European Statistical System Peer Reviews

Third round: 2021-2023

Agenda of the peer review visit in Latvia

Timing	Topic	Participants
Day 1 – Monday 20th February 2023		
09:00 – 10:00	Preparatory meeting with the national coordination desk and, possibly, other national participants in the visit to discuss practical aspects of the visit.	The peer review expert team The NSI:
10:00-10:15	Welcome and introduction of the programme, adopting the agenda and organisational matters	The peer review expert team The NSI:
10:15-11:15	Presentation of the National Statistical System General information session with a description on: • how the national statistical system is organised, the position of the NSI within public administration • bodies, distribution of responsibilities, • legislative advocacy, drafting, and amendments of legislation, role of the responsible Ministry • relations between authorities • collaboration with NCB, • the concept of Commitment on Confidence and the awareness of the ES CoP outside the NSIs • The impact of COVID-19 on NSI • Appointment procedure of the DG • The role and tasks of the Statistical Council	The peer review expert team The NSI:
11:15-11:30	Coffee break	
11:30-12:30	Progress and plans for the future The aim of this session is to discuss progress since the last 5 years and the NSIs plans for the future. A short presentation from the NSI of maximum 10 minutes would be useful.	The peer review expert team The NSI:
12:30-13:30	Lunch	
13:30-15:15	Professional independence and the Law on Official Statistics and related legislation (ES CoP principles 1, 2, 5 and 6) CoP principles 1 – Professional Independence CoP principles 2 – Mandate for Data Collection CoP principles 5 – Statistical Confidentiality CoP principles 6 – Impartiality and Objectivity • Observing the use/misuse of statistics	The peer review expert team The NSI:

	• The legal situation regarding administrative data	
15:00-15:15	Coffee break	
15:15 – 16:45	Coordination and cooperation (ES CoP principle 1bis • Relations with ONAs, coordination procedures, • International and national cooperation • university cooperation • influence of budget on cooperation activities	The peer review expert team The NSI:
16:45-18:00	peer review expert team discussion (the national peer review coordinator/national coordination desk should be available at this time in case any questions arise).	The peer review expert team

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Day 2 – Tuesday 21st February 2023		
09:00-10:40	Programming, planning and resources (ES CoP principles 1, 3, 9 and 10) **Presentation on Micro strategy tool, working time recording system and Balanced Strategy Information System – 10 min** principle 1 –Professional independence principle 3 – Adequacy of Resources principle 9 – Non-Excessive Burden on Respondents principle 10 – Cost-Effectiveness Focus points: - Statistical work programme and reporting - Human, financial, and IT resources assessment and allocation, priority settings - Discussions with ministry on increasing the wages - New needs of users: examples and process (criteria) of selection - Financial compensation of the costs incurred - Statistics terminated, discontinued or reduced in frequency due to financial constraints - Measurement of response burden Procedures for hiring staff	The peer review expert team The NSI:
10:40-10:55	Coffee break	
10:55-12:25	Quality (organisational structure, tools, monitoring) (ES CoP principles 4 and 11 to 15) **Presentation of the Quality Management System and CSB Process Portal – 10 min** principle 4 – Quality Commitment principle 11 – Relevance principle 12 – Accuracy and Reliability principle 13 – Timeliness and Punctuality principle 14 – Coherence and Comparability principle 15 – Accessibility and Clarity - Implementation of GSBPM - Quality guidelines and other documentation - Quality assurance (monitoring, reporting, benchmarking, and feedback from users) - From guidelines to practice	The peer review expert team The NSI:

	• How is accuracy as a quality criterion dealt with • Policy on preliminary results	
12:25-13:30	Lunch	
13:30-15:00	Methodology, data collection, data processing and administrative data (ES CoP principles 2, 7 and 8) principle 2 – Mandate for Data Collection principle 7 – Sound Methodology principle 8 – Appropriate statistical procedures principle 9 – Non-Excessive Burden on Respondents • principles of data governance • division of labour and of responsibilities • new data sources and integration principles • management of classifications • auditing of methodology access to and control of administrative data	The peer review expert team The NSI:
15:00 – 15:15	Coffee break	
15:15-16:45	Dissemination and confidentiality (ES CoP principles 5, 6 and 15) Sub-session: CoP principle 5+6 - Impartiality and Objectivity Sub-session: CoP principle 15 - Accessibility and Clarity • Implementation of the GDPR and its influence on response rates • Procedures on possible confidentiality breaches • Changes in the release calendar • Pre-release access and its justifications • Best practices on social media	The peer review expert team The NSI:
16:45-17:45	peer review expert team discussion (the national peer review coordinator/national coordination desk should be available at this time in case any questions arise).	The peer review expert team

