



Annual Report 2010

**Second annual report
to the European Parliament and the Council**

**on the implementation of the
European Statistics Code of Practice by Eurostat and
the European Statistical System as a whole**

**by the
European Statistical Governance Advisory Board**

European Statistical Governance Advisory Board (ESGAB)

ESGAB was established by the European Parliament and the Council in 2008 to provide an independent overview of the European Statistical System with particular regard to implementation of the European Statistics Code of Practice. ESGAB's aim is to enhance professional independence, integrity and accountability — three key elements of the Code of Practice — in the European Statistical System (ESS) and also the quality of European statistics.

Its tasks include preparing this annual report to the European Parliament and the Council on the implementation of the Code of Practice insofar as it relates to the Commission (Eurostat), including an assessment of implementation of the Code in the European Statistical System as a whole, and advising the Commission (Eurostat) on appropriate measures to facilitate implementation of the Code, on how to communicate the Code to users and data providers, on updating of the Code and on questions related to user confidence in European statistics, if considered necessary.

ESGAB is made up of seven members, with Eurostat also participating as an observer. Expenses arising from the Secretariat and meetings are covered by the European Commission. ESGAB members receive no remuneration. In that respect, the Board has no operating budget.

For further details see: <http://ec.europa.eu/esgab>.



From left to right:

Mr Radermacher (observer), Mr Hahlen, Mr Charpin, Ms Epler, Mr Ákerholm (Chair), Ms Mossler, Ms Bohatá (observer), Mr Outrata, Mr Atkinson, Ms Lehtimäki (Secretary)

Foreword

I am pleased to present our second report, which concentrates on the priorities identified in ESGAB's first report¹ in 2009, i.e. professional independence, adequacy of resources and quality commitment. Events over the last year have made it clear that professional independence and adequacy of resources are crucial for the quality and reliability of statistics.

The recent events in Greece show that loss of confidence in statistics can lead to high economic costs. This experience underlines the need to reinforce compliance with the Code of Practice. Sound procedures and rules exist both for policy coordination and for official statistics, but they need to be implemented properly. It now seems all the more important to develop preventive mechanisms to detect potential crises. We therefore welcome the continuing efforts to strengthen governance at both European and national levels.

I must take this opportunity to thank all statistical services and stakeholders who have contributed to our work this year. We are particularly grateful to those who shared their views about compliance with the Code of Practice and indicated areas for improvement. ESGAB decided not to name countries beyond the obvious. We are looking forward to facilitating implementation of the Code in the ESS as a whole.

Johnny Åkerholm

ESGAB Chair

¹ <http://ec.europa.eu/esgab>.

Executive summary and recommendations

Since ESGAB's last report, the Lisbon Treaty has entered into force and a new European Parliament and European Commission have taken office. An unprecedented economic crisis has left the ESS with the challenge of responding to the new statistical demands at a time when resources are coming under increased pressure. What is more, the trustworthiness of official statistics in general has been called into question as a consequence of the misreporting of public finance statistics by Greece. It has become clear that proper implementation of the principles enshrined in the Code of Practice² is vital and that loss of credibility in the official statistics of one country affects the credibility of the ESS as a whole.

Corrective measures, such as the revision of the Greek Statistical Law and adoption of the Regulation 479/2009³ granting 'audit-like powers' to Eurostat, were the first timely steps to prevent similar situations from arising in the future. Now they must be implemented, together with the detailed statistical action plan and enhanced assistance from ESS members to reinforce the statistical system.

Further preventive measures are still needed. According to the analysis underpinning this report, there are a number of countries in the ESS where more efforts are needed in order for the statistics laws to guarantee that the statistical services can develop, produce and disseminate statistics independently and transparently. Equally importantly, the laws must be complied with in practice. In this context, ESGAB-like bodies at national level could help strengthen independence. While this report welcomes the revisions of the legislation undertaken in nine countries, it concludes that the revisions in at least two of them do not guarantee the professional independence of the statistical services.

