Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics

30 YEARS | 1992–2022

Marking 30 years of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics

Olga Świerkot-Strużewska & Karolina Banaszek
(Statistics Poland) and Fiona Willis-Núñez (UNECE)

Conference of European Statisticians Expert Meeting
on the Dissemination and Communication of Statistics,
13 September 2022

GOALS

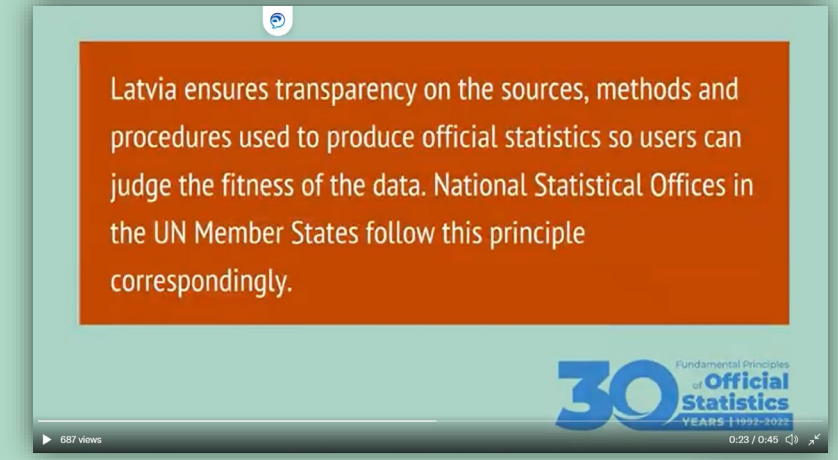
- Promoting the 30th anniversary of FPOS to a wide audience
- Creating unique materials to promote the anniversary of FPOS
- Participation of as many offices as possible to promote and celebrate the anniversary

Website

https://w3.unece.org/fpos30

- French, Spanish and Russian versions coming soon
- Short summaries of each principle in everyday language & real life terms
- Showcases some highlights of countries' contributions

Marina Gandolfo • 2nd
Head of International Affairs at ISTAT
3w •
+ Follow
#Istat jointly with National Bureau of Statistics of the Republic of #Moldova supports the 9th Fundamental Principle of Official Statistics that emphasizes the importance of international standards to promote consistency and efficiency of statistical systems at all levels #FPOS30 https://lnkd.in/eBgJ_xS7 #Unece
Fundamental Principle of Official Statistics
YEARS | 1992-2022
30th Anniversary of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics
unece.org • 16 min read
David Hunter and 49 others
6 comments • 3 shares


Latvia ensures transparency on the sources, methods and procedures used to produce official statistics so users can judge the fitness of the data. National Statistical Offices in the UN Member States follow this principle correspondingly.
Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics
YEARS | 1992-2022
687 views
0:23 / 0:45

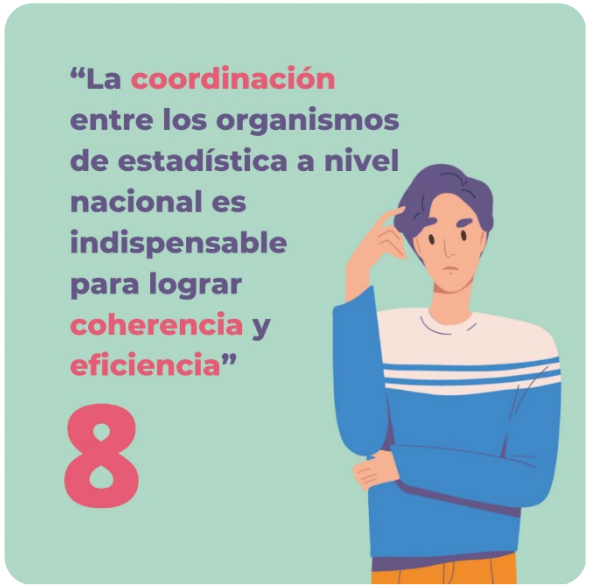
Fundamental Principle of Official Statistics: Principle 7, Legislation
SIR IAN DIAMOND
NATIONAL STATISTICIAN, UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY

Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics
YEARS | 1992-2022
10 Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics
1. Relevance, impartiality and equal access
2. Professional standards and ethics
3. Accountability and transparency
4. Prevention of misuse
5. Sources of official statistics
6. Confidentiality
7. Legislation
8. National coordination
9. Use of international standards
10. International cooperation
International concepts and definitions used by the NBS in the following areas
• Usual resident population
• Labour force
• Incomes and expenditures of the population
• Science and development
• National accounts
• International trade
• Consumer prices
• Industrial production
• Structural statistics
• Energy statistics
• Short-term statistics in industry, construction and trade
• ICT in enterprises
• Innovation statistics
• Balance of food resources
• Air emissions, etc.
Principle 9
Harmonized statistical classifications
• Classification of Activities (CAEM-2)
• Statistical Classification of Products (goods and services) (CSPM)
• Nomenclature of Territorial Statistical Units (NUTS)
• Nomenclature of Industrial Products and Services (PRODMOLD)
• Classification of Individual Consumption Expenditure (COICOP)
• Combined Nomenclature of Goods
• Standard International Trade Classification
• Nomenclature of Countries and Territories
• Classification of Occupations
• Classification of Educational Programs
• Classification of Diseases etc.
Methods used in correspondence with international standards
• Sample design
• Data editing and treatment of non-responses
• Statistical inference
• Methods to ensure data confidentiality, including statistical disclosure control
• Seasonal adjustment
• Computer Assisted Web Interviewing (CAWI)
• Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) and other.
Material developed by the National Bureau of Statistics of the Republic of Moldova within the UNECE international promotion campaign of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics.

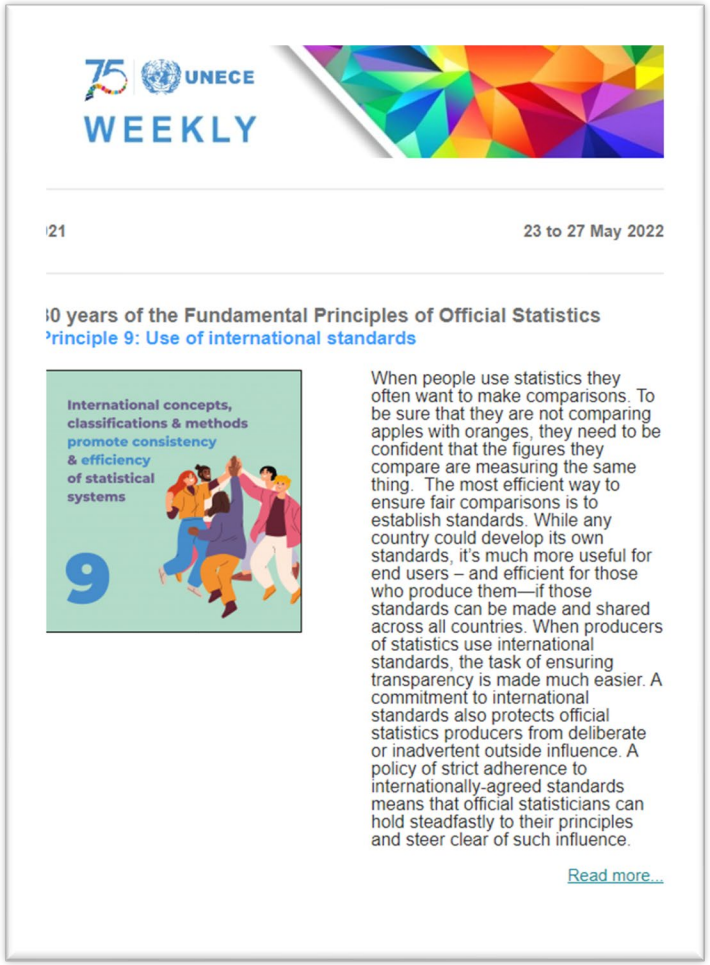
BOARD 10
coopera
NEXT
MENU
Statistics Poland

Stats NZ
Hon. Meka Whaitiri
Associate Minister Stats NZ

FPOS30 13 w
HVALA,
DA NAM ZAUPATE!
STAT.SI
Nadpovprečno lep dan želimo!
Thank You!
#FundamentalPrinciplesofOfficialStatistics
Reply to statslovenija...



