



PEER REVIEW REPORT

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

POLAND

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The National Statistical System of Poland is composed of Statistics Poland and 11¹ Other National Authorities (ministries, institutes and other public authorities). Statistics Poland was created in 1918 and employs around 5,500 staff members, of which 1,150 work in the headquarters and units under the President, and another 4,350 in regional statistical offices.

The Act of 29 June 1995 on Official Statistics sets out the principles of reliability, objectivity and professional independence, in accordance with the European Statistics Code of Practice. As provided by the Act, the President of Statistics Poland is appointed by the President of the Council of Ministers, from persons selected through an open and competitive recruitment process.

From the peer review interviews, the peer review team formed the opinion that Statistics Poland is considered a trusted and highly valued institution. Its products and services are regarded as fully independent of any political influence and objective.

Statistics Poland produces the majority of official statistics itself and acts as the contact point for the European Commission (Eurostat) on statistical matters. However, the coordination role of Statistics Poland is not specified in the Act on Official Statistics. The Statistical surveys programme of official statistics is published on an annual basis, pursuant to the Act on Official Statistics.

The National Statistical System of Poland benefits from the support of efficient advisory bodies. The Statistical Council, composed of representatives of all components of Polish society, represents user needs and plays a key role in the adoption of the annual Statistical surveys programme of official statistics. Statistics Poland maintains close relations with the scientific community. The Methodological Commission, composed of senior statistical experts, is consulted on the methodology of statistical processes. In addition, the Scientific Statistical Council, acts as an advisory body to the President of Statistics Poland.

The quality of the statistics produced is very important to Statistics Poland. The quality policy and quality management are enforced by an internal ordinance on the measurement, assessment and monitoring of the quality of statistical processes in official statistics. It is also the basis for preparing the annual action plan on improving quality as well as the annual plan of quality reviews. A wide range of tools is in place to deal with quality management, such as quality reports, quality indicators, quality checklists and quality reviews.

Statistics Poland and the Other National Authorities developing, producing and disseminating European statistics make extensive use of administrative data, thus reducing the statistical burden and budgetary costs. Statistics Poland has also invested in the use of innovative data sources and techniques to produce experimental and official statistics and has already produced tangible results in several domains, such as the use of earth observation for agricultural statistics, or the use of messages from the Automatic Identification System for statistics on maritime traffic and emissions. During the Covid-19 pandemic, as well as during the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine, Statistics Poland demonstrated flexibility in addressing new and urgent needs.

¹ 12 ONAs as of September 2022

Statistics Poland uses modern tools for the dissemination of its products, including a well-designed website, social media, webinars, application programme interfaces, and open data. Its geostatistics portal, a tool for the cartographic presentation of data, is praised by users.

Statistics Poland is also an active contributing partner of the European Statistical System, with many of its staff members involved in European Union and international initiatives, working groups and task forces.

Human capital is a prominent strength of Statistics Poland and the statistical units of the Other National Authorities. However, despite efforts to create optimal working conditions, Statistics Poland struggles to maintain its workforce, as other institutions in the public sector offer better remuneration.

Three Other National Authorities participated in the peer review: the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, and the Ministry of Justice. The statistical units in these Other National Authorities are well integrated in their ministries, and their production of statistics is closely linked to the core activities of other departments in their ministries. They are adequately resourced and have established sound procedures ensuring compliance with the European Statistics Code of Practice, in close cooperation with Statistics Poland.

Generally, the peer review team considers that the National Statistical System of Poland demonstrates high compliance with the European Statistics Code of Practice. There are 15 recommendations, grouped under four main headings, with 14 of them focused on improvements going beyond compliance with the European Statistics Code of Practice, and one recommendation addressing a compliance issue.

RECOMMENDATIONS

I. Strengthening strategic planning, access to data and innovation

In addition to the annual Statistical surveys programme of official statistics, Statistics Poland would benefit from building a multi-annual strategic plan that sets clear policy priorities for the coming years. Such a document would enable optimal resource planning and would be useful to share the strategic orientations of Statistics Poland with staff and stakeholders.

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

1. *Statistics Poland should establish a multi-annual strategic work plan to encompass directions, objectives and priorities in the longer term, as a framework for the implementation of the annual Statistical surveys programme of official statistics. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 11.2)*

Statistics Poland uses an increasing amount of administrative data to produce official statistics and has developed good cooperation relationships with administrative data holders. However, Statistics Poland has only signed Memoranda of Understanding with some of the administrative data providers. The peer review team considers that Memoranda of Understanding that include clauses on data transmission dates, as well as the obligation to inform about planned changes in the data source in due time, ensure the quality and use of administrative data for statistical purposes, and should be extended to all administrative data providers.

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

2. *Statistics Poland should establish formal cooperation agreements, extending Memoranda of Understanding to all providers of administrative data, to be able to exploit the full potential of the data and be informed of any changes. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, indicators 2.2, 8.6 and 10.3)*

Statistics Poland has already successfully invested in the use of innovative data sources. However, the scope of new data sources provided by the increasing digitalisation of the economy is growing and Statistics Poland should further pursue its efforts to use new data sources in more statistical domains. Moreover, increased connectivity, the digitalisation of processes and the use of new technologies would create more opportunities for official statistics.

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

3. *Statistics Poland should capitalise on the successful production of statistics based on innovative data sources and invest further in developing methods and infrastructure for the use of new data sources in more statistical domains. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 10.3 and 9.4)*

II. Ensuring adequate human and financial resources

Maintaining the current statistical production while pursuing new developments requires an investment in resources. The peer review team concluded that, despite efforts to create optimal conditions for maintaining a skilled workforce, Statistics Poland is facing a wage gap with other government institutions and the private sector, reducing its attractiveness as a workplace.

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

4. *The Ministry of Finance, while coordinating the work on the draft state budget, should ensure that the budgetary needs reported by Statistics Poland are met, in order to balance the current and forthcoming increases in statistical needs and new policy priorities, which will involve developing methodologies for using new data sources. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 3.1)*

It is of crucial importance for Statistics Poland to increase the number of its highly qualified personnel to be able to meet the new requirements in official statistics, and it is equally important to increase the skills of the current staff. In that regard, mobility should be an integral part of career planning so that employees can gain experience in various positions, at least in the first years of their career.

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

5. *Statistics Poland should further increase the qualification level of its staff commensurate with new requirements and offer motivating careers, including adequate mobility, to improve staff skills. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 3.1 and 7.5)*

Statistics Poland has started introducing lean management analyses in some of its processes, but there have been no follow-up activities so far. It is therefore recommended that Statistics Poland continues analysing its statistical and supporting processes more thoroughly, to guarantee efficiency, lower costs and the continuous improvement of processes.

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

6. *Statistics Poland should further identify opportunities and implement improvements to increase the efficiency of its core and supporting processes. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 10.1 and 10.4)*

III. Strengthening coordination and quality management throughout the National Statistical System

The coordination role of Statistics Poland, while recognised by the participating Other National Authorities, is not explicitly stated in the Act on Official Statistics; neither does it refer to Regulation 223/2009 on European Statistics, as amended. Considering the growing needs for the statistical coordination of the Other National Authorities, it is recommended to urgently amend the Act on Official Statistics in order to fully comply with the European regulation.

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

7. *The relevant authorities should amend the Act on Official Statistics to assign Statistics Poland with the role of the national coordination body for European statistics within the meaning of Regulation 223/2009 on European statistics, as amended. (Compliance-relevant: ES CoP, Indicator 1bis.1)*

Quality guidelines have not been updated since their development and adoption in 2012. Many chapters are outdated, including parts that are directly related to the ES CoP. Additionally, monitoring of implementation and review of quality guidelines is done on an ad hoc basis and not systematically in the National Statistical System of Poland.

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

8. *Statistics Poland should update the national quality guidelines, and promote and monitor their use within the National Statistical System for the production of European statistics. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 1bis.2)*

In the last 10 years, Statistics Poland has carried out quality reviews for less than 20% of its statistical processes. While the number of reviews has improved significantly in recent years, the pace, coverage and frequency of quality reviews should be even higher, to ensure that all processes are systematically and regularly assessed within a given time frame.

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

9. *Statistics Poland should improve the coverage and frequency of its quality reviews on European statistics, to ensure quality and consistency throughout the production within the Statistical surveys programme of official statistics. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 4.4)*

Quality reviews are an essential quality management tool to assess all phases of the statistical processes, identify problems and propose improvement actions. The Other National Authorities participating in the peer review monitor the quality of the statistics they produce on an *ad hoc* basis, but they do not implement regular quality reviews, although they are invited to participate in Statistics Poland's quality reviews.

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

10. *The Other National Authorities reviewed (Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and Ministry of Justice) should implement regular quality reviews for European statistics and involve representatives from Statistics Poland and other external experts, where appropriate. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 4.4)*

Statistics Poland produces internal quality reports for all its statistical processes. The quality reports required by Eurostat are routinely provided after the transmission of data to Eurostat. However, user-

oriented information about the quality of processes and statistics is not systematically made publicly available by Statistics Poland or by the Other National Authorities.

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

11. *Statistics Poland and the Other National Authorities should produce standardised, user-oriented quality reports on official statistics and make them publicly available for users. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 15.7)*

The Methodological Commission, composed of eminent experts in statistics, plays an important role in the quality management system of Statistics Poland by evaluating statistical methods and proposing new methodological solutions. However, the methodology of the statistical processes of the Other National Authorities reviewed is not submitted to the Methodological Commission for review, whereas they would largely benefit from the sound methodological advice of the Methodological Commission for their production of European statistics.

