

Quality issues in the SBR

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Special session for EECCA and SEE countries

**Meeting of the Group of Experts on Business Registers,
jointly organized by UNECE, Eurostat and OECD,
27 – 29 September 2017, Paris**

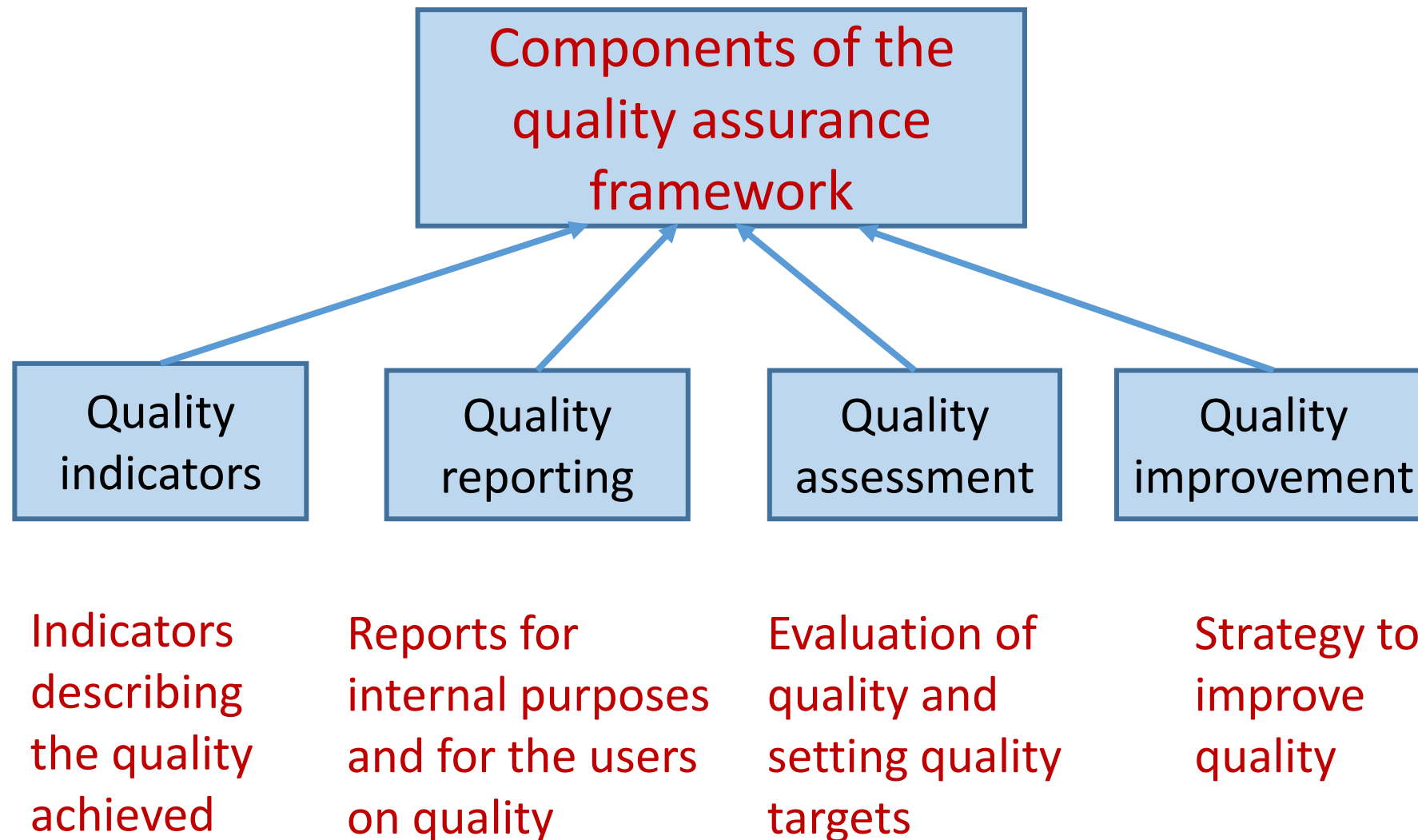
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Introduction

- Concept of data quality originally designed for statistics and statistical domains
- Statistical Business Registers (SBR) were not seen as “statistics”, similar like other statistical instruments (e.g. classifications)
- Approach for measuring SBR quality will be different from the approach to measure survey quality, but based on the same quality dimensions
- Quality deficiencies of SBRs affect all business statistics

Framework of data quality in official statistics



Legal request for SBR quality in the EU

Current BR Regulation of the European Union (No 177/2008):

- Member states shall take **all measures necessary to ensure the quality** of the business registers (Article 6/1).
- Member States shall provide Eurostat, on its request, with a **report on the quality** of the business registers (Article 6/2).
- Measures relating to **common quality standards** as well as the content and periodicity of the quality reports,, shall be adopted with the regulatory procedure and taking into account the cost of compiling the data (Article 6/3).
- Member States shall inform Eurostat of **major methodological or other changes** that would influence the quality of the business registers (Article 6/4).

Quality dimensions

Quality dimension	Definition
Relevance	Degree to which a statistic meets the current and potential user needs
Accuracy	Closeness of the statistics to reality
Timeliness	Length of time between availability of the data and the event or phenomenon that it describes
Punctuality	Delay between actual availability of the data and the target date when it should have been delivered
Accessibility	Set of conditions and modalities by which users can obtain the data
Clarity	Extent to which easily comprehensive metadata are available
Comparability	Impact of statistical concepts and measurement tools/procedures applied when statistics are compared between geographical areas, statistical domains and over time
Coherence	Adequacy to reliably combine statistics in different ways and for various uses

Quality dimensions and SBRs (1)

Quality dimension	SBRs aspects
Relevance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Certainly most important quality dimension also for SBRs- Identification of users and their needs- Probably easier for SBRs as the users are within the NSI- However, different users may have different needs and priorities- Regular meetings and exchange with user groups
Accuracy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Covers also the criteria of completeness- Equally important as relevance; however, for users accuracy might not have main priority- Task of daily maintenance and updating work: input, processing and output
Timeliness	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Depends mainly on the availability of administrative data sources- Analysis of time lags
Punctuality	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Managing the monthly, quarterly and annual update cycles- Planning of maintenance tasks and resources: efficiency

Quality dimensions and SBRs (2)

Quality dimension	SBRs aspects
Accessibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Technical conditions how SBRs data are made available and accessed- Additional support from SBR unit
Clarity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Quality reports and metadata information for the correct interpretation of the register information- Support to user groups
Comparability	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– In the usual case of one central SBR there should be no comparability issue with respect to geographic regions- However, there are comparability issues over time when the SBRs are further developed or redesigned– Good documentation and information/support to the users
Coherence	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Internal coherence of units and characteristics within the SBR- Coherence with other registers (e.g. Central Bank)

Critical areas for SBR quality

The five most critical areas for SBR quality:

- Transformation of administrative units into statistical units
- Delineation of large and complex enterprise groups
- Lack of full coverage in market activities (for instance small and micro units)
- Significant errors in the stratification variables (for instance economic activity, size classes)
- Insufficient consideration of the demographic events in the SBR maintenance

Resume

- In developing national quality analysis and policies international concepts and standards should be applied
- Good relations and co-operation with the owners of administrative data sources should help to reduce quality problems
- Information and exchange with the user groups on the SBR quality and SBR development should help to increase knowledge on the SBR and avoid misunderstandings of SBR concepts and data
- SBR quality assessment should be part of the overall quality policy of the NSI

**Thank you very much
for your attention!**

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