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Item 3 of the provisional agenda

Core values of official statistics and their mapping with the Fundamental Principles

Core Values of Official Statistics

Addendum

Results of the consultation on the “Core Values of Official Statistics”

Note by the Secretariat

Summary

This document summarizes the comments made by members of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) on the *Core Values of Official Statistics* (ECE/CES/2022/2). The Secretariat carried out a consultation on the document in March and April 2022.

Forty countries provided responses to the consultation. Thirty-eight countries answered yes to the question “Do you consider the Core Values of Official Statistics (including descriptions and mappings) ready for approval by the Conference of European Statisticians, scheduled for June 2022, subject to incorporation of the comments made during this consultation?”. Two countries expressed some reservations. This document summarizes the comments and suggestions for amendments received.

The Conference is invited to endorse the document *Core Values of Official Statistics*, (ECE/CES/2022/2) which reflects as far as possible at this stage the comments received.



I. Introduction

1. This document summarizes comments made by members of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) on the *Core Values of Official Statistics*.
2. The Core Values, brief descriptions and mappings were prepared by a CES Task Team chaired by Ireland. The CES Bureau reviewed progress in October 2021 and February 2022 and requested the Secretariat to send the resulting paper to all CES members for consultation. The Secretariat conducted a consultation on the document in March–April 2022.
3. The following forty countries provided responses to the consultation: Albania, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Ecuador, Finland, France, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States.
4. The comments and the Task Team’s reactions are summarized in section II.

II. Comments and response by the Task Team

5. Many responding countries expressed strong appreciation for the work of the Task Team in this important area, and for the resulting list of Core Values.
6. Some countries requested more information on the background to this work, and the relationship between the Core Values and other standards, particularly the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics. This information is now provided in a new “Introduction” section.
7. A few countries proposed additional core values, however, the Task Team felt that some of these (e.g. trust and quality) are more outcomes than values. They should naturally follow if the Core Values are implemented in practice.
8. A few countries proposed detailed additions to the text of the descriptions of the Core Values. However, the aim of the Task Team, endorsed by the CES Bureau, was to keep these descriptions as concise as possible. Whilst it was possible to include some of the proposed changes and additions in the descriptions, the remaining suggestions will be taken into account in the proposed future work on defining the behaviours which demonstrate the implementation of the core values in practice, where it will be possible to go into greater detail on how the core values should be applied.
9. On the specific issue of the terms “privacy” versus “confidentiality”, a majority of the responses that expressed an opinion supported “confidentiality”. As a result, the fifth core value has been changed to “Respects confidentiality”.

III. Conclusion

10. Thirty eight countries explicitly supported endorsement of the Core Values, brief descriptions and mappings, subject to the amendments presented in this document.

IV. Proposal to the Conference

11. In view of the support received from countries in response to the consultation, the Conference is invited to endorse the Core Values of Official Statistics, brief descriptions and mappings, presented in document ECE/CES/2022/2, which have been amended following the written consultation as described above.
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