



ESS peer reviews

Expert group meeting on "Peer reviews for NSIs in the OIC member countries", 3rd November 2016

Background

- ESCoP in 2015 – non binding
- Peer reviews in 2006 – 2008 (CoP Principles 1 – 6 + 15)
- Sponsorship on Quality 2009 – 2011:
 - Revised CoP
 - Quality Assurance Framework
- New developments in statistical governance
- ECA Special Report No 12

→ **2012 ESSC recommendations for a new round of peer reviews**



Objectives

To assess:

- ESS' **compliance** with the Code of Practice
- **development** of the ESS in terms of cooperation and integration

in order to:

- further enhance the **credibility of the ESS**
- strengthen and guarantee its **capacity to produce European statistics**
- improve the **quality of European statistics**

Scope and coverage

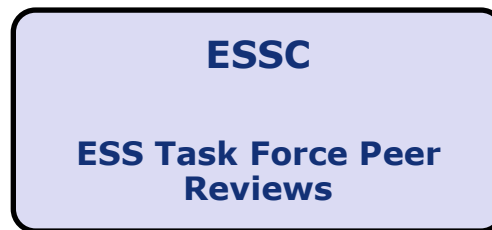
- European statistics
 - Code of Practice – all 15 principles
 - Coordination of national statistical systems
 - Cooperation & level of integration within the ESS
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- EU + EFTA
pilots in Slovakia and Iceland in 2013
 - NSIs + 2-3 ONAs in each country
 - Eurostat – by ESGAB





European
Commission

Actors



Methodology

Developed by ESS Task Force Peer Reviews, endorsed by the ESSC in November 2013:

➤ **Audit-like approach:**

- **independent external** peer reviewers
- **standardised** procedures, agenda, self-assessment questionnaires and reports
- **evidence** by respondents
- peer reviewers '**owners**' of the reports
- Peer reviewers provide recommendations
- NSIs formulate improvement actions (SMART)
- Right for diverging views

Methodology

➤ Tools:

- Self-assessments questionnaires for NSIs and ONAs selected based on agreed criteria
- Self-assessment questionnaire for the CoP compliance along the principles and indicators of the CoP, with elements of the quality assurance framework
- Light self-assessment questionnaires for the other producers of official statistics (ONAs)
- Self-assessment questionnaire on NSS coordination
- Self-assessment questionnaire on cooperation and integration
- Core documentation
- Other relevant material
- website

Peer review visits

- Pilot peer review visits to Slovakia and Iceland in 2013 by ESS Task Force pilot team
- 30 five-day peer review visits from end August 2014 to mid-June 2015
- By three-member peer review teams
- Default language EN, interpretation organised by NSIs where needed
- Eurostat observer for each visit

Reports

For each country:

- **A report on compliance with the Code of Practice and the coordination role of the National Statistical Institute**
 - published at the Eurostat website
 - material for a Commission report to the Council and the European Parliament
- **A report on cooperation/level of integration within the European statistical system**
 - material for a summary report to the ESSC

Improvement actions

Improvement action plans **in response to recommendations** within four weeks of the publication of reports

➤ **SMART** approach:

- **S**pecific (What, Why, Who, Where, Which)
- **M**easurable (How much/many, how to know when accomplished?)
- **A**ttainable (How?)
- **R**elevant
- **T**ime-bound (When?)

Implementation deadline **end 2019** in order to ensure:

- concrete progress
- meeting the ESS' commitment to fully comply with the CoP

Monitoring

- Annual progress reports on implementation to Eurostat each spring as of 2016:
 - report template by ESS Task Force Peer Reviews
 - in-built flexibility to account for developments impacting implementation, e.g. resource cuts
- annual reports to the ESSC by Eurostat
- Material for ESGAB's annual reporting to the EP and the Council
- A final progress report to the ESSC by Eurostat in spring 2020
 - pending issues
 - recommendations for potential follow-up action

Reports and improvement action plans

Reports on compliance with the CoP and improvement action plans available at:

<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/quality/peer-reviews>

Final reports on the exercise

- To the ESSC of February 2016:
 - a **Commission report to the European Parliament and the Council on the ESS' compliance with the Code of Practice, including coordination**
 - a **report to the ESSC on the cooperation and level of integration of the ESS**
- Adoption of the EP and Council report by the Commission: March 2016

Lessons learned

- Internal versus external objectives
- Audit-inspired approach worked
- Comparability
- Involvement of other producers and need to define the NSS and official statistics
- Self-assessment questionnaires
- Involvement of external peer reviewers
- Recommendations

Eurostat peer review

- Conducted by ESGAB
- Same methodology with some adaptations
- Interviews with Commission top management and external stakeholders in March 2014
- Peer review visit in April 2014, two ESS observers
- Final report in October 2014 and improvement action plan in November 2014; available at:
<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/quality/peer-reviews>

Eurostat's peer review report and improvement actions

➤ **16 recommendations:**

- Legislation underpinning the recruitment and dismissal of Eurostat's senior management - 4 recommendations
- Implementation of the legal architecture' – 1 recommendation
- Coherence of European statistics – quality, methodology and procedures - 4 recommendations
- Dissemination – release calendar and pre-release rules – 2 recommendations
- Communication and users - 1 recommendation
- Coordination - 4 recommendations.

➤ **Diverging view on 4 recommendations**

➤ **17 improvement actions**

- implementation by Eurostat end 2017 or earlier.
- annual monitoring reports to ESGAB, first one in May 2015