



Global assessments

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**Claudia Junker
Eurostat**

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Background information

- Assessment / evaluation requirements in the European Commission
- Assessments in Eurostat / statistics

Assessments/evaluations implemented - outside the EU

- Global assessments
 - 2000-2003: Bulgaria, Estonia, Czech Republic, Cyprus, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Northern Cyprus
 - 2001: Albania, Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
 - 2002-2005: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Turkey, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Albania
 - 2008 - 2012: Kazakhstan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, Tadjikistan, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Montenegro
 - 2013-2014: Tunisia

Assessments/evaluations implemented - outside the EU (2)

- **Peer reviews**
 - **Focus on compliance with the European Statistics Code of Practice**
 - **2010-2013: Albania, Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey**
 - **2012: Palestine**
 - **Planned: Jordan**

Assessments/evaluations implemented - outside the EU (3)

- Sector reviews – as in-depth assessments of a specific statistical area
- Started in 2014
 - **National accounts - the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**
 - **Labour statistics - Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, Jordan (planned Israel)**
 - **Business statistics – Montenegro (planned Belarus, Moldova, Albania, Serbia)**
 - **Migration statistics - Armenia**

Assessments/evaluations implemented - inside the EU

- **Peer reviews**
 - **Focus on compliance with the European Statistics Code of Practice**
 - **1. round in 2005-2008 – review of principles 1-6 and 15 (institutional environment)**
 - **2. round in 2013-2015 – review of all principles, focus on weaknesses and improvement recommendations**

Reasons for requesting an assessment

- To obtain the state-of-play of official statistics in a country
 - To evaluate achievements, in relation to set benchmarks like the UN FPOS/ESCoP and EU statistical standards
 - To support the NSI in strengthening its position and coordinating role in the NSS
 - To support the NSI in further enhancing a sound legal and institutional framework for the NSS
 - To promote official statistics and the need for good quality statistics in the country
 - To help developing priorities, planning and allocating resources
 - To guide partners in the design of cooperation programmes
- ☞ only upon request of a country

Challenges faced

- Some countries did not see the benefits of assessments at the beginning
- Overcoming the initial scepticism – assessments are a tool to identify improvements
- Finding the right type of assessments most fitting for a country (GA, PR or Snapshot)

Benefits of assessments

- Comprehensive external, objective assessment of the statistical system can be used for:
 - **Requesting donor support**
 - **Improve credibility towards other government institutions**
 - **Improve image inside the public administration**
 - **Develop strategies, action plans based on the assessment**
- Promotion of quality culture
- Structured list of improvement recommendations

Follow-up of the assessments

- Assessment is accompanied by recommendations for improvements (global assessments, sector reviews) or improvement actions (peer reviews)
- GA/SR: list of improvement actions based on the recommendations
- Annual monitoring on the implementation of improvement actions by Eurostat
- Reports on the implementation of improvement actions

Recommendations

- All assessments carried out - very useful (countries changed status, gained more independence, got support for the revision of the statistical law, acquired assistance programmes, got better access to administrative data sources, etc.)
- Various ways of implementing assessments is possible (e.g. fill out the self-assessment questionnaire as a first test)
- Snapshot tool is a lighter alternative

The Snapshot tool

- An alternative (self-assessment based)
- Based on the Eurostat quality framework
- Quick, simple, user-friendly
- Gives an overall assessment of the NSS
 - **5 infrastructure topics: country strategy for statistics, organization of the NSS, adequacy of resources, determinants of the data quality, relations with users**
 - **16 statistical sectors with questions on the infrastructure and indicators**
- Identifies state-of-play with a traffic light system to highlight areas of improvement

Conclusions

- Experience: appreciation of the support given
- It is not about finding mistakes + shortcomings, it is not about ranking countries
- It is about improving and finding support
- Good practices from other countries compiled in a handbook available for everyone
- Success story

Availability of reports

- For enlargement countries:
 - <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/enlargement-countries/publications/reports>
- For ENP countries:
 - <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/european-neighbourhood-policy/publications/reports>
- For Central Asian countries:
 - <http://www.unece.org/statcoop/ga.html>