



EUROPEAN
STATISTICAL
SYSTEM

PEER REVIEW REPORT

ON COMPLIANCE WITH THE EUROPEAN STATISTICS CODE OF
PRACTICE AND FURTHER IMPROVEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE
NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEM

ITALY

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The National Statistical System is extensive, comprising statistical offices in ministries, various central and branch public administration bodies, regions, provinces and autonomous provinces, municipalities, chambers of commerce, prefectures and some other public and private bodies dealing with statistics. In total, the National Statistical System comprises 3,332 organisations including the 13 Other National Authorities, which produce European statistics.

At the heart of the National Statistical System lies the Italian National Institute of Statistics ([ISTAT](#)), the main producer of Italian official statistics and the coordinator for the production of European statistics. The National Statistical System is defined in Legislative Decree 322/89, the statistical law, which also establishes ISTAT as the country's National Statistical Institute and outlines its duties and responsibilities, including the coordination of the National Statistical System.

The coordination function is supported by a high level (and statutory) Steering and Coordinating Committee for Statistical Information, which oversees ISTAT's statistical planning activity - the production of a three-year, system-wide National Statistical Programme, which is updated annually and whose progress is reported to Parliament every year. Planning is supported by Focus Groups on Quality, permanent working groups for each of the thematic areas covered by the National Statistical Programme, which include experts from across the entire National Statistical System.

The other main governance mechanism in the National Statistical System is the statutory Commission for the Quality Assurance of Statistical Information. This Commission is responsible for supervising the impartiality and completeness of the statistical information produced by the National Statistical System and contributes to ensuring statistical data confidentiality.

To support this external focus on quality, ISTAT has enhanced the documentation of its statistical processes, introduced a centralised methodology structure and started to produce quality reports in accordance with the European Statistical System standard on metadata and quality reports (Single Integrated Metadata Structure). This has been overseen by a reconstituted Quality Committee, which, among other tasks, formulates proposals for ISTAT's internal quality policy, promotes the adoption of standard metadata, methods and tools in statistical production processes, and identifies priority quality activities to be implemented.

ISTAT is a mature statistical institute, whose professional independence is respected throughout the government and society; its statistics are trusted by stakeholders. ISTAT is adequately resourced for regular statistical production though not necessarily to meet the new demands being placed on the National Statistical System, or to exploit the new sources and techniques becoming available. It engages effectively with universities, reflecting its status as a research institute.

ISTAT is also modern and innovative. It has invested effectively over the last five years in developing its systems and processes to support centralised data collection and to enable it to exploit administrative data sources. Standard methods and implementing software are available in a repository for common use by the National Statistical System. ISTAT has adopted a new organisational model rooted in the Generic Statistical Business Process Model. It has developed an Integrated System of Statistical Registers, consisting of several coherent registers (Base Statistical Registers, Extended Statistical Registers and Thematic Statistical Registers) to produce several types of statistical outputs, enabling quality to be improved, decreasing the burden on respondents and reducing costs. Indeed, the Integrated System of Statistical Registers will form the basis of a new permanent population census.

ISTAT has been deemed a "National Strategic Hub" as part of "Italy's Cloud Strategy" (adopted for the implementation of Cloud Computing solutions in the public administration). ISTAT's competences are being used to develop a National Data Catalogue as part of a National Recovery and Resilience Plan. Research on topics relevant for official statistics is promoted proactively within a dedicated three-year

research plan and researchers can make use of specific microdata. Finally, ISTAT is using new data sources, for example mobile phone data to understand people's movements, to help develop the transport infrastructure, and online job search archives to improve estimation models of important labour market indicators. These experimental statistics - 17 to date - are published on ISTAT's website.

ISTAT's main dissemination channel is its website, and its dissemination policy is oriented toward different target groups (citizens, researchers, students, survey respondents and the media); separate channels are used for each group. Public databases and information systems are organised by topic and users can choose the information according to their needs. Each database is accompanied by meta-information. Survey results are made available through short press releases and publications. Microdata files for research purposes are released free of charge.

Overall, there is a high level of compliance with the European Statistics Code of Practice (ES CoP) throughout the National Statistical System. However, the peer review team identified twenty recommendations, of which three are compliance-relevant and seventeen are improvement-related recommendations. They are grouped under six main headings and listed below with their related explanations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

I Strengthening governance, planning and coordination

ISTAT has a historically well-developed process for drafting the three-year National Statistical Programme, rooted in Article 13 of Legislative Decree 322/89, the statistical law. This specifies the following:

- The National Statistical Programme includes all statistics of public interest (Article 13(1)).
- The Programme covers a three-year period and is updated each year.
- The Programme is drafted by ISTAT, subject to the opinion of the statutory Commission of Quality Assurance of Statistical Information, the Conference of Regions, Provinces and Municipalities, and the Data Protection Authority, and is approved by Presidential Decree, on the proposal of the Prime Minister, following a resolution by the Interministerial Committee for Economic Planning and Sustainable Development.

Each year a progress report is submitted to Parliament under the provisions of Article 24 of Legislative Decree 322/89.

The peer review team recognises that the planning process seems to be successful in producing the National Statistical Programme. However, ISTAT, the peer review team and several stakeholders noted that the process of preparing and approving the National Statistical Programme, including obtaining formal sign off from the President and Ministers, is long and cumbersome.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

1. ISTAT should review the procedures underpinning the compilation of the three-year National Statistical Programme in order to develop a more efficient and effective workflow for its production. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 1.5 and 11.2)

ISTAT has several practical building blocks in place to implement its coordination role. For example – and rooted in Article 15 of Legislative Decree 322/89 – ISTAT drafts the National Statistical Programme, which involves the coordination of statistical activities across the National Statistical System and provision of technical assistance and training to the organisations within it. In addition, the statutory Steering and Coordinating Committee for Statistical Information supports ISTAT in its coordinating activity. However, the peer review team feels that ISTAT could refine these building blocks to strengthen its coordination of the National Statistical System, for example by ensuring that its coordination activities include the implementation and monitoring of standards (specifically, the use of the Single Integrated Metadata Structure); the provision of methodological advice by ISTAT to Other

National Authorities and other bodies in the National Statistical System who need methodological advice; the enhancement of the accessibility of metadata (for example about administrative data) to support both the statistical staff in the Other National Authorities who need to understand the administrative data to be able to use them appropriately and the users of the statistics disseminated by the Other National Authorities; the further increase of the range of statistics disseminated across the National Statistical System and the introduction of a system-wide release calendar, building on ISTAT's release calendar to include details of the statistics published by the Other National Authorities.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

2. ISTAT should review and, where appropriate, refine the tools for the coordination of the National Statistical System. This includes the implementation and monitoring of standards, the provision of methodological advice, the provision of metadata, the dissemination of statistics produced across the National Statistical System and a National Statistical System-wide release calendar. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 1bis.2)

ISTAT effectively coordinates the statistical activities of the Other National Authorities, but the peer review team sees a need for ISTAT to coordinate more effectively some of the ways in which the Other National Authorities operate. The opinion of the statutory Commission for the Quality Assurance of Statistical Information should be taken into account.

Although the peer review team only met four (of the thirteen) Other National Authorities, the team had a clear sense that there are differences in the extent to which some key aspects of the ES CoP are implemented. The peer review team recognised some positive practices, including the approval of newly appointed heads of statistics in the Other National Authorities by the President of ISTAT, involvement with ISTAT in statistical planning and discussion of new European Regulations, and participation in Focus Groups on Quality. However, the peer review team is of the view that, while it is incumbent on each Other National Authority to manage its compliance with the ES CoP, in practice, ISTAT should play a more active coordination role on a number of compliance aspects. These include aspects such as protection of statistical confidentiality, use of sound statistical methodology, appropriate metadata and quality reports and limiting pre-release access to statistical information.

The role of the statutory Commission for the Quality Assurance of Statistical Information includes supervision of the quality and conformity of statistical information produced across the National Statistical System, though in practice it focuses on the main statistical producers, such as the Other National Authorities. Accordingly, it would seem appropriate for the opinion of the statutory Commission for the Quality Assurance of Statistical Information to be sought and taken into account.

To comply with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

3. ISTAT, in cooperation with the Commission for the Quality Assurance of Statistical Information, should ensure that the Other National Authorities reviewed (the Energy Services Operator, the Ministry of Health, the Italian Institute for Environmental Protection and Research, the Ministry for Ecological Transition) adhere to the ES CoP regarding the protection of statistical confidentiality, use of sound statistical methodology, appropriate metadata and quality reports, and limiting pre-release access to statistical releases to well-justified, controlled and publicised cases. (Compliance-relevant: ES CoP, Indicators 1bis.2, 5.4, 6.7 and 7.1)

The National Statistical System is extensive and, among other features, facilitates the exchange of microdata for the purposes of meeting the requirements of the National Statistical Programme. Requests for access to microdata must be consistent with the organisation's purpose.

Given the large scale of the National Statistical System and the varying nature of some of these organisations (including private sector companies), the peer review team identified the need to look at possible risks surrounding confidentiality.

Given their roles, both the Steering and Coordinating Committee for Statistical Information and the statutory Commission for the Quality Assurance of Statistical Information should contribute to identifying and addressing confidentiality risks.

To comply with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

4. The Steering and Coordinating Committee for Statistical Information, in conjunction with the Commission for the Quality Assurance of Statistical Information and ISTAT, should review the details of, and need for, recent and current exchanges of microdata between organisations within the National Statistical System, and use this review to develop new guidelines to reduce the risk of breaching the confidentiality of the data of individuals and businesses. (Compliance-relevant: ES CoP, Indicator 5.4)

According to Legislative Decree No 322/89 (the statistical law), ISTAT's President is selected from existing tenured professors in statistics, economics or similar subjects, with international experience. The peer review team acknowledges that the appointment of a university professor is beneficial, in that this qualification is consistent with ISTAT's status as a research institute, but nevertheless, this excludes others who may have relevant skills and experience. Furthermore, Article 4 of Legislative Decree 39/2013 precludes individuals who have worked in public bodies in the previous two years from applying to become the President of ISTAT, thus excluding senior experts within ISTAT. People from within the National Statistical System may have the specialist knowledge and skills to perform the role of President as well as a professor from outside the National Statistical System.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

5. The relevant authorities should review the legal basis for the appointment of the President of ISTAT to enable all qualified persons to apply for the post, rather than limiting it to university professors. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 1.8)

The possible reason for the dismissal of ISTAT's President - committing a crime against the public administration - is set out in Legislative Decree No 39/2013, but not in the statistical law, which would enhance transparency. This is important because clarity about the reasons for dismissal is key to maintaining the professional independence of the heads of National Statistical Institutes, which is fundamental to a trusted National Statistical System.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

6. The relevant authorities should amend the statistical law in such a way as to clearly include the reasons for the dismissal of the President of ISTAT. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 1.8)

II Modernising the statistical system

The peer review team notes that the working definition of official statistics relates to their inclusion in the three-year National Statistical Programme. It follows from Legislative Decree 322/89 that official statistics are those produced by the National Statistical System. The official statistics included in the National Statistical Programme are a part of the official statistics produced, i.e. the part that is of public interest. However, the National Statistical Programme changes over time, and new developments have led to the establishment of experimental statistics. ISTAT declares some statistics as experimental because it does not respect all the steps necessary to test new methodologies, transform them into technological and organisational solutions, and verify whether quality requirements and harmonisation rules are fulfilled. Examples of this are the use of the Open Street Map to calculate indicators for road accidents on Italian roads or the wage inequality indices in small enterprises.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

7. The relevant authorities, in cooperation with ISTAT, should amend the statistical law to include a clear definition of the scope and purpose of official statistics. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 2.1)

ISTAT intends to use new data sources in the National Statistical System, such as mobile phone data and scanner data. It is important that such data can be accessed for statistical purposes in a sustainable way. The statistical law does not include specific provisions on access to privately held data, since it was enacted in 1989, at a time which predates the demand for access to privately held data. This means that, for ISTAT, access to privately held data is dependent on specific bilateral agreements with private companies. The peer review team feels that it would be helpful for ISTAT and the Other National Authorities if there were legal or other mechanisms in place to facilitate the use of privately held data.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

8. ISTAT, in collaboration with the relevant authorities, should ensure that appropriate legal and/or other mechanisms are in place to facilitate the use of privately held data by ISTAT and the Other National Authorities. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 2.4.)

