



## NSS Coordination: A tool or a fundamental Principle?

Session number 13  
Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2016

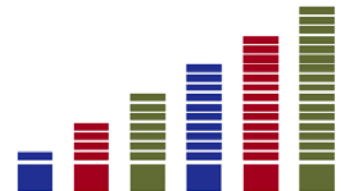
Authors: Antonio Salcedo, Yolanda Gómez  
Affiliations: INE Spain  
Email: [asalcedo@ine.es](mailto:asalcedo@ine.es), [yogomez@ine.es](mailto:yogomez@ine.es)



Madrid, May 31 - June 3

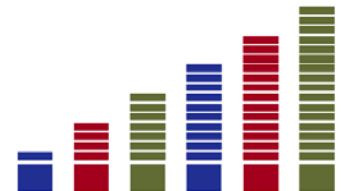
## INDEX

1. What do we understand by coordination?
2. NSS Coordination: the current picture.
  1. NSS Coordination: what is next?



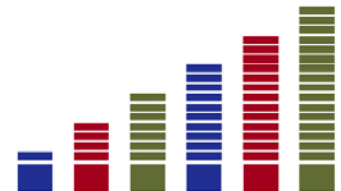
## 1. WHAT DO WE UNDERSTAND BY COORDINATION?

- Coordination means the organization of the different elements of a complex body or activity so as to enable them to work together effectively and a *“cooperative effort resulting in an effective relationship”*.
- There are **two spheres of coordination** in the ESS:
  - **Internal:** cooperative efforts among the members of a specific statistical system
  - **External:** cooperative efforts between the statistical system and its stakeholders outside the system ⇒ International cooperation.



## 1. WHAT DO WE UNDERSTAND BY COORDINATION?

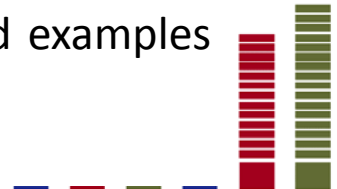
- “Nature” of Coordination: a tool or a fundamental principle....depends...
- **Premise of this study:** Different nature of the system:
  - “Cooperative” international organization (UN, OECD, IMF...)
  - “Integrative” supra-national organization (EU)  $\Rightarrow$  New legal order of international law.



## **2. NSS COORDINATION: THE CURRENT PICTURE**

### **2.1. The coordination principle in international organisations (UN)**

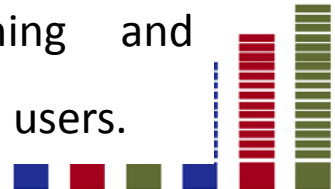
- The **Fundamental Principles of the United Nations (UNFP)** distinguishes between the two spheres of the coordination principle: internal and external (principles 8 and 10)
- Content of the internal coordination (P.8)  $\Rightarrow$  “Implementation guidelines” of the UNFP:
  - legal frameworks for coordination, strong communication and partnership, classifications, standards and quality frameworks, exchange of technical knowledge and training, coordination of the data collections.
  - Also recommended tools for an effective coordination and examples of good practices.



## **2. NSS COORDINATION: THE CURRENT PICTURE**

### **2.1. The coordination principle in international organisations (UN)**

- **ECLAC: Code of Good Practice in Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean.** Internal and external
- Internal (Principle 2): *“This will enable the statistics producing entities to plan and implement national statistical activity in a participatory manner, maintain close contact and work jointly to improve the quality, comparability and consistency of official statistics.”*
- Content of the internal coordination ⇒ recommended mechanisms (indicators):
  - legal set up of the NSS, appointment of the NSI as the coordinating body, establishment of common guidelines, planning and programming, prioritization or consultative committees with users.



## **2. NSS COORDINATION: THE CURRENT PICTURE**

### **2.2. The coordination role as a tool to produce high quality European Statistics**

A. How was life **before** the adoption of the **amended** Regulation 223/2009?

- Regulation 322/1997 on Community Statistics: First Statistical principles.
- Amsterdam Treaty (1999) and subsequent: “Constitutionalization” of the statistical principles.
- Peer Reviews 2006-2008: Monitor the coordination function of each statistical authority within its statistical system.
- Regulation 223/2009:
  - Statistical principles (article 2) + CoP
  - Coordination role: Different content in each MS ... soft v hard coordination.



## 2. NSS COORDINATION: THE CURRENT PICTURE

### 2.2. The coordination role as a tool to produce high quality European Statistics

#### B. The coordination role in the **amended Regulation 223/2009**

- Coordinating responsibility of the NSI shall cover all other national authorities (ONAs).
- The NSI shall be responsible at the national level for coordinating:
  - Statistical programming and reporting,
  - quality monitoring,
  - methodology,
  - data transmission and
  - communication on ESS statistical actions
- Integrated coordination in all the phases of the production process.
- Reinforced coordination....but...it is not a principle contained in article 2.