Much remains to be done. 59% of the improvements recommended in the 2006-2008 peer reviews to strengthen professional independence are still pending; implementation must be speeded up. The rules on appointment and dismissal of the heads of statistical services recruitment practices in the ESS vary considerably. In six countries changes of top management coincided with elections. These circumstances will have to be scrutinised more closely.

Eurostat has an increasingly important coordinating role to play in the ESS. At the same time, the position of national statistical services within the national systems must be strong enough to enable them to coordinate all national statistical production, as stipulated in the European Statistics Regulation (Regulation 223/2009⁴). Statistical services are — in one way or another — part of the public administration. The working arrangements within the public administration must therefore be formalised and made public.

² http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/quality/code_of_practice.

³ Regulation 679/2010 of 26 July 2010 amending Regulation (EC) No 479/2009 as regards the quality of statistical data in the context of the excessive deficit procedure, [OJ L 198](#), 30.7.2010. [Consolidated version](#): <http://eur-lex.europa.eu>.

⁴ [OJ L 87](#), 31.3.2009, p. 164.

The same applies to equal access to statistical information, which must be guaranteed. Where pre-releases take place, the rules must be defined and made public. It must be added that 41 % of the improvements identified in this area have yet to be carried out.

The slow progress with the 64 % of the improvements to quality commitment still pending remains a cause for concern. This is the area where the least has been done (see Annex 1 for an overview).

ESGAB is also alarmed about the resources situation: the demand for official statistics is increasing at the same time as resources are being squeezed in many cases. This highlights the need for priority-setting and for rationalising use of resources. The only way that the ESS can respond to the growing need for statistics is by avoiding duplication of work and embracing new developments. *ESGAB encourages investment in innovative ways of producing statistics and is looking forward to efficient implementation of the vision⁵ for the production of official statistics in the next decade.* Securing future savings while maintaining high quality will entail initial investments and could therefore require more resources in the short term.

The information collected for this report gives ESGAB reasons to examine further professional independence in some Member States. Progress on adequacy of resources and quality issues will also be monitored. The recent developments in the area of public finance data highlight the need to develop early prevention mechanisms to detect and act on any non-compliance with the principles laid down in the Code of Practice. In 2011, ESGAB also intends to identify needs for revision of the Code in the light of the experience to date. ESGAB will launch an assessment of its legal framework, but it is already clear that ESGAB's legal base needs to be strengthened in view of the repercussions for the credibility of the ESS as a whole emanating from problems in any single country.

Recommendations to the European Statistical System (ESS), to Eurostat and, where applicable, to governments and legislators

1. Where not yet done, modernisation of statistical laws must be accelerated, with a view to aligning them with the principles enshrined in the Code of Practice and the European Statistics Regulation (Regulation 223/2009). Full transparency is needed about the rules on appointment and dismissal of heads of statistical services. Statistical services' working arrangements with the political decision-makers must be formalised and made public.
2. Formal compliance with the European Statistics Regulation and the Code of Practice must be complemented by faster implementation of the improvements recommended in the peer reviews.
3. The impact of budget restrictions on quality must be minimised by efficiency gains and coherent priority-setting which identifies the resources for the new statistical demands. Deep budget cuts make it impossible to maintain high-quality official statistics.

⁵ [COM\(2009\)404](#): Commission Communication on the production method of EU statistics: a vision for the next decade and joint ESS strategy adopted by the ESS Committee in May 2010:
http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/about_eurostat/corporate/introduction.

