2.2, 7.7, 8.1, 8.7, 8.8, 8.9 and 10.3.)

Recommendation 6

Austrian authorities responsible for legislation regarding use of administrative databases should codify in the respective laws permission for Statistics Austria to use these databases for European statistics. (European statistics Code of Practice, indicators 2.2, 7.7, 8.1, 8.7, 8.8, 8.9 and 10.3.)

Current situation

Statistics Austria currently needs a national law or a regulation to access a certain administrative data source. The obligation of data owners to inform Statistics Austria about conceptual and methodological changes regarding their databases is based on gentlemen agreements and can be considered as narrowed in legal terms.

Improvement action 5/6 - Informing relevant authorities about recommendations of amending the statistical law

Statistics Austria will send a letter to the relevant authorities, indicating that the final peer review report on Statistics Austria recommends an amendment of the statistical law and reconsiderations regarding internal governance and coordination of the national statistical system. In the letter Statistics Austria will point out the important role of the principles of the Code of Practice and will propose to launch a dialogue striving for an improvement of the legislation in line with the recommendations of the peer's.

Timeline:

Sending of letter: Second half of 2015

Start of dialogue: Beginning of 2016

Recommendation 7

Responsible Austrian authorities should reconsider whether the existing dissociation of statistical and financial responsibilities at top management level in Statistics Austria is advantageous for the institution's core tasks. (European statistics Code of Practice, indicator 1.4.)

Current situation

Statistics Austria has two Directors General (DG) – the DG Statistics responsible for matters of statistics and the DG Finance responsible for other Statistics Austria matters (Statistics Law Article 37 (1)). The Statistics Law stipulates in Articles 52 (5) point 11 and 53 (4) point 2 that the DG Finance has the sole responsibility concerning the accounts of Statistics Austria. In case the two Directors are not able to find an agreement on some issue the DG Finance has a casting vote and the DG Statistics may appeal to the Economic Council.

Improvement action 7 - Informing relevant authorities about recommendations of amending the statistical law

Statistics Austria will send a letter to the relevant authorities, indicating that the final peer review report on Statistics Austria recommends an amendment of the statistical law and reconsiderations regarding internal governance and coordination of the national statistical system. In the letter Statistics Austria will point out the important role of the principles of the Code of Practice and will propose to launch a dialogue striving for an improvement of the legislation in line with the recommendation of the peer's.

Timeline:

Sending of letter: Second half of 2015

Start of dialogue: Beginning of 2016

Recommendation 8

Responsible Austrian authorities should consider strengthening the role of Statistics Austria as the coordinating body for European statistics. This includes securing a budget line for these activities. (Coordination)

Current situation

The Austrian Statistics Law uses the term 'coordination' only in Article 47 (2b) as one of the duties of the Statistics Council. The Statistics Council is entitled to give recommendations with regard to the coordination on matters concerning statistics, to the Federal Government and the European Union. Several other articles (Articles 18 and 23) clearly indicate the responsibility of Statistics Austria for the NSS, the production process as a whole and especially regarding the European Union. Regrettably, these articles do not elaborate on duties or rights of the national coordinating institution in official statistics.

Improvement action 8 - Informing relevant authorities about recommendations of amending the statistical law

Statistics Austria will send a letter to the relevant authorities, indicating that the final peer review report on Statistics Austria recommends an amendment of the statistical law and reconsiderations regarding internal governance and coordination of the national statistical system. In the letter Statistics Austria will point out the important role of the principles of the Code of Practice and will propose to launch a dialogue striving for an improvement of the legislation in line with the recommendation of the peer's.

Timeline:

Sending of letter: Second half of 2015

Start of dialogue: Beginning of 2016

Recommendation 9

Statistics Austria should facilitate written agreements with Other National Authorities on the production of European statistics with the support of the Statistics Council. Agreements with Other National Authorities should address, as much as possible, the production of quality reports, as well as statements about deviations from the European statistics Code of Practice. (Coordination)

Current Situation

Statistics Austria has already developed written agreements containing a commitment to the Code of Practice as well as requiring quality reports. Up to now two ONAs have signed such agreements with Statistics Austria.

