

If you do not risk anything, the risk is even greater



NIS ROMANIA

- Risk management in the quality assurance framework: strengths and weaknesses of the errors revision policy -



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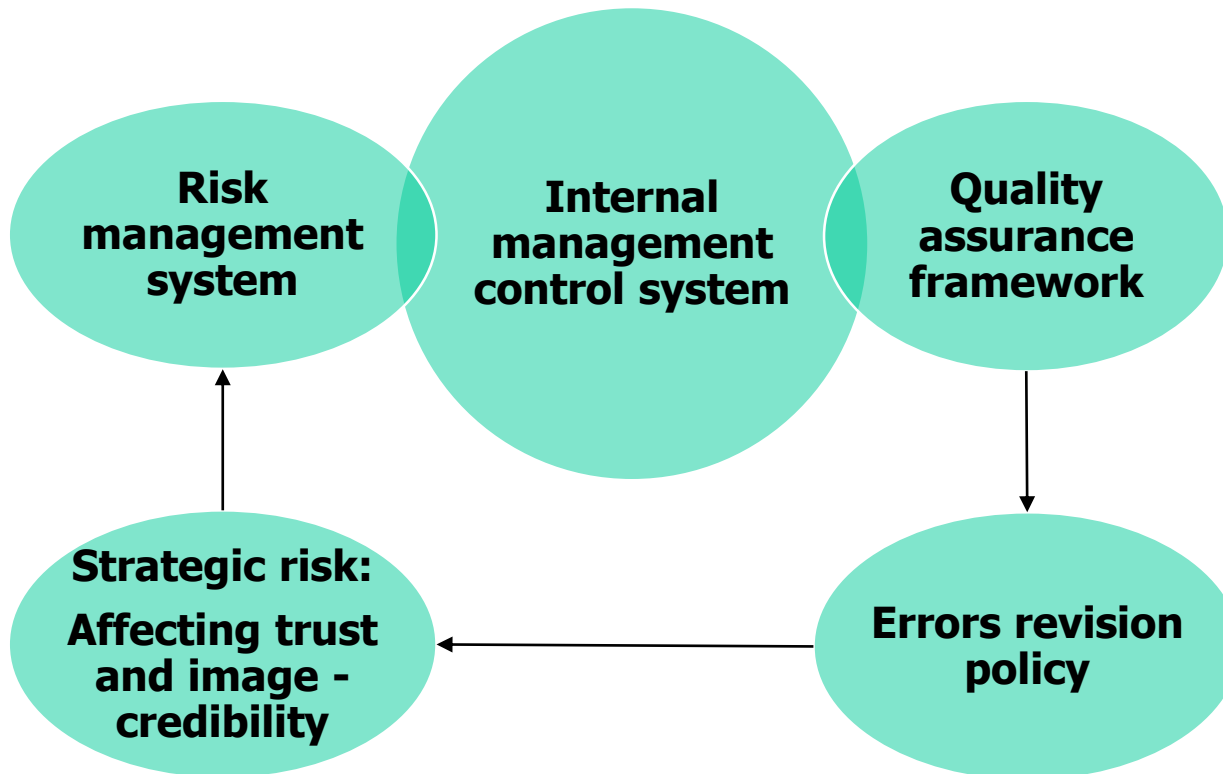
*Risk management in the quality assurance framework:
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Introduction

Errors – in the recently published statistical data (recent data);
– in the previously disseminated statistical data (past data);
– the publication of statistical data that has taken place in breach of statistical confidentiality or data sent to different users outside the release calendar.

Revisions – when new observations occur (monthly or quarterly) and some of the data already published changes;
– when the published data are changed to improve quality.

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The Statistical Data Revision Policy including
the Errors Treatment Policy



Types of errors:

- 1) *Errors with an insignificant impact/unimportant* = incorrect data that do not modify the published data and information ("mistakes").
- 2) *Errors with a minor degree of impact/importance* = incorrect table, text or graph data
 - whose importance is so small that the content of the information remains unchanged (regardless of the level of aggregation)
 - that occur at any aggregation level - whose importance is great enough to change the content of the information, but which are not of interest to the public.
- 3) *Errors with a major degree of impact/critical* = incorrect table, text or graph data
 - occur at any aggregation level - whose importance is great enough to change the content of the information
 - are of interest to the public or have significant economic consequences or represent a breach of data protection and confidentiality.

The Statistical Data Revision Policy including the Errors Treatment Policy

Errors with an insignificant impact/unimportant

- corrected without any mention in press releases, publications, online data bases or on the website.
- no internal information and centralized documentation of errors is needed.
- documentation within the responsible department is sufficient (excepting the systematic errors).
- there is no action of active notification for the known users.

In case of press releases - the error will be corrected as soon as possible and the corrected version will be published on the NIS-Romania' website.

In case of data published in online data bases - the wrong data sets are replaced by the correct ones as soon as possible.

In case of data and information published on the website - the error will be usually corrected at the next revision of the respective page.

In case of printed and electronic publications - the error will be corrected and introduced in the next edition of the publication.

