



## The Second Round of Peer Reviews – Experience of (Some Experts at) Statistics Finland

Session no. 6

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Kari Djerf

Sirkku Mertanen

Statistics Finland

Email: [kari.djerf@stat.fi](mailto:kari.djerf@stat.fi)



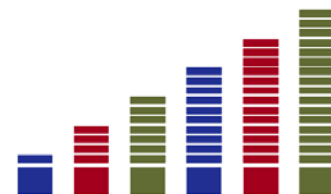
Madrid, May 31 - June 3

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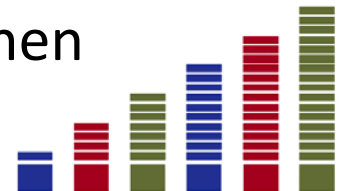
ESS Code of Practice



Preparatory Committee set up in June 2013 with duties:

1. Prepare and complete the self-assessment of Statistics Finland
2. Provide other national statistical authorities (ONAs) with support, co-operate with them during the ONA self-assessment filling process, collect self-assessments from the ONAs
3. Prepare timetable for the peer review and carry out technical arrangements
4. Collect the requested documentation, translate and mail those in due time.
5. Agree with suitable experts to participate in the peer review sessions
6. Agree with stake-holders and ONAs to participate in the peer review sessions
7. Prepare the information for the staff, stakeholders and ONAs on the peer review and take care on its publishing
8. Prepare a final report from the whole process.

Eight members, lead by Quality Manager Ms. Mertanen  
Final meeting in March 2015



### Self-assessments – NSI

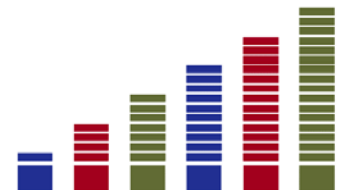
Reply preparation in small groups, 2-4 experts in each:

Many iteration rounds, topics circulated etc.

Directors comments after some rounds

Final proposal made by the preparatory committee and some top experts – accepted by the DG and other directors

Altogether about 70 experts involved, 200 equivalent work days: too heavy a process – must be lessened in the next exercise



Self-assessments – other

ONAs:

Discussion in the Advisory Boards for Official Statistics

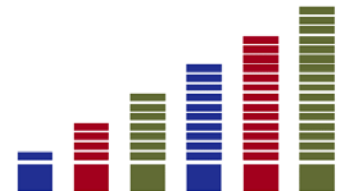
All member organisations participated,

Two selected to be included for Peer Reviews (filled in English)

Coordination and integration:

Statistics Finland replied

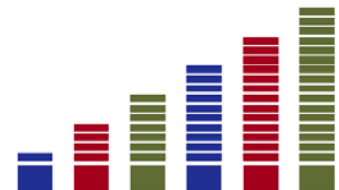
Burden was deemed proportionate



Technical problems caused extra work:

Web-application for the NSI self-assessments did not work:  
First delay and then input 2-3 times with no success

Finally Eurostat IT solved the problem but everything had to be checked and confirmed



### Peer review

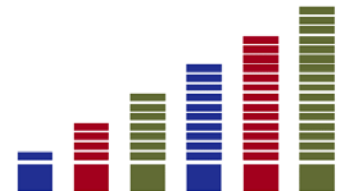
As soon as possible after finishing the SAs: realized in August 2014

Reviewers had read a lot of material in advance

Altogether 58 experts and 33 stakeholder representatives participated

Despite busy days, good and relaxed atmosphere

Some misunderstandings could be noticed when the first findings were discussed in the last day: additional material had to be provided



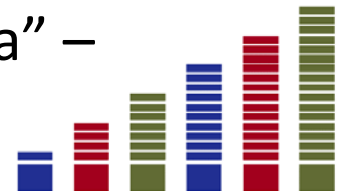
### Final report

Later than anticipated because of cross-checking the reports from 3-4 first reviews to maintain quality

Improvement actions: wide range from very minor issues to difficult questions like proposed changes in legislation

2 divergent views given, and accepted

After checking some other reports we could see that some issues were selected according to some “general idea” – perhaps pressure from ESS PR task force, or some other body?





