



Distr.
LIMITED
LC/L.3075(CEA.5/13)
4 August 2009
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

Fifth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the
Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

Bogota, 10 - 13 August 2009

**REPORT ON THE DEVELOPMENT AND ADOPTION OF THE CODE OF GOOD PRACTICE
IN STATISTICS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN***

* This report was prepared by the Statistical Office of the European Communities (EUROSTAT) and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and includes the conclusions of the workshop on the adaptation of the European Statistics Code of Practice, held on 3 and 4 June 2009 in Luxembourg.

At its fourth meeting, the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) welcomed the initiative by a number of countries to promote debate on the adaptation of the European Statistics Code of Practice, bearing in mind the situation in each country, and requested the Statistical Office of the European Communities (EUROSTAT) and ECLAC to prepare a programme of action to implement this initiative.¹

The aim of the initiative is to establish a frame of reference for good statistical practices that are considered appropriate for the Latin American and Caribbean region, especially in terms of the institutional and organizational environment of national statistical offices, and to encourage its adoption in accordance with the specific reality of each country, on the basis of the following principles: professional independence, mandate for data collection, adequacy of resources, quality commitment, statistical confidentiality, impartiality and objectivity.²

The Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC, at its eighth meeting, took note of the joint report prepared by EUROSTAT and ECLAC on the implementation of the proposed programme of work and requested the Initiative Committee to continue its work in this regard.³

After the eighth meeting of the Executive Committee, two activities were carried out to further the implementation of the programme of work: the final version of the self-evaluation questionnaire was drawn up and sent out to all the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, and subsequently a workshop was held on the European Statistics Code of Practice and its adaptation to the realities of the region.

The questionnaire was answered by 19 countries (15 from Latin America and 4 from the Caribbean). The main findings are summarized in annex 2 of this document.

The workshop on the adaptation of the European Statistics Code of Practice to the situation of Latin America and the Caribbean was held in Luxembourg on 3 and 4 June 2009 and was attended by presidents, directors and senior officials from 11 national statistical offices.

At the workshop, experts from EUROSTAT and the European Union presented their experiences of drafting and implementing the European Statistics Code of Practice especially with regard to principles 1 to 6 and 15. They highlighted important points for the correct implementation and interpretation of the principles and commented on the tools and standards available in the European Union for this purpose. ECLAC presented the main findings of the self-evaluation questionnaire for countries. Participants from Latin America and the Caribbean had the opportunity to report on their own experiences and situations with regard to each of the issues raised, which resulted in a fruitful exchange of views. The main conclusions reached by the participants in the workshop are presented in annex 1. The results of the self-evaluation questionnaire that was answered by 19 countries are presented in annex 2.

¹ See ECLAC, "Report of the fourth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean" (LC/L.2795), October 2007.

² Principles 1-6 of the European Statistics Code of Practice. See "Implementation of the European Statistics Code of Practice. Document prepared for the seminar Institution-Building in National Statistical Offices: Credibility and Autonomy" (DDR/8), July 2007.

³ See EUROSTAT/ECLAC, "Report on the activities relating to the programme of work on the dissemination of the European Statistics Code of Practice in Latin America and the Caribbean" (LC/L.2949(CE.8/19), September 2008.

The country representatives participating in the workshop agreed to propose the following at the fifth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC:

- The drafting and adoption of a Code of Good Practice in Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- The creation of a working group, comprising representatives of the region's countries, EUROSTAT and ECLAC, to develop a programme of work for the pursuit of the above objective, which is to be presented at the ninth meeting of the Executive Committee.
- The proposal and adoption at the sixth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, which is to be held in mid-2011, of a Code of Good Practice in Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Annex 1

**STEPS TOWARDS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A CODE OF GOOD PRACTICE IN
STATISTICS IN LATIN AMERICAN AND THE CARIBBEAN****Results of the workshop on the European Union experience
Luxembourg, 3-4 June 2009**

Following the exchange of experience between national statistical institutes (NSIs) from the member countries of ECLAC and the European Statistical System (ESS) regarding implementation of the European Statistics Code of Practice (CoP) and the discussions during the workshop, the main conclusions and some issues that are important for the interpretation and application of principles 1-6 and 15 of the CoP are summarized below. The conclusions are presented for each principle and followed by a list of annotated links to ESS tools and standards to promote the preparation of a Code of Good Practice in Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean using the ESS experience with the CoP as a reference. The list is certainly not exhaustive but could guide the corresponding work.

