



# EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON QUALITY IN OFFICIAL STATISTICS 2024 ESTORIL - PORTUGAL



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# Good practices based on the OECD Recommendation to ensure an efficient coordination of the national statistical system

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The conference is partly  
financed by the European Union





# Coordination is key to ensure high-quality official statistics

- Avoid duplication in data collection, data processing and data dissemination
- Ensure consistency (classifications, methodologies, etc.) between official statistics produced by various producers
- Ensure consistency between national and sub-national statistics
- Ensure that international standards and classifications are implemented



# An efficient coordination is increasingly important...

1. Demand for **granular and timely** information has increased
  - **Great Financial Crisis 2007-2009:** G20 DGI stressed the importance of complementing macro-level aggregates with data on financial linkages between sectors and countries and distributional information
  - COVID Pandemic
2. **Declining efficiency of established statistical instruments** (surveys, censuses) require complementing with other sources, incl. administrative data (registers)
3. Data are increasingly **collected from multiple sources for multiple purposes** (monitoring financial stability, compiling macroeconomic statistics, monitoring financial stability)



## An efficient coordination is increasingly important...

4. Policy questions increasingly **cross-cutting**, for instance
  - Environmental and social policies
  - Digital transition, green transition, mobility transition
  - Government finances and income and wealth distribution
  - Enterprise demography, productivity and employment
  - Efficient coordination unlocks **new possibilities for cross-cutting evidence**

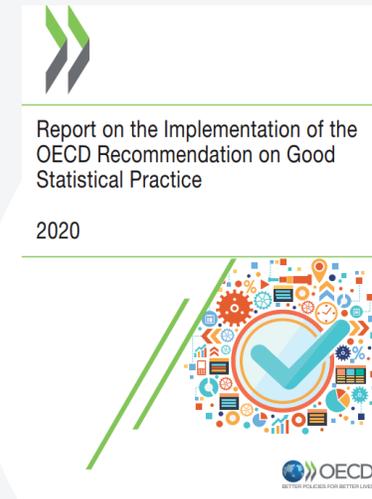
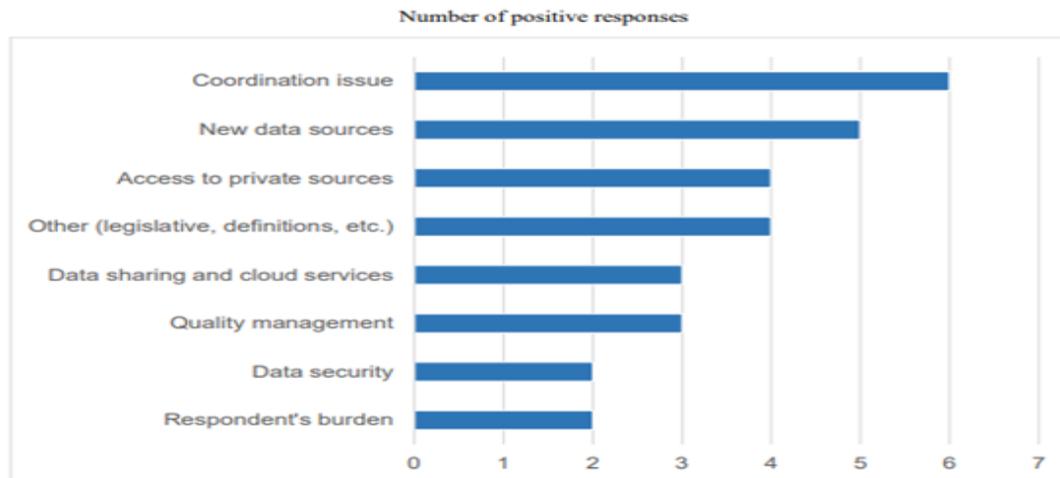
## ...and increasingly challenging

more data sources, more actors, new technologies, new data environment



# OECD Recommendation on Good Statistical Practice – Implementation report (2020)

Figure 4. Possible areas of further development of the Recommendation



GOOD STATISTICAL PRACTICE  
TOOLKIT





# OECD Recommendation on Good Statistical Practice (2015)

R1-R5 Legal and  
institutional framework  
enabling statistics

R1 Clear legal and institutional framework  
R2 Professional independence  
R3 Adequacy of resources  
R4 Protection of privacy  
R5 Right to access administrative sources

