



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



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# Coordination within the national statistical system – experiences from Denmark

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# Intro- duction

- The update of the regulation 223/2009 in 2015
- Statistic Denmark started developing guidelines for European statistics for the Other National Authorities (ONAs) producing European statistics.
- Annual monitoring process of the ONA's compliance with the guidelines for official statistics.
- National Coordination Committee for Official Statistics, with the National Statistician as the chair.

Guidelines	Criteria	Examples of good practice
<b>1. The production of European statistics shall be professionally independent.</b>  <i>Users must be able to count on the statistics being produced based on objective methods and without regard to political or economic interests.</i>	<b>1a. It is ensured that the statistical-producing unit can work professionally independently, e.g. in the legal basis, the authority's mandate, functional description, organisational arrangement, etc.</b>	Professional independence is ensured for Statistics Denmark in the Statistics Denmark Act. The law stipulates that Statistics Denmark is professionally and politically independent, and that the organization has the authority to collect data.  As examples of good practice, for example, the Danish Financial Supervisory Authority has a board that ensures professional independence. The Danish Patent and Trademark Office has a cross-cutting statistical group with a terms of reference.
<b>2. The head of the statistical unit shall be solely responsible for determining the statistical methods, standards and procedures, as well as for the content and timing of the statistics.</b>  <i>By ensuring that decisions regarding methods, publication times, etc. taken only by the producer of the statistics, it is protected against political interference in the statistical work. A statistical unit can be an entire organization, a department, an office, a part of an office, a cross-cutting function or the like, - depending on who is responsible for statistical production.</i>	<b>2a. A manager responsible for statistical production has been appointed in the authority.</b> <b>2b. The recruitment and possible dismissal of the manager responsible for the production of statistics shall not be justified by factors which may jeopardise professional independence.</b> <b>2c. Decisions on methods, standards, procedures and content of the publications are exempt from ministerial/political approval.</b>	The Act on Statistics Denmark states that the National Statistician is responsible for the professional and administrative management of Statistics Denmark.

# Developing national guidelines for official statistics

- The development started in 2015 – first with an internal group of experts in Statistics Denmark
- ....then involving representatives from ONA's
- ....then discussed at the annual meeting in the National Coordination Committee
- Guidelines reflect CoP, but is a down scale to accommodate ONAs that don't have statistics production as their core tasks
- First round of monitoring in 2016
- .... revealed very different understanding of the guidelines
- A round of visits to all ONAs was initiated in 2017
  - ONAs explained their organizational setups and production processes
  - Statistics Denmark explained about the CoP and GSBPM
- Revised national guidelines for European statistics (official statistics after revision on the act on Statistics Denmark in 2018)

Guidelines	Criteria	Examples of good practice
<p><b>1. The production of European statistics shall be professionally independent.</b></p> <p><i>Users must be able to count on the statistics being produced based on objective methods and without regard to political or economic interests.</i></p>	<p>1a. It is ensured that the statistical-producing unit can work professionally independently, e.g. in the legal basis, the authority's mandate, functional description, organisational arrangement, etc.</p>	<p>Professional independence is for Statistics Denmark in the Denmark Act. The law stipulates that Statistics Denmark is professional and politically independent, and the organization has the authority to collect data.</p> <p>As examples of good practice, for example, the Danish Financial Supervisory Authority has a board that ensures professional independence. The Danish Patent and Trademark Office has a cross-cutting statistical group with a terms of reference.</p> <p>The Act on Statistics Denmark states that the National Statistician is responsible for the professional and administrative management of Statistics Denmark.</p>
<p><b>2. The head of the statistical unit shall be solely responsible for determining the statistical methods, standards and procedures, as well as for the content and timing of the statistics.</b></p> <p><i>By ensuring that decisions regarding methods, publication times, etc. taken only by the producer of the statistics, it is protected against political interference in the statistical work. A statistical unit can be an entire organization, a department, an office, a part of an office, a cross-cutting function or the like - depending on who is responsible for statistical production.</i></p>	<p>2a. A manager responsible for statistical production has been appointed in the authority.</p> <p>2b. The recruitment and possible dismissal of the manager responsible for the production of statistics shall not be justified by factors which may jeopardise professional independence.</p> <p>2c. Decisions on methods, standards, procedures and content of the publications are exempt from ministerial/political approval.</p>	

# Monitoring Compliance

Guideline	Criteria	Question
<i>Institutional framework</i>		
<b>1. The production of European statistics shall be professionally independent.</b>	1a. It is ensured that the statistical-producing unit can work professionally independently, e.g. in the legal basis, the authority's mandate, functional description, organisational arrangement, etc.	Is there a mandate, a functional description, etc., to ensure that the statistical unit can work professionally independently? (mandatory criteria)
<b>2. The head of the statistical unit shall be solely responsible for determining the statistical methods, standards and procedures, as well as for the content and timing of the statistics.</b>	2a. A manager responsible for statistical production has been appointed in the authority.	Has a manager been appointed in charge of statistical production? (mandatory criteria)
	2b. The recruitment and possible dismissal of the manager responsible for the production of statistics shall not be justified by factors which may jeopardise professional independence.	Can it be ruled out that the manager responsible for statistical production is dismissed for reasons that jeopardise statistical independence? (mandatory criteria)
	2c. Decisions on methods, standards, procedures and content of the publications are exempt from ministerial/political approval.	Is the choice of methods, standards, procedures and content in the publications exempt from ministerial/political approval? (mandatory criteria)

- Act on Statistics Denmark: an annual monitoring of compliance is implemented
- Compliance is monitored using a self-assessment questionnaire annually
- Approximately every five years by a more thorough review of the ONA – a peer review
- Self-assessment questionnaire is based on the guidelines and deals in with:
  - 1) the institutional framework for the production of statistics,
  - 2) the statistical procedures and
  - 3) the statistical products.
- Questions are directly based the underlying criteria linked to the guidelines.
- Compliance with selected criteria is mandatory and this is stated in the self-assessment form.

# Conclusions and way forward

- The annual monitoring and peer reviews is planned to continue in the coming years.
- To follow up on the European peer review actions are also needed to
  - share more good practices and
  - to implement common standards for e.g. quality reporting in the national statistical system
- Statistics Denmark could be moving towards more transparency by e.g.
  - future public access to the different review reports that result from peer reviews of ONAs and
  - from Statistics Denmark's internal reviews.
- ONAs with very limited resources dedicated to producing statistics might use more resources on monitoring than is allocated to the production of statistics – this must be addressed





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# Thank you

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