



EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON QUALITY IN OFFICIAL STATISTICS 2024 ESTORIL - PORTUGAL



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Safeguarding Democracy: The Fortress of Official Statistics

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1. The Essential Role of Official Statistics in Democracies



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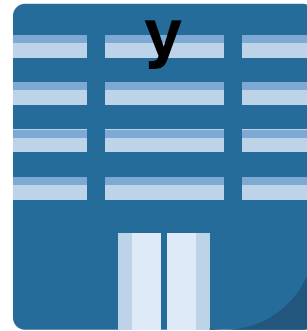
The conference is partly
financed by the European Union



Official Statistics provide information for evidence-based decisions by politicians and the electorate



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Official Statistics



The foundation of democracy is the element of **choice**.

Official Statistics lay the groundwork for **informed** decision-making. They provide transparent, accurate, and reliable data and information for citizens and policymakers with the **aim to generate prosperity**.

Information on and assessment of:

- Short term goals (e.g. CPI)
- Long term goals (e.g. SDGs)
- Crisis management (e.g. Covid-Mortality)



In the German “Democratic” Republic (GDR), over-achievement of 5 year plans was statistically confirmed on a regular basis





Whereas long queues in front of supermarkets and empty shelves reflected a different reality





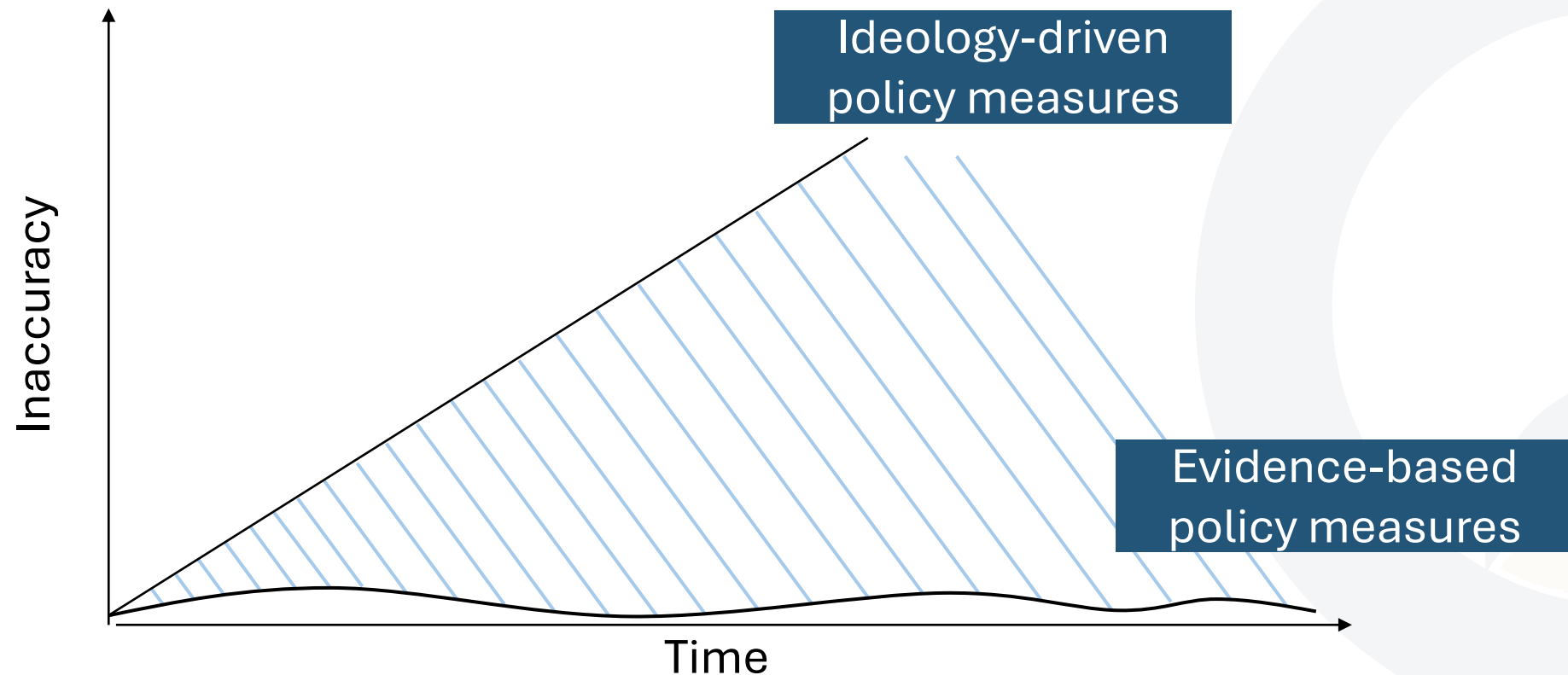
Uncertainty paves the ground for fake news and alternative facts





