

French official statistician and ethics

Ethics and practice, the practice of ethics



1 - ETHICS AND PRACTICE

A- LEGAL AND ORGANISATIONAL FRAMEWORKS

B- PROCEDURES

C- CULTURE

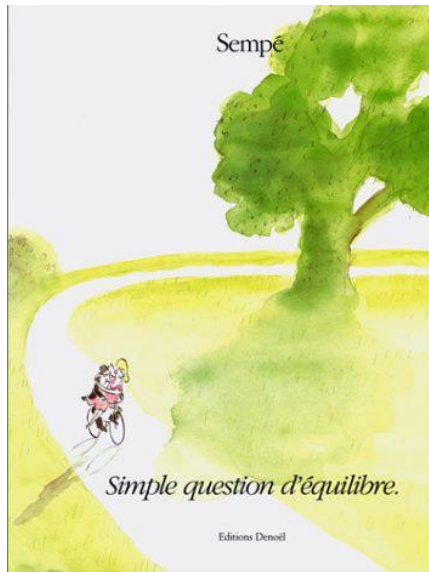
2 - THE PRACTICE OF ETHICS

3 - THE FUTURE

Legal/organisation
frameworks

Procedures
and tools

Ethics



Shared culture



1-A LEGAL AND ORGANISATION FRAMEWORKS

LIKE EVERY NSI

- Production of statistics (surveys, use of administrative data, use of private data)
- Dissemination of statistics
- Coordination of national statistics system (NSI + ONA)

MORE SPECIFIC MISSIONS

- Short term analysis and economic forecast (national level)
- Economic and social studies (national and local level)
- Managing registers for administrative purposes (shared identification)
 - Register for identification of persons (no address, share of Id strictly limited)
 - Business register

INSEE

+

16 ministerial
statistical offices



Conseil national
de l'information statistique

National council for statistical information

- Consultation
- Opportunity

STAKEHOLDERS

- Users (directs, indirects)
- Government/public or private decision-makers
- Intermediaries (information relays, reusers ...)
- Suppliers (respondents, administrative or private data)



Comité du label de la statistique publique Official Statistics Label Committee

- Compliance



Comité du Secret Statistique Statistical confidentiality Committee

- Confidentiality
- Researchers accesses

Official Statistical authority

- Ensures the professional independence, ethics for the SSP
- Controls (auditions NSI, ONAs)



3 FRENCH LAWS

- **1951 Act on the obligation, coordination and secrecy of statistics** (modified many times, especially 84, 2002, 2016) ⇨ « French Statistical Law »
 - Insure Data collection of survey and administrative data and private data since 2016
 - Creation of CNIS
 - Statistical coordination
 - Regulate mandatory data collection
- **1978 Act relating to data processing, files and freedoms compliant with GDPR** (modified in 2019)
- **2016 Act for a Digital Republic** : open data for database, documents, source code, access on private data (51 law's update), non significant identifier for record linkage

The six core values adopted by UNECE en 2023

Relevant	Impartial	Transparent
Professionally independent	Protects privacy	Collaborative



Necessity, proportionality principles

« data collected for a given purpose must remain adequate, relevant and not excessive, and that the list of data must be limited to what is strictly necessary to meet the stated purpose »

- 1 Professional Independence**: European statistics are produced in an impartial and independent manner, free from any political or other external influence.
- 1 bis Coordination and Cooperation**: The European statistical authorities and national work together to coordinate the production of European statistics and to foster cooperation at both national and European levels.
- 4 Commitment to Quality**: Statistical authorities regularly and systematically assess their processes and the quality of their statistical products.
- 5 Statistical Confidentiality and Data Protection**: The process of data production and the confidentiality of the information they provide is guaranteed by law.
- 2 Adequacy of Resources**: Human, financial and technical resources are sufficient to produce high quality European statistics.
- 6 Impartiality and Objectivity**: European statistics are developed, produced and disseminated in an impartial and transparent manner, free from all undue bias and equity.
- 7 Sound Methodology**: European statistics have a sound methodological basis and are in line with European and international standards.
- 3 Mandate for Data Collection and Access to Data**: Statistical authorities have access to the data necessary to produce European statistics.
- 8 Appropriate Statistical Procedures**: Statistical procedures are clearly established and revised using well established management procedures.
- 9 Non-excessive Burden on Respondents**: Statistical authorities ensure that data collection respondents only submit what is necessary.
- 12 Accuracy and Reliability**: European statistics accurately and reliably portray reality.
- 13 Timeliness and Punctuality**: European statistics are released at a timely and regular rate.
- 10 Cost Effectiveness**: Statistical authorities ensure that they use resources efficiently.
- 11 Relevance**: European statistics are based on user needs.
- 14 Coherence and Comparability**: European statistics are consistent and comparable between regions and countries over time.
- 15 Accessibility and Clarity**: European statistics are published in a clear and easily accessible way.