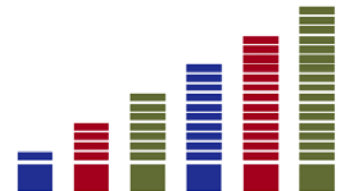
### Overall evaluation

Good experience, and much better organized than the first round!

Increased general awareness of quality management issues

Fixed some development projects for the next years

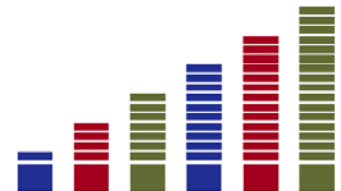
But the whole exercise took too much resources – about 2.5 person years: to be kept in mind for the next round



## Planning process

Planning process was complicated involving at least:

- ESGAB
- TF Sponsorship on Quality
- Eurostat expert group
- Specific QAF TF
- Specific PR methodology TF
- Partnership Group
- DGINS, and finally
- ESS Committee



## European level process (cont'd)

### Planning process (cont'd)

Quality WG (established 1998) was not involved in the process but

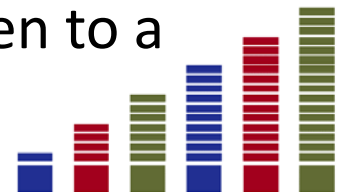
Nov 2012: overview (same as for the the ESSC),  
and overview of the QAF

2013 no meeting

Dec 2014 meeting: short slide show on the  
on-going PR round

The expertise of the WG was not officially utilised at all!

In Eurostat, the organisational responsibility was given to a  
specific TF, separate from the Quality Unit



## European level process (cont'd)

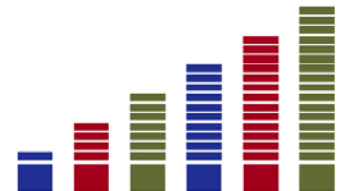
### Self-assessment questionnaires

#### NSI questionnaires based on QAF:

- about 300 questions  
(Not implemented, Partly implemented, Fully implemented)
- detailed justification and documentation for each reply...
- SWOT part on each principle

QAF structure deals with the same topics in many principles:  
Consider restructuring it (if used in the next round)

Other questionnaires much easier to fill in



## European level process (cont'd)

Technical operations outsourced

Pros: saves labour

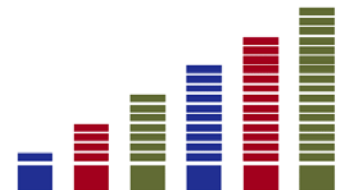
can use professionals for travels, IT-operations etc.

Cons: limited control

Realisation in round 2:

problems in understanding the whole process

technical troubles etc.



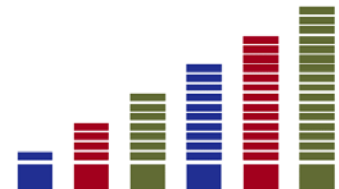
### Reviewers

A pool of reviewers: about 30 qualified persons

Common training, basic schedule and the frame of questions provided

Some cultural differences can be seen in the reports.

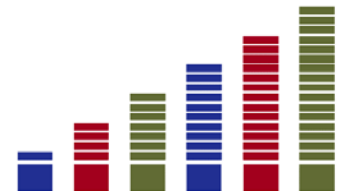
For the next round: still more systematic approach?  
E.g. ISO review process or similar with one professional auditor in each team?



CoP was created under rather specific circumstances:  
Proof of falsified economic statistics  
Eurostat crisis

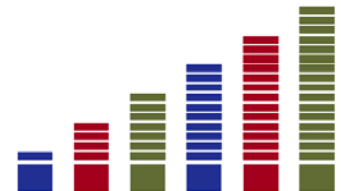
Main issue was to regain the trust on statistics and statistical agencies

Subsequent statistical problems have emerged with problems to align with the CoP, especially the Macroeconomic Imbalance Procedure



However, some issues may lose importance  
(or do it in next years)

A new version should be thought: closer connection to  
total quality management would be a benefit





Happy to hear comments and questions!

**THANK YOU VERY MUCH!**

