


# **Adapted Global Assessments**

## ***History-Objective-Modalities-Results***

**HLS on AGAs and LPRs: Follow-up and Next Steps**

25-27 June 2013, Alushta, Ukraine

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# Official Statistics

Coherent, reliable and internationally comparable statistics are crucial for the monitoring of social, economic and environmental progress of a country; they:

- Are essential tools for evidence-based policy making
- Ensure transparency and accountability in the process of economic and social reforms
- Enable decision makers to formulate policies, and to monitor and evaluate their deliveries

A sound national legal and institutional framework is a prerequisite for building confidence and trust in official statistics



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# National Statistical System (NSS) /1

Public organisations and units within a country that jointly collect, process and disseminate official statistics; these are:

- National Statistical Institute (NSI)
  - Central Statistical Office
  - Territorial statistical bodies
  - Other subordinated bodies
- Other producers of official statistics (specific organisational units)
  - National Bank – Balance of Payments
  - Ministry of Finance – Government Finance Statistics
  - Other ministries and agencies
- Statistical Council – High-level advisory bodies

# National Statistical System (NSS) <sup>1/2</sup>

- UN Fundamental principles of Official Statistics (FPs)  
European Statistics Code of Practice (CoP)
- International and European statistics standards and best practices
- Efficient and effective production processes
- National Statistical Law and related legislation
- Annual and multi-year statistical programmes
- NSI coordinator of the overall NSS

relevance – impartiality – professional independence – confidentiality  
– cost-effectiveness – equal access to statistical information...

## FPs vs. CoP

- FPs (1991-1992-1994-2013) adopted to guide and sustain the renovation of NSS after the disintegration of the SSSR and the breakup of the Republic of Yugoslavia; **but not only**
- CoP (2005-2011) relies on the FPs
- CoP operational translation of the FPs
- CoP specifies the core values of the European Statistical System (ESS) and builds on a common definition of quality
- CoP also applicable to NSSs which intend to gradually approach the ESS values and standards

# “Raison d’être” of Global Assessments

The “raison d’être” of a Global Assessment (GA) of a NSS is to:

- Provide a clear picture of the state of development of official statistics in a country
- Set objectives and evaluate achievements for the development of official statistics according to international and European standards, including FPs
- Monitor the progress of EU enlargement countries against European statistical legislation (acquis communautaire)

Global Assessment should cover the entire (global) NSS and not only the activities of the NSI

# Aim of Global Assessments

The aim of a Global Assessment (GA) of the national statistical system is to:

- Set up a sound legal and institutional framework for the NSS
- Establish priorities and plan the development of a NSS that meets users' requirements in an effective and efficient way
- Allocate necessary financial and human resources to producers of official statistics
- Guide international and bilateral partners in designing, implementing and coordinating their efforts and contributions to the development of national statistical capacities.

## First GAs Where and When /1

In the Framework of the Phare/Cards assistance programme for EU pre-accession countries, **Eurostat** conducted GAs in:

- 2001: Albania, Croatia, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) **with the support of EFTA**
- 2002: Dubrovnik Management Seminar
- 2002 – 2005: Bosnia Herzegovina, Turkey, FYROM (2<sup>nd</sup> time), and Albania **with the support of UNECE**
- GAs also conducted in other regions for EU candidate countries (e.g. 2001 in Bulgaria)



## First GAs Where and When /2

In Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA):

- 2007: Kazakhstan by **UNECE and UNESCAP**, in the framework of the 2008 - 2009 Master Plan
- 2009: Armenia by **Eurostat, EFTA and UNECE** in the framework of the ENP-East programme in statistics

In 2009, the partner organisations (EFTA-Eurostat-UNECE), at the initiative of EFTA, decided to organise in Yalta a Management Seminar for EECCA countries on GAs

## Objective of the Yalta Seminar /1

- The partner organisations to propose to all EECCA countries to conduct a GA of their respective NSSs
- To discuss with EECCA countries organisation and modalities of the forthcoming GAs
- To coordinate the GAs in the EECCA region in the framework of the development of statistical capacity building programmes (e.g. ENP-East and SPECA);
- For the partner organisations, to efficiently manage the human and financial resources allocated to the assessments;

Eurostat decided to conduct separately for enlargement countries (Western Balkans and Turkey), Light Peer Reviews (LPRs) for the most advanced and GAs for the others

## 2009 EECCA Seminar in Yalta

Sharing information and experiences in relation to previous GAs and Peer Reviews carried out in the ESS and discuss organisation of GAs in EECCA region

- Management Seminar on Global Assessments for EECCA countries, jointly organized by EFTA-Eurostat-UNECE, hosted by SSSU, 22-25 September 2009 in Yalta, Ukraine
- High-level representatives of NSIs from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Mongolia, Russia, Tajikistan and Ukraine
- Experts from Iceland, the FYROM, Norway and CIS-STAT

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## Yalta Outcome /1

Participants acknowledged that:

- GAs are the most appropriate instruments for sustaining the development of national statistical capacities
- GAs are not a “beauty contest” with the purpose of ranking national statistical systems
- GAs cover the overall NSS, and therefore recommendations are addressed to all stakeholders
- GA can be initiated in a country only in response to a formal request from the NSI
- Outcome and recommendations from GAs should be broadly disseminated and explained to all stakeholders

## Yalta Outcome /2

Participants proposed that:

- GAs evaluate the compliance of statistical products and services against international and European standards, including the CoP
- GAs cover the quality dimension of the final output and related production processes in a more user oriented perspective.
- AGs also cover the organisational and technical capacity of NSSs to produce and disseminate official statistics in an efficient and effective way

It was decided that future assessments to be conducted in the region would be called Adapted Global Assessments (AGAs)

## Yalta Outcome /3

It was decided that:

- AGAs of EECCA countries are jointly undertaken by the partner organisations (EFTA-Eurostat-UNECE)
- Eurostat leads AGAs in ENP-East countries
- UNECE leads AGAs in Central Asia countries and Mongolia

Eurostat also organised LPRs and AGAs in EU enlargement countries

AGAs were conducted by Eurostat according to the modalities agreed in Yalta, with the support of EFTA

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## After Yalta - Results /1

Since Yalta, AGAs based on 2 assessment missions by 4-6 experts were conducted in the following countries:

- EU pre-accession countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo-UNSCR 1244, and Montenegro
- An AGA followed 2 years later by a LPR were conducted in Montenegro
- All ENP-East countries: Armenia (2009), Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine
- 3 Central Asia countries: Kazakhstan (2008), Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan
- AGA for Mongolia will be conducted in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of 2013 and Kazakhstan indicated its interest for a second AGA

## After Yalta - Results /2

- In many countries, outcome and recommendations were incorporated into capacity development programmes
- Support from international and bilateral partners for the implementation of the recommendations
- Increased awareness among national authorities, users and other stakeholders of the necessity to implement a sound legal and institutional framework for the NSS

In Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, recommendations were presented to government agencies, ministries, international organizations, media and other stakeholders.

For Tajikistan, a letter signed by the UNECE Executive Secretary was sent to the President of the Republic of Tajikistan



# Memories from Yalta