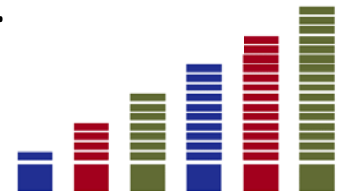




## **2. NSS COORDINATION: THE CURRENT PICTURE**

### **2.2. The coordination role as a tool to produce high quality European Statistics**

- For **NSIs**, the coordination role ensures that all other national authorities within their NSS comply with the standards of the ESS and fulfil the quality requirements for European statistics
- But, what is the role expected by the NSI for coordinating **“quality monitoring” or the methodology?**
  - produce national guidelines to coordinate the quality monitoring and the methodological issues of the ONAs
  - And other tools...different among MS from annual reports on the ONAs statistical activities to audits on the ONAs made by the NSIs (alone or with the help of an external independent body).

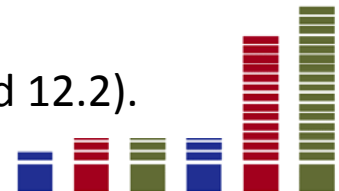


## **2. NSS COORDINATION: THE CURRENT PICTURE**

### **2.2. The coordination role as a tool to produce high quality European Statistics**

#### **C. The Coordination role in the European Statistics Code of Practices**

- Many indicators in the Code related to coordination mechanisms, indirectly or directly: out of 82 indicators of the Code, 50 indicators have something to do as regards the coordination role.
- Coordination questionnaire of the second round of Peer Reviews:
  - Planning and programming (Indicators 1.5, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 9.1, 11.1 and 11.2)
  - Dissemination and communication (Indicators 4.4, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4, 6.5, 6.6, 6.7, 10.2, 11.1, 11.2, 11.3, 13.3, 15.1, 15.2, 15.5, 15.6 and 15.7)
  - Training (Indicators 3.1, 7.6, 7.7)
  - Standardization of production process (Indicators 2.2, 7.1, 7.2, 8.1, 8.7, 8.8, 8.9, 9.2, 9.3, 9.4, 9.5, 9.6, 10.2, 10.3, 10.4, 14.3)
  - Release of data (Indicators 6.5, 13.2, 13.4, 7.1, 7.2, 12.1 and 12.2).



## 2. NSS COORDINATION: THE CURRENT PICTURE

### OFFICIAL STATISTICAL PRINCIPLES

#### TFEU

##### ARTICLE 338

- *Impartiality.*
- *Reliability.*
- *Objectivity.*
- Scientific independence.
- Statistical confidentiality.
  
- *Cost-effectiveness.*
- *Not entail excessive burdens.*

#### Reg. 223/2009

##### ARTICLE 2

- *Impartiality.*
- *Reliability.*
- *Objectivity.*
- Professional independence.
- Statistical confidentiality.
  
- *Cost effectiveness.*
- International recommendations and best practice

#### Code of Practice

##### INSTITUTIONAL ENVIRONMENT

Professional independence;  
Mandate for data collection;  
Adequacy of resources; Quality commitment; *Statistical Confidentiality; Impartiality and objectivity.*

##### STATISTICAL PROCESSES

Sound methodology; Appropriate statistical procedures; *Non-excessive burden on respondents; Cost-effectiveness.*

##### STATISTICAL OUTPUT

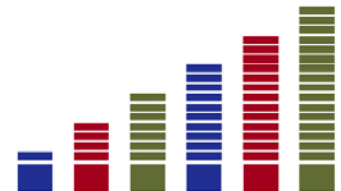
*Relevance; Accuracy and reliability; Timeliness and punctuality; Coherence and comparability; Accessibility and clarity.*

#### UNECE

1. Relevance, *impartiality* and equal access.
2. Professional standards and ethics.
3. Accountability and transparency.
4. Prevention of misuse.
5. Sources of official statistics.
6. *Confidentiality .*
7. Legislation.
8. National coordination.
9. Use of international standards.
10. International cooperation.

### **3. NSS COORDINATION: WHAT IS NEXT?**

- Is the positive impact in the quality of national and European statistics enough to consider coordination as a principle in the EU Legal framework?
- ESGAB and TFPR: Should coordination be a new principle of the CoP?
- If coordination was a UNFP when the ESS designed the Code of Practices, why the EU did not include it as a principle?