General issues relating to all principles**Conclusions:**

- Latin America and the Caribbean will work towards an adapted CoP fostering cooperation within the region under the common umbrella of the United Nations fundamental principles of official statistics.
- A Code of Practice covers issues that need to be addressed by law. It also includes other elements that contribute to a shared culture and relate to ethics of statistics. In this regard, a Code of Practice is complementary to law.
- It is useful for legislation on statistics to refer to the Code of Practice in order to promote compliance. However, the Code itself does not need to be enshrined in law.

Important elements:

- The European Statistics Code of Practice is based on the United Nations fundamental principles of official statistics and translates them into more concrete terms that provide indications for their implementation.
- While high-level commitment is indispensable, the implementation of the Code of Practice ultimately lies in the hands of all staff. In so far the process towards compliance with the Code is as important as its results, the process should be supported by participation and engagement at all hierarchical levels.

Tools, standards and information sources available:

General	Reference to tools and standards	Short description	Language
	European Statistics Code of Practice (CoP)	Text of the Code of Practice and brochure format to facilitate wide distribution	21 languages
	EUROSTAT CoP Self-assessment questionnaire	Comprehensive questionnaire to measure each indicator of the CoP in concrete terms. Has been successfully tested and used as a basis of NSI self-assessments and peer reviews to assess compliance with the CoP.	English, French, German
	EUROSTAT peer review guidelines	Description of the peer review methodology and practical guidance to help NSIs prepare for peer review.	English
	EUROSTAT peer review guidelines for National Statistical Offices (NSIs)	Description of the peer review methodology and practical guidance to help the peer review team to prepare for the peer review and to make peer reviews comparable across NSIs.	English
	Overview on the results of the European Statistical System self-assessments	Report to the Economic and Financial Committee, EUROSTAT 2006	English
	2008 report on implementation of the CoP	Report to the European Parliament and to the Council on implementation of the CoP in the European Statistical System, EUROSTAT 2008	21 languages
	Code of Practice peer review reports by country	Collection of peer review reports assessing compliance with CoP principles 1-6 and 15 and NSI coordination function for 30 NSIs.	English
	List of ESS good practices relevant for implementation of the Code of Practice	Collection of good practices identified during the ESS peer review, structured according to the statistical value chain.	English

Principle 1: Professional independence**Conclusions:**

- The coordination role played by the NSI within the national statistical system is highly important for expanding compliance with the Code of Practice to data providers other than the NSI. This holds in particular in countries in which not all relevant actors of the statistical system are covered by the statistical law.

Important elements:

- The definition of “professional independence” is a very broad one, which includes not only the freedom to decide on standards, methods and procedures, but also on the content and timing of statistical releases. This means that it goes beyond “scientific independence”, the term used in some national statistics laws.
- Professional independence must cover the whole process of the preparation of a statistics, including the decisions on concepts and terminology.
- There is a broad understanding that the independence of statisticians ends where the legislative branch, through a democratic process, has already regulated parts of the concepts or the methods to be used in statistics. The same holds for decisions on the work programme, which normally are not the sole responsibility of statisticians.
- Other data providers, especially ministries or even the central banks, may have problems fulfilling principle 1 given that for them the delineation of their role in statistics may not be as clear cut as their other administrative or political roles. In this context, strengthening the coordination function of the NSI in the statistical system of a country is particularly important.