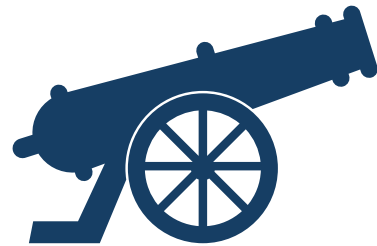
Official Statistics support accurate policy measures

Growing inaccuracy due to ideology-driven policy measures

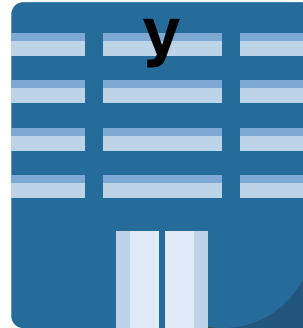




... and are ongoingly under attack!



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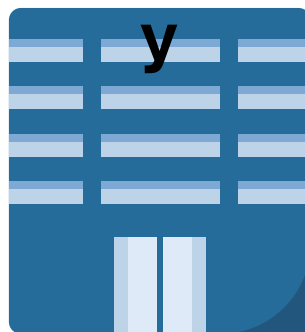
Direct (Political) Threats

- Sudden replacements of independent heads of NSIs
- Merger of an NSI with a political body or ministry
- Entire dissolution of the NSI



... and are ongoingly under attack!

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Indirect (Political) Threats

- Insufficient financial resources for NSI
- Defamation of competences in the media (e.g. higher trust in other producers)
- Exclusion from statistically relevant legislation (e.g. digitalization, data)
- Exclusion from new tasks and responsibilities in the data ecosystem

2. The Fortress of Official Statistics



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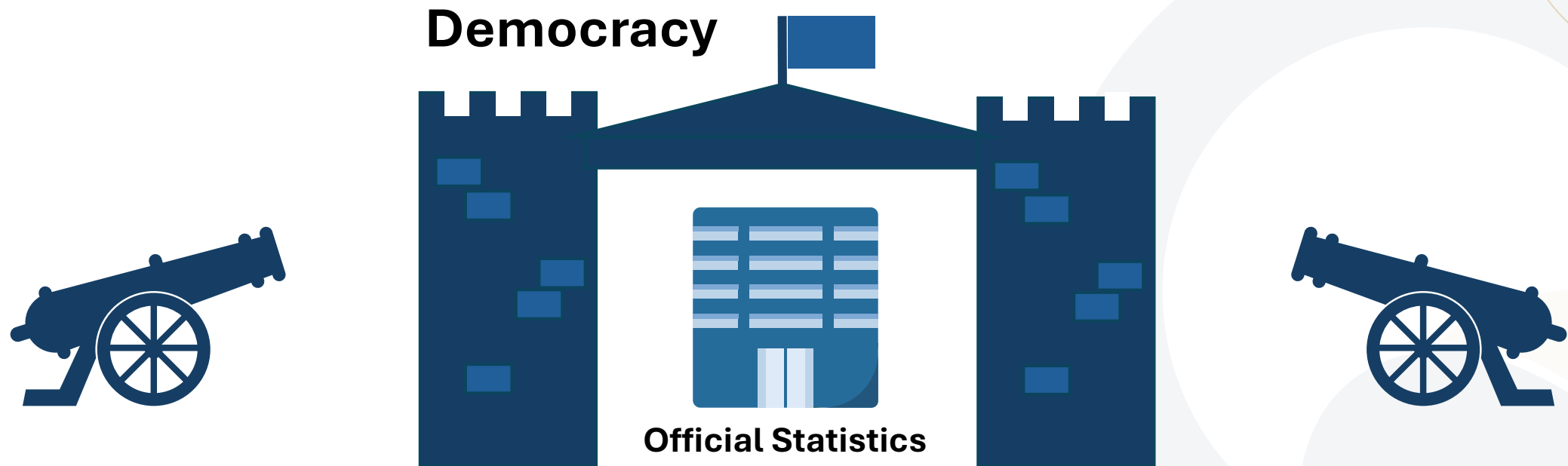
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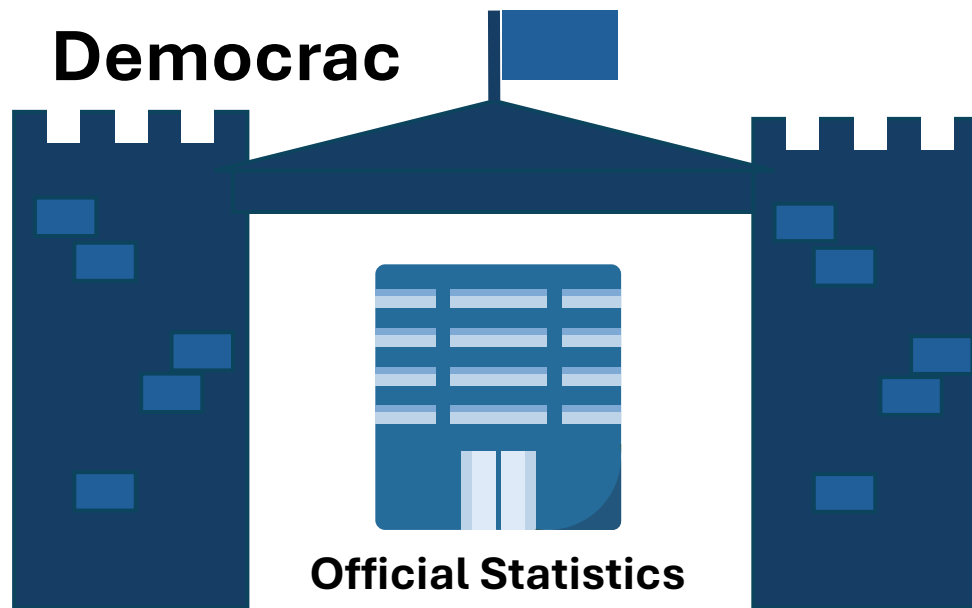
Official statistics need to be a fortress fending off the attacks