Timing	Topic	Participants
	Day 3 - Wednesday 22nd February 2023	
09:00-10:15	Meeting with Latvian Environment, Geology and Meteorology Centre (ONA) This session aims at discussing strengths and weaknesses regarding ES CoP compliance, and at identifying areas for improvements for the specific ONA. The session also aims at discussing the coordination role of the NSI in the NSS as experienced by the ONA (principle 1bis – perspective of the ONA). A short presentation of the ONA on the abovementioned issues of maximum 10 minutes would be useful.	The peer review expert team The ONA:
10:15-10:30	Coffee break	
10:30-11:45	Meeting with Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ONA) This session aims at discussing strengths and weaknesses regarding ES CoP compliance, and at identifying areas for improvements for the specific ONA. The session also aims at discussing the coordination role of the NSI in the NSS as experienced by the ONA (principle 1bis – perspective of the ONA). A short presentation of the ONA on the abovementioned issues of maximum 10 minutes would be useful.	The peer review expert team The ONA:
11:45-12:45	Lunch	
12:45-14:00	Meeting with Institute of Agricultural Resources and Economics (ONA) This session aims at discussing strengths and weaknesses regarding ES CoP compliance, and at identifying areas for improvements for the specific ONA. The session also aims at discussing the coordination role of the NSI in the NSS as experienced by the ONA (principle 1bis – perspective of the ONA). A short presentation of the ONA on the abovementioned issues of maximum 10 minutes would be useful	The peer review expert team The ONA:

14:00-14:30	General closing session with all the Other National Authorities (ONA) producing European statistics that are taking part in the peer review visit.	The peer review expert team ONAs: NSI:
14:30-14:45	Coffee break	
14:45-15:45	Meeting with providers of new data sources This session aims at discussing innovation and new developments with the NSI and providers of new data sources, such as shopping centres for scanner data, , others. This session is an opportunity to bring the new data sources providers towards the NSI enabling a discussion aimed at an increased use of their data and possible partnerships (partnership agreements, personal data, data transmission/retrieval, innovations perceived as relevant by the NSI, …).	The peer review expert team Providers of new data sources: The NSI:
15:45-17:00	Meeting with junior staff only	The peer review expert team Junior staff:
17:00-18:00	Peer review expert team discussion (the national peer review coordinator/national coordination desk should be available at this time in case any questions arise).	The peer review expert team

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Day 4 - Thursday 23rd February 2023		
09:00-10:00	Meeting with main (admin) data providers This session aims at discussing with main administrative data providers, including relevant public bodies, business organisations, etc. (agreements, burden, data confidentiality, …) • the perception of the NSI • relations with the NSI • procedures for making changes to the structure of data (adding or removing new variables/questions) • treatment of errors • value that the NSI adds to data (if any) the role of the statistical council and its influence on the work process.	The peer review expert team Admin data providers: The NSI:
10:00-10:15	Coffee break	
10:15-11:30	Meeting with the Statistical council The aim of this session is to discuss the mandate and functioning of the Statistical Council. A short presentation from the Chair of maximum 10 minutes would be useful.	The peer review expert team Statistical Council:
11:30-12:30	Meeting with main users – Ministries and other public/private institutions (including Central Bank as a user) This session aims at discussing with the Ministries and other public/private institutions of official statistics on their experience (data availability in relation to data needs, contacts with NSI, trust, …).	The peer review expert team Ministries and other public/private institutions: The NSI:
12:30-13:30	Lunch	
13:30-14:30	Meeting with main users v– business associations and federations and trade unions, as well as representatives of a committee of users – if any This session aims at discussing with the business associations and federations and trade unions, as well as representatives of a committee of users – if	The peer review expert team: The NSI: Main users:

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	any (data availability in relation to data needs, contacts with NSI, trust, …).	
14:30-14:45	Coffee break	
14:45-15:45	Meeting with main users – Media This session aims at discussing with the media on their experience as users of official statistics (easy to obtain, needs, contacts with NSI, trust, …).	The peer review expert team Media: The NSI:
15:45-16:45	Meeting with main users – Scientific community This session aims at discussing with the scientific community on their experience as users of official statistics (access to microdata in secure environment, data availability in relation to data needs, contacts with NSI, trust).	The peer review expert team Scientists: The NSI:
17:00-18:00	Recommended: peer review expert team discussion (the national peer review coordinator/national coordination desk should be available at this time in case any questions arise).	The peer review expert team

Timing	Topic	Participants
Day 5 Friday 24th February 2023		
09.00-11.00	Clarifications, remaining or additional issues and focus areas This session of the peer review expert team and the national peer review coordinator could be organised if the peer review expert team needs to request and analyse additional material.	The peer review expert team The NSI:
11:00-11:15	Coffee break	
11:15-13:00	Meeting with the senior management of the NSI: conclusions and recommendations In this meeting the chair of the peer review expert team presents the peer review conclusions, highlighting strengths and recommendations for improvements. She/he will explain the background for the peer review findings and explain for each recommendation whether it is compliance relevant or improvement related. This session provides the senior management of the NSI with an opportunity	The peer review expert team The NSI:

	to discuss the findings with the peer review expert team, as well as next steps.	
13:00- 14.00	Lunch	