Tools, standards and information sources available:

CoP principles 1 and 2	Reference to tools and standards	Short description	Language
	Statistics Act of Ireland	Exemplary statistics law, in particular with regard to the coordination function of the NSI within the system. This could be useful when drafting a new statistics law.	English
	Overview on NSIs institutional set-up, EUROSTAT 2005	Description of, and comments by, EUROSTAT on the institutional set-up of NSIs in the European Statistical System.	English

Principle 2: Mandate for data collection**Conclusions:**

- More strict procedures have been implemented in Latin America with regard to sanctioning non-response. Several good practices were identified concerning optimization of response burden and in ensuring high response rates.
- It is important to avoid the duplication of data collection at the national level.

Important elements:

- The most important part of principle 2 seems to be the indicator dealing with access to administrative records. NSIs should use administrative data but should never collect data for administrative purposes for other institutions. The collection of data for statistical purposes and for administrative purposes must be strictly separated.

Tools, standards and information sources available:

See principle 1

Principle 3: Adequacy of resources**Conclusions:**

- Adequacy of resources has many dimensions (magnitude, quality, staff, computing, finances) which cannot be considered in isolation. Moreover, sustainability of resources needs to be ensured.
- An NSI's efficient handling of resources is as important as resource adequacy.
- The independence of the NSI in the use of its resources needs to be ensured.
- There is an imbalance between the provision of resources for specific surveys and the provision of resources for horizontal initiatives and procedures (e.g. quality of management, independence, confidentiality, etc.).

Important elements:

- Resources are made available by politicians/administrations, and resource-allocation decisions could therefore provide a means of influencing statisticians' actions. This represents a subtle rather than a direct involvement in the statistical production /dissemination process.
- When assessing the resource allocation of an NSI, it is important to also look into means to prioritize the various demands. Also important could be the extension of budget allocation periods to allow for longer-term planning.
- The degree to which the coordination role of the NSI can influence resource allocation to other data producers could be relevant for those producers.

Principle 4: Quality commitment

Conclusions:

- Process and product quality are interdependent. This interdependence needs to be addressed in an overarching quality assurance framework.
- The usefulness of external certification procedures is questionable.

Important elements:

- User-producer dialogue is important.
- There is a need to provide forums/means to obtain users' and non-users' views on quality.
- Can the role played by the NSI in the national system introduce system-wide quality standards?

Tools, standards and information sources available:

CoP principle	Reference to tools and standards	Short description	Language
	Development of a self-assessment programme (DESAP) checklist for survey managers	Comprehensive self-assessment checklist for screening the quality of statistical processes. Widely tested and implemented in ESS.	English, French, German and many others; Spanish on request
	ESS Standard and handbook for quality reports	Guidelines for quality reporting with a comprehensive list of indicators to choose from and many concrete examples	English
	Other standards available on the EUROSTAT website under: Quality/ESS practices)	Collection of quality-related tools and standards used in ESS covering quality management, user dialogue, assessment of quality, quality auditing, etc.	English

Principle 5: Statistical confidentiality

Principle 15: Accessibility and clarity (indicator 15.4 on microdata access)

Conclusions:

- The crucial thing is to balance adequately confidentiality and accessibility. Small countries are confronted with specific problems here.
- There are different approaches to safeguarding confidentiality, with practices in the Latin America and Caribbean countries being more open.

- Under the condition that it is solely for statistical purposes and that confidentiality is ensured and covered by law, progress needs to be made in data sharing within the national system. Questions of ownership and responsibility for confidentiality need to be clarified.