UNECE



75 UNECE WEEKLY

21 — 23 to 27 May 2022

0 years of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics

Principle 9: Use of international standards

When people use statistics they often want to make comparisons. To be sure that they are not comparing apples with oranges, they need to be confident that the figures they compare are measuring the same thing. The most efficient way to ensure fair comparisons is to establish standards. While any country could develop its own standards, it's much more useful for end users – and efficient for those who produce them—if those standards can be made and shared across all countries. When producers of statistics use international standards, the task of ensuring transparency is made much easier. A commitment to international standards also protects official statistics producers from deliberate or inadvertent outside influence. A policy of strict adherence to internationally-agreed standards means that official statisticians can hold steadfastly to their principles and steer clear of such influence.

Read more...

- **46** original tweets about the campaign by @unecestat since 31 Jan
- **59** posts on LinkedIn, including from WHO, ECB, Unido...
- More than **240** original posts on Facebook & Twitter by all contributors

Thank you!

- Almost 170 people listed in acknowledgements on website
- Countries, organizations & individuals who have engaged with campaign online and in live events
- Translators & everyone who has developed materials in other languages

30 Ngā Mātāpono Taketake o ngā Tatauranga Whai Mana
Ngā tau | 1992–2022

30 Principios Fundamentales de las Estadísticas Oficiales
AÑOS | 1992–2022

30 Principiile fundamentale ale Statisticii Oficiale
DE ANI | 1992–2022

30 Virallisen tilaston perusperiaatteet
VUOTTA | 1992–2022

30 Principes fondamentaux de la Statistique Officielle
ANS | 1992–2022

30 Bunphrionsabail an Staidrimh Oifigiúil
BLIAIN | 1992–2022

30 Պետական վիճակագրության հիմնարար սկզբունքները
ՏԱՐԻ | 1992–2022

30 Fundamentalne Zasady Statystyki Oficjalnej
LAT | 1992-2022

30 Grundprinzipien für amtliche Statistiken
JAHRE | 1992–2022

30 Основополагающие принципы официальной статистики
ЛЕТ | 1992–2022

A perspective of a coordinator from a member state

UNECE

Why Statistics Poland?

BECAUSE OF A FOUNDING FATHER

Historical reasons

Jozef Oleński,
Chair,
United Nations
Statistical Commission

1994

Special Session

Image courtesy of Jozef Oleński (approx. 2000)

JOZEF OLEŃSKI (Poland)

'Spiritual father' of the *Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics*

Jozef Oleński (born 1941) graduated in 1963 from the University of Warsaw and in 1969 he received his PhD in economics. From 1974-1991 he was deputy director and director of the Centre for Research and Development of the Polish Central Statistical Office (GUS). In 1992 he became president of that Office. This was during the period of transition for statistical systems towards international standards, professional independence of statistical offices, confidentiality of individual data and transparency of methods. Oleński was one of the first chief statisticians to fully understand the need for these developments. In the Conference of European Statisticians he was asked to lead the efforts towards drafting the *Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics*, adopted by the UN Economic Commission for Europe in 1992. Interestingly, Oleński chaired the Special Session of the UN Statistical Commission, which – after some tough debate – adopted the *Fundamental Principles* in **1994** at the global level. As a delegate he was known to participate actively in discussions, not shying away from controversial and sensitive issues.

After his dismissal from GUS in 1995, Oleński worked as advisor to the president of the Polish National Bank and as professor of economics. In 2006 he was re-appointed president of GUS. Under his second presidency, electronic questionnaires were introduced, and the Census of 2010 took place based on administrative records. Since leaving GUS in 2011, Oleński has continued his research and has participated in projects of the United Nations, the World Bank and the European Union, mainly in post-transition countries. As a researcher and statistical advisor, Oleński has written over 350 reports and publications with some published also in Russian, Estonian, Hungarian and Slovak. He has initiated work in new domains of official statistics like transborder statistics, statistics in fragile countries and statistics in small economies.

One of his lifelong interests has been the 'right to statistical information' and 'quality of information environment'. His presentation on the *Quality of statistics in mass media in the global information society* at the IAOS conference 'Statistics, Development and Human Rights' (Montreux, 2000) stands out.