Improvement Action 9 - Completing the set of written agreements with ONAs

Statistics Austria will continue to invite all remaining ONAs relevant for the production of European Statistics to sign the agreement. Statistics Austria will assist ONAs in producing regular quality reports and provide feedback on potential non-compliances with the Code of Practice.

Timeline:

End of 2016

Recommendation 10

Statistics Austria should consider facilitating the establishment of a research committee to initiate a formal consultation process with researchers and to enhance cooperation with the scientific community. (European statistics Code of Practice, indicators 4.4, 5.6 and 7.7.)

Current Situation

Statistics Austria already collaborates with the scientific community. This is done via cooperation agreements with some universities or by collaboration through specific projects. As well the Austrian Statistical Society serves as a platform for knowledge exchange.

Improvement Action 10 - Investigation on enhancement of cooperation with research community

Statistics Austria will start an initiative to enhance the cooperation with the research community. After seeking support by the Statistics Council Statistics Austria will contact relevant persons within academics aiming at the establishment of a possible research committee.

Timeline:

Discussion with the Statistics Council on triggering a contact process to the research community about a possible establishment of a research committee: Autumn 2015

Recommendation 11

The Statistics Law should be amended to grant access to business microdata for scientific purposes in a safe, central environment (European statistics Code of Practice, indicators 4.4, 5.6 and 7.7.)

Recommendation 12

Responsible Austrian authorities should consider funding a safe, central environment in which microdata are accessible. (European statistics Code of Practice, indicators 4.4, 5.6 and 7.7.)

Current Situation

Statistics Austria runs a safe centre for accessing microdata. The costs for running this facility are mainly covered by a lump sum. In the safe centre environment access to household microdata is possible, while business microdata are only accessible by remote calculation. These calculations are executed in Statistics Austria without direct contact of a researcher to an anonymised micro-data set. Currently, the scientific community emphasizes that business microdata from other countries (e.g. Sweden or the USA) are easier to access for Austrian researchers, than their homeland data.

Improvement action 11/12- Informing relevant authorities about recommendations of amending the statistical law

Statistics Austria will send a letter to the relevant authorities, indicating that the final peer review report on Statistics Austria recommends an amendment of the statistical law and reconsiderations regarding internal governance and coordination of the national statistical system. In the letter Statistics Austria will point out the important role of the principles of the Code of Practice and will propose to launch a dialogue striving for an improvement of the legislation in line with the recommendations of the peer's.

Timeline:

Sending of letter: Second half of 2015

Start of dialogue: Beginning of 2016

Planning future impacts on Statistics

Recommendation 13

Institutions nominating members to the Statistics Council should balance academic, scientific and other competencies in the Council. The ministry responsible for the Statistics Council should consider securing an adequate budget for the work of the Statistics Council. (European statistics Code of Practice, indicators 1.4, 1.5, 2.2, 3.3, 3.4, 8.7 and 10.3.)

Current situation

Members of the Statistics Council are appointed by several institutions without any influence by Statistics Austria. Currently the scientific competence compared to other ones is underrepresented. The Statistics Council will be reconstituted by the end of the 1st quarter of 2015.

Improvement action 13 - Balancing competences at the Statistics Council

Statistics Austria will inform the authority coordinating the nomination procedure to the Statistics Council about the recommendation. By doing so the need to strengthen the academic membership in the Statistics Council will be stressed.

Timeline:

End of 2015

Recommendation 14

Statistics Austria should include a long-term vision up to 2025 in its next strategic programme. (European statistics Code of Practice, Principles 3 and 11.)