The National Statistical System comprises an unusually large number of organisations with varying roles in relation to the collection, production, analysis, and dissemination of official statistics. The peer review team notes that, for example, the statutory Commission for the Quality Assurance of Statistical Information focuses on the most important actors in the National Statistical System. Furthermore, the statistical law enables the exchange of microdata across the many bodies that comprise the National Statistical System.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

9. ISTAT, in cooperation with the Steering and Coordinating Committee for Statistical Information and the Commission for the Quality Assurance of Statistical Information, should evaluate which institutions and organisations contribute significantly to the development, production and dissemination of official statistics, and hence build up a new core National Statistical System – a subset of the current National Statistical System. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 1bis.1)

III Optimising statistical activities

ISTAT has established a central quality management team, but the peer review team found that it is not involved in the full range of activities where it has a contribution to make, such as in error treatment management and the Focus Groups on Quality.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

10. ISTAT should involve the quality management team in relevant processes and discussion fora such as those in place for error treatment management and the Focus Groups on Quality. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 4.2, 4.4 and 6.3)

ISTAT operates within a broad network of data providers and data producers and is already involved in the development of one aspect of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan – the development of a National Data Catalogue. The peer review team supports these activities but sees a need to ensure consistency with other ongoing projects, such as the development of a new metadata system called METAstat that will include structural and reference metadata as well as quality indicators.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

11. ISTAT should continue to be a significant pillar in the National Data Ecosystem and ensure coherence between the METAstat project and the National Data Catalogue. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 1bis.3, 14.1 and 15.5)

IV Improving user engagement

ISTAT has many committees and fora which support its planning and coordination role, but these tend to be dominated by producers of official statistics. The users' voice is comparatively quiet. The peer review team considers that a formalised approach to gathering the views of different types of users would enhance the relevance of Italian official statistics.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

12. ISTAT should modernise its approach to user engagement with a view to reflecting the particular needs and interests of different types of users. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 11.1)

ISTAT provides a range of news agencies with embargoed pre-release access to key economic statistics, and it does so by sending the data to generic email addresses. This means that ISTAT cannot be sure who will see the email and, hence, have pre-release access to the data. In addition, the details of this practice (notably the names of the participating news agencies and inclusion criteria) or the reasons for justifying the pre-release are not made available on the website.

To comply with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

13. ISTAT should review the security of its practice of sending embargoed statistics to news agencies using a generic email address, and should publish the justification for such pre-release access, together with details of its arrangements. (Compliance-relevant: ES CoP, Indicator 6.7)

ISTAT publishes many statistical releases, and its release calendar is widely used. The standard daily publication time is normally 10 a.m., which is fine when only one statistic is released. However, if two or three press releases are scheduled in a single calendar day, the second release is issued at 11 a.m. and the third at 12 a.m. The peer review team would prefer to see an unambiguous solution for a standard daily time.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

14. ISTAT should review its publication policy to improve user-friendliness by applying a unique standard daily time for statistical releases. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 13.2)

V Optimising the use of resources

The statistical and data environment in which ISTAT operates is increasingly complex and fast-paced, with new demands being placed on the National Statistical System, and new sources and techniques becoming available. Adequate human, financial and IT resources are therefore critical to ensure the modernisation processes.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

15. The relevant authorities should ensure adequate resources are available to meet the emerging needs for new statistics, support the objectives of important innovation projects and enable technological developments. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 3.1 and 11.2)

The statutory Commission for the Quality Assurance of Statistical Information is an important forum for monitoring the implementation of the ES CoP and the quality of the official statistics produced by the National Statistical System. The peer review team noted that the resources available to the Commission for the Quality Assurance of Statistical Information do not appear to be adequate to fulfil the tasks of its mandate.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

16. The relevant authorities should amend the statistical law to ensure the allocation of adequate financial resources and increase human resources to guarantee that the Commission for the Quality Assurance of Statistical Information can perform its assigned functions. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 3.1 and 4.4)

ISTAT has a rich training programme and places emphasis on research skills. However, the peer review team got the impression that the training provided to staff in their first few years in ISTAT could be more comprehensive – for example, to cover the operation of the National Statistical System - and delivered more flexibly, such as including modular courses rather than courses lasting several consecutive days.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

17. ISTAT should review the training offered to its staff to provide them with the skills they need for their statistical and research work, and to learn about the wider context of their work, such as about the National Statistical System. Such a review should cover both content and flexible delivery. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 7.6 and 3.1)

ISTAT operates a system of performance assessment for its senior management, which the peer review team supports. However, similar arrangements are not in place for staff at other levels; the peer review teams considers that there should be, as annual appraisal dialogues are an important tool to evaluate past performance and fix future objectives.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

18. ISTAT should introduce a systematic human resources evaluation process to determine annually staff performance, objectives, and training needs. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 7.6)

VI Improving the sharing of information

ISTAT is involved in a large number of coordination, institutional, development, methodological, research and international activities. Much information is already available on its website and intranet. Nevertheless, the peer review team feels that the sharing of cross-cutting information could be improved and that staff in different areas and at different levels, as well as in the Other National Authorities should be aware of such activities, because of potential impacts on their work areas and because they may be able to contribute and support.

This sharing could include the organisation of various internal and external communication actions, such as seminars, webinars, and lunchtime presentations.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

19. ISTAT should improve the use of the intranet as a means of ensuring that staff are aware of developments across ISTAT and in the Other National Authorities, and to facilitate an effective exchange of knowledge among thematic experts, and between thematic experts and horizontal services. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 7.2 and 10.4)

ISTAT provides a comprehensive range of methodological and planning documents and meta information to the public via its website. The peer review team noted that much of this is in Italian, which limits its accessibility.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

20. ISTAT should increase the availability of meta information and public documents on their website to non-Italian-speaking users to ensure equal access and increase transparency. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 15.5, 15.6 and 15.7)

In the spirit of continuous improvement integral to the European Statistical System (ESS), the NSI will interpret the recommendations formulated in this report into improvement actions for implementation within the National Statistical System (NSS).

2. INTRODUCTION

It is recognised that quality is one of the European Statistical System's (ESS) comparative advantages in a world experiencing a growing trend of instant information and new challenges, driven by exceptional circumstances or the continuous need for faster but quality-assured data. The European Statistics Code of Practice (ES CoP) is the cornerstone of the ESS common quality framework, and the ESS statistical authorities have committed themselves to adhere to it.

In this context, it is crucial for the ESS to be equipped with a review mechanism, the peer reviews, supporting with credible evidence this self-commitment to adhere to the ES CoP. The objective of this review mechanism is to enhance the integrity, professional independence and accountability of the ESS statistical authorities. The first round of peer reviews was carried out in 2006-2008, followed by a second round in 2013-2015.

In 2017, the ES CoP was reviewed and extended and now encompasses 16 principles. This revised version of the ES CoP triggered a third round of peer reviews, being carried out in the Member States of the European Union and of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), and Eurostat from 2021 to mid-2023. This round of peer reviews aims at improving the quality and trust in European statistics by assessing the compliance of the ESS with the principles of the revised ES CoP. The peer reviews cover the ESS statistical authorities (Eurostat, the National Statistical Institutes (NSIs) and selected Other National Authorities (ONAs)) developing, producing and disseminating European statistics. The peer reviews will be followed by a period of annual monitoring of the implementation of the improvement actions developed by the NSIs to address the recommendations laid down in the peer review reports.

The third round of peer reviews has the following two objectives:

- To review the compliance/alignment of the ESS with the ES CoP, in order to demonstrate to the ESS and to external stakeholders that the ESS is a system based on the principles of the ES CoP;
- To help NSIs, ONAs and Eurostat in their further improvement and development by indicating future-oriented recommendations; at the same time, they should stimulate government authorities to support the implementation of these recommendations.

Each peer review is conducted by a team of four statistical experts (both from inside and outside the ESS). The peer review has four phases: completion of the Self-Assessment Questionnaires (SAQs) by a country; analysis of these SAQs by the peer review team; a country visit by the peer review team; and the preparation of the final report and ensuing recommendations by the peer review team. These recommendations are of two types:

- Compliance-relevant (ensuring compliance/alignment with the ES CoP);
- Improvement-related (less critical/technical supporting improvements).

A combination of an audit-like and a peer review approach is used when assessing the national statistical systems (NSS) in the countries to benefit from the positive aspects of both approaches. The audit-like approach requires the provision of documents as evidence, the ownership of the recommendations by the peer review expert team, and the right for the NSIs to express diverging views on the recommendations and to formulate the corresponding improvement actions. Whereas the peer review approach allows for common agreement within the ESS on the methodology, objectives, scope and implementation arrangements, the focus on improvements and a peer learning process.

Although all principles of the ES CoP will be reviewed for all countries through the SAQ, the peer review experts are free to customise the country visit to concentrate on those principles where more clarification/explanation is needed. However, certain principles, such as those concerning professional independence and coordination and cooperation, as well as principles including elements of modernisation, will be assessed during the peer review visit for every member of the ESS.

In addition to these common principles to be addressed for every member of the ESS, the peer review team also emphasised the adequacy of resources, statistical confidentiality, impartiality and objectivity, cost-effectiveness and relevance.

Adequate human, financial and IT resources are considered extremely important to ensure the modernisation processes (e.g., the integration of administrative data and permanent population census), also taking into account digital transformation, new data needs and the need to recruit staff with specialised competencies. (ES CoP principle 3).

The peer review team also discussed the need to build a new core National Statistical System, comprising a subset of its organisations. Doing so would help ISTAT to minimise potential risks surrounding confidentiality in the exchange of microdata between an untypically large number of organisations belonging to the National Statistical System (SISTAN) and to reallocate and increase the efficiency of resources used for statistical purposes. (ES CoP principles 5 and 10).

The peer review team paid attention to justifying, limiting and controlling pre-release access. Equal access to highly relevant statistical indicators (e.g., inflation, GDP flash estimates, etc.) to ensure impartiality and objectivity, was a significant subject for discussions. (ES CoP principle 6)

Despite a set of instruments to collect information on user satisfaction with ISTAT's products and services, the formalised approach to gathering the views of different types of users (journalists, researchers, teachers, etc.) and their engagement to reflect specific needs and interests was an additional subject for the peer review discussion. (ES CoP principle 11)

Also, although the reports should not be used to compare one country to another, much effort has been made to ensure the harmonisation of the reports and the ensuing recommendations across the countries so that all countries are treated equitably.

The peer review of Eurostat was conducted by the European Statistical Governance Advisory Board (ESGAB).

3. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEM

Legislation

Legislative Decree No 322 of 6 September 1989 is the main legal act for Italian official statistics, laying down the main functions, mission, organisation, and rules of the National Statistical System (Sistema Statistico Nazionale – SISTAN) and of the National Statistical Institute (Istituto nazionale di statistica – ISTAT), which is the main producer of Italian official and European statistics. The Decree also sets forth their obligation to collect and/or make available data for the statistical surveys included in the three-year National Statistical Programme (PSN). In addition, there are two other national decrees impacting ISTAT activities and organisation, and the SISTAN as a whole: Presidential Decree No 166/2010, which provides rules on the reorganisation of ISTAT, and Legislative Decree No 218 of 25 November 2016 on the “Simplification of the activities of public research bodies”. The aim of these regulations is to provide for concrete modifications to be applied to governmental plans for simplification and reorganisation projects within public administrations.