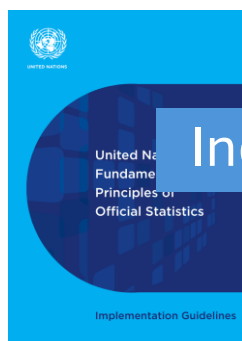


Principles and Quality Frameworks create a solid foundation

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Official Statistics



Independence



Best
practice

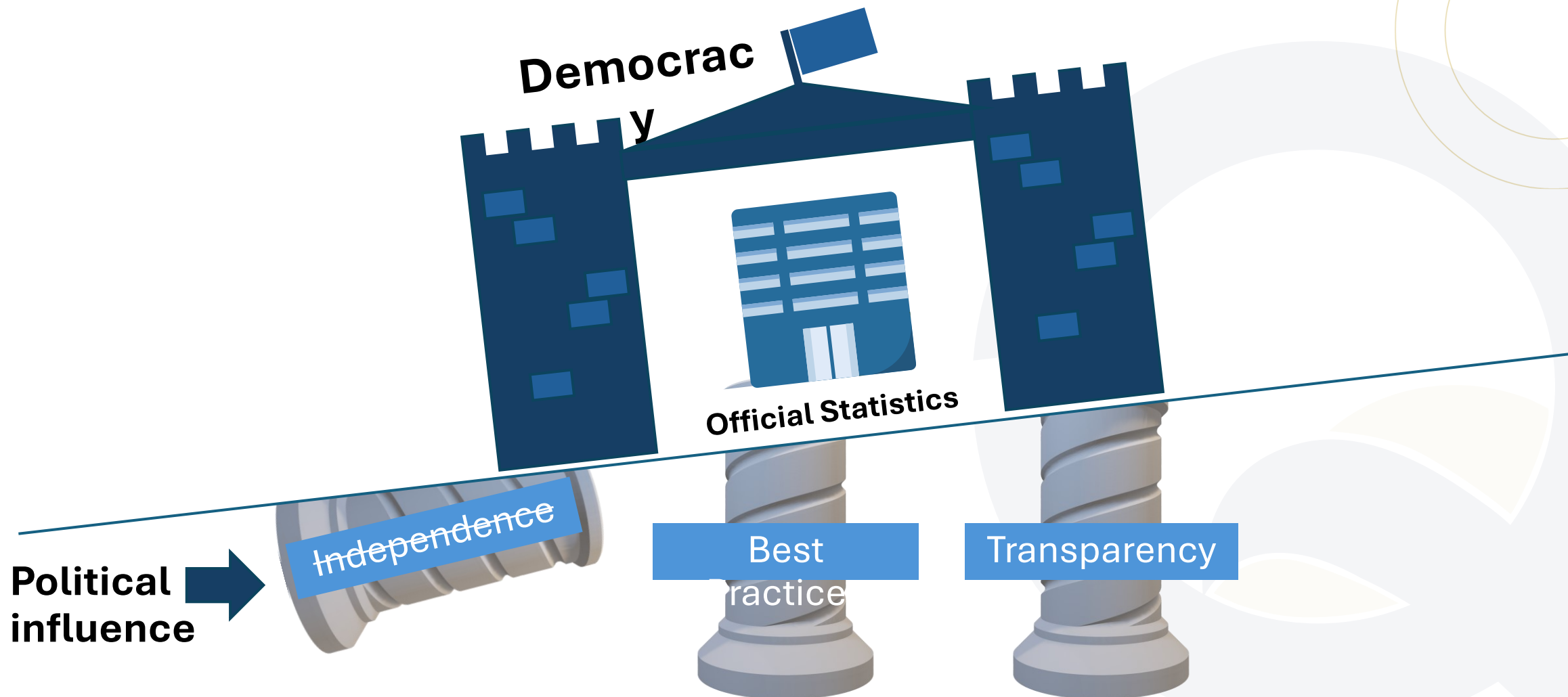


Transparency