Important elements:

Microdata access in EUROSTAT, based on statistics law, means legally defining:

- the “ratione personae” (i.e. the researcher and the research institution allowed to have access to microdata)
- the general conditions of access (laying down the necessary administrative steps to be followed)
- the ways of access to microdata (access on the premises of EUROSTAT or release of anonymized microdata)
- the surveys or data sources available for research
- various organizational matters

The procedure for access to microdata can be divided into two sub-processes:

a) Admissibility procedure

Access to confidential data may be granted by EUROSTAT to researchers of universities and other institutions of higher education, NSIs and central banks established by European Community or Member State law. Additionally, access may also be granted to researchers of other agencies, organizations and institutions upon receipt of a positive opinion from the European Statistical System Committee. The prerequisite to achieve admissibility by these other bodies is that the institution has demonstrated that it fulfils a set of criteria. The list of admissible bodies is published.

b) Microdata access procedure

EUROSTAT may grant access on its premises to confidential data and release sets of anonymized microdata, when such data is obtained from the following surveys or statistical data sources: European Community Household Panel, Labour Force Survey, Community Innovation Survey, Continuing Vocational Training Survey (CVTS), Structure of Earnings Survey (SES), European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions, Adult Education Survey (AES) and the Farm Structure Survey (FSS).

As far as anonymized microdata is concerned, prior to the release, EUROSTAT shall ensure, in cooperation with the national authorities, that the methods of anonymization applied to these microdata sets minimize, in accordance with current best practice, the risk of identification of the statistical units concerned. The anonymization methods for CVTS, SES, AES and FSS are under discussion. Other abovementioned anonymised microdata sets are available for release on CD ROM.

Various representatives of Latin American countries believe that it is not appropriate to have so many limitations on the access to microdata.

Tools, standards and information sources available:

CoP principle	Reference to tools and standards	Short description	Language
	Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council on European statistics.	ESS Statistical Law	21 languages
	http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/research_methodology/statistical_confidentiality/confidential_data/introduction	Link to EUROSTAT website with information on microdata access in general	English, German, French
	http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/microdata/introduction ESS net on confidentially ECE handbook on confidentiality	Link to EUROSTAT website with information about getting access to European Union microdata for research purposes	English, German, French

Principle 6: Impartiality and objectivity**Principle 15: Accessibility and clarity****Conclusions:**

- While practices in the region for ministerial access to data seem to meet needs well, dissemination of data to the general public will need to be enhanced ensuring at the same time that pre-release access to data under embargo is limited, controlled and publicized.
- While all NSIs work with some kind of release calendar pre-announcing release dates, progress in that area will increase the scope of data covered.
- Several good practices were identified relating to the establishment of statistical culture, for example, through specific training provided for schools.

Important elements:

- There is overlap of several indicators with IMF GDDS/SDDS.
- With regard to the indicator concerning errors correction, it is important to differentiate between real errors and provisional figures. Correction of errors and revised figures are thus also to be handled in different ways.
- The indicator “equal access” does not prohibit pre-releases in well-defined, controlled and published cases. On the other hand, the rule established by some NSIs of no pre-release to

anybody is clearly the most straightforward way to prevent leaks of market-sensitive information and enforces the role of the NSI as an impartial and independent agency.

- The coordination role of NSIs can be important in relation to principle 15. In a decentralized system, presenting and providing access only to data/metadata produced by the NSI and only through its webpage, is a sign of rather weak coordination.

Tools, standards and information sources available:

CoP principle	Reference to tools and standards	Short description	Language
	EUROSTAT impartiality protocol	EUROSTAT protocol detailing its policies and practices towards ensuring impartial access by users	English
	Standards and guidelines are available on the EUROSTAT website under Quality/ESS Practices/ Metadata guidelines or Dissemination guidelines.		
	Standard for Dissemination of EUROSTAT metadata (available on the EUROSTAT website: Quality/ESS practices)	Standard for Dissemination of EUROSTAT metadata	English
	Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (available on the EUROSTAT website: Quality/ESS Practices)	Web Content Accessibility Guidelines	English
	Best practices for designing websites for dissemination on the internet, UN 2001 (available on the EUROSTAT website: Quality/ESS Practices)	Best practices for designing websites for dissemination on the Internet	English
	Formats for downloading data on the internet, UN 2001 (available on the EUROSTAT website: Quality/ESS Practices)	Formats for downloading data on the Internet	English
	Guidelines for statistical metadata on the internet, UN 2000 (available on the EUROSTAT website: Quality/ESS Practices)	Guidelines for statistical metadata on the internet	English
	SDMX	SDMX Content-Oriented Guidelines recommend practices for creating interoperable data and metadata sets using the SDMX technical standards. They are envisaged to be applicable generically across statistical subject-matter domains. The Guidelines focus on the harmonization of specific concepts and terminology that are common to a large number of statistical domains. Such harmonization is useful for achieving even more efficient exchange of comparable data and metadata and builds on the experience gained in implementations to date.	English