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

12. *The Other National Authorities reviewed (Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and Ministry of Justice) should present the methodology of their productions of European statistics for review by the Methodological Commission. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 7.2 and 7.7)*

IV. Enhancing dissemination and user orientation

Statistics Poland monitors user satisfaction via different means, including tracking traffic on its website or organising meetings and workshops with data users to learn about new needs and get their feedback on the statistics produced. However, the last user satisfaction survey was conducted in 2013 and has not been repeated since. Monitoring users' perception of Statistics Poland's products and services through regular user satisfaction surveys is a useful tool, as it provides feedback on the various quality components and helps to implement measures to improve the quality of the products produced.

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

13. *Statistics Poland should regularly monitor the satisfaction of its users and strive to broaden its audience by engaging with new user groups. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 11.3 and 11.1)*

Statistics Poland only publishes some of the European statistics produced by the Other National Authorities on its website. To facilitate user access to European statistics, Statistics Poland should make all European statistics produced by the Other National Authorities accessible via its website.

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

14. *Statistics Poland should coordinate with the Other National Authorities to enhance the visibility of all European statistics produced in the country. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 15.1 and 15.2)*

While some of the participating Other National Authorities publish their statistics on their websites, others do not. The Ministry of Justice has developed a comprehensive portal for the dissemination of its statistics, while the Ministry of Finance does not have a uniform dissemination policy for European statistics, and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development does not publish any data on the

European statistics it produces. For reasons of transparency, the Other National Authorities should publish the European statistics they produce on their websites, under a clearly identifiable heading.

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

15. *The Other National Authorities reviewed (Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and Ministry of Justice) should improve their service to users by making the European statistics they produce available to a wider public on their websites under a clearly identifiable heading, including an English version. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 15.1)*

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, the 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 the common principles to be addressed for every member of the ESS, the peer review team also placed an emphasis on quality and methodology. Statistics Poland has produced quality guidelines around 10 years ago and has conducted 47 quality reviews in the decade, compared to 257 statistical processes. Therefore, the peer review team investigated the current implementation of the quality policy, including in the participating ONAs. A specific session with the Methodological Commission was also included in the agenda to better understand its role related to the methodology (Principle 7). In addition, the resources allocated to Statistics Poland were also evaluated, as well as the dissemination policy of Statistics Poland and the reviewed ONAs as the peer review team identified some issues related to these principles in the Self-Assessment Questionnaire.

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 and the Polish Statistical System

Statistics Poland (GUS in Polish) is the national statistical authority designated as the body responsible for coordinating all activities at national level for the development, production and dissemination of European statistics. Statistics Poland has a coordinating role in the National Statistical System (NSS). The NSS consists of:

- the official statistics services: Statistics Poland (headquarters and regional statistical offices), other units supervised by the President of Statistics Poland (Central Statistical Library, Statistical Computing Centre and Statistical Publishing Establishment),
- other units authorised to carry out statistical surveys: mainly ministries, central offices including Other National Authorities developing, producing and disseminating European statistics (ONAs) and the National Bank of Poland.

The President of Statistics Poland governs the official statistics services in a centralised way. The President has jurisdiction over statistical matters and acts as the coordinator of the NSS. His/her administrative position is that of a Minister although s/he does not participate in the meetings of the Council of Ministers, unless invited. The President of the Council of Ministers exercises supervision over the President of Statistics Poland on routine matters such as budget and resources, but never over statistical work.

The basic legal act defining the National Statistical System of Poland is the Act of 29 June 1995 on Official Statistics, which defines the principles and creates the basis for reliable, objective, professional and independent statistical surveys. The Act on Official Statistics regulates the following issues, among others: organisation of statistical surveys, services of official statistics, statistical responsibilities and access to data, dissemination and storage of statistical information, classification standards, national official registers kept by the President of Statistics Poland and financing of official statistics. The population and housing census and the agriculture census are subject to separate legislation. Statistics Poland produces the majority of official statistics itself and acts as the sole contact point for the European Commission (Eurostat) on statistical matters.

There are several producers of official statistics within the National Statistical System, but only the ONAs, the National Bank of Poland and Statistics Poland produce European statistics.

Organisation

In the administrative organisation of Poland, Statistics Poland is the central government administration body competent in statistical matters, with its President performing the tasks assigned to this position with assistance from official statistics services under the supervision of the President of the Council of Ministers. The professional independence of the President of Statistics Poland is established in Article 25.a of the Act on Official Statistics.

A series of advisory bodies dealing with various statistical matters support the NSS of Poland. The Statistical Council is an advisory body of the President of the Council of Ministers and the key advisory body of the NSS. It is composed of representatives of state administration bodies, local authorities, self-government organisations, employers' organisations, trade unions and scientific experts. The main responsibility of the Statistical Council is to develop the draft Statistical surveys programme of official statistics for the coming year based on proposals by the President of Statistics Poland. Other main

advisory bodies are the Scientific Statistical Council (advising on the methodology of statistical surveys), the College (dealing with important daily issues related to the functioning of Statistics Poland), the Programme Commission (developing and agreeing on the annual Statistical Surveys programmes of official statistics), the Methodological Commission (reviewing the methodology of statistical processes) and the Editorial Committee (developing rules for dissemination).

The President manages Statistics Poland, supported by the Civil Service Director and directors of eighteen departments and offices. At regional level, there is one statistical office in every region (voivodship) - sixteen all together. The regional statistical offices specialise in specific statistical fields and some are entrusted with performing specialised tasks on a national scale.

Among the eighteen organisational units, eight of them are statistical production units (National Accounts, Macroeconomic Studies and Finance Statistics, Demographic Surveys, Social Surveys, Labour Market, Trade and Services, Enterprises, and Agriculture). One unit (Spatial and Environmental Surveys) currently has the dual functions of statistical production as well as horizontal and administration issues. The remaining units are devoted to horizontal and administration issues (Office of the President, Programming and Coordination of Statistical Surveys, Standards and Registers, Statistical Products, International Relations and Statistical Cooperation, Education and Communication, Administration and Budget, Organisation and Personnel, and ICT systems, Geostatistics and Census).

Figure 1: *Organisation chart of Statistics Poland*



Source: Statistics Poland

Appointment procedures for the head of the NSI

According to Article 24.1 of the Act of 29 June 1995 on Official Statistics, the President of Statistics Poland shall be appointed by the President of the Council of Ministers from persons selected through an open and competitive recruitment process, and dismissed by the President of the Council of Ministers, in accordance with Article 24 of the Act on Official Statistics, in which the appointment criteria are listed and from which the dismissal prerequisites can be deducted, because they are mentioned in parallel to the appointment criteria. No fixed term of office for the President of Statistics Poland is specified in the Act on Official Statistics, but the term of office is normally between 5 and 10 years. The current President was appointed in 2016.

Recruitment for the position of the President of Statistics Poland shall be carried out by a panel appointed by the Head of the Chancellery of the President of the Council of Ministers, under the authority of the Prime Minister, consisting of at least three persons whose knowledge and experience guarantee the selection of the best candidates. During the recruitment process, the candidate's professional experience, knowledge necessary to perform the tasks of the position for which the recruitment is carried out, and managerial competences are assessed. The panel selects no more than three candidates, who are then presented to the Head of the Chancellery of the President of the Council of Ministers for a decision. The decision is based on the results of the open competition and on the report of the selection panel presented to the President of the Council of Ministers. The recruitment process is fully transparent and the President of the Council of Ministers relies on the judgement of the selection panel for his/her decision.

Statistical programmes

The Statistical surveys programme of official statistics is published on an annual basis, pursuant to the Act on Official Statistics. The programme sets the scope of topics, units and entities to be covered by statistical surveys. It is prepared by Statistics Poland based on identified needs for information and statistical analyses with the aim of meeting user needs in the most comprehensive way. The draft programme is presented to the Statistical Council, which refines the final draft and submits it to the Council of Ministers. The programme is then adopted as a regulation of the Council of Ministers (Article 18.1 of the Act on Official Statistics). The 2022 programme includes 257 processes, of which 69% are carried out by Statistics Poland, 13% by other competent bodies and 18% jointly (i.e., by Statistics Poland together with other competent administrative bodies). Administrative data is used in 83% of the surveys. The number of processes using only data from information systems (administrative data) amounted to 45 in the 2022 Statistical surveys programme (of which 42 were conducted by the President of Statistics Poland independently or jointly with other authorised bodies). New data sources are introduced in the surveys as they emerge. Approximately 73% of the processes are carried out for European needs. The production of official statistics is financed from the state budget.

Subsequently, Statistics Poland monitors the degree of implementation of the Statistical surveys programme of official statistics. An annual report on the completion of the programme is presented to the Statistical Council in June of the following year.

There are procedures in place for modifying the Statistical surveys programme of official statistics to introduce new needs. Normally, there are two or three amendments every year.

Resources

The production of official statistics is financed from the state budget to the amount determined annually in the Budget Act (Article 50 of the Act of 29 June 1995 on Official Statistics). To establish the budget, costs are calculated for each of the processes specified in the Statistical surveys programme

of official statistics. The adoption of the Statistical surveys programme of official statistics by the Council of Ministers precedes or, at the latest, takes place in parallel with the adoption of the draft Budget Act. Statistics Poland submits yearly information on plans and reports on the activities of Statistics Poland to the Public Finance Committee of the Polish Sejm (the lower Chamber of the Polish Parliament) and to the Chancellery of the Prime Minister. This information is quite comprehensive in nature and goes substantially beyond the resource topic.

In 2021, the Official Statistics Services employed around 5,500 staff, of which 1,150 were working in Statistics Poland (including the headquarters and the separate units under the President), and 4,350 in regional statistical offices all over the country. The number of employees in the regional statistical offices covers a corps of interviewers which in 2021 amounted to about 856 full-time equivalents. The annual budget in 2021 was around 762,650 thousand PLN (21.2% of the total budget was for Statistical Poland's headquarters, 70.7% for the regional statistical offices and 8.1% for other units under the President of Statistics Poland).