Diverging view:

According to the Federal Statistics Act Statistics Austria is held to develop a strategic concept for period of five years. In 2015 the concept for 2016 to 2020 will be elaborated. The concept extending to 2020 will include strategic goals also valid beyond this time frame. However, also due to the Vision 2020 horizon of the ESS, it is not considered feasible to embark on a strategy exercise going beyond this time frame.

Timeline:

N.A.

Recommendation 15

Statistics Austria should continue to participate in those European Statistical System projects that are strategically important for its tasks, and consider assigning a dedicated budget reserve line for forthcoming issues. (European statistics Code of Practice, Principles 3 and 11.)

Diverging view

In its midterm financial planning Statistics Austria is considering all ESS-projects relevant for strategic development. This includes international activities like the participation in important forthcoming projects as far as they are known for the envisaged planning period of five years. The relevant budgetary resources are part of the planning process and already included in the budget envelope

Timeline:

N.A.

Recommendation 16

Statistics Austria should more actively enable and encourage staff participation in training programmes, including the elaboration and implementation of personalised, individual training schemes throughout the office. (European statistics Code of Practice, indicator 7.6.)

Recommendation 17

Statistics Austria should explore the further usability of additional human resource development tools during the elaboration of individual development plans (e.g. increased internal rotation, international staff exchange, internships). (European statistics Code of Practice, indicators 3.1 and 7.6.)

Current Situation

Statistics Austria has developed a well proven training programme available to all employees of the institution. However, as the peer review report shows there seem to be some deficits to promote the active access to training courses. It is part of the current strategic concept to enhance staff exchange and internal rotation as much as possible.

Improvement Action 16/17 - Enhancing job satisfaction at Statistics Austria

Statistics Austria will develop standardized outputs of yearly staff appraisals including a personalized training plan. Measures promoting internal rotation and international staff exchange, including a broad communication to all staff members, will be taken.

Timeline:

End of 2016

Statistical Production

Recommendation 18

Statistics Austria and Other National Authorities, in close cooperation with the Federal Economic Chamber and other relevant institutions, should consider further motivating data providers to respond to surveys by maximising their benefits in the system, while minimising their response burden. (European statistics Code of Practice, indicators 2.1, 2.3, 9.2, 9.3 and 9.4.)

Current situation

Statistics Austria has made a lot of efforts to attain high response rates especially when dealing with surveys on a voluntary basis. This includes the promotion of electronic and online surveys, the provision of feedback to respondents and fostering relations with external data providers. However, the Peer review team found some room for improvement in this regard.

Improvement action 18 - Further enhancement of respondents motivation

In cooperation with relevant stakeholders Statistics Austria will keep up initiatives to increase respondents' motivation to participate in statistical surveys. The measures taken will include feedback processes to respondents as well as providing more detailed information material to respondents (for instance leaflets). As a result of the currently ongoing action of profiling of statistical units in the business sector the possibility of a more streamlined approach to respondents could be expected.

Timeline:

Action already on-going, continuous task.

Recommendation 19

Statistics Austria should introduce internal, systematic quality audits of statistics. (European statistics Code of Practice, indicators 4.1, 4.2, 4.3 and 4.4.)

Current situation

Statistics Austria implements its tasks accompanied by increasing level of quality monitoring and quality management actions. The systematic approach to quality helps Statistics Austria to implement an integrated vision on quality, starting from unified application of definitions, ending at detailed quality audits of procedures and products. The complex system of Statistics Austria's quality assurance is under permanent elaboration. Quality improvement by Statistics Austria relies on four basic fundamentals. These are the Feedback Talks accompanied by the standard documentations on each statistical area, the general quality guidelines on methods, the quality trainings within the office and the committed work of those units involved in quality issues. Due to relatively recent organisational reforms, the specific areas of quality management and methods were brought together in one unit, reporting directly to the Director General level like risk management, and internal audit. Within this context, an internal mechanism of regular quality audit processes was not yet systematically introduced.