Annex 2

**SUMMARY OF THE RESULTS OF THE SELF-ASSESSMENT QUESTIONNAIRE FOR
NATIONAL STATISTICS OFFICES ABOUT THEIR
INSTITUTIONAL ENVIRONMENT⁴**

Principle 1: Professional independence

A. Independence and status of the statistical authority and the appointment conditions and procedures for the head of the statistical authority

1. In most countries (58%), the independence of the statistical authority from political and other external interference in producing and disseminating official statistics is specified in law.
2. The status of the head of the statistical office is comparable to that of:

	A high-ranking (non-political) civil servant	A minister (or senior political position)	Another authority
Total	9	2	8

3. The head of the statistical authority is appointed by:

	The President/Prime Minister	The President/Prime Minister with the agreement of Congress/Parliament	Another authority
Total	10	2	7

4. In 42% of cases the head of the statistical authority is appointed on the basis of a public competition.
5. In 33% of cases, the head of the statistical authority is appointed under a fixed-term contract.
6. Number of responses: very low.
7. Number of responses: very low.
8. Number of responses: very low.
9. In 50% of cases, the procedures for termination of the contract of the head of the statistical authority is set out in legislation and/or regulations.

⁴ Nineteen countries answered the questionnaire (Aruba, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Granada, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Netherlands Antilles, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Puerto Rico and Uruguay). The total number of answers does not always add up to 19 as some countries did not answer every question.

B. Independence and characteristics of statistical releases

10. While in most countries (74%) the content of statistical releases is never subject to ministerial approval, in 21% of countries it is subject to such approval.
11. While in most countries (84%) the timing of statistical releases is never subject to ministerial approval, in 11% of countries it is subject to such approval.
12. In the vast majority of countries (95%), the choice of statistical methods, standards and procedures is never subject to ministerial approval.
13. 95% of organizations have a statistical work programme.
14. In 50% of these cases, the statistical work programme is made public.
15. In 38% of cases, the progress report on the statistical work programme is made public.
16. Are statistical releases (that is, press releases, reports or others) clearly identified as outputs of the statistical authority? Yes: 89%
17. If so, how can statistical products be recognized?
 - they are identified by the institution's logo;
 - the institution is identified as the source in the text;
 - the name of the institution is given in the text.
18. In 84% of cases, statistical releases are issued separately from political statements or interpretations by government authorities relating to published statistics.
19. As the statistical authority, is it your specific policy to intervene publicly on statistical issues?
 - in cases of criticism of official statistics: 58%;
 - in cases of misuses of official statistics: 53%;
 - in cases of misinterpretation of official statistics: 50%.
20. If so, please state briefly the policy:
 - The methodologies and definitions used, as well as the purpose of statistical releases and international principles are explained through sectoral or state technical committees and, when warranted, through press communiqués.
 - Statistics authorities intervene directly to rectify a situation by issuing a clarification or convening a press conference.
 - A public complaint about an official statistic triggers the crisis management mechanism of the communications plan. The director of the statistics office makes him or herself available to respond to questions from the press, and the executive director issues regular press communiqués as required during the crisis.

