



Summary of key findings from all AGA and LPR reports

**Seminar for South East Europe, Eastern Europe,
Caucasus, Central Asia and Mediterranean Countries
'Global Assessments and Peer Reviews – follow up and
next steps'**

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Institutional aspects and dissemination

- Professional Independence
- Mandate for Data Collection
- Adequacy of Resources
- Commitment to Quality
- Statistical Confidentiality
- Impartiality and Objectivity
- Accessibility and Clarity

Professional Independence

- Professional Independence supported by law
- Professional Independence respected in practice
- Legal backing of the heads of NSIs to be improved
- Programme planning unilaterally task of NSIs

Mandate for Data Collection

- Mandate for collection of primary data by law
- Increasing problems with response rates in business statistics
- Use of electronic data collection
- Mandate for access to administrative data by law
- Efforts to take influence on content and quality of administrative data
- Memoranda with owners of administrative data and with other producers of official statistics

Adequacy of Resources

- NSI's financial and human resources mostly not sufficient for core activities and development
- In many cases dependency on external funding
- Only few elements of systematic HRM
- Insufficient IT resources
- Organisation in some NSIs rather fragmented
- Division of work between NSI and MCC
- Balance of resources between central and regional offices not adequate

Commitment to Quality

- Activities concerning quality mostly rather piecemeal and focused on accuracy
- Mostly no organisational structure for quality policy and management
- Need for establishment of comprehensive quality management clearly recognised by all NSIs
- EU Code of Practice officially accepted in two countries

Statistical Confidentiality

- Legal provisions in a majority of countries comprehensive
- Legislation allows exceptions in some countries
- Possible problems with confidentiality in regional offices
- Partly written guidelines not available
- Staff signs commitments in most NSIs
- Procedures of gaining access to micro-data often not defined

Impartiality and Objectivity

- Equal access to statistical releases ensured by a large majority of NSIs
- Nearly all NSIs publish advance release calendar
- Standardised metadata system generally missing
- Rules exist partly how errors are treated

Accessibility and Clarity

- Users appreciated progress achieved
- Need for further improvement of websites
- Wide-ranging, all-encompassing dissemination strategy in most NSIs missing
- Some NSIs carried out user satisfaction surveys
- Formalised and regular contacts with all user groups do not exist in many NSS
- Some NSIs very active in relation to the media

Key findings by broad statistical areas

- Demographic and Social Statistics
- Macroeconomic Statistics
- Business Statistics
- Agriculture Statistics

Demographic and Social Statistics

- Major problems with estimation of resident population
- Many NSIs in the process of planning Population Census
- HBS/LCS based on international standards
- LFS in many countries in addition
- Outdated sampling frame problem for many SNIs
- Better explanation of differences between LFS results and administrative data

Macroeconomic Statistics

- Compilation of NA broadly conform to main concepts and principles of SNA 93/ESA 95
- Regarding scope situation very much different
- Adjustments for non-observed economy
- GFS mostly produced by MoF following broadly GFS Manual 1986, calculated on cash basis
- CPI calculations generally in line with international standards
- Improvements necessary in some respects

Business Statistics

- Quality of business registers not satisfactory
- Main problems large number of non-active enterprises and lack of small enterprises
- In European countries intention to implement integrated European system of business statistics
- Most NSIs in other countries sophisticated system with monthly, quarterly and annual surveys
- Need for transformation towards system of structural and short-term business statistics

Agriculture Statistics

- Importance of agriculture reflected in programs
- Many surveys still exhaustive
- Sampling frames not satisfactory; only very few farm registers
- Agricultural censuses planned in many NSS
- Establishment of farm registers planned
- Problem to update farm register regularly