The Statistical Data Revision Policy including the Errors Treatment Policy

Errors with a minor degree of impact/importance

- corrected in the press releases, in the electronic version of the publications, in the online data bases and on the website.

In case of press releases - a note on the correction will be included below the title, the corrected data will be written in bold and a footnote states that the data in bold represents a correction of previously published data, mentioning the number and the date of the press release. The new press release will be posted on the site and will replace the previous one, being transmitted to the beneficiaries via the same channel as the wrong one.

In case of data published in online data bases - the wrong data sets will be replaced by the corrected ones and the space devoted to notifications will include a note on the corrected data.

In case of data and information published on the website - the errors will be corrected and the respective page will be replaced as soon as possible.

In case of printed publications - no new corrected edition will be printed, but an erratum will be published on the NIS-Romania' website.

In case of electronic publications - the incorrect version will be replaced as soon as possible, including the attached Excel files. A note on the data and / or corrected information in the electronic version will be included on the first page. In case the publication, according to the catalogue of publications, is issued both in electronic and printed format, the note will also refer to the errors in the printed publication.

The Statistical Data Revision Policy including the Errors Treatment Policy



Errors with a major degree of impact/critical - the publications and press releases are withdrawn from the website and corrected as soon as possible (excepting serious errors of content that were detected in a form of dissemination whose relevance has decreased significantly due to the time lag compared to the reference period are exempted from this rule - these later errors are subject to correction criteria of errors with a degree of minor importance).

The following persons will be warning: the head of the general department in question, the coordinating vice-president and the president of NIS-Romania. The responsible unit urgently produces a corrected version of the press release and / or publication and compiles:

- *a document that will be published on the NIS-Romania' website, with reference to the detected error, its cause, the mode of correction and the products that will be corrected (press releases, electronic and printed publication, data bases, etc.);*
- *an internal report showing the cause of the error, how to solve it, the date of the correction and the measures to prevent future occurrence of similar errors.*

The Statistical Data Revision Policy including the Errors Treatment Policy

Errors with a major degree of impact/critical

In case of press releases – see Errors with a minor degree of impact/importance.

In case of data published in online data bases - see Errors with a minor degree of impact/importance.

In case of data and information published on the website - the errors will be corrected and the respective page will be replaced within maximum 2 days from the detection of the error.

- a note on the corrected data/information will be included and, if necessary, the causes of the error.

In case of printed publications - if the publication is reprinted, the error is corrected and is accompanied by a note on the correction placed in a relevant place, usually on the same page where the error was corrected.

- if the publication is not reprinted, an erratum will be added to the copies not yet distributed and the erratum will be published on the website.

The Statistical Data Revision Policy including the Errors Treatment Policy

Errors with a major degree of impact/critical

In case of electronic publications - the incorrect version is replaced as soon as possible, usually in the same day, the attached Excel files included.

- a note on the data and / or corrected information in the electronic version will be included on the first page and, if necessary, the cause of error.
- the summarised description of the electronic publication on the website will include a reference to the error, the correction and the date of correction.

In case the publication, according to the catalogue of publications, is issued both in electronic and printed format, but the publication is not reprinted, the note will also refer to the errors in the printed publication.

Errors which are a violation of data protection and confidentiality are considered major errors with high impact / critical.

The involvement of the head of department/division, of the director of the responsible directorate, of the general director, of the coordinating vice-president / president of NIS-Romania and of the Committee for Statistical Confidentiality is necessary in managing this kind of errors.

The Statistical Data Revision Policy including the Errors Treatment Policy



Responsibilities:

- 1) *The head of department/division* – is responsible for the publication of statistical data and information and, consequently, for the correction of the published errors.
- 2) *The director of a directorate that produces statistics/the director-general* – is responsible for the strategic issues related to publication and, consequently, for the strategic issues related to the correction of the published errors.
- 3) *The director responsible for dissemination/publications/communication* – is in charge of the errors that occur in these directorates. Through the directorate co-ordinated by him, he provides support to the directorates in the compilation of various forms of dissemination.

The Statistical Data Revision Policy including the Errors Treatment Policy

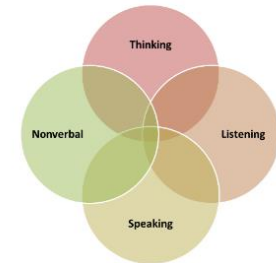
Responsibilities:

In case of error identification

- the head of the directorate where the error was generated informs the heads of the dissemination and communication departments, so that they are aware of the issues aroused and able to answer the users' comments.
- the head of department/division, together with the director of the department and with the person responsible with the work, determines the type of error.

In every printed publication it is mentioned, preferably on cover II, that in case of error detection, an erratum will be published on the NIS-Romania' website.