A model country of the transition period

- Statistics and its ethical framework always very highly considered
- After 123 years of Poland’s inexistence on the map of Europe, in 1918, when the new state structures were being restored, the statistical office was the first institution of the newly established independent state

What did we coordinate?

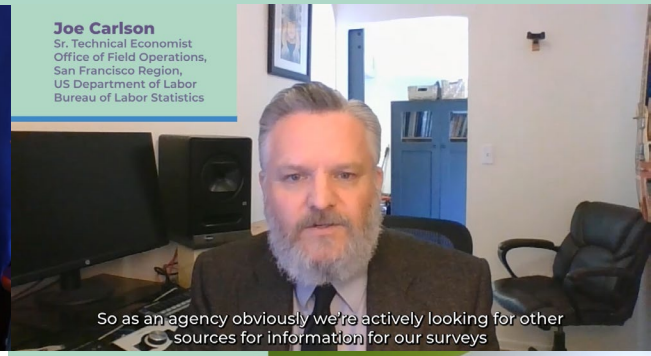
A VIDEO...

30
Official Statistics
YEARS | 1992-2022

Prof. Józef Oleński
Former President of Statistics Poland
Spiritual Father of FPOS
Since 1992 the governments and the international organizations of the United Nations European regions

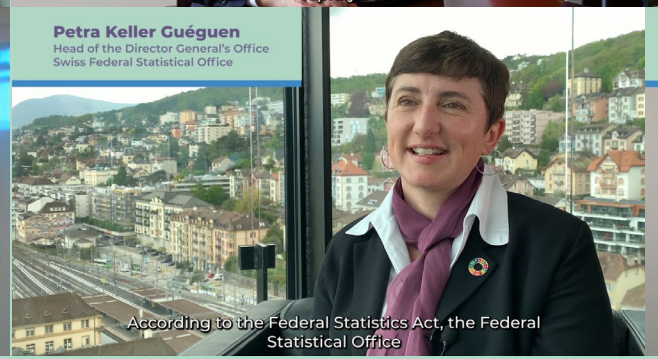
Lidia Bratanova
Director of UNECE
Statistical Division

Dominik Rozkrut
President of Statistics Poland
Information environment official statistics is growing rapidly.


Joe Carlson
Sr. Technical Economist
Office of Field Operations,
San Francisco Region,
US Department of Labor
Bureau of Labor Statistics
So as an agency obviously we're actively looking for other sources for information for our surveys

Arnas Gutauskas
the host of "Trečia Lentyna"
Lithuania
Most probably it is clear that the data is used to collect statistics

Chris Rosenlund
Regional Commissioner
San Francisco Region,
US Department of Labor
Bureau of Labor Statistics
Well, at the Bureau of Labor statistics, which is part of the United States Department of Labor,


Petra Keller Guéguen
Head of the Director General's Office
Swiss Federal Statistical Office
According to the Federal Statistics Act, the Federal Statistical Office

Steve MacFeely
Director of Data and Analytics
World Health Organization
International cooperation has been absolutely essential in order to tackle COVID-19.

PRINCIPLE 10
TOGETHER WITH
CSO IRELAND

English

UNECE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

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UNECE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF OFFICIAL STATISTICS

30th Anniversary of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics

The shared foundation of an informed society

2022 marks 30 years since the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics were first developed and adopted at UNECE. The United Nations Statistical Commission adopted these principles in 1994 at the global level. The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) endorsed the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics at policy level in 2013; and in January 2014, they were adopted by the General Assembly.

The principles underlie everything that the producers of official statistics do: from the methods for collecting, processing and storing data to the ways that statistical offices disseminate statistics and communicate with those who use them.By marking this anniversary, statistical offices across the region are recognizing the continued and increasing importance of the Principles in guiding what they do. Thirty years on, they remain a collective manifesto for serving society with impartial, relevant and accurate information to guide decisions.

From January to June 2022, the Conference of European Statisticians was celebrating the Fundamental Principles through a series of country-led communications campaigns telling a shared story about the importance and impact of each Fundamental Principle on society and everyday life and why they matter.