The National Statistical System in Italy is a network of public and private statistical offices. In addition to ISTAT, which also has a leading and coordinating role, the National Statistical System comprises statistical offices in ministries, various central and branch public administration bodies, regions, provinces and autonomous provinces, municipalities (also in association), chambers of commerce, prefectures and some other public and private bodies dealing with statistics.

The SISTAN network comprises 3,332 offices - including the 13 Other National Authorities producing European statistics (ONAs) and employs - excluding ISTAT - about 8,500 people, of which around 2,100 FTE are devoted to strictly statistical activities. Their main task is to promote and carry out the collection, compilation, dissemination, archiving and analysis of statistical data that concern their administration within the context of the National Statistical Programme (PSN). The current PSN covers the period 2020 – 2022. Cooperation among administrations is compulsory, to implement the statistical activities included in the PSN. The SISTAN [website](#) is a well-established communication channel. Every two years, a national conference brings together SISTAN bodies and users of official statistics to share experiences and best practices and to discuss the role and prospects of official statistics.

The Steering and Coordinating Committee for Statistical Information (COMSTAT) is the SISTAN governing body. It is chaired by the ISTAT President and consists of 14 other members, representatives of the SISTAN bodies and other bodies with complex information systems, and the academic community. Its members have a four-year term and may be reappointed twice. COMSTAT's main tasks are to perform steering functions in relation to SISTAN bodies and to approve the National Statistical Programme (PSN) proposed by ISTAT's President. COMSTAT defines PSN priorities and direction at the beginning of each three-year programming period. In addition, it issues directives, circulars, and guidelines for the SISTAN.

The Commission for Quality Assurance of Statistical Information (COGIS) is an advisory body, composed of five members chosen from university professors and senior executives of the general government who are not in charge of SISTAN offices. Besides expressing its opinion on the PSN, the Commission supervises the impartiality and completeness of the statistical information produced by the National Statistical System, and the quality and conformity of statistical information with regulations, directives and recommendations issued by international and EU bodies. Moreover, it drafts an annual report attached to the report produced by ISTAT on its and SISTAN's activities, which is submitted by the Italian government to Parliament.

Organisation

ISTAT's internal organisation is governed by the Organisation Regulation (ISTAT Statute). Its headquarters are in Rome, with four offices located in different districts. The network of territorial offices consists of a Territorial office for the North-Western regions, a Territorial office for the North-Eastern regions, a Territorial office for the Central regions and a Territorial office for the Southern regions.

Besides the ISTAT President, the top management is composed of the heads of the Directorate General, the Department for the Development of Methods and Technologies for the Production and Dissemination of Statistical Information, the Department for Statistical Production and the Directorate for external relations, international affairs, press office and National Statistical System coordination. Within these departments, directorates and other divisions are responsible for specific topics and issues.

ISTAT relies heavily on the provision of centralised services arranged along the statistical process chain based on the Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM). For instance, data collection and methodological work are organised in specific directorates.

Appointment procedures for the head of the NSI

The President of ISTAT is appointed by an Italian Presidential decree on the Prime Minister's proposal and a resolution by the Council of Ministers. She/he is selected from among university professors in statistics, economics and related subjects who have international experience. The appointment is subject to the binding opinion (2/3 of the members) expressed by the relevant Parliamentary Committees, which may proceed to a hearing of the designated person (Article 16 paragraph 1 of Legislative Decree No 322/1989). The ISTAT President's term of office is for four years and can be renewed only once.

Statistical Programmes

The three-year National Statistical Programme (PSN) is the tool for planning statistical activities of public interest and national relevance. It is the outcome of a complex procedure that ensures the participation of all the bodies of the SISTAN, including the Other National Authorities responsible for the development, production and dissemination of European and Italian official statistics. Article 13 of Legislative Decree No 322/1989 states that "the statistical surveys of public interest entrusted to the National Statistical System and the related objectives shall be laid down in the National Statistical Programme" and that "ISTAT shall draft the National Statistical Programme". The PSN is a three-year plan, and its updates are governed by the same procedure.

All producers of statistics are consulted on the PSN drafting process through the Focus Groups on Quality (Circoli di qualità). Consultations take place before the PSN is outlined, in order to assess priorities. ISTAT prepares the guidelines for the PSN as defined by COMSTAT at the beginning of each three-year period.

The Integrated Plan of Activity and Organisation (PIAO) has a three-year duration and is updated on a yearly basis. It defines the programming and strategic performance objectives and illustrates the human capital management and organisational development strategy (including by means of agile working), the training objectives, the tools and objectives for the recruitment and enhancement of human resources, and ISTAT's activities and objectives for a specific year.

Resources

At the end of 2021, ISTAT staff comprised 1,920 people and its running costs amounted to €262.4 million. 26.3% of staff had higher education qualifications. Compared to 2019, the headcount had decreased by 8% but the loss of employees with higher education was 17%, meaning that the share of higher educated staff was 29.3% in 2019, three percent higher than in 2021. The budget for IT staff has experienced a significant reduction since 2019, from €14.6 million to €12 million in 2021.

Coordination of the National Statistical System

ISTAT is tasked with drafting the PSN and monitoring its implementation, coordinating all statistical activities of the National Statistical System, developing statistical nomenclatures and methodologies that are binding for all the bodies forming part of the SISTAN (Legislative Decree No 322/1989, Article 15) and coordinating all statistical activities related to the development, production and dissemination of European statistics (Presidential Decree No 166/2010, Article 2). ISTAT's coordination role also includes defining methods and formats to be used by public authorities, as well as coordinating modifications, integration and new settings of forms and information systems to be used to collect information for statistical purposes. ISTAT's coordinating activities are also carried out through the provision of guidelines, common frameworks and methodologies.

Other National Authorities participating in the peer review

For the peer review, ISTAT selected 4 out of the 13 Other National Authorities (ONAs).

The Energy Services Operator – GSE (Gestore dei Servizi Energetici – GSE S.p.A.) is a publicly-owned company identified by the Italian government to pursue and achieve environmental sustainability. GSE manages several incentive mechanisms to promote energy efficiency and the development of renewable sources. Within GSE, the Statistical Office provides energy statistics, particularly on renewable energy sources. Except for the photovoltaic sector, for which more frequent publications are planned, these statistics are produced and published annually. GSE is currently responsible for the official transmission of datasets on energy topics to Eurostat.

Ministry of Health. The Statistical Office of the Ministry of Health is part of a hierarchical structure (the organisational chart being defined by Law) and is headed by a civil servant manager/executive who, in accordance with Decree No 165 of 30 March 2001, enjoys organisational autonomy within the assigned competences and is responsible for achieving the objectives set in a formal assignment; s/he is also responsible for the adoption of the methods, standards and procedures to be used to carry out the statistical activities. Most of the production of the Statistical Office of the Ministry of Health can be found on the [website](#). As to the production of European statistics, the Statistical Office is involved in a Joint Questionnaire (provided by Eurostat) on a voluntary basis and is responsible for registering birth-related causes of death.

The Italian Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (ISPRA) is a public research organisation with a legal personality and technical, scientific, organisational, financial, administrative, patrimonial and accounting autonomy. ISPRA acts under the vigilance and policy guidance of the Italian Ministry for Ecological Transition (MITE). ISPRA complies with the Regulation on European statistics (No 223/2009, as amended) and, as a SISTAN entity, with Legislative Decree No 322/89. In the production of almost all its official environmental statistics, the Institute refers to EU statistical regulations (e.g. waste statistics) or technical thematic regulations (mandatory reporting) that provide indications on protocols to be followed and timelines to be respected. The Head of ISPRA's Statistical Office has recognised professional knowledge (he is a statistician with a PhD in Statistics and Environmental Resources) and was chosen from among the internal staff through a transparent selection procedure based on professional criteria.

The Ministry for Ecological Transition – MITE was established in 2021 to replace the Ministry of the Environment and the Protection of the Territory and the Sea (MATTM). MITE has also been assigned the competence for energy matters, which was previously assigned to the Ministry of Economic Development (MISE). MITE's contributions to European statistics are regulated by Regulation (EC) No 1013/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 June 2006 on shipments of waste. There is no external dissemination of the results; the data collected and processed are only transmitted to Eurostat.

Data Access

The statistical law includes the obligation for SISTAN bodies to provide all the data requested for the statistical activities under the National Statistical Programme, which comprises information for the development, production and dissemination of European statistics. Article 6(b) and (c) provide for the Statistical Offices to cooperate with other administrations to carry out the surveys provided for in the PSN, while Article 7(1) establishes that all administrations, institutions and organisations are required to provide all the data requested for the surveys included in the PSN. Article 3(7) of ISTAT's Statute provides for the right to access the archives and information systems of public administrations and the data contained therein that are useful to produce official statistics.

ISTAT has established partnerships to access new privately held data, allowing experimental statistics to be compiled using new data sources. The partnerships enable the mutual exchange of knowledge at expert level, resulting in the incorporation of new sources into the regular production process when feasible. The strategic document "Roadmap for the production of Trusted Smart Statistics 2021-2024" contains a plan related to projects making use of privately held data while distinguishing different types of sources, namely: Smart Systems, Web Intelligence, Web relations and Smart personal data.

Relations with users/dissemination of statistical products and services

ISTAT's main dissemination channel is its website, and its dissemination policy is user-oriented toward different target groups (citizens, researchers, students, survey respondents and the media), with separate channels used for each group. Public databases and information systems are organised by topic and users can choose the information according to their needs. Each database is accompanied by meta-information. Survey results are made available through short press releases and publications. Microdata files for research purposes are released free of charge.

Through paper, electronic, interactive and specialist publications, ISTAT promotes and enhances its research activity, sharing the results of studies in the field of official statistics. An interactive contents section on the website offers charts and maps for the visualisation of statistical data, widgets and calculating tools, all the e-books published by ISTAT and mobile apps developed to access specific content. ISTAT publishes and disseminates the data, analyses and studies produced by ISTAT or by other offices of the National Statistical System that are not able to do so directly (Legislative Decree No 322/89, Article 15).

The territorial offices support ISTAT's statistical production, the promotion of the dissemination of information and statistical culture, and the provision of training and assistance in the subjects of the National Statistical System. They also represent ISTAT in maintaining and developing relations with the institutions, the scientific community and the SISTAN offices and bodies located in their territory.

4. PROGRESS/ADVANCEMENT IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS

Integrated Plan of Activity and Organisation (PIAO)

Recently ISTAT, like all other Public Administrations with more than fifty employees, introduced the [Integrated Plan of Activity and Organisation](#) ("Piano integrato di attività e organizzazione (PIAO) for 2022-2024).

It is a three-year plan, updated annually, which includes:

- The programming and strategic performance objectives,
- ISTAT's activities and objectives for a specific year,
- The human capital management and organisational development strategy,
- The annual and multi-year training objectives,
- The tools and objectives for recruiting new specialists and enhancing internal resources,
- The tools and measures to achieve full transparency of activities and the administrative organisation, and to achieve anti-corruption objectives,
- The list of procedures to be simplified and re-engineered every year, and the planning of activities including the gradual measurement of the actual time taken to complete procedures using automated tools,
- The methods and actions aimed at achieving full accessibility to the administration, both physical and digital, for citizens over 65 and citizens with disabilities,
- The methods and actions aimed at fully respecting gender equality, including in the composition of competition selection boards.

Reconstitution of the Quality Committee

The Quality Committee, which was reconstituted in September 2020, oversees all quality-related initiatives, with the involvement of ISTAT's various domains. Among other tasks, the Quality Committee formulates proposals for ISTAT's internal quality policy, promotes the adoption of standard metadata, methods and tools in statistical production processes, and identifies priority quality activities to be implemented. A Scientific Secretariat was set up to support the Quality Committee and the position of Quality Manager was created. In addition, ISTAT has been producing and disseminating national quality reports ("Schede standard di qualità") for all statistical processes on the ISTAT website since 2018. These reports are based on the ESS standard Single Integrated Metadata Structure. A new quality policy was built upon the previous approach, which now takes into account the changes due to the modernisation process that ISTAT started in 2016.