Improvement action 19 - Implementation of internal quality audits

Statistics Austria will start to implement a series of internal quality audits. Quality Management, Risk Management and Internal Audit will closely cooperate when designing the relevant process for the audits. Basis for the quality audits will be the quality guidelines which are currently under revision. A pilot test for a quality audit is currently ongoing. After the pilot phase it is planned to have one product audited quarterly.

Timeline:

Pilot for Quality Audit: already started

Internal discussion on concepts (format, structure, coverage, etc..) of quality audits, as well as fixing short and medium term audit plans:4th quarter 2015

Implementation of audit plan: 2016 and following years.

Recommendation 20

Statistics Austria should create a public, searchable repository of its statistical concepts, definitions and methods. Statistics Austria should provide English translations of standard documentation or its executive summaries on its website. (European statistics Code of Practice, indicators 6.4, 7.1, 7.2, 15.1 and 15.6.)

Current situation

Statistics Austria provides comprehensive metadata in textual form based on the system of Standard Documentations. However currently there is no platform available on the webpage where users can find important definitions, concepts and methods eligible for official statistics. There are several prototypes like the data warehouse project and the project on for a new web based survey infrastructure involving concepts of metadata and having in mind to provide external access in the context of metadata. Currently Standard Documentations are provided mainly in German.

Improvement action 20.1 - Development of a repository of statistical concepts, definitions and methods

Statistics Austria will develop a repository of statistical concepts, definitions and methods. This repository will serve as a reference document for standard documentations and also be accessible through the internet.

Timeline:

End of 2017

Improvement action 20.2 - Providing metadata in English

For all statistical products covered by a standard documentation Statistics Austria will provide the Executive Summaries and the table of important figures in English

Timeline:

End of 2017

Recommendation 21

Statistics Austria should explore new visualisation techniques (e.g. infographics) and further modernise its dissemination techniques (e.g. consider developing an app and optimising the website format for mobile devices; make advances in communication techniques via Twitter). (European statistics Code of Practice, indicators 13.3, 15.1 and 15.2.)

Current situation

The webpage of Statistics Austria as the most important dissemination platform tool contains information in tables as well as graphics. However, there are currently no standardized solutions for generating visualized figures. Besides distributing figures via website and print publications Statistics Austria has started to develop dissemination strategies with respects to modern developments (Social media, OpenData). Currently there exists no special mobile version of the webpage of Statistics Austria.

Improvement action 21.1 – Improving accessibility and working on visualisation

Statistics Austria will make its webpage accessible in a user friendly way also on mobile devices.

Statistics Austria will participate in Eurostat's Task Force on Data Visualisation in order to share other NSIs' experiences and best practises related to different types of data visualisation, infographics, widgets, mobile phone applications, etc.

Statistics Austria will take the following initiatives with respect to visualisation: Development of new ideas and concepts for data visualisations and infographics, definition of internal standards on visualisation, investigation of possible tools for visualising figures, clarification of organisational aspects, assessment of impact on the strategy 2016-2020. The skill level of staff regarding visualisation will be raised.

Timeline:

Web-Accessibility

Roll out of mobile version of web access: 2nd half of 2015

Usability study of Statistics Austria's webpage: 1st half of 2016

Visualization

Set up of an internal action plan on visualization: Begin 2016

Improvement action 21.2 – Modernizing dissemination strategy

Based on the experiences with its twitter presence, Statistics Austria will consider further Social Media activities, e.g. intensifying twitter activities including the use of shareable input (tables, graphs, infographics, pictures etc.) creating a complementary "statistical blog"

Further improvements suggested:

- strengthening the relationship with the open data community in order to encourage the development of mobile apps based on open data
- developing statistical Apps (e.g. on the personal inflation calculator)

Timeline:

End of 2016

Recommendation 22

Statistics Austria should further promote (both in-house and within the European Statistical System) the development and use of integrated, harmonised information technology solutions, especially a single framework for data processing actions. (European statistics Code of Practice, indicators 7.2, 8.4, 8.5, 8.6, 14.1 and 14.3.)