ec.europa.eu/eurostat

ec.europa.eu/eurostat

European Statistics Code of Practice

1-B PROCEDURES AND TOOLS

DESIGN/BUILD PHASES

- **Opportunity, relevance, response burden**
 - ⇒ with the Cnis' opinions
- **Compliance with the CoP, sound methodology of the project**
 - ⇒ with the help of the Statistical Methods unit (sampling frames, good practices to design survey...)
 - ⇒ Label Committee
- **Data confidentiality and security**
 - ⇒ data protection impact assessment (compliance with GDPR) with the Legal Affairs and Litigation unit
 - ⇒ IT security certification (often with external review)
 - ⇒ Strict rules for internal access to data

DISSEMINATION PHASE

- Validation of data (directly from internal users)
- Procedure of correction of errors
- Taking into account statistical confidentiality
 - ⇒ help from Statistical Methods unit
- Researchers' accesses
 - ⇒ Statistical confidentiality committee (opportunity/ proportionality) and dedicated centers
 - ⇒ Design of the datasets adapted to the conditions of access and control

SOME SHARED METHODS AND TOOLS

- Metadata repository (RMÉS)
- CSNS, linkage record service (WIP)
- Secured infrastructure for a self-service of data processing
- Sampling for households and business surveys
- Project management method
- Unified tool for the acquisition and first steps of transformation of administrative data
- ...



Within the process itself

Quality framework (with the Quality monitoring committee – CoSaQ every unit of Insee + ONAs)

Help possible from the Quality Unit to design a specific quality framework

- **External views**

Official Statistical Authority annual report (ASP)

European peer reviews

– for France : 2007, 2014, 2021

Quality in the Official Statistical Service (SSP)

Rules, Methods and Means for the Development, Production and Dissemination of Statistics that Meet the Quality Standards of the European Statistics Code of Practice.

The Reference Framework

The Official Statistical Service draws on a number of reference documents recognised both in France and internationally for the implementation of quality.

Governance

INSEE undertakes to provide all users with statistics that adhere to the quality principles defined for European statistics and ensures this commitment is implemented. INSEE is responsible for coordinating the Official Statistical Services.

The quality policy and strategy of the official statistical service

The Official Statistical Service relies on 3 levels of quality implementation: a policy, a strategy and monitored roadmaps with operational and concrete actions that integrate the European action plan.

European Commitments

The Official Statistical Service is committed to controlling, coordinating, harmonising and improving its statistical output at the European level in accordance with international standards.

1-C COMMON CULTURE

A HIGH LEVEL INITIAL TRAINING IN STATISTICS AND ECONOMICS

- 2 schools (Ensaе/Ensaі) and Insee training center (Cefil)
 - ⇒ the same skills and strong links between people right from the training stage
- Introduction to quality and ethics

A CONTINUOUS TRAINING PLAN

- Methods,
- Ethics&quality,
- Statistical softwares and data processing (reproducibility, traceability , data confidentiality)...