All countries, organizations, members of the statistical community and users of statistics are welcome to participate in this joint celebration. Share your **experiences** and **examples** relating to the principles on your social media platforms, websites and other outlets, using the hashtags **#FPOS30** (for the campaign overall) **#ceasUNECE** (to refer to the Conference of European Statisticians) and the full words **"Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics"** in social media posts wherever possible.

Visit the new anniversary website to discover many of the materials, experiences and examples that countries, organizations, members of the statistical community and users of statistics prepared as part of this joint celebration or click here to follow the campaign on Twitter.

Why do each of these Principles matter?

- Principle 1: Relevance, impartiality and equal access
- Principle 2: Professional standards and ethics
- Principle 3: Accountability and transparency
- Principle 4: Prevention of misuse
- Principle 5: Sources of official statistics
- Principle 6: Confidentiality
- Principle 7: Legislation
- Principle 8: National coordination
- Principle 9: Use of international standards
- Principle 10: International cooperation

Campaign led by Central Statistics Office of Ireland and Statistics Poland plus the National Institute of Statistics of Romania from 06/06 to 17/06

"Bilateral and multilateral cooperation in statistics contributes to the improvement of systems of official statistics in all countries."

"Many hands make light work", so the saying goes. And working together doesn't just mean that things get done more **quickly** and **cost-effectively**; it can result in **unique impacts that are greater than the sum of their parts**.

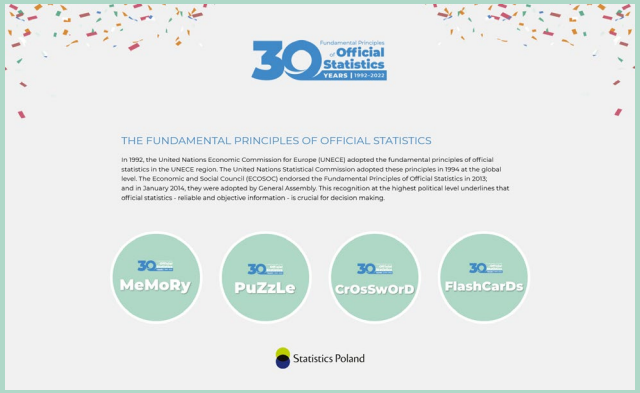
Bilateral and multilateral cooperation contributes to improving official statistics

10

The very existence of the United Nations is anchored in the conviction expressed in the Charter of the United Nations that we can "unite our strength" and "combine our efforts" to achieve goals beyond the capabilities of individual countries.

International cooperation in official statistics takes many forms. Countries work together to **share what they've learned** as they develop new ways to produce and publish statistics. With just one statistical system in each country, international exchange is crucial for statistical offices to learn, share and stay on top of their game. The hundreds of working groups convened by UNECE's Conference of European Statisticians, the UN Statistics Division, Eurostat, OECD, regional statistical bodies in the UN and elsewhere, help countries to share what they experience and develop so others can benefit from it. This sharing happens in every aspect of statistics, from organizational management to how surveys are run, how statistics are calculated from raw data, and how results are published. Facilitated by international organizations such as UNECE, countries share everything from the code for their data editing software to the text of their statistical laws, and from the design of their census questionnaires to the job descriptions for hiring new staff.

International cooperation is not just about individual countries sharing their experiences. It's also about **working together to**



Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics: Spotlight on Principle 10

An Phríomh-Oifig Staidrimh Central Statistics Office | Statistics Poland

Have you ever looked at facts or figures in the media and wondered whether you could trust the information? Or how these figures were produced?