Current situation

Statistics Austria puts substantial efforts in developing advanced IT solutions and methodology for integrating or concentrating the tools of production process steps years ago. During the processing of primary data (editing, imputation, seasonal adjustment, further calculations etc.) there are several parallel tailor made solutions for several statistics or statistical areas. The implementations are carried out by close co-operation with the Methods Unit. All processing steps are monitored and a rollback of data versions is always assured. The IT Department also plays a key role in preparing different calculation tools for the statisticians. These statistical procedures currently require a close contact between methodology, IT and subject matter units on expert level since more or less each area has unique applications. Only recently Statistics Austria has developed a survey infrastructure also for web interviews. It currently runs a pilot project to develop a data warehouse for internal data management.

Improvement action 22 - Standardization of data collection and internal data management

Statistics Austria will assess

- rolling out the recently developed survey infrastructure technology to all business areas as well as
- developing a data warehouse to become the central tool for internal data management.

Timeline:

Survey infrastructure

Development of survey infrastructure technology including pilot projects in the area of social statistics: currently on-going

Assessment of a possible roll out to other business areas: 1st quarter 2016

Data warehouse:

Pilot phase for data warehouse prototype: currently on-going

Assessment of the results of the pilot phase and planning of implementation: 2015 to 2016

Development and implementation: 2016-2018

Recommendation 23

The responsible ministries should review Article 30(1a) of the Statistics Law to enable Statistics Austria to apply equal dissemination guidelines to all products. (European statistics Code of Practice, indicator 6.7; Principle 15.)

Current situation

Statistics Austria is entitled to compile non-European statistics for other national authorities or other partners on a contract basis. For these statistics the Statistical Law introduces a dissemination regulation (Statistical Law Article 30 (1a)) differing from the equal access principle of the Code of Practice. It foresees that if a statistical product is produced on a contract basis, Statistics Austria is to publish the results two months after providing them to the client, unless he publishes them before.

Improvement action 23 - Informing relevant authorities about recommendations of amending the statistical law

Statistics Austria will send a letter to the relevant authorities, indicating that the final peer review report on Statistics Austria recommends an amendment of the statistical law and reconsiderations regarding internal governance and coordination of the national statistical system. In the letter Statistics Austria will point out the important role of the principles of the Code of Practice and will propose to launch a dialogue striving for an improvement of the legislation in line with the recommendations of the peer's.

Timeline:

Sending of letter: Second half of 2015

Start of dialogue: Beginning of 2016

Recommendation 24

Statistics Austria should facilitate the compliance of Other National Authorities producing statistics with the European statistics Code of Practice, especially by requiring regular quality reports on their data production, examining their dissemination guidelines and mandating a release calendar. (Precondition: implementation of Recommendation 8) (European statistics Code of Practice, indicators 4.1-4.4, 11.2, 13.2-13.5, 15.2, 15.3 and 15.5-15.7.)

Current situation

The legal power of Statistics Austria to co-ordinate statistical activities of ONAs is currently limited to “moral suasion”. The Federal Statistics Act does not equip Statistics Austria with any legal instrument to approve the quality of statistics produced by ONAs or to impose any corrective measures or sanctions in case the CoP principles are disrespected. The production of statistics does not form a central part of the business process model in either of the ONAs, making certain CoP principles difficult to apply.

Improvement action 24 - Enhancing contacts to Other National Authorities

Statistics Austria will launch a series of bilateral meetings with ONAs in order to detect possible deviations from the Code of Practice and develop proposals for improvement actions. One related aim will be the signing of written agreements taking into account the principles and indicators of the Code of Practice especially the documentation of quality of the data as well as dissemination guidelines and a release calendar.