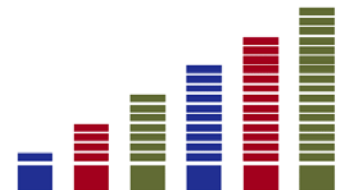


### 3. NSS COORDINATION: WHAT IS NEXT?

#### Comparison of proposed ESS CoP Framework with DQAF

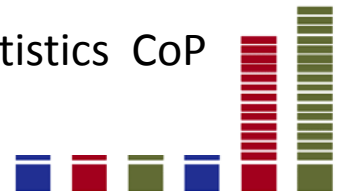
Proposed ESS Code of Practice Framework		IMF Data Quality Assessment Framework (DQAF)	
<b>I. INSTITUTIONAL &amp; ORGANISATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS</b>			
<b>1. Institutional Framework</b>		<b>0. Prerequisites of Quality</b>	
1.1	Appropriate legal framework	0.1	Legal and institutional environment
1.2	Availability of resources	0.2	Resources
1.3	Research and development	0.3	Relevance
1.4	National/international cooperation	0.4	Other quality management
1.5	Statistical confidentiality	<b>1. Assurances of Integrity</b>	
1.6	Professional independence	1.1	Professionalism
1.7	Scientific & quality standards	1.2	Transparency
1.8	Impartiality	1.3	Ethical standards
1.9	Transparency		
1.10	Monitoring user needs		
<b>II. CORE STATISTICAL PROCESSES</b>			
<b>2. Statistical Processes</b>		<b>2. Methodological Soundness</b>	
2.1	Strategic planning	2.1	Concepts and definitions
2.2	Internationally agreed methodology	2.2	Scope
2.3	Accuracy and reliability	2.3	Classification/sectorisation
2.4	Cost effectiveness	2.4	Basis for recording
2.5	Non-excessive respondent burden	<b>3. Accuracy and Reliability</b>	
2.6	Use of administrative records	3.1	Source data
2.7	Technological productivity gains	3.2	Assessment of source data
2.8	Staff training and development	3.3	Statistical techniques
		3.4	Assessment & validation of intermediate data & statistical outputs
		3.5	Revision studies
<b>III. STATISTICAL PRODUCTS</b>			
<b>3. Statistical Output</b>		<b>4. Serviceability</b>	
3.1	Relevance	4.1	Periodicity and timeliness
3.2	Objectivity	4.2	Consistency
3.3	Coherence	4.3	Revision policies
3.4	Timeliness and punctuality	<b>5. Accessibility</b>	
3.5	Comparability		
3.6	Customer service		
3.7	Equality of access		

The inputs of the CoP: UNFP but also others... as IMF Quality principles



### **3. NSS COORDINATION: WHAT IS NEXT?**

- The CoP goes beyond the principles of the Treaty: Adding the institutional framework, the quality dimension, methodology...
- The coordination role was under the subsidiarity principle: thus, some elements of coordination were spread out through the Code's indicators.
- The EU has a hierarchy of norms and legal binding acts...therefore, we see three different categories or hierarchy of principles:
  - the “proper” statistical principles set up in the Treaty (the first category)
  - the statistical principles set up in article 2 of Regulation 223/2009 (the second category)
  - the “common standards” contained in the European Statistics CoP (third category).



## 3. NSS COORDINATION: WHAT IS NEXT?

### The current situation

- Some of the **statistical principles** of the Treaty and the European statistical law are embedded in the Code (*Professional independence, cost-effectiveness, non-excessive burden on respondents, impartiality and objectivity, statistical confidentiality, [reliability]*)
- “The rest” 9 out of 15 cannot be identified as principles of the same category. (*Mandate for data collection; Adequacy of resources; Quality commitment, Sound methodology; Appropriate statistical procedures, Accuracy and reliability; Timeliness and punctuality; Coherence and comparability; Accessibility and clarity*)
- Even more, from those 9, there are 5 that are legally binding as quality criteria contained in article 12 of Regulation 223/2009 (*relevance, accuracy, timeliness, punctuality, accessibility, comparability, coherence*)
- **Coordination in our law is a tool** to enhance coherence and comparability to the European Statistics and some of its elements are already included in many Code indicators.
- The Code is a self-regulatory instrument, non-binding, that includes not only principles but also international standards (putting all of them on equal footing).



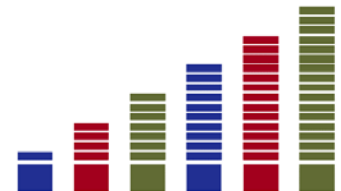
### **3. NSS COORDINATION: WHAT IS NEXT?**

#### **Conclusion**

- Defining additional indicators related to the coordination role and linking them to the current principles seems more coherent and appropriate with the EU legal architecture.
- However, the coordination role might be included in the CoP as a principle, but...
  - It would be a principle of “third category”
  - It would be difficult to agree on a common definition of (statistical) coordination
  - Risk of “over-regulation”  $\Rightarrow$  Principle in the CoP + (simultaneously) a tool according to the current European statistical law.

**What would be the added value?**

**Floor is open...**





**THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION!**