Coordination of the NSS and other national authorities

The coordination role of Statistics Poland is not specified in the Act on Official Statistics but is endorsed by some specific provisions of it. As the central government administration body indicated as competent in statistical matters, it is understood that the President of Statistics Poland assumes the role of coordination of national official statistics. However, from the practical point of view, the Statistical surveys programme of official statistics is the tool for coordinating statistical processes in the National Statistical System, as well as for coordination of EU legal proposals.

In Poland there are eleven² ONAs responsible for the development, production and dissemination of European statistics: Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Ministry of the Interior and Administration, Ministry of Justice, Polish Financial Supervision Authority, Chief Inspectorate of Environmental Protection, Institute of Agricultural and Food Economics - National Research Institute, Stanisław Sakowicz Inland Fisheries Institute, Nofer Institute of Occupational Medicine, Motor Transport Institute and Łukasiewicz Research Network - Wood Technology Institute. Some ONAs send data directly to Eurostat. The updating and modification of the list of ONAs in terms of entities producing European statistics is the responsibility of Statistics Poland.

Three ONAs (Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and Ministry of Justice) were selected for participation in the peer review. They produce important parts of European Statistics in some domains, although the production of official statistics is only a small part of their statutory duties.

The **Ministry of Finance** produces input data in the field of fiscal notification of general government deficit and debt. The Ministry produces statistics on foreign trade and coproduces general government sector statistics: Foreign trade statistical collections - Poland's commodity exchange with European Union countries and with third countries, General Government debt and Fiscal data for EU budgetary surveillance. There is no statistical unit in charge of all statistical products in the Ministry. The data are published by Statistics Poland (foreign trade) or by the Ministry (for the other statistics).

According to the Statistical surveys programme of official statistics, the **Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development** is responsible for statistics on milk and milk products (Statistics Poland verifies and aggregates the statistical data), the landings of fishery products in Poland, statistics on aquaculture and organic farming statistics. There is no statistical unit in charge of all statistical production in the Ministry, but the Agricultural Market Unit is the contact point for Statistics Poland. No data (apart from

² 12 ONAs as of September 2022

organic farming) are published by the Ministry. All data are available on Eurostat's website and in its databases.

The **Ministry of Justice** produces statistics on convicted persons (in the court of first instance and validly sentenced) with breakdowns by sex, age, offender's citizenship, type and size of the penalty imposed by the courts, etc. In addition, the Ministry collects data on criminal cases heard by courts. Tasks in the field of official statistics are carried out by the Division of Statistical Management Information, which operates within the Department of Strategy and European Funds. All statistics have the status of public information and are therefore publicly available. The most common way of presenting statistics is publication on the Ministry's website.

Data access

The Act of 29 June 1995 on Official Statistics provides a clear legal basis for official statistics services to be granted free of charge access to all kinds of data (official registers, public administration information systems, non-public information systems and respondents).

Relations with users / dissemination of statistical products and services

Information concerning the Dissemination Policy is defined in the Act of 29 June 1995 on Official Statistics and in Internal Ordinance No. 32 of the President of Statistics Poland of 4 December 2020. Based on external and internal legal regulations and internal guidelines on data dissemination, all units of official statistics in Poland (the headquarters and regional statistical offices) apply the same rules and standards of data dissemination. The NSS provides equal, indiscriminate and simultaneous access to statistical information which is relevant to user needs. The Statistical surveys programme of official statistics includes scopes of information resulting from the statistical processes and the forms and dates of its dissemination; moreover, Statistics Poland has its own schedule and release calendar. Statistics Poland and the ONAs keep the principle of statistical confidentiality and they do not publish nor disseminate individual data, statistical information that can be linked to or used to identify natural persons, or individual data characterising business entities.

Statistics Poland is highly rated internationally for data availability and openness. It is second among national statistical offices around the world according to the Open Data Inventory (ODIN) ranking, assessing the coverage and openness of statistics produced by NSSs as published on the official websites of the national statistical institutes.

Modern information and communication technology, methods, platforms and open data standards are used to disseminate data. The main channel to provide access to the statistical output is the Information Portal, which also includes information about websites where ONAs publish their data. The Information Portal gives access to databases, publications and contextual methodological descriptions along with a full communication service. The portal uses standards in accordance with the Act of 4 April 2019 on the digital accessibility of the websites and mobile applications of public entities; it also contains information on the privacy policy and the declaration of accessibility. Statistics Poland is increasingly active in disseminating statistical results on social media and is promoting its innovative solutions such as the SDGs National Reporting Platform, STRATEG - development monitoring system, Local Data Bank (BDL), Economic Dashboard, Public Service Monitoring System (SMUP) project or API portal. New innovative services and products are developed in response to user needs.

Statistics Poland uses different kinds of methods to monitor user satisfaction, such as maintaining ongoing contact with users through the Statistical surveys programme of official statistics, regular meetings and workshops with data users, evaluation questionnaires etc., but Statistics Poland does not conduct a regular, systematic and comparable user satisfaction survey.

4. PROGRESS/ADVANCEMENT IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS

Active cooperation

On a national level, Statistics Poland has started counselling different national and ministerial bodies on matters related to the production and use of official statistics. Such cooperation covers domains ranging from social welfare to economy and development, but also new opportunities for data governance and related infrastructure all over the country. For the wider public, Statistics Poland has successfully organised hackathons, seminars, trainings, conferences and workshops together with partners from the academic, business and public sectors.

Statistics Poland has also intensified its activities internationally on different levels in the European and global statistical systems. The President and other representatives of Statistics Poland participate actively in, and have even led, working groups and other bodies of the UN, OECD, UNECE and ESS, to name a few.

Data access and protection

New sources of administrative data and even first use cases for privately held data have been introduced in Statistics Poland. For an even more active use of new data sources, the knowledge base on administrative registers (RSI) has been used and is systematically filled with required data on a regular basis. Guidelines for assessing the quality of administrative registers have been set, containing methodological and organisational guidance for a wider use of administrative data in official statistics.

Several important amendments were also introduced to the Act on Official Statistics, more precisely on access to and use of privately held data, but also in relation to the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

The implementation of the GDPR brought along a new unit and new roles, to protect the security and integrity of statistical data and related processes, such as transmission. New technical and organisational measures have been developed and implemented, such as guidelines, rules, policies and procedures, and many of these are in good alignment with the standards of the ISO 27000 series. This also includes a risk management plan.

Standardisation and harmonisation

Statistical production and processes have been improved and to some extent harmonised, standardised and optimised with the use of the Statistical Production Process Model (MPPS), which has full reference to the global standard known as the Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM).

To enable the full implementation of the MPPS, an architectural framework has been created as a basis for the construction and development of IT solutions to support the statistical production process. The technical designs for new and upgraded solutions have been completed. A Data Processing and Integration System (SPDS) and a Statistical Metadata System (SMS) have been created and are applicable to most statistical processes. For the upcoming years until 2024, Statistics Poland has agreed on a new IT strategy for the design, development and purchase of hardware and software, the centralisation of IT solutions and the optimisation of processes.

Additionally, the IT asset life cycle sets out the rules for using, upgrading or replacing IT assets (devices, software and systems) used by employees. The inventory locates and confirms each IT asset and its user(s); it also enables a centralised and efficient management of these resources.

Dissemination

As a result of Statistics Poland's new publication policy, the visual and graphical presentation of official statistics has been harmonised. Guidelines for dissemination were updated according to the new policy and are being published. A central release calendar for official statistics has been developed and published, and its scope is continuing to expand as planned. A statistical revision policy has been implemented and the corresponding calendar published. Digital publications, databases, dedicated tools and API solutions have been significantly developed for data dissemination. In addition, experimental statistics, often based on new data sources, are produced and provided to users. Open data is also provided, and its coverage and openness has received positive feedback from users. Principles for the access to unidentifiable individual data for scientific purposes (microdata) have been agreed, published and implemented.

The accessibility of websites has been improved, basic principles and guidelines have been agreed and will be used to design the user interfaces. Their content will be published in accordance with the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.1. Since 2017, communication with users via social media channels has also significantly increased, using platforms such as Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, LinkedIn and Instagram.

Human Resources

Statistics Poland has implemented good practices on social corporate responsibility. These practices are related to the working environment and culture in the organisation, employee integration, relations with stakeholders and improved employee competencies.

Forms and rules to raise professional qualifications through training have been agreed. A list of internal trainers with high training competencies has been compiled and is being used for a wide range of training courses and professional development. The annual training programme includes training that is available for all public administration bodies (including ONAs). Additionally, ONAs have access to the European Statistical Training Programme (ESTP).

A corporate intranet is available and has been used by Statistics Poland employees since 2017. It ensures that all employees can access information, important announcements and changes in the organisation.

In addition, Statistics Poland has developed and is implementing its new human resource strategy that has plans and goals until 2023.

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

Institutional environment

Poland has a strong and comprehensive Act on Official Statistics governing the structure and functioning of the National Statistical System. Statistical work is accomplished in close cooperation with advisory bodies working with Statistics Poland, enabling the optimal implementation of statistical activities, providing methodological support and linking with the scientific community.

The Statistical Council, a consultative body to the Prime Minister, enhances the credibility of the process of adopting the annual Statistical surveys programme of official statistics, taking into account user needs expressed by the representative organisations participating in the Council. The Methodological Commission, composed of senior statistical representatives from academia, optimises and gives direction to statistical work based on its experts' long experience in the National Statistical System over the past decades. Statistics Poland's close cooperation and institutional links with the Scientific Statistical Council, composed of thirty academics representing twenty universities and covering all disciplines, is proof of its openness and dedication to research.

