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## Economic Commission for Europe

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#### Reports, guidelines and recommendations prepared under the umbrella of the Conference

#### Core values of official statistics and the related behaviours

### Core values of official statistics: defining the behaviours that show how we live the values

#### Addendum

#### Results of the consultation on the document

#### 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/2023/1). The Secretariat carried out a consultation on the document in April and May 2023.

Forty-three countries and three international organizations provided responses to the consultation. This document summarizes the comments and suggestions for amendments received. There was general support for endorsement of the document, as well as suggestions for some updates in the text.

The Conference is invited to endorse the updated document *Core Values of Official Statistics: Defining the behaviours that show how we live the values*, (ECE/CES/2023/1, revised version on the web) that takes into account the feedback from the electronic consultation (summarised in document ECE/CES/2023/1/Add.1).



## I. Introduction

1. This document summarizes comments made by members of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) on the *Core Values of Official Statistics: Defining the behaviours that show how we live the values*.
2. The Core Values, brief descriptions and mappings were prepared by a CES Task Team chaired by Ireland. The CES Bureau reviewed the draft in February 2023 and requested the Secretariat to send it to all CES members for consultation. The Secretariat conducted a consultation on the document in April–May 2023.
3. The following forty-six countries and international organizations provided responses to the consultation: Albania, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Canada, Costa Rica, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Japan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Mexico, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States, Eurostat, OECD and the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD).
4. The Task Team has discussed all comments and edited the document accordingly or provided a response below. General comments are summarised in section II. More specific comments on different parts of the text and the Task Team’s reactions are summarized in section III.

## II. General comments

5. Forty-four countries and organizations explicitly supported endorsement of the document, subject to the amendments suggested through the electronic consultation. Hungary and UNSD had some concerns, which are addressed below.
6. Many countries praised the usefulness of the material and the way it was developed. Many responses also acknowledged the value of the document in providing a comprehensive, clear and useful guideline for official statistics, for example:
  - (a) **Australia:** “It’s an excellent piece of work and carried out in a very collaborative fashion. It required a deft hand to manage varying perspectives, which have been expertly reconciled in this final version”;
  - (b) **Belgium:** “The list is very comprehensive and clear”;
  - (c) **Georgia:** “Very interesting and necessary material. The behaviours established in it will be useful for the realization of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics (FPOS). They must become practical guidelines for day-to-day activities of statistical institutions”;
  - (d) **Ireland:** “We very much welcome this work and feel that the existence of the core values and associated behaviours are an integral part, along with the FPOS, in continuing to grow and develop the trust in Official Statistics”;
  - (e) **Malta:** “Malta supports the work done by the Task Force and endorses this document. We believe that all the behaviours listed in this document are relevant and necessary to ensure adherence to our core principles. The behaviours are clear and concise and provide enough flexibility in their implementation, which is necessary to address the different national specificities”;
  - (f) **Poland:** “We see the document’s potential usefulness when it comes to updating NSOs strategic outlines (e.g. key documents like mission, vision statement)”;
7. **France** consulted with ten non-statisticians to ensure that the document will be well understood by people outside official statistics. The feedback was very positive and the consulted persons “fully support this draft list of behaviours”. **North Macedonia** suggests that this document should be promoted not only within statistical community but it is “most important to communicate this to wider audience including national governments”.

8. Many countries provided practical examples and links to materials that illustrate the behaviours on the list. These will be included in the proposed public wiki knowledge base referred to in paragraph 3 of the document.

### **III. Comments and amendments on specific sections of the document**

9. This section summarizes comments on specific chapters of the document, together with the responses by the Task Team where applicable. The proposed changes to reflect the comments are visible in the revised version of the document ECE/CES/2023/1 with track changes on the CES website.

#### **A. Relationship with other standards and frameworks**

10. Some countries and UNSD suggested to add more explanation about the purpose of this document and on the relationship of the Core Values and associated behaviours to other standards and frameworks, including what their “value-added” is. This has been addressed in the introduction and will be a priority in future activities to communicate the Core Values and behaviours.

#### **B. Core Values and mappings**

11. Some countries proposed changes to the text of the Core Values and to the mapping of the Core Values to other standards. As the Core Values and mapping were endorsed by the CES in 2022, the proposed changes have not been implemented, but will be retained to inform any future revisions of the Core Values and mappings.

#### **C. Enhancements to the list of behaviours**

12. Several countries proposed enhancements to the list of behaviours. Whilst noting that the list is not intended to be exhaustive, the Task Team have incorporated these enhancements to the extent possible, bearing in mind that the behaviours should be applicable across the whole UNECE region.

#### **D. Value theory approach**

13. Hungary suggested to postpone endorsement of the list of behaviours and engage experts in value theory to expand on the work done so far. The Task Team discussed this option, but felt that the current version is elaborated by chief statisticians and other senior staff with the aim to provide a tool for communication within the official statistical community. They did not feel that involving experts in value theory would significantly further this aim, particularly given the strong support for the current version from the other countries that replied to the written consultation.

### **IV. Conclusion**

14. Forty-two countries or organizations explicitly supported endorsement of this document, providing many useful and practical comments and amendments.

15. In view of the strong support expressed by countries and international organizations, the Conference is invited to endorse the list of behaviours contained in the revised version of the document ECE/CES/2023/1 “Core Values of Official Statistics: Defining the behaviours that show how we live the values”, which has been amended following the written consultation as described above.