Centralising data collection and modernising statistical production

The centralisation of data collection since 2018 has dramatically improved the timeliness and punctuality of data collection, especially for short-term statistics, and has significantly increased the response rate for structural business surveys. The centralised data collection function, with a dedicated Directorate for Data Collection, is also supported by call centre services.

A move away from a stovepipe organisation of statistical processes was made through the centralisation of methodological developments. In 2016, the Directorate for Methodology and Statistical Process Design was established. Methodological guidance and support are provided to the production units by means of internal service agreements. At the end of 2020, the Directorate for Methodology and Statistical Process Design started a project for the design and development of a catalogue of methods and methodological tools.

The Integrated System of Statistical Registers

In the years 2016-2020, ISTAT modernised its statistical production. The Integrated System of Statistical Registers (ISSR) was built, consisting of several coherent registers (Base Statistical Registers, Extended Statistical Registers and Thematic Statistical Registers) to produce several types of statistical outputs. Each ISSR register is created by integrating different sources, mainly administrative data but also survey results or other registers, to create new processes that vary in complexity. New data sources were also used.

Making use of new data sources

ISTAT has obtained new datasets from institutional data providers and uses them mainly as auxiliary variables in various methodological models for economic statistics. They comprise monthly electronic aggregate invoicing data at the two-digit level of economic breakdown (mandatory for private businesses since 01/01/2019) from Agenzia Entrate (Revenue Agency); Electronic payment aggregate data from the Bank of Italy; VIES (VAT Information Exchange System) microdata by VAT ID number and fiscal partner Member State (data on arrivals) from the Revenue Agency. Structural initiatives are in place to make these new sources permanently available. Particular attention is given to detailed information on business-to-business transactions by tracking electronic invoicing data.

Experimental statistics

Since 2018, ISTAT has conducted experiments using new data sources and innovative methods to pave the way towards complementing or even replacing traditional sources. In April 2018, a section for experimental statistics was added to ISTAT's website, with 17 experimental statistics to date. This work is pursued in four broad categories: 1. Non-standard classifications; 2. New indicators; 3. Interpretation frameworks; and 4. Results of experiments on big data. Nevertheless, the absence of legislation granting access to privately held data continues to be a challenge. An example of experimentation is using mobile phone data to study people's movements, providing timely information on mobility which is useful for managing transport infrastructure, and online job search archives to improve estimation models of important labour market indicators.

Establishing the Research Committee

In August 2017, ISTAT set up a Research Committee, which performs policy-making functions, monitoring the consistency of approach in the field of research. It also monitors the progress of activities and proposes specific policies to the President's Steering Committee.

Advisory Committee on statistical methods

ISTAT has established an Advisory Committee on statistical methods consisting of highly regarded experts from the scientific community, from both Italian and international universities. The committee meets twice a year and has been consulted on 39 methodological research projects so far. The board has a three-year mandate. In December 2022, the first methodological workshop was organised, on the topic of multi-source statistics. This was the start of a series planned to continue on an annual basis.

Several of the developments over the last five years, as described above, constitute genuine strengths and innovations of the SISTAN, such as the Integrated Plan of Activity and Organisation (PIAO), the centralisation of data collection and modernisation of the statistical production system (ES CoP indicators 4.1 and 11.1), the Integrated System of Statistical Registers (ES CoP indicators 9.4 and 10.3) and Experimental statistics compiled using new data sources and innovative methods (ES CoP indicators 4.2, 6.2 and 7.1).

5. COMPLIANCE WITH THE CODE OF PRACTICE AND FUTURE ORIENTATION

5.1 STRENGTHS OF THE NSI AND THE PARTICIPATING ONAs IN RELATION TO THEIR COMPLIANCE WITH THE CODE OF PRACTICE

Well-developed and regulated statistical system

The National Statistical System, with ISTAT as the central coordinator for producing European statistics, has a robust legal mandate and is widely recognised as modern, innovative, and trusted. ISTAT has a highly educated and motivated staff that strive to innovate. The institution's professional independence is respected throughout government and society. Various stakeholders also underlined these aspects during the peer review visit. ISTAT has adopted a new organisational model rooted in the Generic Statistical Business Process Model. (ES CoP indicators 1.1 and 4.1)

Data storage and management of IT service

ISTAT has been deemed a "National Strategic Hub" as part of "Italy's Cloud Strategy" (adopted for the implementation of Cloud Computing solutions in the public administration). That means a public administration capable of being a reference point for data storage, development, and the management of IT services. The ISTAT Data Centre and the entire digital infrastructure (human and technological resources, processes and procedures) meet all the requirements to ensure high quality, efficiency and security standards. ISTAT has therefore strengthened its IT autonomy and is now qualified to offer digital services to other public administration bodies. (ES CoP indicators 10.2 and 15.2)

Documenting and supporting quality monitoring and assessment

Statistical processes are regularly documented in the SIDI/SIQual system, including quality indicators on different phases of the production process. SIDI/SIQual is aimed at supporting quality monitoring and assessment. A centralised methodology structure is in place that is responsible for statistical methods and shows expertise, commitment to quality and attention to metadata in the statistical production since SIDI/SIQual was built (in the '90s). A subsystem of SIDI, the SIQual, is capable of producing quality reports according to the ESS standard SIMS. The same subsystem is reused to automatically generate national quality reports (for national and European purposes) without additional burden on survey managers. The reports validated by the heads of divisions are published on a specific section of the ISTAT website and/or transmitted to Eurostat. A project to produce the English version of such reports has started. (ES CoP Indicators 4.2, 4.3, 7.7, 8.4, 12.2 and 15.5)

The external supervision of impartiality and completeness of statistical production

Aiming to supervise the impartiality and completeness of the statistical information produced by the National Statistical System, the Commission for the Quality Assurance of Statistical Information (COGIS) of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers is called upon as an independent advisory body. COGIS supervises the conformity of statistical information with regulations, directives and recommendations issued by international and EU bodies. This Commission contributes to ensuring compliance with statistical confidentiality regulations and personal data protection. COGIS also expresses an opinion on the National Statistical Programme, which is forwarded to the Prime Minister as part of the PSN approval process. The Commission drafts an annual report attached to the report produced by ISTAT on its activities and those of the National Statistical System, which the Italian government submits to Parliament. (ES CoP indicators 4.4, 6.1 and 6.2)

Measures for reviewing and evaluating expenditure

ISTAT has adopted a private-type economic patrimonial accounting method, which entered into force on 1 January 2022. With this innovation, ISTAT intends to strengthen the measures for reviewing and evaluating its expenditure. It also aims to build an integrated process between the performance and budget cycles which can connect the budget process to the strategies and results to be achieved (when the system will be fully operational). Connecting the budget process to the strategies and objective-setting allows for an improvement in the accountability of the governing bodies and management and increases the effectiveness of resources. (ES CoP indicators 3.3 and 10.1)

Focus on research activity

Robust internal governance through the research infrastructures that are part of the research strategy, and involvement in research and innovation projects at national and international levels are remarkable strengths of ISTAT. The Innovation Laboratory (Labinn) was inaugurated in 2018 to offer ISTAT's researchers the opportunity to develop innovative ideas to improve official statistical production in a shared space and promote a collaborative experience. Three calls have been opened that have received over one hundred creative ideas; ten have already been developed, and another four are currently being undertaken. (ES CoP indicator 7.7)

Continuous collaboration among Other National Authorities

The ONAs reviewed, together with ISTAT, continuously foster close and solid collaboration that allows the Statistical Offices to constantly acquire successful experiences and good practices, useful for applying standard and efficient methodologies in statistical production processes. The peer review team also felt that the staff has a sufficient degree of occupational education relevant to statistical activity and demonstrates professionalism and motivation. (ES CoP indicators 1bis.3, 3.1 and 7.5)

Innovative practices

Permanent population census. ISTAT has moved towards a permanent population census based on the Integrated System of Statistical Registers (ISSR). The reference database for all official statistical production concerning the resident population, the permanent population census and demographic statistics is the "Registro di Base degli Individui" (RBI) population register implemented in ISTAT. There are policies, procedures, and tools to promote automatic data coding and validation techniques. These techniques are designed to perfectly suit the statistical process in each phase of the permanent population census. The aim of the significant investment in administrative data for permanent censuses and surveys is to reduce the cost of software, hardware, IT management and cyber security in the medium term. At the same time, the 2020 permanent population census is also intended to be used for data correction in the Population Register. (ES CoP indicators 7.3, 9.2 and 10.3)

The new data processing platform. The SINTESI platform has been developed internally using experienced staff and taking advantage of state-of-the-art web technologies such as microservices and data integration techniques. The platform comprises a new modular data collection system dedicated to business units and a survey management system. It covers the remaining phases of the business process, from data correction and validation to macro data editing, seasonal adjustment and final dissemination, including integration with Eurostat's EDAMIS portal. This platform now hosts three economic surveys and new surveys are planned every three months. The main aim behind SINTESI is to have a fully metadata-driven platform where the business process is harmonised between similar surveys, to share tools and methodologies and foster the adoption of common standards such as GSBPM, GSIM and CSPA. In addition, SINTESI supports internal staff job rotation, since many surveys will use the same tools. (ES CoP indicators 4.2, 7.2 and 10.2)

The creation of a prototype self-publishing platform. ISTAT has created a prototype of a self-publishing platform called Web Publishing. This tool provides authors with a facilitated and flexible instrument for composing a publication, ensuring its sustainability, and avoiding the bottlenecks that often occur in the traditional editorial production process. This is a new flexible publishing format, natively developed for the web and capable of presenting different types of objects (text, images,

graphics, data tables, multimedia) to the reader through an interface characterised by robust interactivity and ensuring portability across multiple devices. (ES CoP indicators 10.2 and 15.2)

Remote access to microdata for researchers. In a physical laboratory (ADELE), ISTAT provides information that can be processed by researchers accessing microdata remotely. The microdata indicated in a research proposal (request) is derived from ISTAT surveys. No direct identifiers, special categories of personal data or data related to criminal convictions and offences are available at the laboratory. ISTAT's staff controls the output. ISTAT's first remote laboratory will be active at the Bank of Italy shortly. (ES CoP indicator 15.4)

5.2 ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.2.1 Strengthening governance, planning and coordination

ISTAT has a historically well-developed process for drafting the three-year National Statistical Programme (PSN), rooted in Article 13 of Legislative Decree 322/89. This specifies the following:

- The National Statistical Programme includes all statistics of public interest (Article 13(1)).
- The National Statistical Programme covers a three-year period and is updated each year.
- The National Statistical Programme is drafted by ISTAT, subject to the opinion of the Commission of Quality Assurance of Statistical Information, the Conference of Regions, Provinces and Municipalities, and the Data Protection Authority, and is approved by Presidential Decree, on the proposal of the Prime Minister, following a resolution by the Interministerial Committee for Economic Planning and Sustainable Development.

Other noteworthy aspects of the PSN are as follows:

- The Steering and Coordinating Committee for Statistical Information (COMSTAT) sets out the guidelines for drawing up the PSN.
- Information about statistical plans and activities is collected each year via a web portal, and all the Statistical Offices that are responsible for statistical activities included in the PSN can update their previous year's entries.
- The Focus Groups on Quality – permanent working groups for each of the thematic areas covered by the Programme, which include experts from ISTAT, other SISTAN organisations and other relevant stakeholders – meet to approve the changes and new statistical activities to be included in the PSN. In this way, the Other National Authorities are actively involved in the drafting of the PSN.

Each year a progress report is submitted to Parliament under the provisions of Article 24 of Legislative Decree 322/89.