Principle 2: Mandate for data collection

A. Legislation on the mandate to collect information and the use of administrative sources

21. In 100% of cases, the mandate to collect information for the production and dissemination of official statistics is established by law.
22. Is the statistical authority permitted to use fiscal sources for statistical purposes? (a) Yes: 32%; (b) Yes, sometimes: 53%.
23. If the response is (a) or (b), state whether access to the data is regulated by:
- legislation: 68%;
 - other forms of agreement: 32%.
24. Is the statistical authority permitted to use other administrative sources? Yes: 84%
25. If so, are the ministries and institutions authorized to provide data on the basis of specific legislation? Yes: 47%; Yes, sometimes: 47%.
26. Access to data is regulated by legislation in 37% of cases and by other forms of agreement in 53% of cases.

B. The legal authority of statistics offices to make it compulsory to respond to surveys and impose fines on companies and households

27. Does the relevant legislation of your country make it compulsory to respond to statistical surveys? Yes for all surveys: 79%; Yes for some surveys: 11%.
28. Number of responses: very low.
29. In case households reject the obligation to respond to a survey, is there a system of sanctions in place? Yes: 68%.
30. If so, how often do you make use of it? Never: 50%; Sometimes: 11%.
31. When the sanction contemplated is a fine, it varies from US\$ 1.14 to US\$ 1,000.
32. In case enterprises reject the obligation to respond to a survey, 84% of countries have a system of sanctions in place.
33. In 42% of cases, the system of sanctions is never used, in 22% of cases, it is used sometimes.
34. The fine for enterprises varies from US\$ 1.14 to US\$ 1,000.

Principle 3: Adequacy of resources

A. Size and quality of the resources available

35. This was not a question.

36. Total staff (excluding field staff/interviewers) in full-time equivalents:
Two countries have more than 1,000 but less than 2,000 staff; two countries have more than 500 but less than 1,000 staff; four countries have more than 200 but less than 500 staff; and six countries have less than 2,00 staff.
37. Regular staff account for between 17% and 100% of total staff. In most countries the proportion is between 65% and 80%.
38. Total annual budget (including administrative costs) in United States dollars.
No information provided by countries.
39. Of the above total:
- per 100,000 inhabitants (in United States dollars): values vary between US\$ 52 and US\$ 897;
 - as a percentage of GDP: the values range between 0.14% and 0.001% of GDP.
40. In comparison with 2002, the total budget for 2007, in real terms was higher in eight countries, lower in six countries and practically the same in three countries.
41. 39% of statistics offices are free to manage their own budget once it has been approved by the competent national authorities. 48% say that this freedom is limited.
42. To what extent are your resources adequate for meeting current national statistical needs? 1 (= fully adequate) to 5 (= totally inadequate).

(a) Number of staff						(b) Quality of staff					
	1	2	3	4	5		1	2	3	4	5
Total	1	2	5	6	3	Total	0	4	10	2	2

(c) Amount of financial resources						(d) Amount of computing resources					
	1	2	3	4	5		1	2	3	4	5
Total	1	1	6	5	4	Total	1	6	3	6	1

(e) Quality of computing resources											
	1		2		3		4		5		
Total	1		6		3		6		1		

Principle 4: Quality commitment

A. Existence of a framework or model for quality management

43. 74% of organizations have not introduced a total quality management (TQM) or similar system.
44. While 42% have plans to set up a total quality management system, 32% do not, and 28% did not answer the question.
45. If your organization plans to set up such a system, please indicate the time frame: between one and five years.

46. 84% of organizations have a strategic plan or a long-term (that is, a five-year) plan.

47. Does your organization have a unit in charge of quality management? Yes: 53%.

48. If so, what kind of unit or organization is it? Quality manager: two countries; quality unit or department: four countries; other reporting units: four countries.

49. 84% of statistics offices promote internally the United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics.

B. Quality control processes

50. For how many of your statistical outputs do you regularly monitor quality in accordance with the components of the quality system established within your institution?