Trusted institution

During the peer review, feedback from stakeholders clearly indicated that Statistics Poland is considered a trusted and highly valued institution. Its products and services are regarded as objective and fully independent of any political influence.

Statistics Poland has well-established procedures to guarantee the protection of confidential data, preserve anonymity and provide high quality statistics with impartiality and equal access to all users. Statistics Poland is considered nationally as a trusted partner, which gives assurance to data providers. The statistics produced are used as a reference by academia, the country's media and institutional users. With its remarkable progress over recent years in products and services and with increasing user orientation, the image of the institution is currently very positive also internationally, as it is actively involved in, and even leads developments in several projects at European Union and United Nations level.

Good coordination and cooperation

The coordination role of Statistics Poland is covered by specific provisions of the Act on Official Statistics. Statistics Poland is the central government administration body indicated as competent one in statistical matters. Therefore, the President of Statistics Poland is responsible for the coordination of the National Statistical System, including European Statistics produced by ONAs.

While the role of each institution producing official statistics is clearly defined, cooperation of Statistics Poland with the Other National Authorities developing, producing and disseminating European statistics, namely the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and the Ministry of Justice, which participated in the peer review, was reported as excellent.

Coordination and cooperation is regular, structured and in some cases formalised, for example through the establishment of the annual Statistical surveys programme of official statistics. Cooperation takes

place both at management and operational levels to the satisfaction of all parties. Exchanges cover methodological issues, data sharing and publications, quality reviews and training. Data providers expressed their satisfaction and their willingness to cooperate with Statistics Poland, recognising its leading role in the field of official statistics. Intensive cooperation with the Scientific Statistical Council was also confirmed during the peer review, such as participation in editorial boards and the exchange of microdata.

Other National Authorities (ONAs) statistics

This peer review also covered the statistical work of three Other National Authorities developing, producing and disseminating European statistics. The statistical units in the ONAs, where available, are well integrated in their ministries, and their statistical work is closely linked to the core activities of other ministerial services. They are adequately resourced and have established sound procedures, ensuring compliance with the ES CoP. Sound dissemination practices and well-established concepts and methods ably cover their statistical fields of competence, part of the production of official statistics, in close cooperation with Statistics Poland, adding value to the National Statistical System.

Human capital

A prominent strength of Statistics Poland and the statistical units of the ONAs is their human capital. The high participation of statisticians at all levels in the peer review interviews showed motivation, service orientation and dedication to quality. Statistics Poland is constantly investing in the development of its human capital with regular formal training, which is also accessible to ONAs, and a well-established human resources policy including personalised support for the integration of newcomers. The involvement of personnel in several EU and international initiatives also offers opportunities for personal development. Significant overall progress has been achieved in delivering additional products and services, launching new initiatives and participating actively in international activities, despite the decreasing overall number of employees in official statistics, from 5,829 in 2019 to 5,511 in 2021.

Ability to improve production

Alongside the use of surveys based on primary data, the extensive and increasing use of administrative data and new data sources by Statistics Poland and the ONAs has added to their ability to improve statistical production.

With the increasing use of administrative data for statistics, Statistics Poland and the ONAs make good use of available information for producing statistics, thus reducing the reporting burden. The annual Statistical surveys programme of official statistics provides a stable basis for surveys, while it is flexible enough to accommodate the adaptation and addition of new elements during the year of execution. This flexibility has proved to be of particular relevance in periods of crisis, such as the Covid-19 pandemic and the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine. The extensive use of new data sources for experimental and regular statistics has also enhanced the capacity of the National Statistical System to increase and upgrade its output.

Sound procedures

Besides the provisions of the Act on Official Statistics regulating the most fundamental aspect of the National Statistical System, well-established working practices and the sound procedures in place contribute to the stability and good performance of the statistical system.

The centralised storage, access to and management of administrative data at a dedicated repository is a central element of this strength. The use of modern techniques for data transmission and

management, planned to be further consolidated with a centralised IT system, increases efficiency, reduces errors and risks, and facilitates data validation and communication. ISO 27001 certification is foreseen. Sound procedures on risk management are also established.

Modern dissemination

The use of modern dissemination techniques contributes to the positive image of the organisation and was highly praised by users and the media.

Statistics Poland has a multi-dimensional dissemination policy, covering regular production of publications and online databases, a well-designed website, the use of new media, e.g., social media, webinars, APIs, open data, etc., for the timely dissemination of data to users. The recent adoption of modern, interactive and user-friendly dissemination channels reflects the image of a lively, reactive, easily accessible, service-oriented and open organisation, adding value to its very comprehensive content and bringing statistics closer to the citizens.

Innovative practices

- Statistics Poland has invested in the use of innovative data sources and techniques for the production of official statistics and has already produced tangible results in several domains. Partnerships with holders of privately held data and close cooperation with the scientific community and other NSIs within the framework of European statistical initiatives have helped Statistics Poland to take a leading role in the production of statistics from innovative data sources. Some examples are the use of earth observation data for agricultural statistics, Automatic Identification System (AIS) messages for statistics on maritime traffic, and emissions and road toll data for motorway traffic. Scanner data and web scraping are also used for price and housing statistics. Statistics Poland receives and uses privately held data such as insurance companies' data, scanner data, etc., ensuring their storage, validation and aggregation, and inspiring the confidence of the data providers.
- Statistics Poland has developed an API portal to facilitate access to statistics, adding new APIs. For example, the database for which an API was developed most recently was the Knowledge Databases. It allows browsing and downloading of data for further processing from a statistical data platform providing access to a broad range of regularly updated socio-economic and environmental information available in long time series and full cross-sections.
- Statistics Poland has an advanced IT strategy, based on the GSBPM model on how to secure and manage data. The strategy considers the dependencies between individual components of the ICT infrastructure and legal and financial conditions, as well as business objectives and needs.

5.2 ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.2.1 Strengthening strategic planning, access to data and innovation

While Statistics Poland has an annual statistical surveys programme, it does not have a multi-annual strategic plan, setting objectives and directions, defining priorities, outlining the guiding principles for the achievement of objectives, managing risks and supporting effectively budget allocation in the longer term. Such a strategic plan would encompass policy priorities to drive the work of the National Statistical System in the coming years, ensuring the continuity and relevance of the annual Statistical surveys programme of official statistics and would enable optimal resource planning. A multi-annual strategic plan would also provide a more stable environment for statistical development and

cooperation, to guide the implementation of the annual Statistical surveys programme of official statistics.

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

R1. Statistics Poland should establish a multi-annual strategic work plan to encompass directions, objectives and priorities in the longer term, as a framework for the implementation of the annual Statistical surveys programme of official statistics. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 11.2)

Statistics Poland is increasingly using administrative data to produce statistics (corporate income tax data, social insurance data, electricity consumption data, etc.). The 2020 Agriculture Census used 24 administrative data sources while the 2021 Population and Housing Census used 28. Among the 257 statistical operations ("surveys") of the 2022 work programme, 45 use administrative data only.

Administrative data providers are informed about the use of their data for statistical purposes during meetings with Statistics Poland. Such meetings are also used to clarify Statistics Poland's needs and possibilities of using administrative data for producing official statistics, but also to discuss the quality of the data. However, most of the cooperation with administrative data holders is based on informal agreements, or only very technical agreements such as the format of the data and the mode of transfer.

Statistics Poland has only signed Memoranda of Understanding with some of the providers of administrative data. A Memorandum of Understanding regarding the provision of administrative data should include provisions such as the dates of data transmission, early information about foreseen changes in the source and technical specifications. It represents a guarantee of the quality and use of administrative data for statistical purposes, especially when the use of administrative data leads to discontinuing a survey. In addition, a Memorandum of Understanding informs the institution providing data that it is contributing to the production of official statistics.

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

R2. Statistics Poland should establish formal cooperation agreements, extending Memoranda of Understanding to all providers of administrative data, to be able to exploit the full potential of the data and be informed of any changes. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, indicators 2.2, 8.6 and 10.3)

Statistics Poland should seek to identify new data sources and statistical domains of application to produce official statistics, maintaining the current momentum and using optimally all investments and developed expertise in acquiring, storing, validating and managing data from new and innovative sources. The development of methodologies in cooperation with the scientific community and the production of statistics using innovative data sources should also be pursued. Increased connectivity, the digitalisation of processes and the use of new technologies would create more opportunities for official statistics. Statistics Poland should build on its current achievements and lead by innovating in more statistical domains.

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

R3. Statistics Poland should capitalise on the successful production of statistics based on innovative data sources and invest further in developing methods and infrastructure for the use of new data sources in more statistical domains. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 10.3 and 9.4)

5.2.2 Ensuring adequate human and financial resources

Maintaining the current statistical production while also investing in new developments and new dissemination channels, and exploring new data sources, requires a significant investment in resources. At the same time, Statistics Poland is dealing with unexpected crises requiring additional statistical information, effectively coordinating an increasing number of partners, keeping up with the use of modern IT tools and developing new competencies and skills to meet current challenges. The peer review team concluded that, despite efforts to create optimal conditions for maintaining a sustainable workforce in Statistics Poland, by offering training, opportunities for personal development, personalised support and valorisation of competencies and skills, the salary gap with other organisations in the public sector remains a factor in staff attrition. Additionally, exploring the use of new data sources for statistics, which will lead to savings in the long term by replacing traditional surveys, requires skills that are far better paid in the private sector. A recent staff survey, conducted under the project entitled "Modernisation of the National Data-Information Infrastructure – Statistics Poland" (Stat!Up) and carried out on behalf of the European Commission, revealed that 50.4% of the staff put "inadequate salaries in relation to the scope of tasks" as the main disadvantage³. To enable the sustainable development of a competitive internal workforce and meet current and future challenges, the Ministry of Finance should coordinate the work on the state budget adequately so as to attract and maintain highly qualified human resources.

