

TRUSTWORTHINESS, QUALITY, VALUE: WHAT ASSURANCE DO INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENTS OF CODE-COMPLIANCE GIVE?

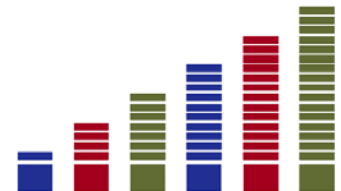
Session 33 – Special Session: Peer Reviews: A
Tool to Enhance Trust in European Statistics

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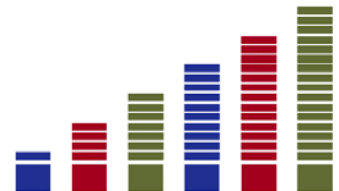
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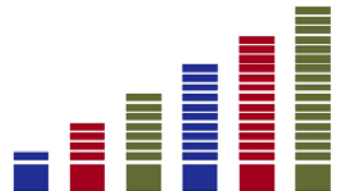
Trust and trustworthiness

- Can you trust a set of statistics?
- Who / what *can* you trust?



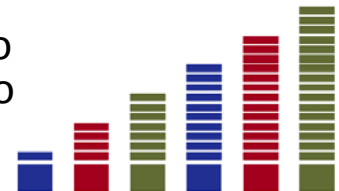
Quality

- Can a set of statistics be “high quality”?
- Is it enough to know that an organisation is committed to the principles of statistical quality management?
- How do you know whether a set of statistics is high quality?



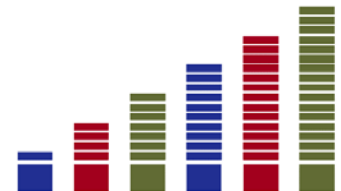
Trust and Quality

- A trustworthy producer of statistics should be expected to produce statistics of a given level of quality and to describe that level of quality meaningfully.
- An organisation whose chief statistician was a ‘political appointment’ may not be inherently trustworthy, but the organisation might still produce high quality statistics. Conversely, an organisation that is highly trustworthy might produce some statistics that are of inherently low quality.
- Levels of trust and quality have different types of drivers:
 - An organisation might be trusted because it is well known, with an identifiable leader, a culture of transparency, strong statutory underpinnings and so on.
 - A set of statistics might be high quality because the main uses to which it is put are well-understood and it has been invested in to meet the needs of most users.



Value (importance)

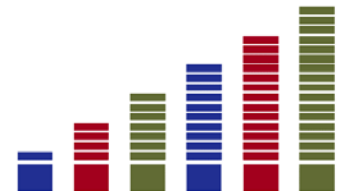
- What are the most valuable (important) sets of statistics in your country?
- Other things being equal, we might want our most valuable (important) statistics to be of highest quality (so, value should influence resource allocation) and produced by the most trustworthy organisations.



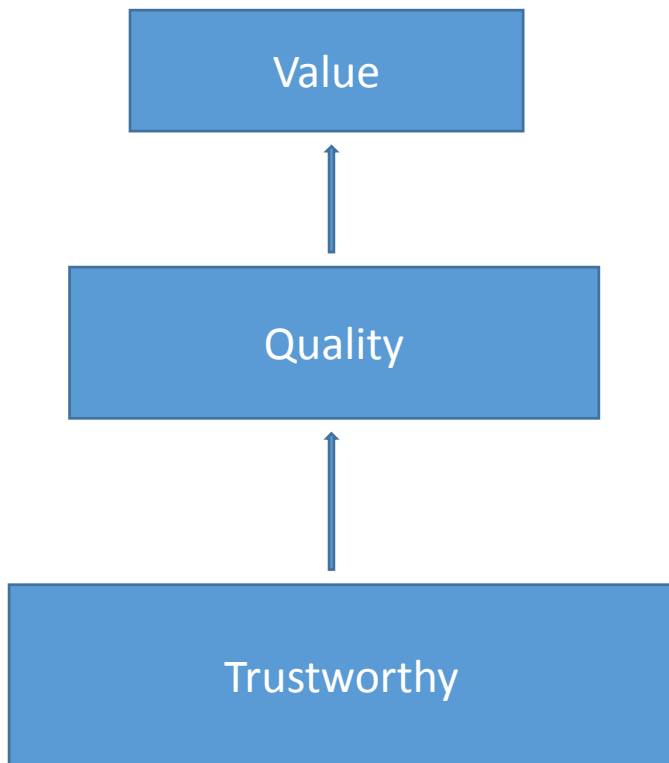
Value (utility)