The Four Communication Skills



The Statistical Data Revision Policy including the Errors Treatment Policy



The key factors determining the review process

- a. Data disseminated on a provisional basis - reviewed at least once, which is often done in the statistical production process;
- b. Updating / completing data by respondents - to correct the initial reports containing errors or missing data;
- c. Inclusion of additional observations;
- d. Changing the base or reference year of statistics - which, together with new weighting systems, can change the time series;
- e. Conceptual changes (e.g. new definitions, new classifications, etc.) - these situations are rarer but, in this case, the review is mandatory;

The Statistical Data Revision Policy including the Errors Treatment Policy

The key factors determining the review process

- f. The emergence of new methodologies and / or the improvement of existing methodologies - used to produce statistics;
- g. Modification of data sources (e.g. availability of new data sources, replacement of statistical data with administrative data etc);
- h. Errors in calculating statistics for purely technical reasons - require revisions of published statistical results;
- i. Changes that can be determined by a combination of factors listed above;
- j. Amendment of European Union Regulations requiring revisions of published statistical data.

The Statistical Data Revision Policy including the Errors Treatment Policy

Types of revisions

- planned revisions
- unplanned revisions

a. Planned revisions

- Routine revisions - refer to changes in published statistical data that are related to their production process (for example, estimated missing values are replaced by reported values).
 - follow the revision policy
 - are published in accordance with the review timetable (for example, when each new statistical data is published, revised revisions of the previous month are also published).

The revision of the statistical data - updated annually.

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REVISION TIMETABLE 2017

| Indicator code TEMPO- online | No. | Indicator name | Periodi- city M – Mon. Q – Quar. A – Ann. | Dissemination term | Review term |
|------------------------------------|-----|--|--|--|---|
| AGR208A | 1 | Economic accounts for agriculture, current prices | A | december of the reference year, Annual | Annual + 2 months; Annual + 10 months; Annual + 22 months; Annual + 34 months |
| AGR208B | 2 | Economic accounts for agriculture, prices for the preceding year | A | december of the reference year, Annual | Annual + 2 months; Annual + 10 months; Annual + 22 months; Annual + 34 months |
| AGR209A | 3 | Unit value statistics, basic prices | A | Annual + 10 months | Annual + 22 months; Annual + 34 months |
| AGR209B | 4 | Unit value statistics, producer prices | A | Annual + 10 months | Annual + 22 months; Annual + 34 months |
| AGR209C | 5 | Unit value statistics - quantities | A | Annual + 10 months | Annual + 22 months; Annual + 34 months |

The Statistical Data Revision Policy including the Errors Treatment Policy

Types of revisions

a. Planned revisions

- Revisions of major importance - substantial changes in published data due to some of the following:
 - the availability of new structural data that are collected at long intervals (usually from 5 to 10 years) with major implications for the derived indicators, calculated on the basis of the structural data concerned;
 - updating the base year weights of a series of indices, which is usually done every 5 years;
 - changing the concepts, definitions and / or classifications used to produce the data series (adoption of a new classification, changes in international statistical standards etc.);
 - the entry into force of a new legislative act.

The Statistical Data Revision Policy including the Errors Treatment Policy

Types of revisions

b. Unplanned revisions

- are not announced in advance because they occur either as a result of unforeseen events, such as errors with various causes (technical, human, etc.) or delays in scheduled procedures.

- it is necessary to determine the amplitude and impact on the statistical data series at the time of detection of the error, using previous practical knowledge.

If the error found does not substantially affect the interpretation of the published data, it may be corrected at the next publication or the first scheduled review.

Customary revisions are usually reported in NIS-Romania' publications and in the tables published on the NIS-Romania' website.

Instead of conclusions

Strengths of the errors revision policy



- The Revision Policy is based on the European Statistics Code of Practice and complying with the ESS Guidelines on the Revision Policy of the Principal European Economic Indicators in force;
- The Revision Policy is published on the NIS-Romania' website;
- The Revision Policy of NIS-Romania and the schedule of statistical data revisions are components of the National Annual Statistical Programme;
- NIS-Romania periodically organises consultation meetings with statistical data users in order to obtain points of view on the revision processes (practices);
- Promptly informing the statistical data users on the significant errors identified in published statistics which lead to the need for unplanned revisions. The revised results are promptly transmitted and published in an open and transparent manner, mentioning the reasons for their occurrence;

Instead of conclusions

Strengths of the errors revision policy



- NIS-Romania notifies the statistical data users, in due time, on the significant methodological changes, so that the interpretation of statistical data resulting as consequence of applying the newly implemented methodologies would not entail a false perception of the presented phenomenon;
- The planned revisions and their implementation timetable are communicated in advance, by posting all the necessary documents on the NIS-Romania' website;
- Both the planned and the unplanned revisions are published together with relevant documents and with the updated data, if available.
- NIS-Romania is regularly undertaking revision processes, applying the best statistical practices recognised at European and/or international level, depending on the statistical product.
- The revisions effect upon the statistical results, seen by NIS-Romania as priorities, are subject to monitoring, in view to improve the quality of final results disseminated towards all user categories.

Instead of conclusions

Weaknesses of the errors revision policy

- Does not set strict rules for staff, the consequences of human errors for the staff;
- The revision policy for statistical data should include more information about the frequency and timing of revisions, the reasons for their revisions, their complexity and magnitude, the affected data series, the communication of revisions to statistical data users;
- The errors create sometimes confusion for users and require special processing and information;
- The errors' revision flow should be part of all formalized procedures relating to the statistical production processes.





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