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

R4. The Ministry of Finance, while coordinating the work on the draft state budget, should ensure that the budgetary needs reported by Statistics Poland are met, in order to balance the current and forthcoming increases in statistical needs and new policy priorities, which will involve developing methodologies for using new data sources. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 3.1)

In 2022, Statistics Poland had 3,917 staff members with higher education, representing 71% of staff. The number of employees has decreased since 2019 and several positions are vacant. It is of crucial importance for Statistics Poland to increase the number of its highly qualified personnel to be able to meet the new requirements in official statistics, and it is equally important to increase the skills of the current staff. The aforementioned staff survey showed that 17% of staff considered the lack of career development prospects as the main disadvantage in working in Statistics Poland. During the interviews with junior staff, the peer review team was informed that, while it was possible to apply for a vacant position, mobility to gain experience in various positions was not really encouraged in the office, at least in the first years of a career.

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

R5. Statistics Poland should further increase the qualification level of its staff commensurate with new requirements and offer motivating careers, including adequate mobility, to improve staff skills. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 3.1 and 7.5)

Statistics Poland monitors the use of resources by tools such as financial and accounting systems, performance-based budget reporting and analysis, internal and external audits on resources, personnel performance evaluations, inventory for IT assets and information security audits. Costs for standardised phases of statistical processes are calculated ex-ante as part of the statistical programming process, based on previously implemented ad hoc registration of working time. The

³ As-Is Report with Business Requirements Description. Executive summary. Modernisation of the national data-information infrastructure – Statistics Poland. PWC. March 2021.

efficiency of processes is to some extent also analysed during quality reviews and audits focusing on the quality and methodology of statistical production. Standardised and centralised solutions based on the Statistical Production Process Model (MPPS, the Polish version of the GSBPM) have been introduced to some extent, with a view to increasing efficiency and standardising production, methodologies and activities across processes.

However, the full potential of resources is not systematically monitored and analysed from the perspective of efficiency and value-creation to customers. MPPS is used, but it is not yet spread across the whole organisation and all processes. The organisation of work, the roles of structural units and specialised teams have not been analysed from the perspective of MPPS. Statistics Poland has attempted to introduce lean management analyses and approaches at more detailed levels of production processes, but there have been no follow-up activities so far. For example, less use of physical materials such as paper for the production of statistics, but also for bureaucracy, would lead to lower expenses and free up resources for other necessary activities).

It is therefore recommended that Statistics Poland continues to analyse its statistical and supporting processes in more detail, in order to monitor, identify and eliminate unnecessary use of resources for activities (also known as process waste), focus even more on creating value for users and to ensure efficiency, lower costs, and continuous process improvement.

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

R6. Statistics Poland should further identify opportunities and implement improvements to increase the efficiency of its core and supporting processes. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 10.1 and 10.4)

5.2.3 Strengthening coordination and quality management throughout the National Statistical System

The coordination role of Statistics Poland, while recognised by the participating ONAs, is not explicitly stated in the legislation. Article 25 of the Act on Official Statistics only stipulates that the tasks of the President of Statistics Poland shall include the coordination of work, preparation of a draft Statistical surveys programme of official statistics and its presentation to the Statistical Council. Considering the growing needs for statistical coordination among the ONAs, the peer review team considers it urgent to amend the Act on Official Statistics to fully comply with Regulation 223/2009 on European statistics and extend the coordinating role of Statistics Poland to all activities at national level for the development, production and dissemination of European statistics.

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

R7. The relevant authorities should amend the Act on Official Statistics to assign Statistics Poland with the role of the national coordination body for European statistics within the meaning of Regulation 223/2009 on European statistics, as amended. (Compliance-relevant: ES CoP, Indicator 1bis.1)

The quality policy, quality guidelines and standard tools for the quality assurance of statistical activities are presented in the publicly available "*Vademecum of Quality in Official Statistics*". Statistics Poland follows the content of the Vademecum and the Other National Authorities (ONAs) producing European statistics are also recommended to do so. The Vademecum has been introduced to the ONAs at ad hoc meetings, but also during training on quality in official statistics.

On a general management level, the ES CoP is used as the main guidance and framework for quality management. In principle, the Total Quality Management (TQM) approach is followed in order to achieve and maintain high-quality statistics and compliance with the fundamental principles of the European Statistical System. No additional quality frameworks have been introduced, although ideas and sometimes even a need for some additional quality framework (such as the Common Assessment Framework, the Information Technology Infrastructure Library, etc.) have been discussed in Statistics Poland.

As for processes, the Statistical Production Process Model (MPPS) and related guidelines have been introduced in Statistics Poland and there are plans to move the whole production line to an MPPS-based architecture, but the model has not been used for standardisation and harmonisation purposes across the National Statistical System.

On a process level, there are detailed methodologies and guidelines for specific activities. Many of these descriptions are published on the Statistics Poland webpage, but there are also internal documents for employees. Such descriptions are mainly written by domain specialists and are used for training new employees, but also for sharing information with users of statistics and in case of work re-organisation, for example when some duties or processes are moved to another (regional or central) office. From the practical side, such descriptions tend to capture current silo-based practices.

It was noted that public policy and guidelines (the Vademecum) have not been updated since their development and adoption in 2012. Many chapters of the Vademecum are outdated, including parts that are directly related to the ES CoP. Additionally, monitoring of implementation and review of quality guidelines is done on an ad hoc basis and there is no system for that in the NSS.

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

R8. Statistics Poland should update the national quality guidelines, and promote and monitor their use within the National Statistical System for the production of European statistics. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 1bis.2)

In Internal Ordinance No. 35 of 2011, Statistics Poland defined the main principles for its quality management system. The Internal Ordinance includes the rules for conducting quality reviews, templates of quality review reports and the table for presenting the fulfilment of improvement tasks based on quality reviews.

Every year a quality review plan for statistical processes is developed by Statistics Poland and agreed by the Methodological Commission. Members of the Commission are also involved in the quality review process, as external experts from the related domain. All phases of the statistical process are assessed, problems are identified, feedback from experts is thoroughly investigated and proper improvement actions are formulated.

There is a dedicated database for all quality review reports and good practices, which is also used to monitor the progress in implementing improvement actions arising from quality reviews.

Since 2011, Statistics Poland has carried out quality reviews for 47 statistical processes, which is less than 20% of the size of the Statistical surveys programme of official statistics. The number of reviews has improved significantly over the last few years, with 10 quality reviews conducted in 2019. Nevertheless, the pace, coverage and frequency of quality reviews should be even higher, to make sure that all processes are systematically and regularly assessed within a certain time. This would help to ensure the best possible quality of processes and statistics and better harmonisation and standardisation across all processes.

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

R9. Statistics Poland should improve the coverage and frequency of its quality reviews on European statistics, to ensure quality and consistency throughout the production within the Statistical surveys programme of official statistics. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 4.4)

The Other National Authorities collect data mainly for purposes other than the production of official statistics, which can be seen as an added value to their core businesses. The quality of the statistics is monitored by the responsible unit and related personnel as part of the production process. A report on the fulfilment of the Statistical surveys programme of official statistics is provided annually to the Statistical Council, as part of the general statistical programming lifecycle.

Nevertheless, there is no central, systematic, regular and coordinated quality management within the ONAs, and no quality reviews on official statistics have been conducted. Quality coordinators were nominated in the participating ONAs, project-based internal working groups and meetings were organised and coordinated for discussions and the sharing of knowledge across processes, just for the preparation of the peer review. There is a risk that such organisation of quality coordination could be of temporary nature and can easily be overlooked and unused in the future.

Additionally, experts in quality from Statistics Poland are not systematically involved in internal quality- and methodology-related matters but are called upon only when additional competencies are needed. As an additional example, all IT-related improvements are identified, planned and led by responsible units in the ministry completely separately from similar improvements made by Statistics Poland. Such non-systematic involvement slows down the harmonisation and standardisation across the National Statistical System, and limits learning and continuous quality improvement across processes and organisations.

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

R10. The Other National Authorities reviewed (Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and Ministry of Justice) should implement regular quality reviews for European statistics and involve representatives from Statistics Poland and other external experts, where appropriate. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 4.4)

Statistics Poland's quality procedures include rules for the preparation of quality reports along with a standard quality report template, rules for calculating quality indicators together with a list of standard quality indicators and rules for the preparation of checklists.

Currently, all statistical processes are subject to internal quality reports at Statistics Poland. The quality reports required by Eurostat (in accordance with SIMS) are provided after data transmission to Eurostat. Quality reports on Eurostat's webpage are shared via links on Statistics Poland's Information Portal.

Additionally, methodological reports are developed and disseminated on Statistics Poland's Information Portal for many statistical processes. Those reports include information about the data sources, statistical methods and procedures used throughout production. General information (such as a glossary of terms and definitions, classifications, description of economic indicators, etc.) is also published via the Portal.

Nevertheless, user-oriented and standardised information about the quality of processes and statistics is not made publicly available for all processes, neither by Statistics Poland nor by the Other National Authorities. Therefore, users are not systematically and regularly kept informed about the quality of statistical outputs according to the quality criteria for official statistics, including European Statistics.

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

R11. Statistics Poland and the Other National Authorities should produce standardised, user-oriented quality reports on official statistics and make them publicly available for users. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 15.7)

The Methodological Commission is an advisory body on methodology reporting to the President of Statistics Poland. The Commission consists of 11 members, appointed by the President of Statistics Poland from representatives of academia, especially of statistics and related disciplines. The mandate of the members of the Methodological Commission is for three years and may be extended.