The public value (utility) of official statistics can be enhanced in several ways, such as:

- An emphasis on analysis, explanation and interpretation – drawing out the main messages – insights - in a set or series of official statistics, supported by appropriate graphics - as opposed to simply producing a table of data.
- Conversely, the release of some sets of statistics - whose value derives from extreme timeliness – with very minimal commentary.
- Ensuring that detailed data are available and supported by sufficient metadata to enable designers of APIs to readily link different sources of information.
- The provision of a user insight (local intelligence) service, to improve producers' understanding of users' needs.
- An emphasis on coherence within and between statistical domains, as opposed to the separate release of statistics on related topics with no attempt to read-across.
- An investment in informing significant areas of public debate, rather than in simply 'collecting and counting'.
- Improved data sharing and linkage, together with the analytical exploitation of the linked dataset.



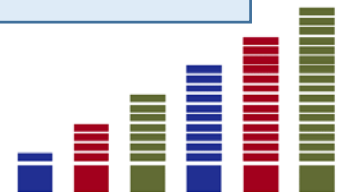
Trust, Quality and Value



The inherent public value of any set of statistics can be enhanced by improving different aspects of their production, presentation and interpretation; and by improving the statistical service associated with the statistics.

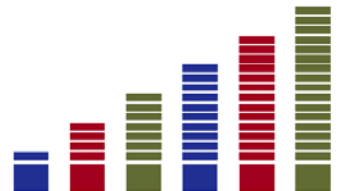
There should ideally be a positive correlation between the quality of a set of statistics and the importance of the decisions that the statistics inform – the more important the type of decision, then the more important the statistics are, and the higher their quality should be.

All official statistics should be produced by organisations that are trustworthy.



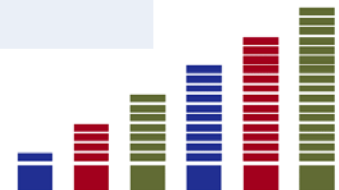
Peer reviews as a source of intelligence

- How do we want others to think about European Statistics?
- Do Peer Reviews provide the 'right' intelligence?



Independent assessments

	ESS Peer Reviews	UK assessments
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance the credibility of the ESS • Strengthen its capacity to produce high quality European statistics • Further reassure stakeholders about the quality of European statistics and the trustworthiness of the ESS 	<p>Statutory objective:</p> <p>Assess whether the Code of Practice for Official Statistics has been complied with.</p>
Descriptor	<p>“Credible statistics for European decision makers”</p> <p>Or</p> <p>“High quality statistics about Europe produced by trustworthy organisations”</p> <p>Or</p> <p>...?</p>	<p><u>From:</u> Designation as National Statistics means that the statistics are deemed to be compliant with the Code</p> <p><u>To:</u> National Statistics status means that official statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value.</p>



Conclusions

- The concept of value (utility) should be researched, defined, codified and operationalised. It should be articulated in ways that embrace official statisticians' innovations and that distinguish constructively between the roles of official statisticians and others in the numerical information business.
- Assessments of Code-compliance should evolve to provide assurance that, at an organisational level, statistical producers are assured that their statistics are inherently valuable and are managed in ways that make them increasingly useful.
- Assessments of Code-compliance should be aligned with and complemented by reviews of sets of statistics which explore both their quality and their value (utility).
- There may be merit in clear communication about what compliance with the ES Code of Practice means and, as part of this, the development of a 'brand' that supports the label of 'European statistics'. This should involve exploring whether the current assurance/review/evaluation mechanisms are sufficiently aligned with our vision for European statistics.