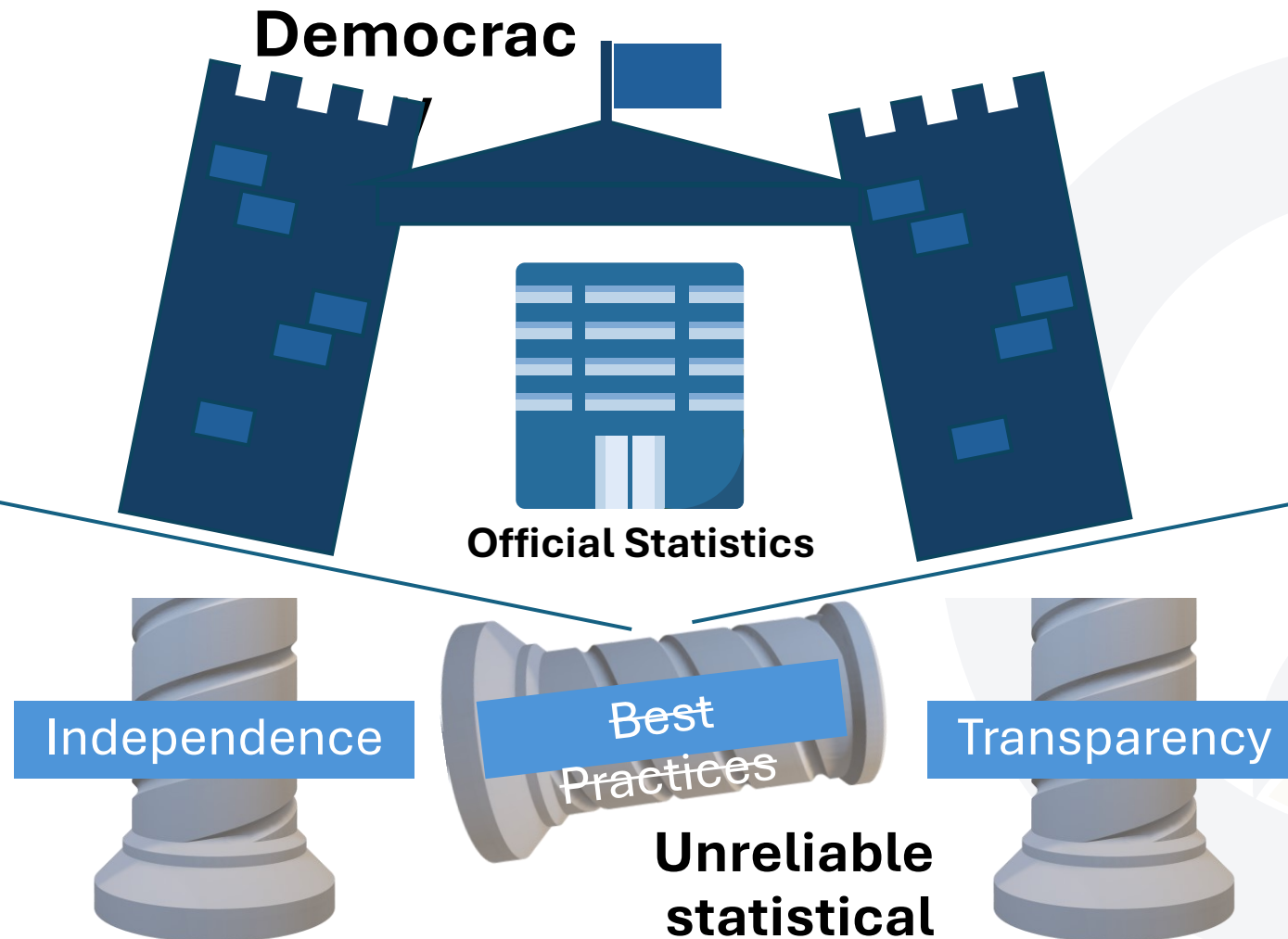


Lack of independence creates risk of political influence



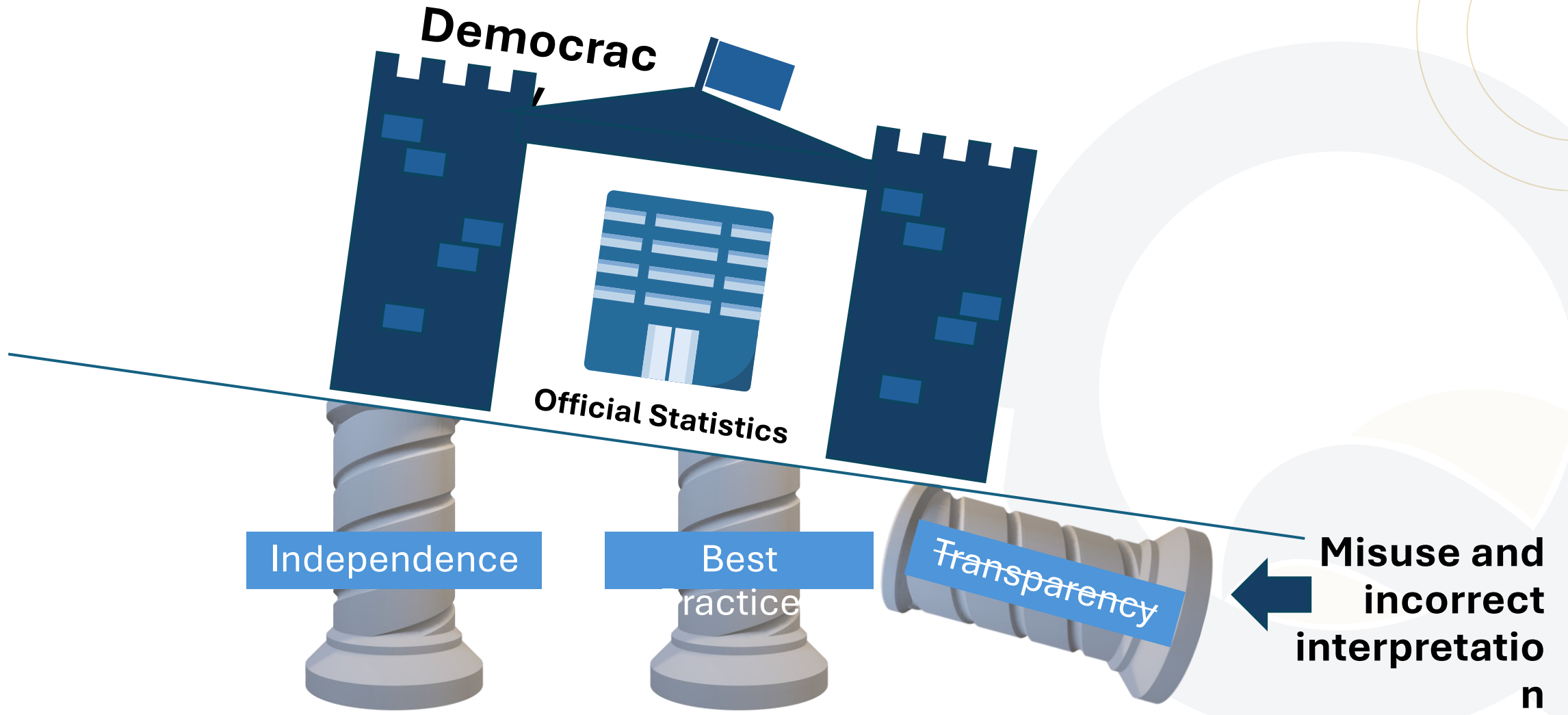


Lack of Best Practices and Quality create unreliable results





Lack of Transparency creates opportunity for misuse of statistics



Times of crises – which direction are we heading?



With the solid fortress of Official Statistics, evidence-based policy measures and prosperity can be achieved!

The best is yet to come!





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