



Quality declaration of Statistics Netherlands

Quality obliges...

The Quality declaration of Statistics Netherlands describes the quality policy, confidentiality policy, privacy protection and information security policy and conformity policy of Statistics Netherlands. The Quality declaration is intended for everyone involved in Statistics Netherlands ('stakeholders').

Quality policy

The policy of Statistics Netherlands is to guarantee the quality of the statistical information. This involves all aspects of quality of the output. In case of statistics this concerns:

- Relevance and completeness
- Accuracy and reliability
- Timeliness and punctuality
- Coherence, comparability and consistency
- Accessibility and clarity

Statistics Netherlands aims to maintain the continuity and to manage the costs of its statistics by producing them efficiently and by minimising the administrative burden on its respondents and data suppliers.

The quality policy of Statistics Netherlands serves several aims:

- Complying with the mission of Statistics Netherlands
- Maintaining public trust in Statistics Netherlands and its products
- Satisfaction of users and clients

Statistics Netherlands adheres to the international standard of quality ISO 9001ⁱ and it is also certified for this standard.

Finally Statistics Netherlands continuously strives to improve its quality management system, in line with ISO 9001.

Confidentiality policy

The confidentiality policy is that Statistics Netherlands guarantees the privacy of the provider of data (persons, enterprises, governmental services and other respondents). Statistics Netherlands guarantees, moreover, the confidential character of the information they provide and the exclusive use of data for statistical purposes.

Privacy protection and Information security policy

The EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)ⁱⁱ applies to Statistics Netherlands. On a regular basis external auditors examine Statistics Netherlands on its compliance by means of the Privacy Control Framework of NOREAⁱⁱⁱ.



Regarding Information security the Government Information Security Regulation (*Voorschrift Informatiebeveiliging Rijksdienst (VIR)*)^{iv} and the *Baseline Informatiebeveiliging Rijksdienst (BIR)*^v applies. Statistics Netherlands complies with the ISO 27001^{vi} standard.

Conformity policy

Legislation applies to Statistics Netherlands. For the EU this is the Statistical Law (Regulation (EC) No 223/2009)^{vii} ^{viii} and the European Statistics Code of Practice^{ix}. In the ESS Quality Assurance Framework (ESS QAF)^x good practices are elaborated. The document 'Conformity to the European Statistics Code of Practice' describes how Statistics Netherlands complies with the Code of Practice.

Furthermore, the European statistics are based on European legislation. The statistics supplied to the IMF come under the Data Quality Assessment Framework (DQAF)^{xi}.

Important legislation at the national level are the Act on Statistics Netherlands^{xii} (*de CBS-wet*) and the Archive Act^{xiii} (*Archiefwet*).

Statistics Netherlands also determines its own frameworks related to the statistical process and its output. One of these frameworks is the series on statistical methods^{xiv}. The methods in the series are described and published online.

Version history

Version date	Description
28 April 2008	Fist version adopted by Directors of Statistics Netherlands
1 February 2013	Adapted to the new mission statement.
1 October 2012	Adapted to the new version of The European Code of Practice. The Quality Declaration of the European Statistical System no longer apply anymore because it is integrated in this new version of the Code of Practice.
2 December 2013	The full texts of the policies on quality and confidentiality of Statistics Netherlands is integrated.
21 August 2017	The Dutch Data Protection Act (Wpb) is replaced by the European General Data Protection Regulation. The Achive Act is added.
1 March 2019	Privacy and Information security policy is integrated. ISO 9001, ISO 27001 and the Privacy Control Framework are added. References are added and actualised.

References

ⁱ NEN (2015). [ISO 9001:2015](#).

ⁱⁱ EU (2016). [General Data Protection Regulation](#).



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- iii Norea (2018). [Privacy Control Framework](#).
 - iv Dutch government (2007). [Government Information Security Regulation / Voorschrift Informatiebeveiliging Rijksdienst \(VIR\)](#).
 - v Dutch government (2012). Government Baseline Information Security / Baseline Informatiebeveiliging Rijksdienst (BIR).
 - vi NEN (2017). [ISO 27001:2017](#).
 - vii Eurostat (2009). [Statistical Law. Regulation \(EC\) No 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2009 on European statistics](#).
 - viii Eurostat (2015). [Regulation 2015/759 amending Regulation 223/2009 on the European Statistics](#).
 - ix Eurostat (2011). [European Statistics Code of Practice](#). Adopted by the Commission for the European Statistical System on 28 September 2011.
 - x Eurostat (2015). [ESS Quality Assurance Framework \(ESS QAF\)](#). Version 1.2.
 - xi IMF (2006). [Data Quality Assurance Framework \(DQAF\)](#).
 - xii Dutch government (2017). [Act on Statistics Netherlands](#).
 - xiii Dutch government. [Archive Act / Archiefwet](#).
 - xiv CBS. [Statistical methods](#).. CBS-website.