



RECOMMENDATION OF THE OECD COUNCIL ON GOOD STATISTICAL PRACTICE

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Background – Process

- No OECD legal instrument on statistics
- Quality of official statistics is fundamental for OECD statistical and analytical work
- In 2014, the Committee on Statistics and Statistical Policy (CSSP) recognised desirability of a set of recommendations on good statistical practice
- And established a **task force** including Canada, Israel, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Norway, Eurostat
- **Adopted by the CSSP in July 2015**
- **Adopted by the Council of the OECD in November 2015**



Background – Rationale

- **Common reference** to assess the quality of national statistical systems and official statistics, including for the OECD
- Tool for **accession statistical reviews**
- Tool for **self-assessment of Partners**
- **Complement existing international guidelines** or codes of practice that currently apply to *some* OECD countries:
 - UN Fundamental Principles for Official Statistics
 - European Code of Practice for Official Statistics
 - Code of Practices in Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean
 - IMF's Special Data Dissemination Standards
- The Recommendation:
 - offers a **greater level of specificity**
 - Emphasises aspects that correspond to **developed statistical systems, e.g.**
 - new sources of statistical information
 - one designated institution that coordinates the national statistical system
 - commitment to engage in international cooperation



Structure:

12 Recommendations capture 5 areas

- R 1-5: institutional, legal and resource requirements to **enable statistics**
 - R1: Clear legal and institutional framework
 - R2: Professional independence
 - R3: Adequacy of resources
 - R4: Protection of privacy
 - R5: Right to access administrative sources



Structure:

12 Recommendations capture 5 areas

- R 6-8: **methods, quality and processes** of statistical production
 - R6: Impartiality, objectivity and transparency
 - R7: Sound methodology and professional standards
 - R8: Quality of statistical outputs and processes



Structure:

12 Recommendations capture 5 areas

- R 9: user-friendly **access** and **dissemination**
- R 10-11: **co-ordination and co-operation**
 - R10: Co-ordination of statistical activities
 - R11: International co-operation
- R12: **looking ahead: exploring new and alternative data sources**



List of Good Practices

- **Annex** to the Recommendation, not formally part of the Recommendation
- List of good practices for each Recommendation
- **Indicative** in nature
- **None** of the practices listed **in themselves necessary or sufficient** to comply with a particular recommendation
- **But:** if **sizeable part** of practices are in place, this is good indication of compliance



Example: Administrative sources

- Administrative sources represent an important, potential source of information for statistical purposes. Their use requires that the statistical agency is free to choose the sources of data, and that this choice is based on sound consideration of quality, timeliness, cost and the burden on respondents;
- Refers to the organisational unit responsible for implementing and administrative regulation (or group of regulations), for which the corresponding register of units and the transactions are viewed as a source of statistical data;
- Examples: tax records, customs declarations, social security records, etc.
- Used for updating Statistical Business Registers



Example: recommendation 5: administrative sources

- “Members and non-Members adhering to this Recommendation, ensure the **right to access administrative sources** to produce official statistics.
- To this end, Adherents should ensure that:
 - i) National Statistical Authorities have the **right to access** administrative data for the regular production of official statistics and to use them in the interest of ensuring quality of official statistics, raising the analytical value of official statistics, reducing burden on survey respondents and reducing the cost of statistical programmes;
 - ii) National Statistical Authorities **co-operate with owners of administrative records** as regards their statistical quality and have authority to influence their design to ensure they are fit for statistical purposes.”
- The Recommendation also states that:
 - Access to administrative records and use of administrative records for statistical purposes should be explicitly mentioned in the statistical legislation
 - Statistical authorities have a clear mandate for data collection and the authority to compel respondents to comply with data requests (e.g. administrative sources).



Good practices related to the recommendation on administrative sources

- Right to access to administrative sources and to use them for statistical purposes:
 - The Statistical Authorities are authorised by law to use administrative records for the regular production of official statistics.
 - Administrative sources are used whenever possible and cost-effective to avoid duplicating requests for information and reduce reliance on direct surveys.
 - Guidelines are available for the reporting and presentation of administrative data.
 - Linking administrative data with survey data is encouraged by National Statistical Authorities with the aim of reducing the burden on respondents, reducing the costs in producing official statistics, and increasing the analytical value of official statistics.
- Cooperation with owners of administrative data
 - National Statistical Authorities are involved in the design of administrative data in order to make administrative data more suitable for statistical purposes.
 - National Statistical Authorities co-operate with owners of administrative data in assuring data quality.
 - Agreements are made with owners of administrative records which set out their shared commitment to the use of these data for statistical purposes.



Implementation of the Recommendation

- CSSP to **monitor implementation**
- Reviews of statistical systems for **accession countries** (Costa Rica, Lithuania).
- Assessment of OECD Members
 - **Self-assessment**; or
 - **Peer Review at request of the country** and subject to funding available
- **Peer reviews** carried out as part of the **ESS** to be considered substitute of CSSP review
- **Transparency** would allow to sharing good practices
- **Report to the Council of the OECD** within 3 years



Thank you!

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