30 Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics YEARS | 1992-2022

The Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics

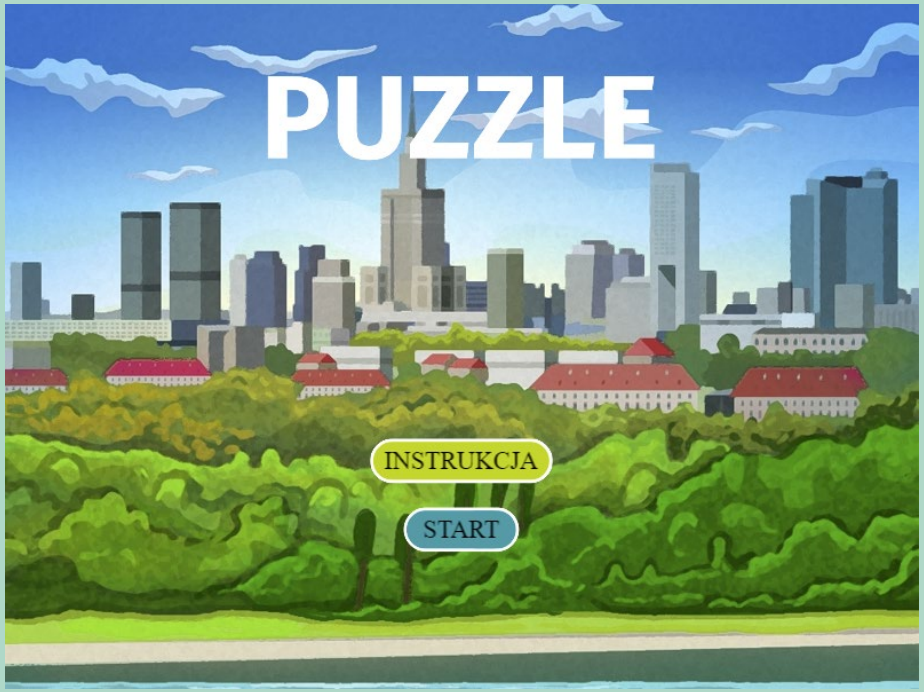
Thirty years ago, the most senior statisticians in countries across Europe, Central Asia and North America created a set of 10 principles governing the production of official statistics. These principles were devised at a time of immense change and upheaval across the region. As centrally planned economies transitioned to market economies in many member States, statisticians realized a shared framework to define the principles that guide what they do was needed more than ever. The core aim of the framework is to ensure that statistics published by member countries are reliable and trustworthy as they have been produced in accordance with internationally agreed methods, standards, and ethics Such a framework helps to secure the trust and credibility upon which effective statistics depend. While there are many differences across countries in how their statistical production is organized, what data they gather or what needs they fulfil, these agreed central principles underpinned by independently produced information are universal. These Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, as they became known, were adopted by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) in 1992, and in later years were recognized as a global standard around the world.

Since then, the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics have supported statistical agencies in compiling official statistics in accordance with strict professional considerations, including scientific principles and professional ethics. They have also been used as inspiration for other international quality standards of OECD or European Union[CK1] .

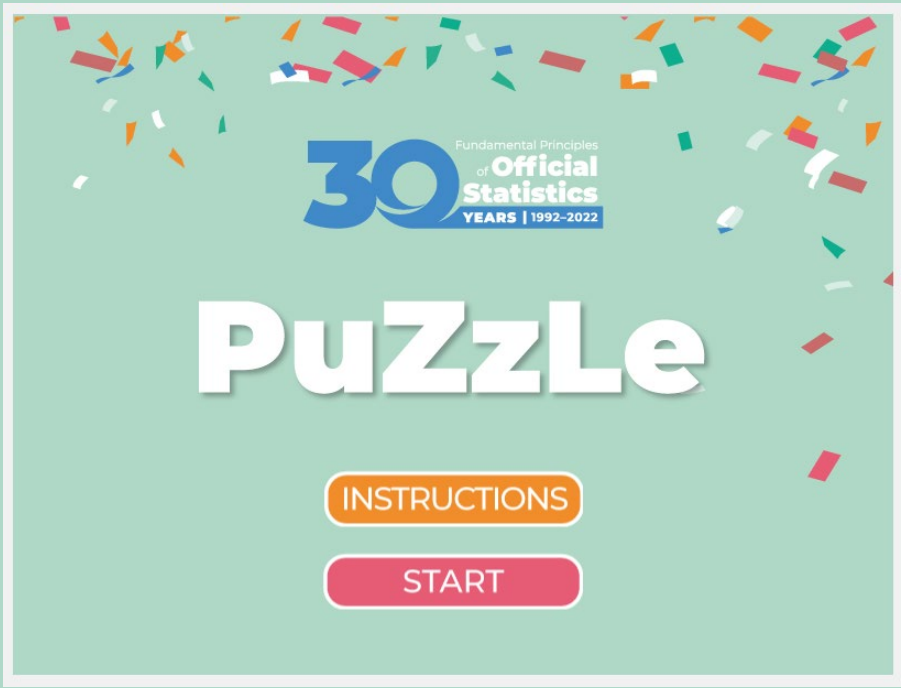
The Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics are an indispensable element in the information system of a democratic society, providing valuable insights into the economic, demographic, social and environmental situation within and between countries and regions.