The Methodological Commission plays an important role in the quality management system. The Commission is responsible for improving statistical survey methodology by evaluating existing statistical methods and initiating new methodological solutions and scientific research. Inspiring scientific work and research on statistical survey methods, the Methodological Commission is a key instrument for ensuring the sound methodology of Statistics Poland's statistical operations, surveys or other operations using administrative sources.

The peer review team was favourably impressed by the high level of expertise and the enthusiastic commitment of the members of the Methodological Commission to help improve Statistics Poland's methodologies. However, the peer review team was informed by the participating ONAs that the methodology of their statistical processes was not submitted to the Methodological Commission for review. In the peer review team's opinion, the participating ONAs would largely benefit from the sound methodological advice of the Methodological Commission for their production of European statistics.

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

R12. The Other National Authorities reviewed (Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and Ministry of Justice) should present the methodology of their productions of European statistics for review by the Methodological Commission. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, indicators 7.2 and 7.7)

5.2.4 Enhancing dissemination and user orientation

Statistics Poland has a strong commitment to relevance, using different approaches to find out whether European statistics meet user needs. The main tool for users to express their needs for statistics is the Statistical surveys programme for official statistics. The draft programme is prepared by Statistics Poland in close cooperation with the Statistical Council, including representatives of the main data users, some of whom are also producers of official statistics. Other tools designed to meet the needs of users include tracking traffic on Statistics Poland's Information Portal, online campaigns on the Information Portal and the Portal itself, as well as the organisation of workshops with data users focusing on the annual Statistical surveys programme of official statistics.

Nevertheless, knowing how qualified users perceive the quality of the services and products they use, including new needs, and tracking over time how they perceive Statistics Poland through regular user satisfaction surveys would provide feedback which could be used to enhance the relevance and improve the quality of those services and products.

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

R13. Statistics Poland should regularly monitor the satisfaction of its users and strive to broaden its audience by engaging with new user groups. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 11.3 and 11.1)

Statistics Poland has a well-designed and user-friendly statistical portal for the dissemination of its products. The Dissemination Policy is defined in the Act of 29 June 1995 on Official Statistics. Moreover, Internal Ordinance No. 32 of the President of Statistics Poland of 4 December 2020 on the introduction of the policy for handling statistical data sets out the principles of statistical data handling in different dimensions and processes (including dissemination). All statistics produced by Statistics Poland are disseminated through its Information Portal.

Nevertheless, to facilitate user access to the European statistics produced by the NSS, Statistics Poland should make all European statistics produced by ONAs accessible via its website, either by publishing the data itself or by providing links to the data published on the ONAs' websites.

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

R14. Statistics Poland should coordinate with the Other National Authorities to enhance the visibility of all European statistics produced in the country. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 15.1 and 15.2)

Dissemination practice differs among the ONAs interviewed. While some publish the statistics produced on their website, others do not publish them at all. Some publish information only in Polish, preventing international users from consulting the available information.

For reasons of transparency, and to facilitate the consultation of European statistics by national and international users, the ONAs should publish the European statistics they produce on their websites, under a clearly identifiable heading, in both Polish and English.

The Ministry of Finance does not have a uniform dissemination policy for European statistics. In fact, while foreign trade statistics are disseminated on Statistics Poland's website, debt statistics and fiscal data for EU budgetary surveillance are published on the Ministry's website. Debt information is disseminated in the form of a bulletin (pdf file), and spreadsheets (data series); metadata specifying the differences between national and EU methodology for calculating government debt figures are also available on the website. Fiscal data are published in spreadsheet format and a detailed reconciliation table presenting the transition methodology between cash-based data is also available. In general, all information is published in Polish and English.

The Ministry of Justice has a strong commitment to disseminating European statistics. In 2013, the Statistical Guide to Justice was created to facilitate citizens' access to information on the justice system. The statistics are available on its website and include information on the methodology applied in compiling the statistics. The website also contains information on national and international comparisons, templates of statistical forms, annual studies and long-term studies. However, the information is only published in Polish.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development does not publish any data on the European statistics it produces. Statistics on milk and milk products are disseminated on the Statistics Poland website. Statistics on fisheries and organic farming are available on Eurostat's websites or in its databases.

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

R15. The Other National Authorities reviewed (Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and Ministry of Justice) should improve their service to users by making the European statistics they produce available to a wider public on their websites under a clearly identifiable heading, including an English version. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 15.1)

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

R2. Statistics Poland should establish formal cooperation agreements, extending Memoranda of Understanding to all providers of administrative data, to be able to exploit the full potential of the data and be informed of any changes. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, indicators 2.2, 8.6 and 10.3)

Statistics Poland has a diverging view on recommendation R2 and considers that it is compliant with the European Statistics Code of Practice in this respect, based on the following arguments.

Statistics Poland operates on the basis of legal regulations: the Act of 29 June 1995 on Official Statistics, annual regulations on Statistical survey programmes of official statistics, the Act of 31 July 2019 on the 2020 Agricultural Census, the Act of 9 August 2019 on the 2021 National Population and Housing Census, and internal ordinances of the President of Statistics Poland. These provisions regulate issues related to obtaining data from external information systems, including administrative data, inter alia with regard to the scope of data, deadlines and the forms and procedures of data transfer. Thus, Statistics Poland may enforce responses to statistical surveys on the basis of legal acts. The Act on Official Statistics obliges register owners providing administrative data to produce statistics, together with data sets and information explaining the information content of the data (metadata). The register owners fulfil this commitment. The Act on Official Statistics also obliges register and system owners to inform the President of Statistics Poland about the planned information scope of these systems and registers when they are created or modernised.

Statistics Poland also collects information on official registers and public administration information systems in the knowledge base on administrative registers (RSI), which is updated periodically by the register owners. The RSI contains information on the status of the implementation of the system/register, the planned date of implementation of changes and the scope of planned changes. In addition to the information contained in the RSI, legal acts introducing changes in official registers and public administration information systems, which may result in changes in the systems maintained by the public administration, are also submitted to Statistics Poland for agreement, and Statistics Poland reports the needs for data that can be used in statistical surveys.

Regarding the part of the report concerning the data format, the provisions of the Act of 29 June 1995 on Official Statistics guarantee that information on the detailed format of the transmitted data can be obtained. This is made available on Statistics Poland's Information Portal and, additionally, within the scope of the statistical surveys conducted, on the website of the body or entity conducting the statistical surveys, with the procedure and in the timeframe specified in the Act on Official Statistics. The Act also contains a provision on the ICT system operated by the President of Statistics Poland, which includes the electronic platform for the collection of statistical data enabling the transfer of data from the information systems of the public administration, official registers and the information systems of the National Bank of Poland (TransGUS platform - a secure data communication channel used to transfer data in digital format).

In addition, detailed information for register owners is provided on Statistics Poland's Information Portal - an interactive application that includes a schedule of data transfer, showing in an accessible way details about the obligations of data providers, the time of transfer, the detailed scope of information on data and the method of data transfer.

In turn, the Regulation of 12 April 2012 of the Council of Ministers, on the National Interoperability Framework, minimum requirements for public registers, the exchange of information in electronic form and minimum requirements for ICT systems, defines data formats and standards to ensure access to information resources made available by means of ICT systems used to perform public tasks.

These provisions cover all the issues related to obtaining administrative data from official registers and public administration information systems, and there is no need or legal grounds to establish separate agreements or Memoranda of Understanding (apart from the existing agreement with the National Bank of Poland, which has a legal basis, i.e., the Act on the National Bank of Poland and the Act on Official Statistics).

In addition, prior to the introduction of provisions for data transmission into the Statistical surveys programme of official statistics, proactive efforts, in the form of working cooperation, are made with the owners of administrative registers and information systems concerning the scope of data, deadlines, forms and procedures of data transfer and exchange of information on possible changes planned in the registers and systems, as well as the formulation of needs of official statistics in this respect. The process of agreeing the draft survey programme is a stepwise one and additional agreements with system owners are possible at all stages.

Bearing the above in mind, the fulfilment of recommendation R2 which, according to the report's wording, should include necessary clauses such as the dates of data transmission, early information about foreseen changes in the source and technical specifications, would duplicate the current provisions of the Act on Official Statistics and annual regulations on the Statistical survey programmes of official statistics, and would also impose an unjustified additional administrative burden. As a result of previous arrangements with register and system owners for the Statistical surveys programme of official statistics, this programme constitutes an agreement with the holders of administrative and other data, which sets out the shared commitment to the use of these data for statistical purposes.

R7. The relevant authorities should amend the Act on Official Statistics to assign Statistics Poland with the role of the national coordination body for European statistics within the meaning of Regulation 223/2009 on European statistics, as amended. (Compliance-relevant: ES CoP, Indicator 1bis.1)

Statistics Poland has a diverging view on recommendation R7 and considers that it is compliant with the European Statistics Code of Practice in this respect, as legislation and well-defined, established procedures are in place to implement the coordination role at national level.

The coordination role of Statistics Poland is covered by specific provisions of the Act on Official Statistics. First of all, Statistics Poland is the central government administration body indicated as competent in statistical matters. It is therefore evident that its President is responsible for the coordination of national official statistics.

Article 23.1 states that: "The central government administration body competent in statistical matters is the President of Statistics Poland performing the tasks assigned to this position with assistance from official statistics services".

Moreover, Article 25. 1. of the Act states that: The tasks of the President of Statistics Poland shall include: 1) recognising the demand for information and statistical analyses, coordination of works and preparation of a draft programme of statistical surveys of official statistics and presenting it to the Council. Points 13) and 14) of this article state that the President's responsibilities also include: fulfilling obligations to submit statistical data adopted by the Republic of Poland to international organisations,

and cooperating with international and regional organisations specialised in the field of statistics as well as with authorities and offices of other countries.