The peer review team recognises that the planning process seems to be successful in producing the National Statistical Programme. However, ISTAT, the peer review team and several stakeholders noted that the process of preparing and approving the PSN, including obtaining formal sign off from the President and Ministers, is long and cumbersome.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

R1. ISTAT should review the procedures underpinning the compilation of the three-year National Statistical Programme in order to develop a more efficient and effective workflow for its production. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 1.5 and 11.2)

ISTAT has several practical building blocks in place to implement its coordination role. For example – and rooted in Article 15 of Legislative Decree 322/89 – ISTAT:

- Drafts the three-year National Statistical Programme, which involves the coordination of statistical activities across the National Statistical System.
- Provides technical assistance and training to the organisations within the National Statistical System.

In addition, the Steering and Coordinating Committee for Statistical Information (COMSTAT) supports ISTAT in its coordinating activity, as specified in Legislative Decree 322/89 (Article 17), and Presidential Decree 166/2010 (Article 3). In practice, ISTAT operates a network of ONAs, which supports the informal exchange of information focusing on European statistics. Furthermore, ISTAT holds a biennial statistical conference which is primarily aimed at users and which might, in future, provide opportunities to strengthen coordination. And finally, ISTAT has Memoranda of Understanding (covering data supply, for example) with some ONAs, and has a committee devoted to its relationship and engagement with the Bank of Italy.

The peer review team considers that ISTAT could refine these building blocks by:

- The implementation and monitoring of standards, specifically the use of the Single Integrated Metadata Structure (SIMS).
- The provision of methodological advice on sampling, seasonal adjustments, flash estimation and other issues by ISTAT to ONAs (and other bodies in the SISTAN who need methodological support).
- Enhancing the accessibility of metadata (about administrative data, for example) to support both the statistical staff in the ONAs who need to understand the administrative data to be able to use them appropriately and the users of the statistics disseminated by the ONAs.
- Continuing to increase the dissemination of statistics produced across the SISTAN (via <https://www.Sistan.it/>).
- Introducing a SISTAN-wide release calendar, building on ISTAT's release calendar to include details of the statistics published by the ONAs.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

R2. ISTAT should review and, where appropriate, refine the tools for the coordination of the National Statistical System. This includes the implementation and monitoring of standards, the provision of methodological advice, the provision of metadata, the dissemination of statistics produced across the National Statistical System and a National Statistical System-wide release calendar. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 1bis.2).

Although the peer review team only met four (of the thirteen) Other National Authorities (ONAs), the team had a clear sense that there are differences in the extent to which some key aspects of the ES CoP are implemented. The team recognised some positive practices, including the approval of newly appointed heads of statistics in the ONAs by the President of ISTAT, involvement with ISTAT in statistical planning and discussion of new EU Regulations, and participation in Focus Groups on Quality. However, the peer review team is of the view that, while it is incumbent on each ONA to manage its compliance with the ES CoP, in practice, ISTAT should play a more active coordination role.

Examples where ISTAT could help strengthen the ONAs' compliance with aspects of the ES CoP include:

- Protection of statistical confidentiality; the peer review team heard that microdata was shared with other bodies in the SISTAN and considers that there would be merit in reviewing confidentiality protection procedures.
- Use of sound statistical methodology, for example, to be able to estimate data for missing respondents to create complete data sets in order to bring publications forward, but also to be able to support other statistics-producing teams in the ONA.

- The appropriate metadata and quality reports; the peer review team endorses the preparation of documentation about procedures and methods and would encourage prioritisation of this work.
- Limiting pre-release access to statistical releases to well-justified, controlled and publicised cases; in some cases, pre-release access to underlying data tables is provided to Ministers well before publication of the resulting statistics.

The role of the statutory Committee for the Quality Assurance of Statistical Information (COGIS) includes supervision of the quality and conformity of statistical information produced across the SISTAN, though in practice it focuses on the main statistical producers, such as the ONAs. Accordingly, it would seem appropriate for COGIS' opinion to be sought and taken into account.

To comply with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

R3. ISTAT, in cooperation with the Commission for the Quality Assurance of Statistical Information, should ensure that the Other National Authorities reviewed (the Energy Services Operator, the Ministry of Health, the Italian Institute for Environmental Protection and Research, the Ministry for Ecological Transition) adhere to the ES CoP regarding the protection of statistical confidentiality, use of sound statistical methodology, appropriate metadata and quality reports and limiting pre-release access to statistical releases to well-justified, controlled and publicised cases. (Compliance-relevant: ES CoP, Indicators 1bis.2, 5.4, 6.7 and 7.1)

Access to statistical data is regulated by Article 10 of Legislative Decree 322/89. The peer review team understands that when ISTAT make its microdata available to users (via the Elementary Data Analysis (ADELE) laboratory), confidentiality is protected by access being granted only to bona fide researchers and by using tau-Argus (for tabular data) and manual checking to ensure that outputs are not disclosive.

The National Statistical System is extensive and, among other features, facilitates the exchange of microdata. Paragraph 3 of Article 6 states that for statistical purposes "... the statistics offices shall have access to all the statistical data held by the administration to which they belong, except for particularly confidential types of data specifically protected by law".

Paragraph 1 of Article 10 states that "Data processed as part of statistical surveys included in the National Statistical Programme belong to the community as a whole and must be distributed for study and research purposes to anyone requesting them under the terms of this decree".

Accordingly, microdata is exchanged across the SISTAN for the purposes of meeting the requirement of the National Statistical Programme. Requests for access to microdata must be consistent with the organisation's purpose.

Given the large scale of the SISTAN and the varying nature of some of these organisations (including private sector companies), the peer review team identified the need to look at possible risks surrounding confidentiality.

Both COMSTAT and COGIS should play a role in identifying and addressing confidentiality risks. COMSTAT's role includes the preparation of directives and guidelines about the criteria and methods for exchanging data between the Statistical Offices of administrations and the institutions within the National Statistical System (Article 21 of Legislative Decree 322/89). COGIS' role includes contributing to ensuring compliance with regulations on statistical confidentiality and personal data protection (Article 12(1b)).

To comply with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

R4. The Steering and Coordinating Committee for Statistical Information, in conjunction with the Commission for the Quality Assurance of Statistical Information and ISTAT, should review the details of, and need for, recent and current exchanges of microdata between organisations within the

National Statistical System, and use this review to develop new guidelines to reduce the risk of breaching the confidentiality of the data of individuals and businesses. (Compliance-relevant: ES CoP, Indicator 5.4)

According to the statistical law (Legislative Decree No 322/89), ISTAT's President is selected from among existing tenured professors in statistics, economics or similar subjects, with international experience. The peer review team acknowledges that the appointment of a university professor is beneficial in that this qualification is consistent with ISTAT's status as a research institute, but nevertheless this excludes others who may have relevant skills and experience. Furthermore, Article 4 of Legislative Decree 39/2013 precludes individuals who have worked in public bodies in the previous two years from applying to become the President of ISTAT, thus excluding senior experts within ISTAT. People from within the National Statistical System may have the specialist knowledge and skills to perform the role of President as well as a professor from outside the National Statistical System.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

R5. The relevant authorities should review the legal basis for the appointment of the President of ISTAT to enable all qualified persons to apply for the post, rather than limiting it to university professors. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 1.8)

The possible reason for the dismissal of ISTAT's President - committing a crime against the public administration - is set out in Legislative Decree No 39/2013, but not in the statistical law. This Decree establishes the general rules on the termination of the offices of senior managers in public administrations, aiming to avoid conflicts of interest and protect the independence of public officials.

The Decree includes causes of both ineligibility and incompatibility. The causes of ineligibility which may apply to the office of ISTAT's President are: having been sentenced for crimes against the public administration (Article 3) and having carried out assignments in favour of entities administered or financed by the entity conferring the assignment in the previous two years (Article 4). The causes of incompatibility that may apply to the office of ISTAT's President include a number of activities and tasks regarded as incompatible with each other (Articles 9, 11 and 12). Incompatibility does not lead to an automatic termination of the office, but only to the obligation for the person to whom the office of President has been conferred to choose within fifteen days between maintaining the office of President or carrying out the other office or the other activity regarded as incompatible by law. If this choice is not exercised, the President will be dismissed automatically.

The peer review team considers that including the possible reason for the dismissal of ISTAT's President in the statistical law would enhance transparency. This is important because clarity about the reasons for dismissal is key to maintaining the professional independence of the heads of National Statistical Institutes, which is fundamental to a trusted National Statistical System.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

R6. The relevant authorities should amend the statistical law in such a way as to clearly include the reasons for the dismissal of the President of ISTAT. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 1.8)

5.2.2 Modernising the statistical system

ISTAT and other bodies in the National Statistical System have made huge efforts and achieved significant progress in modernising the production of statistics. Besides this technological progress, the National Statistical System has historically evolved, becoming a voluminous network of bodies collaborating to produce official statistics in Italy. This evolution has led to a situation where some improvements might be useful to optimise the development, production and dissemination of official statistics.

In the statistical law, the term "official statistics" is not clearly defined. The peer review team notes that the working definition of official statistics relates to their inclusion in the three-year National

Statistical Programme. It follows from Legislative Decree 322/89 that official statistics are those produced by the SISTAN. The official statistics included in the National Statistical Programme are a part of the official statistics produced, i.e., the part that is of public interest. However, the National Statistical Programme changes over time, and new developments have led to the establishment of experimental statistics. ISTAT declares some statistics as experimental because it does not respect all the steps necessary to test new methodologies, transform them into technological and organisational solutions, and verify whether quality requirements and harmonisation rules are fulfilled. Examples of this are the use of the Open Street Map to calculate indicators for road accidents on Italian roads or the wage inequality indices in small enterprises.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

R7. The relevant authorities, in cooperation with ISTAT, should amend the statistical law to include a clear definition of the scope and purpose of official statistics. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 2.1)

ISTAT intends to use new data sources in the National Statistical System, such as data from the private sector with the use of mobile phone and scanner data. It is important that such data can be accessed for statistical purposes in a sustainable way. The statistical law does not foresee specific provisions on access to privately held data, since it was enacted in 1989, at a time which predates the demand for access to privately held data. This means that, for ISTAT, access to privately held data is dependent on specific bilateral agreements with private companies. The peer review team feels that it would be helpful for ISTAT and the Other National Authorities if there were legal or other mechanisms in place to facilitate the use of privately held data.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

R8. ISTAT, in collaboration with the relevant authorities, should ensure that appropriate legal and/or other mechanisms are in place to facilitate the use of privately held data by ISTAT and the Other National Authorities. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 2.4.)

The SISTAN comprises a very large number of organisations with varying roles in relation to the collection, production, analysis, and dissemination of official statistics. This provides a major platform and enables the exchange of knowledge. Furthermore, the statistical law enables the exchange of microdata across the many bodies of the SISTAN. The sheer volume of the system makes the coordination of planning processes, quality management and other horizontal tasks cumbersome. Consequently, not all actors are involved to the same extent; COGIS, for example, focuses only on the most important actors in the statistical system. ISTAT, the 13 ONAs and a relatively small number of other important stakeholders play a decisive role, which leads to an implicitly given set of bodies providing the main contribution to European and Italian official statistics. However, the peer review team is of the opinion that an explicit, official definition of such a core system would help to optimise the mechanisms for the development, production, and dissemination of Italian official statistics.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

R9. ISTAT, in cooperation with the Steering and Coordinating Committee for Statistical Information and the Commission for the Quality Assurance of Statistical Information, should evaluate which institutions and organisations contribute significantly to the development, production and dissemination of official statistics, and hence build up a new core National Statistical System – a subset of the current National Statistical System. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 1bis.1)

5.2.3 Optimising statistical activities

ISTAT shows a high commitment to quality, with an organisational structure devoted to quality management. Several initiatives and working groups deal with quality and a specific section on quality commitment is available on the website. In 2021, ISTAT developed and approved a new quality policy

for statistical production, which is consistent with the European quality framework developed by Eurostat and transposes its main principles and definitions.