Celebrating 30 years of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics

As we mark 30 years of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, we take the opportunity to reflect on the value to our societies of free access to independent, ethically produced information. International adherence to these principles provides a source of reliable, trustworthy information in an era of global information sharing when it can be difficult to assess the source and reliability of what is being shared.


PUZZLE
INSTRUKCJA
START

Których zwierząt domowych jest najwięcej?
KOLEJNE PYTANIE
MENU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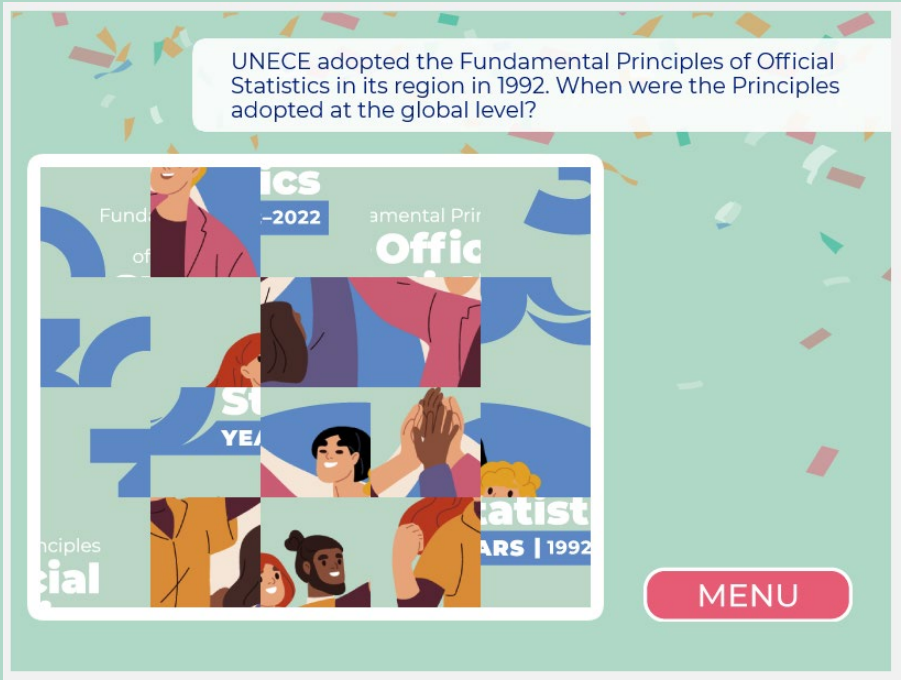
Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics
YEARS | 1992-2022
PuZzLe
INSTRUCTIONS
START


UNECE adopted the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics in its region in 1992. When were the Principles adopted at the global level?
MENU