4. The Sponsorship Group on Quality should accelerate its work in order to come up with practical proposals for harmonisation of quality management in the ESS. Quality reports and declarations must also be made public. Documentation and transparency about methods, metadata, errors detected and data revisions must be improved.
5. Equal access to official statistics for all users must be guaranteed. Rules on pre-release access must be made public.
6. Eurostat's coordinating role⁶ within the Commission and with other EU bodies must be strengthened. National practices should fully comply with the European Statistics Regulation in order to ensure that the national statistical institutes can coordinate all activities at national level for development, production and dissemination of European statistics.
7. In addition to Eurostat's risk assessment obligations relating to the quality of statistical data under Regulation 479/2009 in the context of the excessive deficit procedure, Eurostat should develop indicative criteria to detect and specify systemic risks.
8. Eurostat stakeholder meetings, which bring together national producers and users at European level, should be further pursued as a means to enhance mutual understanding of statistical needs and implementation constraints.
9. Eurostat should stimulate the establishment and support the progress of ESS-Nets⁷ as vehicles for developing common standards, ICT tools and methods. To seal their success, seamless implementation of the vision for statistics will be fundamental.
10. In the light of experience to date, ESGAB's legal base should be strengthened in order to provide a possibility to act appropriately if the credibility of the ESS as a whole is at risk.

⁶ Commission Decision [97/281/EC](#) of 21 April 1997 on the role of Eurostat.

⁷ Networks of excellence - [projects](#) to collect and share expertise within the ESS.

Introduction

ESGAB met six times to assess the current level of compliance with the Code of Practice. It carried out two surveys focusing on the three principles identified in the 2009 report: professional independence, adequacy of resources and quality commitment. These principles were selected because of the increasing pressure in these areas and their direct impact on data quality and the trustworthiness of the ESS. One questionnaire was addressed to national statistical institutes, the other to a limited number of stakeholders. In addition, the monitoring of compliance with the Code of Practice carried out by Eurostat indicates trends over time, based on the number of improvements pending (see Annex 1). ESGAB held an exchange of views with the Chair of the European Statistical Advisory Committee (ESAC) on user aspects and quality. Eurostat also reported on its own progress on the improvements.

Overview of implementation of the Code of Practice

1. PROFESSIONAL INDEPENDENCE

Principle 1: *'The professional independence of statistical authorities from other policy, regulatory or administrative departments and bodies, as well as from private sector operators, ensures the credibility of European statistics.'*

1.1. European Statistical System

Legislation

Official statistics have to be professionally independent, strong and of high quality. One indispensable precondition is that the ESS as a whole must be in a position to resist outside pressures when it comes to its core professional competences. Since the peer reviews in 2006-2008, the legislation has been revised to strengthen the professional independence of the statistical services in one third of the countries in the ESS. In five countries the legal process is either under way or being planned. However, legal proceedings can be lengthy and in two countries the revision process is exceedingly slow. Moreover, some of the revisions do not yet guarantee professional independence explicitly enough, particularly in countries where complex legal structures or ministerial dirigisme can be observed.

While close interaction with the political and budgetary authorities is required, the legislation should specify the parties involved in and procedures for planning statistical programmes. Legislation and the final perimeter of statistical outputs should be left to political decision-makers, but decisions on methods, standards and procedures and on the content and timing of press releases should remain in the hands of the statistical services. However, in one country the statistical institute itself reports, and in six others stakeholders have pointed to, shortcomings in the content and timing of releases, multiannual programming and the role and status of the Director-General.

Strong legislation underpinning the professional independence of statistical services is a necessary condition for good governance, but is not sufficient on its own. For example, a revised Statistical Law is now in place in Greece, but implementation must still be carefully monitored, as it takes time to change the administrative culture. On the other hand, in a few countries history and tradition are considered to induce *de facto* professional independence, even if the legislation does not fully comply with the Code. This was also assumed to be the case in Canada⁸ but proved wrong. Examples like this in the recent past highlight the need to align national legislation and incorporate the principles enshrined in Regulation 223/2009 on European statistics.