	<25%	>75%	49%-25%	75%-50%
Total	2	9	3	4

51. Where do you disseminate the results of this monitoring?

	Both	Nowhere	Externally	Internally
Total	6	1	2	7

52. In 84% of cases, the results are made available to senior management for action.

53. Do you regularly monitor the quality of the stages in the statistical production process?

(a) Planning surveys

	No	Yes	Yes, for most operations	Yes, for some operations
Total	1	9	6	2

(b) Survey design

	Yes	Yes, for most operations	Yes, for some operations
Total	12	1	6

(c) Data collection

	Yes	Yes, for most operations	Yes, for some operations
Total	12	4	2

(d) Data capture and processing

	Yes	Yes, for most operations	Yes, for some operations
Total	12	5	2

(e) Data analysis

	Yes	Yes, for most operations	Yes, for some operations
Total	11	6	2

(f) Data dissemination

	Yes	Yes, for most operations	Yes, for some operations
Total	10	4	3

54. In the affirmative, which procedures and/or methods do you use?

	(a) Internal audit		(b) Self-assessment	
	No	Yes	No	Yes
Total	4	15	6	13

	(c) Quality reports		(d) Quality indicators	
	No	Yes	No	Yes
Total	7	11	8	10

55. Do you encourage users to make comments on the content and presentation of your statistical products? Yes: 89%.

56. If so, please indicate the methods used to obtain users' views and comments: customer satisfaction surveys, comments on Internet sites, information office, complaints and suggestions, information centres, users committee meetings.

57. What percentage of your statistical outputs are available via Internet (including all types of outputs, for example, indicators, databases, etc.)?

	<25%	>75%	75%-50%
Total	3	9	7

58. Do you have formal processes in place to deal with quality considerations, including tradeoffs within quality (such as tradeoffs between timeliness and accuracy)?

	No	Sí
Total	13	5

59. In 58% of cases, there is a formal policy in place to guide the planning for new surveys.

60. Does the statistical office have internal handbooks/guidelines/recommendations for the production of statistics?

	Yes, for some	Yes, for most	Yes, for all
Total	10	5	4

61. In 68% of cases, the internal handbooks/guidelines/recommendations are also available for external users.

62. Do you have specific training programmes to address quality issues at your organization?

	No	No, but such programmes are being planned	Yes
Total	4	2	11

63. How many of your statistical outputs do you review?

	<25%	>75%	49%-25%	75%-50%
Total	3	9	1	6

64. During the last three years did the findings from the reviews result in action?

	No	Yes, some	Yes, most	Yes, all
Total	3	7	6	3

65. During the last three years, were your statistical outputs subject to a Report on the Observance of Standards and Codes (ROSC) by the International Monetary Fund? Yes: 37%.

66. If so, please list the statistical areas that were reviewed: consumer price indices, structural and conjunctural economic statistics, employment and unemployment, national accounts, balance of payments.

Principle 5: Statistical confidentiality

A. Legal basis for statistical confidentiality

67. In 100% of countries, statistical confidentiality is guaranteed by national legislation.

68. In 52% of countries, staff members of the statistical office sign legal confidentiality commitments on appointment.

69. In 89% of countries, penalties are prescribed for any wilful breaches of statistical confidentiality by employees of the statistical authority.

70. Are penalties prescribed for any wilful breaches of statistical confidentiality by other persons? Yes: 68%.

71. If so, please specify the legal grounds on which such penalties may be applied. Normally the penalties are specified in the law on statistics handling or in the law of the national statistical office.

B. Procedures and guidelines to protect the security and integrity of data

72. Are there instructions and guidelines for protecting statistical confidentiality?

- for production of statistics: in 79% of cases;
- for dissemination of statistics: in 79% of cases.

73. Are these instructions and guidelines made known to the public?

	No	Partly	Yes
Total	1	8	8

74. To whom are they addressed? (Several responses possible)

(a) Staff of the statistical office: 84%; (b) Other data producers: 68%; (c) The media: 32%; (d) The scientific community: 26%; (e) Other: 21%.