In addition, the scope of the provisions of the entire Act confirms the coordinating role of the President of Statistics Poland in the National Statistical System even though the President is not referred to specifically, including in the area of European statistics and other international statistical commitments, which is invoked in the Act several times.

ANNEX A – AGENDA OF THE VISIT

Timing	Topic	Participants
Day 1 - 30.05.2022		
09:00-09:30	Preparatory meeting	<p>The peer review expert team: All</p> <p>The NSI:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSI coordination team • Communication officer • Head of Section, Expert - International Relations and Statistical Cooperation Department
09:30-09:45	Welcome and introduction to the programme	<p>The peer review expert team: All</p> <p>The NSI:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President of Statistics Poland • Civil Service Director of Statistics Poland • NSI coordination team • Communication officer • Advisor to Statistics Poland's President - Office of the President • Director - International Relations and Statistical Cooperation Department • Experts - Programming and Coordination of Statistical Surveys Department • Director - Trade and Services Department • Director - Enterprises Department • Director, Deputy Director - ICT Systems, Geostatistics and Census Department <p>ONAs:</p> <p>Ministry of Justice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head of section, Experts - Department of Strategy and European Funds <p>Ministry of Finance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deputy Director, Adviser for System Analysis in the Public Finance Sector, Head of section, Expert - Macroeconomic Policy Department <p>Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head of Section - Agricultural Markets Department

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expert - Fisheries Department • Head of Section - Organic Farming and Food Quality Department
09:45-11:00	Presentation of the National Statistical System	<p>The peer review expert team: All</p> <p>The NSI:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President of Statistics Poland • Civil Service Director of Statistics Poland • NSI coordination team • Communication officer • Advisor to Statistics Poland's President - Office of the President • Experts - Programming and Coordination of Statistical Surveys Department • Director - International Relations and Statistical Cooperation Department • Director - Trade and Services Department • Director - Enterprises Department • Director, Deputy Director - ICT Systems, Geostatistics and Census Department <p>ONAs:</p> <p>Ministry of Justice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head of section, Experts - Department of Strategy and European Funds, <p>Ministry of Finance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deputy Director, Adviser for System Analysis in the Public Finance Sector, Head of section, Expert - Macroeconomic Policy Department <p>Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head of Section - Agricultural Markets Department • Expert - Fisheries Department • Head of Section - Organic Farming and Food Quality Department
11:00-11:15	Coffee break	
11:15-12:45	Coordination and cooperation	<p>The peer review expert team: All</p> <p>The NSI:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President of Statistics Poland • Civil Service Director of Statistics Poland • NSI coordination team

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication officer • Experts - Programming and Coordination of Statistical Surveys Department • Advisor to Statistics Poland's President - Office of the President • Head of Section - Standards and Registers Department • Deputy Director - International Relations and Statistical Cooperation Department
12:45-13:45	Lunch	
13:45-15:15	Professional independence and the Act on Official Statistics and related legislation	<p>The peer review expert team: All</p> <p>The NSI:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President of Statistics Poland • NSI coordination team • Communication officer • Advisor to Statistics Poland's President - Office of the President • Director, Deputy Director - International Relations and Statistical Cooperation Department • Deputy Director, Head of Section, Expert - Programming and Coordination of Statistical Surveys Department • Head of Section - Standards and Registers Department • Deputy Director - regional Statistical Office in Poznań • Head of Section - ICT Systems, Geostatistics and Census Department
15:15-15:30	Coffee break	
15:30-17:00	Programming, planning and resources	<p>The peer review expert team: All</p> <p>The NSI:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President of Statistics Poland • Civil Service Director of Statistics Poland • NSI coordination team • Advisor to Statistics Poland's President - Office of the President • Head of Section - Organisation and Personnel Office • Director, Head of Section, Expert - Administration and Budget Department

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deputy Director - ICT Systems, Geostatistics and Census Department • Director - Statistical Computing Centre • Director - Enterprises Department • Director - Trade and Services Department
17:00-18:00	Peer review expert team discussion	
Day 2 – 31.05.2022		
09:00-10:15	Meeting with Statistical Council	<p>The peer review expert team: All</p> <p>Statistical Council: Chairman - Professor (Polish Academy of Sciences) 5 members representing Association of Polish Cities, Employers of Poland, General Office of Building Control, Ministry of Finance, Sobieski Institute</p> <p>The NSI:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSI coordination team • Communication officer • Director, Expert - Programming and Coordination of Statistical Surveys Department • Head of Section, Expert - Office of the President
10:15-10:30	Coffee break	
10:30-11:45	Quality (organisational structure, tools, monitoring)	<p>The peer review expert team: All</p> <p>The NSI:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSI coordination team • Communication officer • Expert - Programming and Coordination of Statistical Surveys Department • Director, Deputy Director, Expert - ICT Systems, Geostatistics and Census Department • Director - Education and Communication Department • Deputy Director - Social Surveys Department • Director - Agriculture Department • Deputy Director - National Accounts Department • Director, Expert - Statistical Computing Centre • Expert - Statistical Products Department • Deputy Director - Labour Market Department

11:45-13:00	Dissemination	<p>The peer review expert team: All</p> <p>The NSI:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSI coordination team • Communication officer • Director, Expert - ICT Systems, Geostatistics and Census Department • Director, Expert - Statistical Computing Centre • Deputy Director, Head of Section, Expert - Programming and Coordination of Statistical Surveys Department • Director - Education and Communication Department • Deputy Director - Labour Market Department • Director - Enterprises Department • Director, Deputy Director, Expert - Statistical Products Department
13:00-14:00	Lunch	
14:00-15:15	Confidentiality	<p>The peer review expert team: All</p> <p>The NSI:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President of Statistics Poland • NSI coordination team • Communication officer • Director, Head of Section - ICT Systems, Geostatistics and Census Department • Deputy Director, Expert - regional Statistical Office in Poznań • Advisor to Statistics Poland's President - Office of the President • Director - Education and Communication Department • Deputy Director - Labour Market Department • Director - Enterprises Department • Director, Deputy Director - Statistical Products Department • Director, Experts - Statistical Computing Centre
15:15-16:15	Meeting with junior staff	<p>The peer review expert team: All</p> <p>The NSI: Junior staff from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office of the President

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programming and Coordination of Statistical Surveys Department • ICT Systems, Geostatistics and Census Department • Statistical Products Department • National Accounts Department • Spatial and Environmental Surveys Department • Demographic Surveys Department • Social Surveys Department • International Relations and Statistical Cooperation Department • Education and Communication Department • Statistical Office in Warsaw
16:15-16:30	Coffee break	
16:30-17:30	Progress and plans for the future	<p>The peer review expert team: All</p> <p>The NSI:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President of Statistics Poland • Civil Service Director of Statistics Poland • NSI coordination team • Communication officer • Advisor to Statistics Poland's President - Office of the President • Deputy Director - Programming and Coordination of Statistical Surveys Department • Director, Deputy Director - ICT Systems, Geostatistics and Census Department • Director - Statistical Products Department • Director - Spatial and Environmental Surveys Department • Director - International Relations and Statistical Cooperation Department • Director - Statistical Computing Centre
17:30-18:00	Additional session for explanations on IT issues	<p>The peer review expert team: All</p> <p>The NSI:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSI coordination team • Director, Deputy Director, Head of Section - ICT Systems, Geostatistics and Census Department • Director - Statistical Computing Centre
18:00-19:00	Peer review expert team discussion	

Day 3 – 1.06.2022

09:00-09:30	General opening session with all the other national authorities (ONAs) producing European statistics	<p>The peer review expert team: All</p> <p>Ministry of Finance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adviser for System Analysis in the Public Finance Sector, Head of Section, Expert - Macroeconomic Policy Department • Expert, Tax controller - Tax Risk Department • Head of Section, Expert - Public Debt Department <p>Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deputy Director, Head of Section, Expert - Agricultural Markets Department • Experts - Fisheries Department • Director - Main Inspectorate of Agricultural and Food Quality Inspection • Head of Section - Organic Farming and Food Quality Department <p>Ministry of Justice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head of section, Experts - Department of Strategy and European Funds <p>The NSI:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President of Statistics Poland • NSI coordination team • Communication officer <p>Statistics Poland departments cooperating with the ONA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director, Head of Section - National Accounts Department • Director, Deputy Director - Trade and Services Department
09:30-11:00	Meeting with the Ministry of Finance	<p>The peer review expert team: All</p> <p>ONA - Ministry of Finance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adviser for System Analysis in the Public Finance Sector, Head of Section, Expert - Macroeconomic Policy Department • Expert, Tax controller - Tax Risk Department • Head of Section, Expert - Public Debt Department • <p>The NSI:</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President of Statistics Poland • NSI coordination team • Communication officer <p>Statistics Poland departments cooperating with the ONA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director, Head of Section - National Accounts Department • Director, Deputy Director - Trade and Services Department
11:00-11:15	Coffee break	
11:15 -12:45	Meeting with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development	<p>The peer review expert team: All</p> <p>ONA - Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deputy Director, Head of Section, Expert - Agricultural Markets Department • Experts - Fisheries Department • Director - Main Inspectorate of Agricultural and Food Quality Inspection • Head of Section - Organic Farming and Food Quality Department <p>The NSI:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President of Statistics Poland • NSI coordination team • Communication officer <p>Statistics Poland departments cooperating with the ONA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director - Agriculture Department • Director - Enterprises Department
12:45-13:45	Lunch	
13:45 – 15:15	Meeting with the Ministry of Justice	<p>The peer review expert team: All</p> <p>ONA - Ministry of Justice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head of section, Experts - Department of Strategy and European Funds <p>The NSI:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSI coordination team • Communication officer <p>Statistics Poland department cooperating with the ONA:</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expert - Social Surveys Department
15:15-15:30	Coffee break	
15:30-16:15	Meeting with the Methodological Commission	<p>The peer review expert team: All</p> <p>Methodological Commission Chairwoman – Professor (University of Warsaw) 5 members – Professors (Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw, Polish Academy of Sciences, University of Gdańsk, Warsaw School of Economics)</p> <p>The NSI:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> President of Statistics Poland NSI coordination team Communication officer
16:15-17:15	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"> President of Statistics Poland NSI coordination team Communication officer Deputy Director, Experts - Programming and Coordination of Statistical Surveys Department Head of Section - Standards and Registers Department Director, Deputy Director - ICT Systems, Geostatistics and Census Department Deputy Director - Labour Market Department Director - Enterprises Department Director, Deputy Director - Trade and Services Department Director, Deputy Director - National Accounts Department Head of Section - regional Statistical Office in Szczecin Expert - regional Statistical Office in Olsztyn Expert - regional Statistical Office in Gdańsk
17:15-18:15	Peer review expert team discussion	
Day 4 – 2.06.2022		