Appointment and dismissal procedures

Formally, rules on appointment and dismissal of the heads of the statistical services are largely defined in laws or statutes. Roughly half of the ESS members apply fixed or renewable terms. Yet, many stakeholders perceive the appointment procedures as politically influenced. Retirements because of age or professional mobility are the main reasons quoted for heads of statistical services failing to complete their terms. However, in six countries changes of top management have coincided with elections. The statistical services in two countries confirmed that the change of top management was connected to a change of government. *ESGAB will further examine these circumstances.*

National administrative practices play a significant role in the way top managers are appointed and dismissed, but recruitment by openly advertising vacancies is encouraged. In one third of the countries this is not the case. Moreover, two thirds of the countries in the ESS do not publish recruitment rules. *ESGAB calls for greater transparency in this respect.*

Working arrangements and coordinating role of the statistical services

As the statistical services are part of the public administration, it is important to draw a distinction between administrative and professional supervision. While issues related to financial and human resources, for example, are subject to administrative procedures similar to those applying to other public-sector bodies, powers over statistics should remain in the hands of the statistical service. The working arrangements appear clear, although in a few countries the official statistics would benefit from publication of clear working arrangements between the authorities involved, as the public easily confuse administrative supervision and professional competence. *ESGAB encourages formalisation and publication of the working arrangements with the political level in every country.*

Moreover, 25% of national statistical services consider that they have no clear role as coordinator of all activities at national level for development, production and dissemination of European statistics, although this is explicitly stated in Article 5 of the European Statistics Regulation (Regulation 223/2009). Two

⁸ The Canadian Chief Statistician resigned after the government used its dormant legal powers to change the method for the population census. See: Standing Committee on Industry, Science and Technology, meeting 32 of 27 July 2010: [hearing](#) on government's plan to make the long census form voluntary instead of mandatory; www.parl.gc.ca.

statistical services consider that they do not have sufficient authority to ensure compliance with the Code by other national producers, and in six countries the statistical services feel that their authority should be improved. Furthermore, 90% of stakeholders hold the view that non-compliance with the Code of Practice by one country would have a negative impact on the credibility of the ESS as a whole. *ESGAB urges the relevant authorities to take the necessary steps to remove obstacles that prevent the national statistical services from exerting their coordinating authority and ensuring compliance with the Code.*

Statistical methods, equal access and communication

Nearly all national statistical services have the power to decide independently on statistical standards and procedures and on the content and timing of releases. ESGAB underlines the need for set, precise and publicly available release calendars. In the event of deviations from them, a public explanation should be given. Moreover, adhering to the Special Data Dissemination Standards (SDDS) is seen as a basic requirement to ensure impartiality⁹. However, five countries report that no publicly available rules on pre-release exist and in another five the statistical services consider that there is room for improvement. Stakeholders perceive access to data in a similar way, but some suggest that, all in all, pre-releases reduce public trust in impartiality, as they could be seen as emanating from political pressures. In two countries, the minister reportedly exerts direct influence on implementation of surveys and/or IT maintenance.

Timely and factual communication about processes and policies is seen as part of good governance. Limiting communication to clarifications is sometimes perceived as defensive by stakeholders. The statistical services report that they respond routinely to criticism or misuse of statistics on a case-by-case basis, but 16% do not comment on misuse and 39% on criticism. A more transparent and proactive way of communicating could potentially enhance the public perception of statistical services' professional independence.

1.2. Eurostat

Eurostat's role as a Directorate-General of the European Commission and as an independent statistical agency has been tested by the events over the last year. The division of roles has functioned adequately; the Commissioner assumes political responsibility, while Eurostat and its Director-General implement the policy guidelines and day-to-day management in accordance with the rules laid down in various regulations, procedures and the Code of Practice. The revised working arrangements¹⁰ between Eurostat and the Commissioner reduced the frequency of meetings with the Commissioner, as recommended by ESGAB in its 2009 report.

⁹ <http://dsbb.imf.org/Pages/SDDS/Home.aspx>. The standards were established by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to enhance dissemination of economic and financial data in terms of (a) data coverage, frequency and timeliness; (b) access for the public; (c) the integrity of the data disseminated; and (d) the quality of the data disseminated. Every member provides a summary of the method for each data category, including an indication of any major differences from international guidelines.