However, quality management is an instrument which should affect an organisation in a holistic way, and the peer review team detected some gaps where the involvement of quality management could lead to significant improvements. For instance, when errors occur, the horizontal view of quality management could result in technical improvements to prevent similar errors in the future.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

R10. ISTAT should involve the quality management team in relevant processes and discussion fora such as those in place for error treatment management and the Focus Groups on Quality. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 4.2, 4.4 and 6.3)

Strengthening the administrative capacity of public administrations is one of the key objectives of a National Recovery and Resilience Plan (PNRR). One part of this plan is the development of a National Data Catalogue. ISTAT operates within a broad network of data providers and data producers and is the main actor in Italy's National Data Ecosystem. Therefore, the leading role taken by ISTAT in the process to develop the National Data Catalogue seems natural and inevitable. On the other hand, ISTAT is currently running a project to develop a new Metadata system (METAstat) which is set to replace SIDI. Comprehensive metadata management is a key component, not only as a driver for the statistical production within ISTAT, but also as a necessary steering instrument in a functional National Data Ecosystem to facilitate administrative tasks (for instance, fulfilling the "Once Only Principle"). In support of the activities for the development of a National Data Catalogue, the peer review team would like to see that consistency with internal modernisation projects is ensured.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

R11. ISTAT should continue to be a significant pillar in the National Data Ecosystem and ensure coherence between the METAstat project and the National Data Catalogue. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 1bis.3, 14.1 and 15.5)

5.2.4 Improving user engagement

ISTAT has developed a set of instruments to collect information on user satisfaction for ISTAT's products and services and to evaluate the relevance and completeness of the information provided. Users can also contact centres and helpdesks if they have any requests or questions related to statistical releases. Furthermore, ISTAT has many committees and fora which support its planning and coordination role, but these tend to be dominated by producers. Although the size of the SISTAN already provides some representation of different groups, the users' voice is comparatively quiet. The peer review team considers that a formalised approach to gathering the views of different types of users – journalists, researchers, teachers, etc. - would enhance the relevance of Italian official statistics.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP the peer review team recommends:

R12. ISTAT should modernise its approach to user engagement with a view to reflecting the particular needs and interests of different types of users. (Improvement related: ES CoP, Indicator 11.1)

ISTAT established a release calendar to provide users with detailed information on the dates of publications, and press releases are issued according to a fixed press release calendar. For many highly relevant statistical indicators such as Consumer prices, GDP, General Government deficit, Household income and savings, and Industrial production, news agencies are granted pre-access to the press releases, which are sent to them by email half an hour before the official release. The peer review team feels that it is unclear why such a wide range of many important statistical indicators is being pre-released and why private companies are among the recipients. This practice constitutes a situation

in which breaches of the pre-release arrangements would not be detected. Hence, the pre-release access is not well justified, nor limited and controlled.

Furthermore, the peer review team detected a security risk when email is used as a transmission method. ISTAT provides a range of news agencies with embargoed pre-release access to key economic statistics, and it does so by sending the data to generic email addresses. This means that ISTAT cannot be sure who will see the email and, hence, have pre-release access to the data. In addition, the details of this practice (notably the names of the participating news agencies and inclusion criteria) or the reasons for justifying pre-release are not made available on the website.

To comply with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

R13. ISTAT should review the security of its practice of sending embargoed statistics to news agencies using a generic email address, and should publish the justification for such pre-release access, together with details of its arrangements. (Compliance-relevant: ES CoP, Indicator 6.7)

ISTAT publishes many statistical releases, and its release calendar is widely used. The standard daily publication time is normally 10 a.m., which is fine when only one statistic is released. However, if two or three press releases are scheduled in a single calendar day, the second release is issued at 11 a.m. and the third at 12 a.m. The peer review team would prefer to see an unambiguous solution for a standard daily time.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

R14. ISTAT should review its publication policy to improve user-friendliness by applying a unique standard daily time for statistical releases. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 13.2)

5.2.5 Optimising the use of resources

ISTAT is facing human resources issues because of recent retirements, new data needs and the necessity to recruit staff with specialised competencies. In recent decades, ISTAT has moved towards a register-based and permanent population census and integration of administrative data. The increasing use of administrative data for statistical purposes has diminished the need to carry out surveys and has reduced the burden on respondents. It has also necessitated a digital transformation and significant IT investments, the reorganisation of data treatment and quality assessment standards and tools. ISTAT has access to privately held data in accordance with specific bilateral agreements with private companies, within collaboration and research protocols enabling the compilation of experimental statistics, for example.

The statistical and data environment in which ISTAT operates is increasingly complex and fast-paced, with new demands being placed on the National Statistical System, and new sources and techniques becoming available.

The peer review team understands that although policy makers recognise the importance of statistics, they have not made adequate financial and human resources available to meet the emerging needs and to exploit the new sources and techniques. Adequate human, financial and IT resources are therefore required to ensure the continuation of the modernisation processes.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

R15. The relevant authorities should ensure adequate resources are available to meet the emerging needs for new statistics, support the objectives of important innovation projects and enable technological developments. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 3.1 and 11.2)

COGIS is an advisory body, composed of five members chosen from university professors and senior executives of the general government who are not in charge of SISTAN offices. Besides expressing its opinion on the PSN, the Commission supervises the impartiality and completeness of the statistical

information produced by the National Statistical System, and the quality and conformity of statistical information with regulations, directives and recommendations issued by international and EU bodies. Moreover, it drafts an annual report attached to the report produced by ISTAT on its and SISTAN's activities, which is submitted by the Italian government to Parliament. However, while one person from the General Secretariat of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers acts as secretary to COGIS, the peer review team is of the opinion that COGIS does not have sufficient human and financial resources at its disposal. This hampers COGIS' capacity to carry out peer reviews, conduct hearings and issue opinions.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

R16. The relevant authorities should amend the statistical law to ensure the allocation of adequate financial resources and increase human resources to guarantee that the Commission for the Quality Assurance of Statistical Information can perform its assigned functions. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 3.1 and 4.4)

ISTAT has a highly qualified staff, whose participation in the internal and external courses of ISTAT's rich training programme is facilitated and encouraged. The plan is part of the system defined by ISTAT's Governing Board and is the result of analysing training needs, based both on a top-down approach to ISTAT's strategic lines and the bottom-up needs collected by the subject matter units. The courses are mainly methodological and are organised according to the following phases: design, delivery, monitoring and evaluation. ISTAT also places emphasis on research skills.

However, the peer review team got the impression that the training provided to staff in their first few years in ISTAT could be more comprehensive – for example, to cover the operation of the National Statistical System - and delivered more flexibly, such as including modular courses rather than courses lasting several consecutive days, to avoid staff not being able to participate due to workload and/or peaks.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

R17. ISTAT should review the training offered to its staff to provide them with the skills they need for their statistical and research work, and to learn about the wider context of their work, such as about the National Statistical System. Such a review should cover both content and flexible delivery. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 7.6 and 3.1)

Annual appraisal dialogues between staff and line managers are an important tool to evaluate past performance, training needs and career paths, and to fix future objectives. The assessment is often (but not exclusively) focused on ability, efficiency, conduct and managerial skills (where relevant). Appraisal exercises can usefully also be connected to written self-assessments by jobholders before the actual dialogue.

ISTAT operates a system of performance assessment for its senior management, which the peer review team supports. However, similar arrangements are not in place for staff at other levels.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

R18. ISTAT should introduce a systematic human resources evaluation process to determine annually staff performance, objectives, and training needs. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 7.6)

5.2.6 Improving the sharing of information

ISTAT is involved in many coordination, institutional, development, methodological, research and international activities. It also has many initiatives, developments and projects that staff in different areas and at different levels (and in the ONAs) should be aware of, because of potential impacts on their work areas and because they may be able to contribute and support.

Much information is already available on the website and intranet. Nevertheless, the peer review team feels that the sharing of cross-cutting information could be improved. This could include the organisation of various internal and external communication actions, such as seminars, webinars, and lunchtime presentations.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

R19. ISTAT should improve the use of the intranet as a means of ensuring that staff are aware of developments across ISTAT and in the Other National Authorities, and to facilitate an effective exchange of knowledge among thematic experts, and between thematic experts and horizontal services. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 7.2 and 10.4)

ISTAT has a versatile website containing information on organisation, activities, analysis, products (such as online databases, press releases, publications, etc.), methods and tools (such as glossaries, classifications, IT methods and tools, data quality tools, etc.), and information and services to users, respondents, journalists, etc., as well as links to relevant national, European and international statistical organisations. Public databases and information systems are organised by topic and users can choose the information according to their needs. Each database is accompanied by meta information. Survey results are made available through short press releases and publications, and microdata files are released free of charge. Special effort is made regarding statistical literacy and reaching younger users through social media channels.

In summary, ISTAT provides a comprehensive range of methodological and planning documents and meta information to the public via its website. The peer review team noted that much of this is in Italian, which limits its accessibility. The SISTAN website is also only available in Italian.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

R20. ISTAT should increase the availability of meta information and public documents on their website to non-Italian-speaking users to ensure equal access and to increase transparency. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 15.5, 15.6 and 15.7)

5.3 VIEWS OF THE NSI, AS THE NATIONAL COORDINATOR OF THE NSS AND THE PEER REVIEW, ON THOSE RECOMMENDATIONS WHERE THEY DIVERGE FROM PEER REVIEW EXPERTS' ASSESSMENT

R5. The relevant authorities should review the legal basis for the appointment of the President of ISTAT to enable all qualified persons to apply for the post, rather than limiting it to university professors. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 1.8)

The current legislation on the procedure for appointing the President ensures that ISTAT has authoritative top management that can guarantee its independence and autonomy. Selecting a university professor guarantees a level of professional independence given precisely by the university's independence as a research body. Moreover, ISTAT is a research institution. The expertise of a university professor in subjects such as statistics or economics meets the requirements of the role that the President of ISTAT must assume in defining and managing aspects of official statistics and particularly the development and production of relevant statistics.

R14. ISTAT should review its publication policy to improve user-friendliness by applying unique standard daily time for statistical releases. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 13.2)

ISTAT announces the time of releases in advance: on the annual calendar and in the weekly dissemination agenda (on Fridays). The first is printed in two formats (poster and pocket), distributed to the media and to other users (press offices of institutional bodies, associations of enterprises, etc.) and is published on ISTAT's institutional website. The weekly agenda of releases and events is sent to the distribution lists of the press office every Friday and published on the website. None of our users have ever complained or found this procedure unpredictable. The choice of releasing at 10 a.m., 11 a.m. or 12 a.m. was made to meet the needs of journalists, particularly those of news agencies that can "work" better with the contents of press releases if there is more than one daily release. Releasing two or three news releases at the same time would be much more complicated for them.