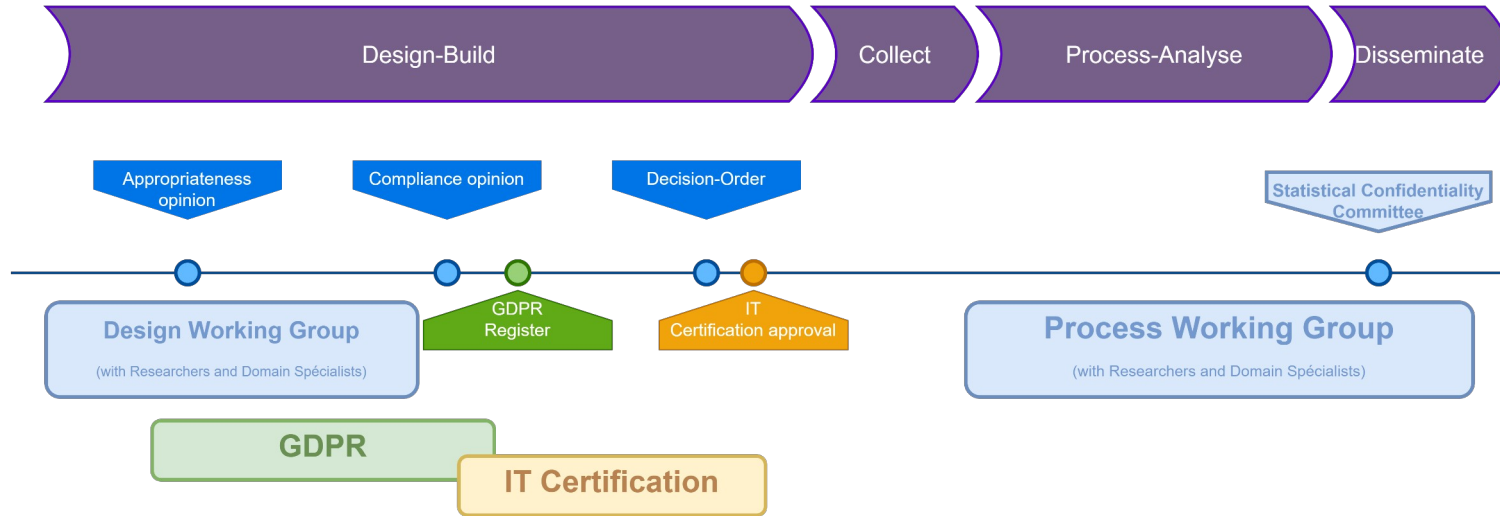


ACCUMULATED EXPERIENCE THROUGHOUT THE CAREER

- A mobility policy that allows us to work in different jobs, at different steps of data life cycle (collection, design, processing, dissemination), in different environments (Insee, ONAs, other agencies, schools)
 - ⇒ open-mindedness and ability to engage in dialogue
 - ⇒ between Insee and ministerial statistical offices
- Possibility of being responsible for a statistical process from start to finish, with dialogue at every stage involving an expert/specialist in charge of a component of the process, an auditor, an internal user of the data
 - ⇒ constant questioning fuelled by a shared culture
- Specific rôle of the managers, especially for young colleagues

02

IN PRACTICE



TRAJECTORIES AND ORIGINS SURVEY

- Strong public demand on a sensible topic
- Social acceptability and impartiality
 - Not all the questions allowed by law (no consensus)
 - Strong neutrality for the results and studies

STATISTICAL REGISTER

- 2 points of attention : exhaustibility, linkage of administrative data
- Not only technical and legal challenges : they give capacity to do, but don't ensure legitimacy

SOCIAL ACCEPTABILITY

- Special consultation supported by CNIS, but in a dedicated group of non statisticians : challenge the proportionality, identify risks and mitigation : real impact on the design of the project and the implemented processes, recognized and “enforced” by CNIL
- Public communication : about the project, but as well about some of the core values (impartiality, independency...) and in a « non technical » approach (condition of transparency towards a large public)

03

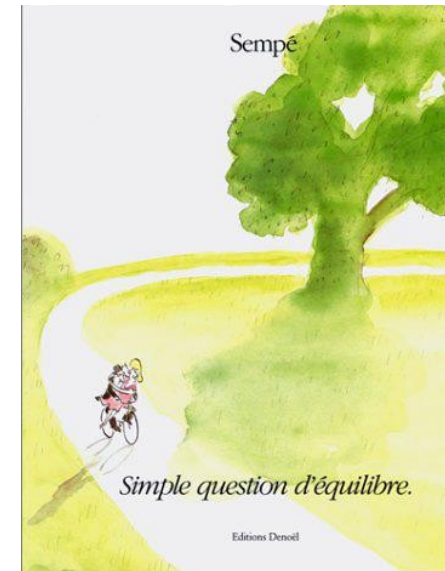
THE FUTURE

OFFICIAL STATISTICIANS AND ETHICS

- Daily practice, exchanges
- New opportunities (IT, AI), new questions

MORE TRANSPARENCY, MORE COMMUNICATION

- Keep the confidence



Retrouvez-nous sur

[insee.fr](https://www.insee.fr)



Mylène CHALEIX

Head of Quality Unit

Mél: mylene.chaleix@insee.fr

Olivier LEFEBVRE

Director of Résil program

olivier.lefebvre@insee.fr