¹⁰ Practical arrangements governing working relations between members of the Commission, cabinets and services:

http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/pls/portal/!PORTAL_wwpob_page.show?_docname=2260306.PDF.

Clear and factual communication is increasingly important. While a wealth of information is available online, e.g. 'Statistics Explained'¹¹, background briefings for journalists could be usefully combined with occasional press conferences. Meanwhile, Eurostat has taken care to ensure timely and adequate communication on public finance statistics¹².

Eurostat is reinforcing its coordinating role at EU level by ensuring closer collaboration with other EU institutions, Commission Directorates-General and national providers of statistics in stakeholder dialogues. These help to create a common understanding of users' needs and supply constraints, thus reducing potential duplication of surveys and response burden.

Eurostat has also taken on a more proactive role to ensure compliance with the Code throughout the ESS, for example by addressing national statistical services directly when in doubt about compliance with the principles of professional independence. However, more efforts are needed to create solid prevention mechanisms to ensure implementation of the Code of Practice. *ESGAB considers that Eurostat should further develop criteria to detect and specify systemic risks in the ESS upfront.*

Following the Commission's January 2010 report on Greek government deficit and debt data, Eurostat paid a number of visits to Greece. A comprehensive Joint Overall Statistical Greek Action Plan was developed covering not only public finance statistics but also institutional and governance issues and Greece's statistical capacity at large. Eurostat is closely monitoring implementation and is encouraged to make full use of the new Regulation 479/2009, which gives Eurostat access to all relevant data in the context of deficit and debt reporting.

2. ADEQUACY OF RESOURCES

Principle 3: *'The resources available to statistical authorities must be sufficient to meet European statistics requirements.'*

2.1. European Statistical System

Many statistical services state that statisticians' salaries have remained competitive and 65 % of the improvements called for in the peer reviews in 2006-2008 have been completed. Nevertheless, 39 % of the statistical services report a tighter budgetary situation and in three countries both salaries and the adequacy of resources in general have already worsened. 45% of the stakeholders were most concerned about the adequacy of resources for official statistics.

In the current economic climate, budget cuts are to be expected in many countries, with a risk of affecting statistical services. Many statistical services have reached their operational limits to meet their existing obligations. Problems due to lack of resources are becoming increasingly acute. This should not

¹¹ http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/statistics_explained/index.php/Main_Page.

¹² [Eurostat's paper](#) for the UNECE work session on the communication of statistics, 30 June-2 July 2010.

undermine the quality of statistics nor the efforts to comply with the principles of the Code of Practice.

Statistical services will still need to respond to new demands such as those relating to the Europe 2020¹³ national targets on employment, research and innovation, climate change and energy, education and poverty. Also, the balance between the availability and reliability of indicators emerging from the enhanced policy coordination needs to adapt to the availability of resources. Both governments and the private sector will need reliable data for decision-making. The greater the political challenges, the greater the importance of having reliable data.

The challenges ahead call for new and integrated ways of organising data collection and using data. The joint ESS strategy¹⁴ points the way to improved efficiency, but delays will be inevitable unless statistical services are able to invest resources in implementing it. Currently 55% of the ESS members are already reporting that lack of resources has led to underinvestment in key areas such as quality management or IT. Doing more with less normally requires an initial investment in infrastructure in order to combine different data sources for multiple uses, which 52% of ESS members see as a meaningful way to improve efficiency.

Nevertheless, the current tight economic situation could be seen as an opportunity to improve processes for efficient priority-setting. Good practices can be observed in some national statistical services, such as 'relevance screening' of statistics to decide whether to continue or terminate activities, potential training needs and/or the need to introduce process and resource management systems. Regulation 223/2009 also introduces a possibility to use the 'European approach to statistics', where European totals are calculated from European samples. This should be further explored. In addition, 'sunset clauses' could be envisaged in order to review legislation systematically after a given period.