ANNEX A – AGENDA OF THE VISIT

Timing	Topic	Participants
Day 1 - 28 November 2022		
09.00-09:30	Preparatory meeting with the national coordination desk	<p>The peer review expert team: All</p> <p>The NSI:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Marina Gandolfo, National Peer Review coordinator - Elisabetta Parente - National peer review coordination team (NPRCT) - Cristina Dell’Aquila- National peer review coordination team (NPRCT)
09:30-09:45	Welcome and introduction to the programme, adopting the agenda and organisational matters	<p>The peer review expert team: All</p> <p>The NSI:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gian Carlo Blangiardo (President) - Michele Camisasca (Director General) - Davide Colombo (Director DCRE) - Monica Pratesi (Director DIPS) - M. Gandolfo (National PR Coordinator DCRE/REA) - E. Parente (NPRCT) - C. Dell’Aquila (NPRCT) <p>ONAs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Anita Galletti (Head Statistical Office MITE) - Giovanni Finocchiaro (Head Statistical Office Ispra) - Paolo Liberatore (Head Statistical Office GSE) - Rosaria Boldrini (Head Statistical Office Ministry of Health)

09:45-10:45	Presentation of the National Statistical System	<p>The peer review expert team: All</p> <p>The NSI:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - G. C. Blangiardo (President) - M. Camisasca (Director General DGEN) - D. Colombo (Director DCRE) - M. Pratesi (Director DIPS) - M. Fedeli (Director DCIT) - M. Gandolfo (National PR Coordinator) - MP. Sorvillo, L. Chieppa (DCRE/REB) - F. Albo, G. Cogliati Dezza (DCAL/AGO), M. Fantini (DCAL/ ALC) - M. Jouvenal (DIPS), - T. Tuoto (DCME/MEA) - S. Falorsi (DCME/MEB) - E. Parente (NPRCT) - C. Dell’Aquila (NPRCT) - P. Vitiello (DCRE-REA) - I. Fera (DCRE-REA) <p>ONAs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Anita Galletti (MITE) - Giovanni Finocchiaro (Ispra) - Paolo Liberatore (GSE) - Rosaria Boldrini (Ministry of Health)
10:45-11.00	Coffee break	
11.00-12.30	Professional independence and the Law on Official Statistics and related legislation	<p>The peer review expert team: All</p> <p>The NSI:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - D. Colombo (Director DCRE) - N. Zamaro (Director DCPT) - S. Schipani(DCRE/UST) - M. Troia (DCCI/CIB) - A. Baldassarini (DCCN /CND) - F. Moauro (DCCN) - C.M. De Gregorio (DIPS/ PSV) - M. Jouvenal (DIPS) - F. Albo, G. Cogliati Dezza (DCAL/AGO), M. Fantini (DCAL/ ALC) - A. Righi (DIPS) - M. Bruno (DCME/MEC)

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - T. Tuoto (DCME/MEA) - M. Gandolfo - National PR coordinator - E. Parente (NPRCT) - C. Dell'Aquila (NPRCT) - P. Vitiello (DCRE-REA) - I. Fera (DCRE-REA)
12:30-13:30	Lunch	
13:30-15.00	Coordination and cooperation	<p>The peer review expert team: All</p> <p>The NSI:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - D. Colombo (Director DCRE) - M.P. Sorvillo (DCRE/REB), - S. Ravioli (Director DCCI) - N. Zamaro (Director DCPT) - M. Gandolfo - National PR coordinator - E. Parente (NPRCT) - C. Dell'Aquila (NPRCT)
15:00-15.15	Coffee break	
15:15-16:30	Programming, planning and resources	<p>The peer review expert team: All</p> <p>The NSI:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A. Ottaiano (DCRU/CRS) - A. Malafronte (DGEN /PBC) - S. Demofonti (DCPT/PSP), - M.P. Sorvillo(DCRE/REB) - S. Falorsi, M. Di Zio (DCME/MEB), D. Casale (DCIT/ITE), - M. Frustaci (DIRM/ DCIT), - M. Jouvenal (DIPS), - P. Papa (DCRD/RDF), G. Di Bella (DCRD) - M. Gandolfo - National PR coordinator - E. Parente (NPRCT) - C. Dell'Aquila (NPRCT)
16:30-18:00	Peer review expert team discussion	
Timing	Topic	Participants
Day 2 - 29 November 2022		

09:00-10:15	Quality (organisational structure, tools, monitoring)	<p>The peer review expert team: All</p> <p>The NSI:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - M. Scanu, G. Simeoni (DCME/MEA) - R. Roncati (DCCI/CIA) - S. Menghinello (Director DVSE) - A. Baldassarini (DCCN/CND), F. Moauro (DCCN) - F. Rapiti (Director DCSE), G. Bruno (DCSE/SED) - S. Falorsi, S. Loriga (DCME/MEB), - M. Jouvenal (DIPS) - D. Colombo (Director DCRE) - M. Gandolfo - National PR coordinator - E. Parente (NPRCT) - C. Dell'Aquila (NPRCT)
10.20-11.20	Meeting with junior staff	<p>The peer review expert team: All</p> <p>NSI Junior staff:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Anita Guelfi - Melania Carteri - Giovanni Prattichizzo - Erika Cerasti - Renato Magistro - Teresa Di Martino
11.20-11.40	Coffee break	
11.40-12.50	Progress and plans for the future	<p>The peer review expert team: All</p> <p>The NSI:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - M. Fedeli (Director DCIT) - O. Luzi (Director DCME) - S. Falorsi (DCME/MEB) - T. Tuoto (DCME/MEA) - S. Menghinello (Director DVSE) - D. Colombo (Director DCRE) - MP. Sorvillo (DCRE/REB) - F. Albo, G. Cogliati Dezza (DCAL/AGO) - M. Fantini (DCAL/ALC) - A. Righi (DIPS)

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - P. Papa (DCRD/RDF), G. Di Bella (DCRD) - F. Bacchini (DIPS/PSS) - M. Jouvenal (DIPS), - A. Ottaiano (DCRU/CRS) - T. Vassalli di Dachenhausen (DCRU/RCD) - S. Pifferi (DCPT/PSP) - F. Baiocchi (DCIT/ITD) - M. Gandolfo - National PR coordinator - E. Parente (NPRCT) - C. Dell'Aquila (NPRCT) - P. Vitiello (DCRE-REA) - I. Fera (DCRE-REA)
12.50-13.50	Lunch	
13.50-15.35	Methodology, data collection, data processing and administrative data	<p>The peer review expert team: All</p> <p>The NSI:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - P. Papa (DCRD/RDF), - G. Di Bella (DCRD) - M.P. Sorvillo, L. Chieppa (DCRE/REB) - S. Falorsi (DCME/MEB) - M. Scanu, G. Simeoni, (DCME/MEA) - C. Vicarelli (DIPS/PSS) - P. Anitori (DIPS/PSV) - G. Brancato (DCSW) - M. Bruno (DCME/MEC) - M. Jouvenal (DIPS), - G. Gallo (DCDC/DCB) - M. Gandolfo - National PR coordinator - E. Parente (NPRCT) - C. Dell'Aquila (NPRCT)
15.35-15.45	Coffee break	
15.45-17.00	Dissemination and Confidentiality	<p>The peer review expert team: All</p> <p>The NSI:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - D. Colombo (Director DCRE), - E. Vaccaro (DCRE/UST) - M. Troia (DCCI/CIB) - M. Cammarrota (DCCI/CIA)

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - L. Tininini, C. Catalano (DCIT/ITA) - M. Scanu, L. Virgili (DCME/MEA) - F. Albo, G. Cogliati Dezza (DCAL/AGO) - M. Fantini (DCAL/ALC) - C. Colasanti (DCRE/RPD) - A. Ottaiano (DCRU/CRS) - M. Jouvenal (DIPS) - M. Gandolfo - National PR coordinator - E. Parente (NPRCT) - C. Dell'Aquila (NPRCT) - P. Vitiello (DCRE-REA) - I. Fera (DCRE-REA)
17:00-18:00	Peer review expert team discussion	
Timing	Topic	Participants
Day 3 - 30 November 2022		
09.00-10.20	Meeting with the Commission for Quality Assurance of Statistical Information (COGIS)	<p>The peer review expert team: All</p> <p>ESGAB-like body:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maurizio Vichi (President COGIS) - Piergiorgio Gawronski (COGIS) <p>The NSI:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - M. Gandolfo (National PR coordinator) - E. Parente (NPRCT) - C. Dell'Aquila (NPRCT)
10.20-10.35	Coffee break	
10.35-11.45	Meeting with ONA 1 - Ministry for Ecological Transition (MITE)	<p>The peer review expert team: All</p> <p>MITE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Anita Galletti (head of the ONA statistical office) - Simona Frisicale - Giovanni Perrella - Sara Livi - Filiberto Ferraro <p>The NSI:</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - M. Gandolfo - National PR coordinator - E. Parente (NPRCT) - C. Dell'Aquila (NPRCT) - L. Chieppa (DCRE/REB)
11.50-13.00	Meeting with ONA 2 - Italian Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (ISPRA)	<p>The peer review expert team: All</p> <p>ISPRA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Giovanni Finocchiaro (head of the ONA statistical office) - Alessandra Galosi - Costanza Mariotta <p>The NSI:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - M. Gandolfo - National PR coordinator - E. Parente (NPRCT) - C. Dell'Aquila (NPRCT)
13.00-14.00	Lunch	
14.00-15.10	Meeting with ONA 3 - Energy Services Operator (GSE)	<p>The peer review expert team: All</p> <p>GSE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Paolo Liberatore (head of the ONA statistical office) - Martino dal Verme - Duilio Lipari - Vincenzo Surace <p>The NSI:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - M. Gandolfo - National PR coordinator - E. Parente (NPRCT) - C. Dell'Aquila (NPRCT) - L. Chieppa (DCRE/REB)
15.10-15.25	Coffee break	
15.25-16.40	Meeting with ONA 4 – Ministry of Health	<p>The peer review expert team: All</p> <p>GSE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Paolo Liberatore (head of the ONA statistical office) - Martino dal Verme - Duilio Lipari - Vincenzo Surace <p>The NSI:</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - M. Gandolfo - National PR coordinator - E. Parente (NPRCT) - C. Dell'Aquila (NPRCT) - L. Chieppa (DCRE/REB)
16.40-17.40	Peer review expert team discussion	
Timing	Topic	Participants
Day 4 - 1 December 2022		
09.00-10.30	Meeting with main data providers	<p>The peer review expert team: All</p> <p>Main data providers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Saverio Bombelli, Leda Accosta (National Social Security Institute -INPS) - Federico Nusperli (Ministry of Economy and Finance - MEF) - Paolo Starace (Italian Revenue Agency) - Lucia Pera, Marzia Giannini (Union of Chambers) <p>The NSI:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - F. Rapiti (Director DCSE) - D. Colombo (Director DCRE) - M. Gandolfo - National PR coordinator - E. Parente (NPRCT) - C. Dell'Aquila (NPRCT)
10.30-10.45	Coffee break	
10.45-11.45	Meeting with providers of new data sources	<p>The peer review expert team: All</p> <p>Providers of new data sources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Annalisa Capitanio (Federdistribuzione) - Andrea Zaramella (Vodafone Business Italia) <p>The NSI:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A. Righi (DIPS) - M. Bruno (DCME/MEC) - T. Tuoto (DCME/MEA) - D. Colombo (Director DCRE)

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - M. Gandolfo - National PR coordinator - E. Parente (NPRCT) - C. Dell'Aquila (NPRCT)
11.45-12.45	Meeting with main users – Media	<p>The peer review expert team: All</p> <p>Media:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Carlo Marroni (Il Sole 24 ore) - Valentina Consiglio (Reuters) - Marco Valerio Lo Prete (Rai-TG1) - Alessandra Arachi (Corriere Sera) - Luca Cifoni (Il Messaggero) <p>The NSI:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - D. Colombo (Director DCRE) - M. Gandolfo - National PR coordinator - E. Parente (NPRCT) - C. Dell'Aquila (NPRCT)
12.45-13.45	Lunch	
13.45-15.00	Meeting with main users – Ministries and other public/private institutions (including Central Bank as a user)	<p>The peer review expert team: All</p> <p>Users: Ministries and other public/private institutions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Alfonso Rosolia (Bank of Italy) - Giada Minelli (ISS-National Institute of Health) - Annamaria Carinci (ISS-National Institute of Health) - Fedele De Novellis (REF Ricerche) Online - Dario Ceccarelli (Coordination of the statistical function of the Conference of Regions) - Roberto Samar (Statistical Union of Italian Municipalities) Online <p>The NSI:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - D. Colombo (Director DCRE) - M. Gandolfo - National PR coordinator - E. Parente (NPRCT) - C. Dell'Aquila (NPRCT)