fpos.stat.gov.pl

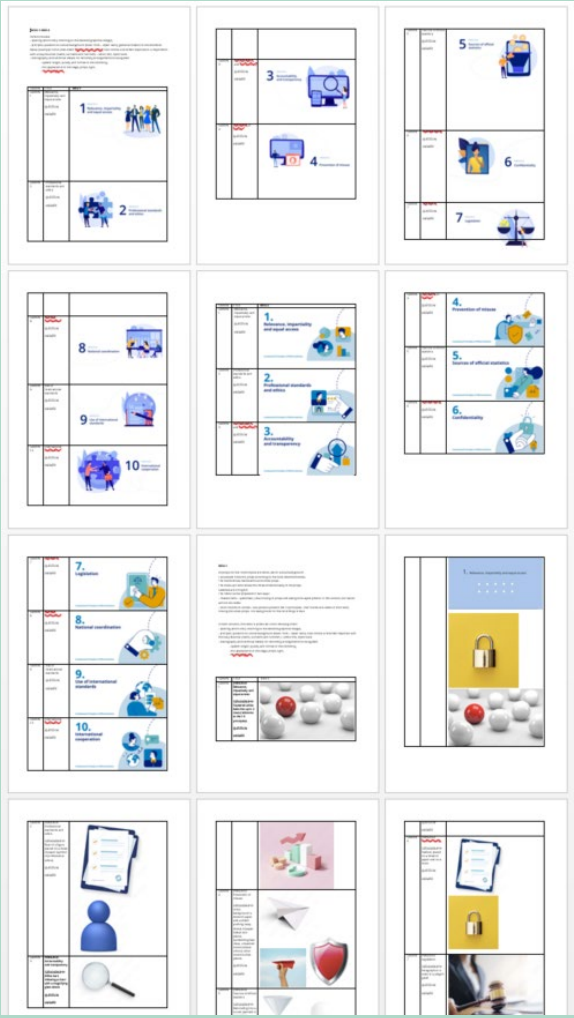
CHALLENGES we faced...

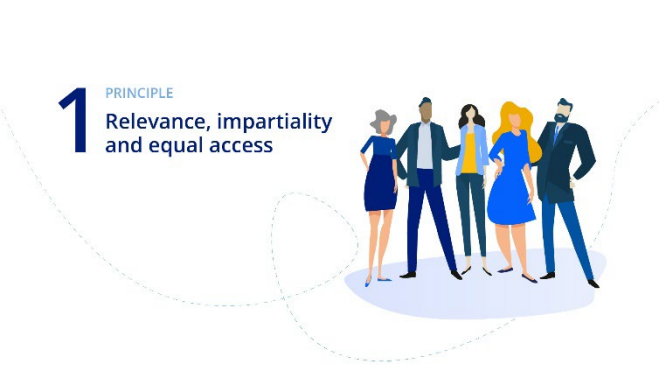
- Involve as many countries as possible in the campaign promoting the anniversary
- Recording materials for the film in the same quality so that the message is consistent and professional
- Development of appropriate content and communication of promotional materials
- Creating an attractive graphic design and a simple, engaging message (content)
- Matching the translation to the mother tongues
- Proper timing of the film

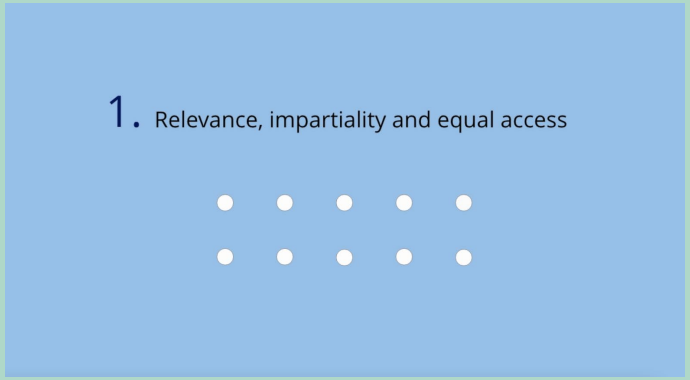
LESSONS we learned...

VIDEO

- Last-minute changes in the script (concept of „ownership" of each FPOS by a MS changed in the making)
- Language-related difficulties in clearly communicating FPOS (semantic, technical)







LESSONS we learned...

VIDEO

What was the final product?

LESSONS we learned...

PRINCIPLE 10

Games as an example of reusability and adjustment of existing simple communication tools

LESSONS we learned...

- Development of storyboards and scenarios
- Appropriate planning of the speaking time for recordings and the entire recording time
- Prepare and agree the content well in advance to avoid last-minute changes in the script and to properly coordinate production
- Set uniform recording standards in advance (so that each country involved would subscribe to them without difficulties)
- Playing with the languages of the recording; if the film is recorded in the native language, subtitles should be provided (what is being said spoken and when) to the production
- The video cannot be too long
- Sometimes it is worth going through what we already have to our disposal and think about adaptations (success of existing tools)

THANK YOU!
2024 – the 30th FPOS anniversary at the global UN level … ☺

#FPOS30
#cesUNECE
@unecestat

UNECE