At the same time, the ESS must not reduce the details and depth of statistics to the point of creating uneven coverage of European official statistics. Decision-makers at all levels must be mindful at all times of costs and of allocating sufficient resources for statistical obligations imposed or recommended to apply consistent priority-setting: every decision creating a need for new statistics should identify a source of funding or lead to exclusion of some existing production.

2.2. Eurostat

Resources in Eurostat are also under pressure. Eurostat has therefore developed a specific framework for resource allocation, which involves redeploying resources towards priority activities. It is currently reallocating resources in order to respond to the challenge of the 'audit-like' powers recently conferred on it in the context of the excessive deficit procedure.

¹³ [Europe 2020](#): strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

¹⁴ Based on COM(2009)404 vision — see footnote 5.

Eurostat provides grants for collaborative and development networks, known as 'ESS-Net'¹⁵ projects'. These are important to enable the statistical services to test and develop innovative ways of working such as development of validation tools, data integration from different sources and infrastructure for exchanging confidential data. *ESGAB suggests that Eurostat and National Statistical Institutes work together to improve use and management of ESS-Nets.*

ESGAB welcomes Eurostat's efforts to improve production processes, e.g. adapting the IT architecture to the data life-cycle, the census hub project and the Modernisation of European Enterprise and Trade Statistics (MEETS) programme. Implementation of the vision for the next decade will be crucial in order to improve the adequacy of resources in the long term.

3. QUALITY COMMITMENT

Principle 4: *'All ESS members commit themselves to work and cooperate according to the principles fixed in the 'Quality declaration of the European statistical system.'*

3.1. European Statistical System

High and even quality of official statistics lies at the core of statistical production. Progress on improvements in quality commitment, for which the highest number of new measures (over 100) were identified in the peer reviews, has not lived up to expectations, with just over one third of the measures identified completed, i.e. not many more than a year ago. Lack of resources or the need for more time to complete certain actions is no doubt part of the explanation, but the overall picture still does not indicate any high commitment to quality by the top management. Nonetheless, stakeholders largely rate the quality of official statistics as good or excellent. In every case the method and metadata for different types of outputs ought to be clear, harmonised throughout the ESS and publicly available.

Most statistical services adhere to common quality definitions and to total quality management systems. Nearly 80% actively monitor all or most statistical processes, e.g. by means of quality reports and indicators, measuring process variables, user surveys or self-assessment and auditing. Process quality and reporting therefore appear mostly adequate. Currently half of the ESS members publish their quality reports. However, from the users' perspective, the quality reporting seems too complex and, therefore, not sufficiently user-friendly.

As most cross-border users tend to place less trust in statistics produced by others than their national provider, *ESGAB recommends publishing harmonised and simplified quality reports* in order to gain transparency and trust in the ESS. ESGAB will also further consider quality labelling issues.

Two thirds of the statistical services declare their quality commitment publicly, albeit sometimes as a mere reference to the Code of Practice. *ESGAB recommends that all ESS members make clear quality declarations publicly available*, if necessary customising them to the ways and needs of each organisation. Simple references to a legal act or generally adopted principles are considered too vague.

¹⁵ Networks of excellence - [projects](#) to collect and share expertise within the ESS. See footnote 7.

Some users and stakeholders would like to see more publicly available information about methods and data sources. Metadata and communication about errors could also be improved. ESGAB will continue its cooperation with the European Statistical Advisory Committee on these issues.

In 2009 and 2010 ESGAB closely examined professional independence and adequacy of resources as preconditions for achieving high quality in official statistics. The work carried out in the meantime by various ESS task forces and sponsorship groups will provide useful input for ESGAB's reflections on quality in 2011.

3.2. Eurostat

Eurostat's Quality Assurance Framework covers all statistical processes. To date some 70 have been assessed. Improvements at process level and horizontally across the organisation are being identified and prioritised. Quality control of the publication 'Statistics in Focus' and of all other Eurostat channels of dissemination is one of Eurostat's strategic objectives. Integrated management systems for planning, programming, monitoring and reporting on activities are being introduced.