15.00-16.00	Meeting with main users – business associations and federations and trade unions, as well as representatives of a committee of users	<p>The peer review expert team: All</p> <p>Main users:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Marco Pini (Istituto Tagliacarne-Union Chambers of Commerce) - Francesca Mazzolari (Confindustria- Italian manufacturing companies association) <p>The NSI:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - D. Colombo (Director DCRE) - M. Gandolfo - National PR coordinator - E. Parente (NPRCT) - C. Dell’Aquila (NPRCT)
16.00-16.15	Coffee break	
16:15-17:15	Meeting with main users – Scientific community	<p>The peer review expert team: All</p> <p>Scientific community:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Daniela Cocchi (University of Bologna) - Online - Annamaria Bianchi (University of Bergamo) - Online - Roberto Zelli (University of Rome La Sapienza) - Furio Camillo Rosati (University of Rome Tor Vergata) - Online <p>The NSI:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - D. Colombo (Director DCRE) - M. Gandolfo - National PR coordinator - E. Parente (NPRCT) - C. Dell’Aquila (NPRCT)
17.15-17.45	Meeting with COMSTAT (the governing body of the National Statistical System)	<p>The peer review expert team: All</p> <p>COMSTAT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Roberto Zelli, Representative of the Ministry of Public Function
17:45-18:45	Peer review expert team discussion	

Timing	Topic	Participants
Day 5 - 2 December 2022		
09.00-10.30	Peer review expert team discussion	
10.30-10.45	Coffee break	
10.45-12.30	Clarifications, remaining or additional issues and focus areas	The peer review expert team: All The NSI: - M. Gandolfo - National PR coordinator,
12.30-13.30	Lunch	
13.30-14.45	Meeting with the senior management of the NSI, ONAs: conclusions and recommendations	The peer review expert team: All The NSI: - G. C. Blangiardo (President) - M. Camisasca (Director DGEN) - D. Colombo (Director DCRE) - M. Pratesi (Director DIPS) - M. Fedeli (Director DCIT) - M. Gandolfo - National PR coordinator - E. Parente (NPRCT) - C. Dell'Aquila (NPRCT) ONAs: - G. Finocchiaro, A. Galosi, C. Mariotta (ISPRA) - R. Boldrini, R. Moroni, E. Rizzuto, F. Basili, G. Campo, V. Trevisani (Ministry of Health) - P. Liberatore (GSE) - S.G Frisicale (MITE)

ANNEX B – LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

ISTAT	
Mr. Gian Carlo Blangiardo - President	ISTAT
Mr. Michele Camisasca – Director General	Directorate General (DGEN)
Mr. Fabio Albo – Head of Division	Division for Legal, regulatory and organisational affairs (DCAL/ AGO)
Ms. Giovanna Cogliati Dezza	Division for Legal, regulatory and organisational affairs (DCAL/ AGO)
Ms. Micaela Fantini	Division for Legal affairs and disputes (DCAL/ALC)
Mr. Ludovico Antonio Ottaiano – Head of Division	Division for Competence development and social responsibility (DCRU/CRS)
Ms. Talitha Vassalli di Dachenhausen – Head of Division	Division for recruitment, labour disputes and disciplinary actions (DCRU/RCD)
Mr. Nereo Zamaro - Director	Directorate for strategic planning and digital transition (DCPT)
Ms. Sara Demofonti – Head of Division	Division for Strategic policy and integrated planning (DCPT/PSP)
Ms. Sabrina Pifferi	Division for Strategic policy and integrated planning (DCPT/PSP)
Mr. Andrea Malafronte	Division for operational programming, budget and accounting (DGEN/PBC)
Mr. Davide Colombo – Director	DCRE - Directorate for external relations, international affairs, press office and national statistical system coordination
Ms. Anna Tononi	Press Office (DCRE/UST)
Ms. Stefania Schipani	Press Office (DCRE/UST)
Ms. Enza Lucia Vaccaro	Press Office (DCRE/UST)
Ms. Marina Gandolfo – Head of Division - National peer review coordinator	Division for International Affairs (DCRE/REA)
Ms. Elisabetta Parente, NPRCT	Division for International Affairs (DCRE/REA)
Ms. Cristina Dell’Aquila, NPRCT	Division for International Affairs (DCRE/REA)
Ms. Immacolata Fera	Division for International Affairs (DCRE/REA)
Ms. Paola Vitiello	Division for International Affairs (DCRE/REA)
Ms. Maria Pia Sorvillo – Head of Division	Division for SISTAN coordination (DCRE/REB)
Ms. Lucia Chieppa	Division for SISTAN coordination (DCRE/REB)
Ms. Cecilia Colasanti – Head of Division	Division for personal data protection, security monitoring and relationship with data subjects (DCRE/RPD)

Ms. Monica Pratesi – Director	DIPS - Department for statistical production
Ms. Michele Jouvenal	Department for statistical production (DIPS)
Mr. Carlo Maria De Gregorio – Head of Division	Division for the Development and enhancement of the integrated register system by theme (DIPS/ PSV)
Ms. Paola Anitori	Development and enhancement of the integrated register system by theme (DIPS/PSV)
Mr. Fabio Bacchini – Head of Division	Division for Data analysis and economic, social and environmental research (DIPS/PSS)
Mr. Claudio Vicarelli	Data analysis and economic, social and environmental research (DIPS/PSS)
Ms. Alessandra Righi	Department for statistical production (DIPS)
Ms. Antonella Baldassarini – Head of Division	Division for Quality management and processing of input data on institutions and enterprises (DCCN /CND)
Mr. Filippo Moauro	Directorate for national Accounts (DIPS/DCCN)
Mr. Pasquale Papa – Head of Division	Division for direct surveys and digital tools for data collection (DCRD/RDF)
Ms. Grazia Di Bella	Directorate for data collection (DIPS/DCRD)
Mr. Gerardo Gallo- Head of Division	Directorate for social statistics and population census/ Division for Population census and social surveys integration (DCDC/DCB)
Ms. Giovanna Brancato	Directorate for social statistics and welfare/Division for Integrated system for labour, education and training (DCSW/ SWB)
Mr. Fabio Massimo Rapiti - Director	Directorate for economic statistics (DIPS/DCSE)
Mr Giancarlo Bruno – Head of Division	Division for short-term business statistics (DCSE/SED)
Ms. Serenella Ravioli – Director	Directorate for communication (DIRM/DCCI)
Ms. Mara Cammarrota – Head of Division	Division for management and dissemination of statistical information (DCCI/CIA)
Ms. Roberta Roncati	Directorate for communication (DCCI/CIA)
Ms. Michela Troia	Directorate for communication (DCCI/CIB)
Mr. Stefano Menghinello - Director	Directorate for analysis and enhancement of economic statistics and for the

	information needs of the national recovery and resilience plan – nrrp (DIPS/DVSE)
Ms. Orietta Luzi - Director	Directorate for methodology and statistical process design (DIRM/DCME)
Mr. Mauro Scanu – Head of Division	Division for Methods, quality and metadata (DCME/MEA)
Ms. Giorgia Simeoni – Quality manager	Division for Methods, quality and metadata (DCME/MEA)
Mr. Luigi Virgili	Division for Methods, quality and metadata (DCME/MEA)
Mr. Mauro Bruno	Division for integrated architecture of data and processes (DCME/MEC)
Ms. Roberta Radini	Division for integrated architecture of data and processes (DCME/MEC)
Ms. Tiziana Tuoto	Division for Methods, quality and metadata (DCME/MEA)
Mr. Stefano Falorsi – Head of Division	Division for process design and register system Support (DCME/MEB)
Mr. Marco di Zio	Division for process design and register system Support (DCME/MEB)
Ms. Silvia Loriga	Division for process design and register system Support (DCME/MEB)
Mr. Massimo Fedeli- Director	Directorate for information technologies (DIRM/DCIT)
Ms Maria Frustaci	Directorate for information technologies (DIRM/ DCIT)
Mr. Leonardo Tininini – Head of Division	Division for IT Infrastructure Management Service (DCIT/ITA)
Ms Cecilia Catalano	Division for IT Infrastructure Management Service (DCIT/ITA)
Ms. Emanuela Viradi – Head of Division	Division for Monitoring and Governance IT (DCIT/ITD)
Mr Francesco Baiocchi	Division for Monitoring and Governance IT (DCIT/ITD)
Ms. Daniela Casale – Head of Division	Division for development and management of technologies for registers and databases (DCIT/ITE)
Junior staff	
Ms. Anita Guelfi	Presidency office (PRES/URP)
Ms. Melania Carteri	Division for personal data protection, security monitoring and relationship with data subjects (DCRE/RPD)
Mr. Giovanni Prattichizzo	Directorate for communication (DCCI/CIB)
Ms. Erika Cerasti	Division for integrated architecture of data and processes (DCME/MEC)

Mr. Renato Magistro	Division for Methods, quality and metadata (DCME/MEA)
Ms. Teresa Di Martino	Press office-Directorate for external relations, international affairs, press office and national statistical system coordination (DCRE/UST)
Ms. Giulia Ciarla	Directorate for human resources (DCRU)
ONAs	
Ms. Rosaria Boldrini – Head of statistical office	Ministry of Health
Ms. Rossana Moroni	Ministry of Health
Ms. Elvira Rizzuto	Ministry of Health
Mr. Fulvio Basili	Ministry of Health
Ms. Gaia Campo	Ministry of Health
Mr Vito Trevisani	Ministry of Health
Mr. Giovanni Finocchiaro - Head of statistical office	Ispra - Italian Institute for Environmental Protection and Research
Ms. Alessandra Galosi	Ispra - Italian Institute for Environmental Protection and Research
Ms. Costanza Mariotta	Ispra - Italian Institute for Environmental Protection and Research
Ms. Anita Galletti - Head of statistical office	MITE - Ministry of Ecological Transition
Ms. Simona Grazia Frisicale	MITE - Ministry of Ecological Transition
Mr. Giovanni Perrella	MITE - Ministry of Ecological Transition
Ms. Sara Livi	MITE - Ministry of Ecological Transition
Mr. Filiberto Ferraro	MITE - Ministry of Ecological Transition
Mr. Paolo Liberatore - Head of statistical office	GSE - Energy Services Operator
Mr. Martino dal Verme	GSE - Energy Services Operator
Mr. Duilio Lipari	GSE - Energy Services Operator
Mr. Vincenzo Surace	GSE - Energy Services Operator
COGIS	
Mr. Maurizio Vichi – President Mr Piergiorgio Gawronski	Commission for Quality Assurance of Statistical Information (COGIS)
Main data providers	
Mr. Saverio Bombelli	National Social Security Institute - INPS
Ms. Leda Accosta	National Social Security Institute - INPS
Mr. Federico Nusperli	Ministry of Economy and Finance - MEF
Ms. Lucia Pera	Union of Chambers
Ms. Marzia Giannini	Union of Chambers
Mr. Paolo Starace	Italian Revenue Agency
Providers of new data sources	
Ms. Annalisa Capitanio	FederDistribuzione - Trade association for the Modern Retail industry
Mr. Andrea Zaramella	Vodafone Business Italia
Main users – Media	
Mr. Carlo Marroni	Il Sole 24 ore

Ms. Valentina Consiglio	Reuters
Mr. Marco Valerio Lo Prete	TG1 Rai
Ms. Alessandra Arachi	Corriere della Sera
Mr Luca Cifoni	Il Messaggero
Main users – Ministries and other public/private institutions	
Mr. Alfonso Rosolia	Bank of Italy
Ms. Giada Minelli	ISS- National Institute of Health
Ms. Annamaria Carinci	ISS-National Institute of Health
Mr. Fedele De Novellis	REF Ricerche (Economic and financial research)
Mr. Dario Ceccarelli	Coordination of the statistical function of the Conference of Regions and Autonomous Provinces (Cisis)
Mr. Roberto Samar	Statistical Union of Italian Municipalities (USCI)
Main users – business associations and federations and trade unions	
Mr. Marco Pini	UnionCamere- Istituto Tagliacarne (Union of Chambers of Commerce)
Ms. Francesca Mazzolari	Confindustria (Italian Manufacturing Companies Association)
Main users – Scientific community	
Ms. Daniela Cocchi	University of Bologna
Mr. Roberto Zelli	University of Rome La Sapienza
Mr. Furio Camillo Rosati	University of Rome Tor Vergata
Ms. Annamaria Bianchi	University of Bergamo