

**STATISTICS DIRECTORATE
COMMITTEE ON STATISTICS AND STATISTICAL POLICY**

**AN ACTION PLAN FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OECD COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION ON
GOOD STATISTICAL PRACTICE**

Report by the Secretariat

**Committee on Statistics and Statistical Policy
25-26 April 2016
Paris, OECD Conference Centre**

This document is submitted to delegates FOR DISCUSSION under Agenda Item 9.

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JT03392794

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NOTE BY THE SECRETARIAT

CSSP Delegates are invited to:

- **Discuss** the proposed implementation toolkit and milestones, taking account of the conclusions by the Enlarged Bureau Meeting;
- **Agree on** the timetable for implementation and reporting to the OECD Council.

AN ACTION PLAN FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OECD COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION ON GOOD STATISTICAL PRACTICE

Introduction

1. In July 2015, the Committee on Statistics and Statistical Policy (CSSP) adopted the draft Recommendation on Good Statistical Practice by written procedure ([STD/CSSP\(2015\)4/REV1](#)) after having discussed it at its meeting in June 2015. The OECD Council adopted the Recommendation at its 1324th Session on 23 November 2015 ([C\(2015\)128](#) and [C/M\(2015\)21](#)), which became immediately applicable to all OECD Member countries, but also open to non-Members' adherence.

2. The Recommendation on Good Statistical Practice is the first OECD legal instrument on statistics. The Recommendation comprises twelve recommendations, each of which is accompanied by an indicative list of good statistical practices.

3. In adopting the Recommendation, the Council requested that the CSSP reports on its implementation no later than three years after its adoption, i.e. by the end of the year 2018. The OECD Statistics Directorate (STD) will assist countries in implementing the Recommendation and will coordinate the preparation of relevant documentation and evaluation reports.

4. As Heads of National Statistical Offices and representatives of their National Statistical Systems, CSSP Members will play a key role in monitoring implementation of the Recommendation. The main tool will be country assessments, as described below. When an assessment indicates that the statistical system of a country significantly deviates from the Recommendation, the country would be invited to present the issues at hand to the CSSP, with the possible subsequent development of an action plan. Individual recommendations could be considered for in-depth discussion at CSSP meetings and so generate a common understanding around issues such as access to administrative data and the use of non-conventional data sources for the production of official statistics.

5. A first discussion of the action plan for implementation described below took place at the occasion of the Enlarged CSSP Bureau meeting on 9 March 2016 at the United Nations Conference Centre in New York. At the end of the discussion, the Chair concluded (see [STD/CSSP/BUR/M\(2016\)1](#)) that there was broad support for the proposed toolkit and timetable, and that added guidance should be prepared. He decided that given the importance of this exercise, it should be brought to the CSSP plenary for discussion at its April meeting.

Format of assessment

6. Country assessments of compliance with the Recommendation can take three alternative formats and CSSP Members will be invited to choose one of them:

- A simple self-assessment by the country;
- An evidence-based self-assessment where implementation of the draft Recommendation and good practices are substantiated through documentation and referencing;
- A peer review by the CSSP with the help of the Secretariat. A peer review will only take place at the request of the country concerned and subject to receipt of a voluntary contribution to cover associated costs.

7. In the case of the EU and EFTA countries that are members of the European Statistical System (ESS), peer reviews on implementation of the European Code of Practice for Official Statistics carried out by Eurostat in 2014-2015, and the resulting improvement actions to be implemented by 2019, would be considered as a substitute.

Implementation toolkit

8. To ensure minimum consistency of reporting practices, STD is preparing an implementation toolkit consisting of:

- a self- assessment questionnaire based on the recommendations and list of good practices;
- written guidance for the completion of the self-assessment questionnaire as well as guidance for the evidence-based self-assessment. This is further to the discussion at the Enlarged Bureau meeting in March 2016 (see above). Such guidance will certainly evolve over time as experience with the various types of self-assessment accumulates;
- a webpage to bring together country assessments and provide links to relevant national and international documentation (such as ESS reviews). This webpage will offer the possibility to communicate country assessments to the public and will provide a convenient central location that can be referred to in future reports on implementation to the OECD Council;
- a brochure presenting the Recommendation on Good Statistical Practice along with the list of good practices, with the aim to better communicate on the Recommendation.

Next steps and indicative timetable

9. Implementation of the Recommendation is a three-year project but requires several short-term actions. Considering that the CSSP is required to report to the Council before the end of the year 2018, the following milestones are envisaged:

- April 2016: release of the brochure and presentation of the OECD webpage on the Recommendation on Good Statistical Practice at the plenary meeting of CSSP in Paris ;
- June 2016: identification by each CSSP Member of its envisioned format of assessment and indicative timing;
- July 2016 – December 2017: assessment reviews;
- January 2018 – March 2018: draft evaluation report to the OECD Council;
- Spring 2018: discussion of the draft final report during the 2018 plenary meeting of the CSSP;
- Autumn 2018: Report to the Council.