The high-level Sponsorship Group on Quality run jointly by Eurostat and Directors-General of a few of the national statistical institutes is currently focusing on reviewing the quality framework for the ESS (including the Code of Practice), quality declarations and communication with users and stakeholders.

In addition to these initiatives, Eurostat should also focus on developing consistency checks and early-warning mechanisms covering the quality of public finance statistics in particular.

Promoting the Code of Practice

Publicising the Code of Practice gained momentum as its principles were promoted by the Spanish¹⁶ EU presidency. This is continued by subsequent presidencies. At national level the French statistical institute, INSEE, for example, publishes the measures taken to comply with the Code on a dedicated website¹⁷. The Commission (Eurostat) has also reiterated the Code's principles in its recent communications¹⁸ and is continuing actively to promote the Code and further development thereof. The ESS is encouraged to extend knowledge of and compliance with the Code's principles of all staff and other national producers.

ESGAB is also following the work of similar bodies in France¹⁹ and the United Kingdom²⁰ and encourages establishment of suitable Code-monitoring mechanisms in all ESS countries, tailored to national circumstances.

¹⁶ http://www.ine.es/en/ue2010/prioridades_en.htm.

¹⁷ <http://www.insee.fr/en/insee-statistique-publique/default.asp?page=qualite/pratiques.htm>.

¹⁸ COM(2010)1: Report on Greek government deficit and debt figures and [infringement](#) procedures.

¹⁹ <http://www.autorite-statistique-publique.fr/>.

²⁰ <http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/>.

Annex I Overview of improvements recommended in the peer reviews

	Principle	NSIs	Total	Number of Completed Code of Practice Improvement Actions			Number of Remaining Code of Practice Improvement Actions (March 2010)				Total number of remaining improvement actions recorded in 2008 ²¹		
				Feb-08	May-09	Mar-10	Total completed	Not yet started	Started	Ongoing — no specific deadline	Total Remaining	Total Remaining	Total completed
3	Adequacy of resources	26	48	1	18	12	31	4	4	9	17	35 %	65 %
11	Relevance	17	28	1	11	6	18	0	5	5	10	36 %	64 %
6	Impartiality and objectivity	22	46	2	16	9	27	3	8	8	19	41 %	59 %
5	Statistical confidentiality	23	44	2	19	3	24	4	7	9	20	45 %	55 %
15	Accessibility and clarity	28	81	2	29	10	41	3	18	19	40	49 %	51 %
13	Timeliness and punctuality	9	14	0	5	2	7	0	1	6	7	50 %	50 %
7	Sound methodology	21	46	3	15	5	23	4	12	7	23	50 %	50 %
10	Cost-effectiveness	26	48	0	16	7	23	1	10	14	25	52 %	48 %
8	Appropriate statistical procedures	23	40	2	10	6	18	2	9	11	22	55 %	45 %
12	Accuracy and reliability	22	35	1	7	7	15	1	9	10	20	57 %	43 %
14	Coherence and compatibility	23	33	1	9	4	14	4	9	6	19	58 %	42 %
2	Mandate for data collection	17	26	1	8	2	11	1	4	10	15	58 %	42 %
1	Professional Independence	20	34	1	9	4	14	6	7	7	20	59 %	41 %
9	Non-excessive burden on respondents	26	55	0	16	6	22	1	14	18	33	60 %	40 %
4	Quality commitment	29	103	1	28	8	37	12	35	19	66	64 %	36 %
TOTAL			681	18	216	91		46	152	158	356	52 %	48 %
			(%)	(100 %)	(3 %)	(32 %)	(13 %)	(7 %)	(22 %)	(23 %)	(52 %)		

²¹ This figure represents the number of actions still to be implemented at the time of the creation of the monitoring database in 2008. Prior to the creation of the database, 192 actions had been implemented.