R6-R8 methods, quality,  
and processes

R6 Impartiality, objectivity and transparency  
R7 Sound methodology and professional standards  
R8 Quality of statistical outputs and processes

R9 user friendly access  
and dissemination

R9 Ensure user friendly access and dissemination of data and metadata,  
commitment to respond to misinterpretations of data by users

R10-R11 coordination  
and cooperation and  
dissemination

R10 Co-ordination of statistical activities  
R11 International co-operation

R12 looking ahead,  
innovation

R12 Exploring new and alternative data sources and methods





# OECD Recommendation on Good Statistical Practice – List of indicative good practices

Not formally part of Recommendation (Annex)

A list of **indicative** good practices illustrates each Recommendation

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

**Self-assessment questionnaire** on the implementation of the Recommendation based on the good practices



# OECD Recommendation on Good Statistical Practice – List of indicative good practices

- 10.1. The role and responsibilities of all producers of statistics are clearly determined by law. A co-ordinator of the NSS, such as the NSO, is also designated by law.
- 10.2. The designated co-ordinator has responsibility to co-ordinate the statistical activities of official producers in the NSS and to represent the NSS as a whole. This concerns in particular the use of appropriate statistical concepts and procedures, the implementation of international standards and efforts to minimise duplications in data collection, production and dissemination of official statistics.
- 10.3. Procedures, mechanisms, tools, guidelines, or agreements are in place to ensure effective co-ordination within the NSS. Procedures include:
  - Establishment of a national statistics plan;
  - Co-ordinated data dissemination, e.g. through a single data portal;
  - Assistance with implementation of international standards and classification; and
  - Common quality management processes.
- 10.4. Exchange of statistical information between statistical agencies is actively undertaken.



# Importance of coordination is highlighted in international guidelines

- Clear definition of the principle, whatever the characteristics of the national statistical system (decentralised or centralised)
- Defined process (planning activities, etc.)
- But not enough clear indications on how to assess the efficiency of the coordination or how to judge whether the coordination is efficient or not
- We need more criteria to assess the efficiency of the coordination mechanisms
- Criteria should deal with the context in which the national system operates
- Costs and benefits of coordination



## Suggested list of adapted good practices

1. A clear **legal framework** for the national statistical system determines the roles and responsibilities of producers of statistics, designates a coordinator and representant of the system and provides institutional arrangements (governance bodies) and technical mechanisms for an efficient coordination
2. Statistical **planning** (multi-year and annual) and related reporting mechanisms are used to coordinate the work of the producers of official statistics
3. Coordinated **dissemination** of official statistics is supported through relevant common online platforms and procedures, including common advance release calendars
4. Common **quality** management system and quality assurance frameworks are implemented by all the producers of official statistics. National statistical authorities develop national quality guidelines and organise training sessions for all the producers of official statistics



## Suggested list of adapted good practices

5. Coordination is operationalised through written **agreements** with relevant actors to strengthen relationships between the national statistical authorities and the statistical units in other authorities and improve data sharing (incl. microdata for statistical purposes, privacy protection, quality, etc.).
6. The implementation of **international statistical standards and classifications** is coordinated at the national level.
7. Efficient coordination is ensured at the **operational level**. For example, expert, technical or working groups for knowledge sharing support the use of common conceptual frameworks, processes and statistical methods, business processes (GSBPM), data sharing and modelling (SDMX)
8. Coordinated procedures and criteria for **communicating** the quality of official statistics and for **quality certification** and **labelling** are in place.
9. Sufficient **human, financial and IT resources** are allocated on a continuous basis to the organisational structure for coordination and relevant actors.
10. Beyond the national statistical system, the producers of official statistics are systematically involved **in government-wide data governance initiatives** (e.g. digitalisation), to leverage existing expertise and avoid duplication of work.



## Concluding remarks

- An efficient coordination is essential for the production and dissemination of high-quality official statistics
- The evolving data environment makes this coordination more challenging and sometimes less effective
- International guidelines need to support the implementation and monitoring of coordination mechanisms and institutional arrangements
- Coordination is also linked to some other important principles, such as the clear definition of official statistics and national statistical system, professional independence, and cooperation.
- Role for international organisations in organising information sharing across countries



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# Thank You!

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