75. Does your organization have procedures in place to guarantee the security and integrity of its confidential data? Yes: 100%.

76. If so, please indicate the procedures. (Several responses possible)

(a) Legal provisions: 89%; (b) Specific unit/department/division devoted to ensuring the security of the statistical database: 68%; (c) Technical provisions: 68%; (e) Others: 5%.

C. Procedures for the dissemination of microdata

77. Does the statistical authority grant access to statistical microdata for research purposes? Yes: 84%.

78. If so, on what basis is access granted?

	Legal provisions	Others	Protocols
Total	2	4	10

79. Are there restrictions as to the organizations/institutions that may be granted access to statistical microdata? Yes: 63%.

80. If so, please specify:

- researchers must work in the statistical offices and the product of their research must be reviewed by experts;
- a formal request must be submitted to a committee that assesses whether access should be granted to microdata;
- institutional agreements stipulate the restrictions and conditions of use;
- access is granted only to other public institutions as established by the law on the national statistics institute.

81. How do you release statistical microdata to external users for research purposes? (Several responses possible)

- in response to a formal written request from a division/department or official of an organization/institution: 79%;
- online: 21%;
- other means: 42%.

Principle 6: Impartiality and objectivity

A. Policies and procedures for ensuring impartiality and objectivity

82. Is there a policy in place that states that data sources and statistical techniques are selected for statistical reasons only? Yes: 74%.

83. If so, have there been any violations of any such policies during the past two years?
(a) Yes: 5%; (b) No: 68%; (c) Did not reply: 27%.

84. Has the objectivity of official statistics been challenged by the media, users or the public during the past two years? (a) Yes: 63%; (b) No: 37%.

85. If so, please specify and give an example:

- figures for unemployment and the consumer price index have been challenged.
- some entities, media and members of the public have expressed disagreement, alleging that some research data do not accurately reflect the situation under study.
- results of the population census regarding employment, poverty and self-identification with ethnic groups have been questioned in the press.

86. In 32% of countries, there is a procedure in place for recording information about serious errors that may be detected in published data.

87. In 32% of countries, there is a rule that states how corrected data should be announced to users.

88. Percentage of statistical outputs for which the organization publishes on its website information on the methods and procedures used:

	<25%	>75%	49%-25%	75%-50%
Total	2	7	5	4

89. For how many of your statistical outputs is information on methods and procedures regularly updated?

	<25%	>75%	49%-25%	75%-50%
Total	3	8	4	4

90. Do you publish in advance a release calendar for your main statistical outputs? Yes: 63%.

91. If so, is there a procedure in place for reviewing this release calendar?

	NO	Yes	Did not reply
Total	2	9	8

92. Do all users have simultaneous access to press releases and notes relating to statistical outputs? Yes: 63%.

93. If not, please explain why:

- the results of conjunctural indicators are submitted to the authorities according to a list of precedence two hours prior to dissemination;
- some information that is considered delicate, such as that related to the country's strategic products, exports or other similar issues, is delivered first to certain users;
- the information is released at a press conference, and although it is uploaded to the national statistical office's website, not all users have access to it at the same time.

94. If not, please specify the user groups and situations: the office of the President and ministers, strategic products and exports.

95. If not, is information about this pre-release access available to the public?

	No	Yes	Did not reply
Total	4	3	12

96. During the past two years, there have been occurrences of information being divulged (leaked) prior to its official release in only 11% of countries (two countries).

97. 74% of countries have procedures in place to prevent leaks.

98. Do you have procedures in place to ensure objectivity in the content of statistical publications, releases, statements made in press conferences and similar events? Yes: 74%.

99. Please specify procedures in place to ensure objectivity in the content of statistical publications, releases, statements made in press conferences and similar events:

- all statistical output is revised by the director of the national statistical office;
- meetings are held with the technicians responsible prior to each release;
- descriptive reports only are prepared for the press;
- an editorial board handles the issue.