

## PROGRESS REPORT

In accordance with Article 11 (4) of the revised (EC) Regulation No 223/2009 on European statistics, this progress report provides information on the implementation of the European Statistics Code of Practice in Italy, and on the efforts undertaken towards the establishment of a Commitment on Confidence.

### 1. Compliance with the European Statistics Code of Practice

The Italian National Institute of Statistics (Istat) together with Eurostat, the National Statistical Institutes (NSIs) and the Other National Authorities (ONA) is part of the European Statistical System (ESS), which develops, produces and disseminates European statistics as established by the European statistical law<sup>1</sup>.

According to the Italian statistical law<sup>2</sup>, Istat is a legal person under public law. It is a public body with scientific, organisational, financial and accounting independence and carries out its activities according to the principles of scientific independence, impartiality, objectivity, reliability, quality, and confidentiality of statistical information, as laid down at European and international levels.

As member of the European Statistical System (ESS), Istat has to be compliant with the European Statistics Code of Practice (ES CoP), adopted in 2005 and revised for the second time in 2017. Its main purpose is to *improve trust and confidence* in official statistics and to enhance the *quality* of European Statistics.

The 2017 version of the ES Code of Practice includes the Quality Declaration of the ESS and aims at reflecting the latest changes and innovations in the development, production and dissemination of official statistics in the ESS, such as emerging new data sources and use of new technologies. It comprises 16 Principles covering three areas: Institutional Environment, Statistical Processes and Statistical Output. In this last edition one more principle has been added on coordination and cooperation, reinforcing the coordination role at national level of the statistical Authorities.

Since its adoption Istat has been committed to comply with its principles, promotes and monitors its implementation by Other National Authorities responsible for the development, production and dissemination of European statistics.

To this regard, Istat adopted the Es Code in 2010, following the Presidential Decree (D.P.R) n. 166/2010 that provides rules on its reorganisation and establishes among others, that Istat performs its duties in order to implement the provisions contained in the European statistical law as well as to transpose the principles on independence, integrity and responsibilities of the national statistical authorities as set out in the European Statistics Code of Practice ( art. 2(2)).

---

<sup>1</sup> Regulation (EC) No. 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2009 on European Statistics, amended by Regulation (EU) 2015/759 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2015.

<sup>2</sup> Art 14 of Legislative decree no. 322/1989

Moreover, the following Prime Ministerial Decree of 28 April 2011, that has implemented the process of reorganization, states that Istat framework is also inspired by principles and provisions stated at European level, in particular by the European Statistics Code of Practice (art. 1(1)).

With regards to quality, Istat, in line with its mission, aims at serving the community by producing and disseminating high-quality statistical information and it is fully committed to perform this task. Since the beginning of 2000 the Institute has been defining a sound quality policy in line with the European framework developed by Eurostat, taking up its main principles and definitions: process quality; product quality; documentation; respect for respondents; strengthening of statistical literacy; users' orientation; confidentiality. Istat *Quality Guidelines for Statistical Processes* describe the principles to be followed when planning, running and assessing a statistical process, as well as complying with quality requirements of statistics.

Respondents' privacy and data confidentiality protection are a priority for Istat when it carries out its activities in a transparent and independent manner. Coherently in 2018 Istat has formalized the Data Protection Officer (DPO) according to GDPR.

Istat is committed to using available resources in the most effective and efficient way, and to this end collaborates with other organizations within Sistan as well as with the public administration, the research community and civil society.

ES Code principles and values are reflected in Istat output, as arisen during the second round of peer reviews in the EU Member States to assess the compliance to the ES Code. In Italy the peer review was conducted in 2015, and the peer review team, in its final report, considered that Istat is highly compliant with the ES Code.

In order to continue its commitment on enhancing its coordination role, Istat carries out initiatives to reprofile current and potential ONAs and to enhance know-how and good practices in quality management within the NSS. In particular, Istat has developed and implemented an ad hoc module that was launched through an online survey in June 2017 to monitor the responsibility on the production of European statistics and their transmission to Eurostat. A specific workshop with ONAs has been held to enhance the coordination role of Istat, to strengthen the dialogue with ONAs, to raise their awareness on duties and responsibilities on the production and dissemination of European statistics according to the ES Code of practice.

Since 2018, Istat has been carrying out a program on quality assessment through the conduction of audits on ONAs to assess their statistical processes. Furthermore, Istat is committed in a training program in collaboration with the National School of Administration (SNA) to enhance skills on quality management of the ONAs.

In view to monitor planning, production and quality of official statistics of public interest, every year Istat sets up Quality Focus Groups that meet annually to analyze demand and supply of statistical information to plan the National Statistical Program. The groups are committed to favor coordination and collaboration among the different administrations involved, enhancing their awareness on quality compliance and to comply with the principles of the European Code.

In 2019 a corporate Convention with all Istat employees at all levels from top management to staff was organized in order to share the new organizational structure, strategies, challenges and opportunities with respect to the commitment on quality as well.

## **2. Efforts undertaken towards the establishment of a Commitment**

With reference to the compliance with the provision established in Article 11, paragraph 4, of the revised (EC) Regulation No 223/2009 on European statistics, a specific Commitment on Confidence was included in the three-year National Statistical Program 2017-2019 (PSN) which comprises also European statistics included in the European Statistical Program. The inclusion of a Commitment on Confidence, will be put forward for the next three-year National Statistical Program (2020-2022).

The approval procedure establishes that the PSN is adopted by the Council of Ministers on a proposal from the President of the Council and enacted by a decree of the President of the Republic.