Timeline:

End of 2016

Recommendation 25

Statistics Austria should facilitate a reasonable presentation on the statistics activities of Other National Authorities in order to provide a full overview of European statistics for the public, for example a single web portal for European statistics. (Precondition: implementation of Recommendation 8). (European statistics Code of Practice, indicators 1.5 and 15.1-15.7.)

Current situation

The dissemination of statistics by ONAs, as one aspect covered by the CoP, is substantially less advanced than in Statistics Austria. Different gaps might be found in different institutions, but ONAs, as a rule, do not have advance data release calendars, do not produce statistical press releases concerning European statistics, metadata information falls behind the standard of Statistics Austria.

Improvement action 25 – Web section linking to other national producers

Statistics Austria will implement a section on its webpage linking to European Statistics produced by Other National Authorities. To facilitate this process Statistics Austria will in its planned bilateral meetings (see improvement actions 9 and 24) emphasize the need of a release calendar.

Timeline:

End of 2016

Budget

Recommendation 26

Responsible national authorities should reconsider the budgetary arrangements for Statistics Austria with a view to securing the sustainability of funding for European statistics. The planning of the five-year strategy programme should be more securely based on a binding financial basis. (European statistics Code of Practice, Principles 3 and 10.)

Current situation

The lump sum amount for Statistics Austria is defined in the law in nominal terms and is not indexed by any measure what poses risks for adequate future financing of European statistics. During the last 14 years the effects of overall price increases were offset by Statistics Austria's efficiency and productivity gains, which were related to reduction of the amount of staff, more intense use of IT technology, as well as gradual move from statistical surveys to using administrative data sources. Unless the lump sum will be increased in the next years to come Statistics Austria will have to cut back on its production portfolio as the scope for further productivity gains is limited.

Improvement action 26 - Informing the responsible authorities on the Peers' funding recommendations.

Statistics Austria will develop the strategic concept 2020 taking into account financial planning and assess the total costs of the projects assigned to the strategic concept 2020. Subsequently Statistics Austria will seek approval from the Economic Council indicating that the final peer review report on Statistics Austria recommends secure budgetary arrangements for safeguarding the implementation of the strategic programme.

Timeline:

End of 2015

Recommendation 27

Statistics Austria should enrich its annual work programme with relevant financial information of public interest on the costs of statistics. (European statistics Code of Practice, indicator 1.5; Principles 3 and 15.)

Diverging View

The annual work programme of Statistics Austria consists of two parts. The first one includes a textual description of the main projects assigned to responsible subject matter areas the second one lists all projects characterised by administrative items. The financing background of each individual project is highlighted by using different colours in the attached table (lump sum (grey background) or not (white background)). This is explained in the foreword of the annual's programme textual part.

Timeline:

N.A.

Recommendation 28

Statistics Austria should make its pricing policy publicly available (tariffs document). Statistics Austria should re-examine its pricing policy to ensure that prices are not prohibitive, including data access for researchers, and provide articles on European statistics published in the periodic journal of Statistics Austria Statistische Nachrichten free of charge. (European statistics Code of Practice, indicator 1.5; Principles 3 and 15.)

Current situation

While Statistics Austria grants public access to the main statistical results, it provides public access to the detailed results of the statistics in return for a fee to cover its costs. This arrangement is defined in the Article 30 of the Statistics Law. The current Statistics Austria website does not provide sufficient information with regard to pricing transparency. Currently “Statistische Nachrichten”, a flagship publication of Statistics Austria, where articles on European statistics are published, are not available free of charge.

Improvement action 28.1 - Enhancing the webpage by publishing a pricing policy

Statistics Austria will develop a document about its pricing policy containing comprehensive information and publish it on its webpage.

Timeline:

Mid of 2016

Improvement action 28.2 - Providing articles published in Statistics Austria’s periodic journal “Statistische Nachrichten” free of charge

Statistics Austria will develop a strategy to make articles of “Statistische Nachrichten” available free of charge

Timeline:

End of 2015