09:00-10:00	Meeting with main data providers	<p>The peer review expert team: All</p> <p>Ministry of Finance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head of Section - Macroeconomic Policy Department • Expert - Tax Collection Department <p>Ministry of Family and Social Policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director of the Minister's Office • Director - Department of Economic Analyses <p>Agency for the Restructuring and Modernisation of Agriculture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director, Expert - Department of Analyses and Reporting <p>Social Insurance Institution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head of Section, Expert - Department of Statistics and Actuarial Forecasting <p>The NSI:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President of Statistics Poland • NSI coordination team • Communication officer
10:00-10:15	Coffee break	
10:15-11:15	Meeting with providers of new data sources	<p>The peer review expert team: All</p> <p>PKN Orlen</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head of Section, Expert - Financial Reporting Department <p>Ministry of Finance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expert - Tax Collection Department <p>Maritime Office in Gdynia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expert - National Single Window <p>PZU S.A.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head of Section <p>The NSI:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President of Statistics Poland • NSI coordination team • Communication officer • Director - International Relations and Statistical Cooperation Department

11:15-12:15	Meeting with main users – Media	<p>The peer review expert team: All</p> <p>Media:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bloomberg Poland • Parkiet, Rzeczpospolita • ISB NEWS <p>The NSI:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President of Statistics Poland • NSI coordination team • Communication officer • Director - International Relations and Statistical Cooperation Department • Experts - Education and Communication Department
12:15-13:15	Lunch	
13:15-14:15	Meeting with main users – Ministries and other public institutions (including Central Bank as a user)	<p>The peer review expert team: All</p> <p>National Bank of Poland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deputy Director - Department of Statistics <p>Ministry of Family and Social Policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director - Department of Economic Analyses <p>Ministry of Finance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expert - Macroeconomic Policy Department <p>Polish Agency for Enterprise Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head of Section - Analysis and Strategy Department <p>Ministry of Economic Development and Technology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deputy Director - Economic Analysis Department <p>The NSI:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President of Statistics Poland • NSI coordination team • Communication officer • Director - International Relations and Statistical Cooperation Department
14:15-14:30	Coffee break	

14:30-15:30	Meeting with main users – Business associations and federations and trade unions	<p>The peer review expert team: All</p> <p>Business associations, federations and trade unions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sobieski Institute • Polish Craft Association • NSZZ „Solidarność” <p>The NSI:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President of Statistics Poland • NSI coordination team • Communication officer
15:30-16:30	Meeting with main users – Scientific community	<p>The peer review expert team: All</p> <p>Scientific Statistical Council: Chairman – Professor (University of Economics in Katowice) 4 members – Professors (Cracow University of Economics, University of Gdańsk, University of Warsaw, Warsaw School of Economics)</p> <p>Representatives of the scientific community:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cracow University of Economics • Warsaw School of Economics <p>The NSI:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President of Statistics Poland • NSI coordination team • Communication officer • Deputy Director, Head of Section - Programming and Coordination of Statistical Surveys Department • Director - International Relations and Statistical Cooperation Department
16:30-17:30	Peer review expert team discussion	
Day 5 – 3.06.2022		
10.45-12.45	Peer review expert team discussion	
12.45-13.45	Lunch	

13.45-15.45	Meeting with the senior management of Statistics Poland and ONAs: conclusions and recommendations	<p>The peer review expert team: All</p> <p>The NSI:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSI coordination team • Communication officer • President of Statistics Poland • Civil Service Director of Statistics Poland <p>ONAs:</p> <p>Ministry of Justice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head of section, Experts - Department of Strategy and European Funds, <p>Ministry of Finance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deputy Director, Adviser for System Analysis in the Public Finance Sector, Head of section, Expert - Macroeconomic Policy Department <p>Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head of Section - Agricultural Markets Department • Expert - Fisheries Department • Head of Section - Organic Farming and Food Quality Department <p>Chancellery of the Prime Minister</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deputy Director - Analyses Department
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ANNEX B – LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Statistics Poland

President of Statistics Poland

Civil Service Director of Statistics Poland

NSI coordination team:

- National Coordinator - Programming and Coordination of Statistical Surveys Department - Deputy Director,
- Deputy National Coordinator - International Relations and Statistical Cooperation Department - Head of Section,
- Members from Programming and Coordination of Statistical Surveys Department - Head of Section, Expert,
- Communication Officer - Education and Communication Department - Deputy Director, Spokesperson for the President of Statistics Poland,

Office of the President - Advisor to Statistics Poland's President, Head of Section, Expert

Programming and Coordination of Statistical Surveys Department - Director, Deputy Directors, Heads of Sections, Experts

ICT Systems, Geostatistics and Census Department - Director, Deputy Director, Head of Section, Expert

Standards and Registers Department - Head of Section

Statistical Products Department - Director, Deputy Director, Expert

National Accounts Department - Director, Deputy Director, Head of Section

Spatial and Environmental Surveys Department - Director

Social Surveys Department - Deputy Director, Expert

Labour Market Department - Deputy Director

Trade and Services Department - Director, Deputy Director

Enterprises Department - Director

Agriculture Department - Director

International Relations and Statistical Cooperation Department - Director, Deputy Director, Head of Section, Expert

Education and Communication Department - Director, Experts

Administration and Budget Department - Director, Head of Section, Expert

Organisation and Personnel Office - Head of Section

Statistical Computing Centre - Director, Experts

Junior staff

Office of the President

Programming and Coordination of Statistical Surveys Department

ICT Systems, Geostatistics and Census Department

Statistical Products Department

National Accounts Department

Spatial and Environmental Surveys Department

Demographic Surveys Department

Social Surveys Department

International Relations and Statistical Cooperation Department

Education and Communication Department

Statistical Office in Warsaw

Regional statistical offices

Statistical Office in Poznań - Deputy Directors, Expert

Statistical Office in Szczecin - Head of Section

Statistical Office in Olsztyn - Expert
Statistical Office in Gdańsk - Expert

Statistical Council

Chairman – Professor (Polish Academy of Sciences)
5 members representing Association of Polish Cities, Employers of Poland, General Office of Building Control, Ministry of Finance, Sobieski Institute

Methodological Commission

Chairwoman – Professor (University of Warsaw)
5 members – Professors (Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw, Polish Academy of Sciences, University of Gdańsk, Warsaw School of Economics)

Other national authorities (ONAs)

Ministry of Finance

Adviser for System Analysis in the Public Finance Sector, Head of Section, Expert - Macroeconomic Policy Department
Expert, Tax controller - Tax Risk Department
Head of Section, Expert - Public Debt Department

Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

Deputy Director, Head of Section, Expert - Agricultural Markets Department
Experts - Fisheries Department
Director - Main Inspectorate of Agricultural and Food Quality Inspection
Head of Section - Organic Farming and Food Quality Department

Ministry of Justice

Head of Section, Experts - Department of Strategy and European Funds

Main data providers

Ministry of Finance

Head of Section - Macroeconomic Policy Department
Expert - Tax Collection Department

Ministry of Family and Social Policy

Director - Minister's Office
Director - Department of Economic Analyses

Agency for Restructuring and Modernisation of Agriculture

Director, Expert - Department of Analyses and Reporting

Social Insurance Institution

Head of Section, Expert - Department of Statistics and Actuarial Forecasting

Providers of new data sources

PKN Orlen

Head of Section, Expert - Financial Reporting Department

Ministry of Finance

Expert - Tax Collection Department

Maritime Office in Gdynia

Expert - National Single Window

PZU S.A.

Head of Section

Media**Bloomberg Poland**

Journalist

Parkiet, Rzeczpospolita

Journalist

ISB NEWS

Journalist

Main users – Ministries and other public institutions**National Bank of Poland**

Deputy Director - Department of Statistics

Ministry of Family and Social Policy

Director - Department of Economic Analyses

Ministry of Finance

Expert - Macroeconomic Policy Department

Polish Agency for Enterprise Development

Head of Section - Analysis and Strategy Department

Ministry of Economic Development and Technology

Deputy Director - Economic Analysis Department

Main users – Business associations and federations and trade unions**Sobieski Institute**

Expert

Polish Craft Association

Member of the Board

NSZZ „Solidarność”

Representative

Main users – Scientific community

Scientific Statistical Council

Chairman – Professor (University of Economics in Katowice)

4 members – Professors (Cracow University of Economics, University of Gdańsk, University of Warsaw, Warsaw School of Economics)

Cracow University of Economics

Professor

Warsaw School of Economics

Professor

Other

Interpreter was present during some sessions of the peer review visit