

**Peer review  
of the Italian Statistical Office (ISTAT)  
on the implementation of the  
European Statistics Code of Practice**

**23 – 25 October 2006**

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## 1. Executive Summary

This was the first “regular” peer review, following two pilot peer reviews, and it took place in the National Institute of Statistics in Italy (ISTAT) from 22 – 25 October 2006.

The objective of the review was to review the degree of compliance of ISTAT with the principles 1 – 6 and 15 of the European Code of Practice.

The persons attending the meetings during the peer review had received information on the background and the purpose of the visit as well as the standard questions included in the guidelines, in advance. The external partners had not received the results of the self-assessment. After the visit, ISTAT has informed the peer review team that it was already implementing actions in order to disseminate the results of the peer review. This is part of plans of ISTAT with respect to the implementation of European Statistics Code of Practice in the Italian statistical system.

The review was performed as interviews with representatives from the management and the staff of ISTAT as well as with the chairman of the Commission for the protection of statistical information (CPSI) and members of the Coordination Committee for Statistical Information (COMSTAT), representatives from ministries, regions, municipalities, the National Bank of Italy and representatives from the research and scientific community and a professional organisation for business enterprises (see the programme of the visit in Annex A). Unfortunately the planned meeting with representative from media had to be cancelled due to technical reasons. The journalist representing the media was consulted by the peer review team using e-mail.

Some of the main findings were:

- Solid legal framework that guarantees professional independence, mandate for data collection, and protection of confidentiality
- Resources of the sole ISTAT relatively low, but this has to be considered against background of the highly decentralised national statistical system and the division of labour between entities of the system. On the other hand it should be noted that ISTAT has the full responsibility for the production of most European statistics.
- Difficult and costly coordination, that may have several implications on the quality dimension (cost effectiveness, burden for respondents)
- Strong quality controls, but a more user oriented approach, and TQM policy are still to be implemented
- In general ISTAT has a proper legislative framework in relation to impartiality and objectivity. The main challenge appears to be the development of more systematic user-oriented documentation, also accessible for the international community (English).
- ISTAT has a widespread dissemination programme, but there is a need for improvement to better meet user requirements related to data and metadata.

## 2. Introduction

With the adoption of the European Statistics Code of Practice, the Statistical Programme (SPC) committed itself to adhering to its principles. At its meeting on 25 May 2005, the SPC endorsed a stepwise monitoring procedure for the implementation of the Code over three years during which countries’ self-assessments should be combined with elements of peer review, benchmarking and monitoring on the basis of the explanatory indicators added to each principle of the Code.

During December 2005 / January 2006 the National Statistical Institutes and Eurostat have completed their self-assessments, the results have been summarised by Eurostat in a report submitted to the Economic and Financial Committee in May 2006 which has been published on the Eurostat website.

As a next step towards implementation of the Code, the European Statistical System is organising peer reviews to complement the self-assessments starting with 2006. They are considered a vital element for the implementation of the Code of Practice given their capacity to encourage the sharing of best practice and to contribute to transparency in what is, essentially, a self-regulatory approach. This approach is designed to

enhance accountability and to help building trust in the integrity of the European Statistical System, its processes and outputs.

The Code of Practice peer reviews follow a common methodology focusing on the institutional environment and dissemination part of the Code comprising the following principles: (1) Professional independence, (2) Mandate for data collection, (3) Adequacy of resources, (4) Quality commitment, (5) Statistical confidentiality, (6) Impartiality and Objectivity and (15) Accessibility and Clarity. In principle, the peer review is limited to the National Statistical Institute and its co-ordination role within a dispersed national statistical system. A short document provided by the National Statistical Institute which summarises key aspects of the functioning of the national statistical system is published together with this report.

During a three days visit on-site and on the basis of information material provided by the National Statistical Institute and Eurostat prior to the review, peer reviews yield a report assessing compliance with the Code of Practice at indicator level and by principle following a four point assessment scale. The report includes a refined set of improvement actions covering all principles of the Code which are being used to feed the monitoring process of the implementation of the Code in the European Statistical System.

While the peer reviewers will undertake to base their assessment to the extent possible on factual information, it is worth noting some of the limitations of the peer review process. For example, peer reviewers are dependent upon the resources made available to them (though experienced reviewers can be expected to identify where appropriate information is not forthcoming). In addition these reviews are conducted on a strategic, organisation-wide and system wide basis. Accordingly it is not straightforward to ascertain that certain practices or behaviours or systems operate in all statistical domains.

### **3. Findings**

#### **Principle 1: Professional Independence**

*The professional independence of statistical authorities from other policy, regulatory departments and bodies, as well as from private sector operators, ensures the credibility of European Statistics.*

Overall assessment: ISTAT has a professional independence supported by the Italian Statistical Law (Decree N322 of 6/9/1989) and applied in practice in its institutional relations . The professional independence of other producers was not the object of this review.

*Indicator 1.1: The independence of the statistical authority from political and other external interference in producing and disseminating official statistics is specified in law.*

#### **Fully met**

Comments: The Legislative Decree N° 322 of 6 September 1989 (Italian statistical law) organize ISTAT as a legal person governed by public law with autonomous regulation (Art. 14). It also gives ISTAT in Art. 15 the task to draft the National Statistical Program (NSP) and to publish and disseminate the data analyses and studies produce by the Institute or other offices of the National statistical system. The Decree also establishes in Art. 12 the Commission for the Protection of Statistical Information (CPSI), which is an independent advisory body, controlling the national statistical system of Italy (SISTAN) and watching the quality of statistical methods applied by ISTAT. Furthermore the Decree of the President of the Council of Ministries of 1/8/2000 on ISTAT regulation of organisation, gives to its president in Art 2 b) and d) the mandate for scientific coordination and the capacity to produce binding directives, addressed to the Institute in order to accomplish the Council directives. The representative of media has informed the peer review team that academic and statistical communities are taking a great interest in the protection of the continuing professional independence of statistical authorities. Thus, some amendments of the legal framework of ISTAT could be considered in the future in order to ensure even stronger independence.

*Indicator 1.2: The head of the statistical authority has sufficiently high hierarchical standing to ensure senior level access to policy authorities and administrative public bodies. He/She should be of the highest professional calibre.*

**Fully met**

Comments: The hierarchical level of the President of ISTAT is comparable with the highest non-political public servants and he is chosen among university professors, on a proposal from the Prime Minister and appointed by the President of the Republic on a fixed term basis after the approval by two competent Committees of the Chamber of Deputies and of the Senate. He also participates, as an observer in the interministerial committee for economic matters for the preparation of the Council of Ministries (only the President of ISTAT and the Governor of the National Bank of Italy attend this meeting outside secretaries and Under-Secretaries of State).

*Indicator 1.3: The head of the statistical authority and, where appropriate, the heads of its statistical bodies have responsibility for ensuring that European Statistics are produced and disseminated in an independent manner.*

**Fully met**

Comments: The President of ISTAT behaves with strong independence for deciding on statistical methods, standards and procedures, as well as on the content and timing of statistical releases (Decree of 1/8/2000 art 2). Furthermore the CPSI as independent advisory body, watches for the quality of the methods applied by ISTAT.

*Indicator 1.4: The head of the statistical authority and, where appropriate, the heads of its statistical bodies have the sole responsibility for deciding on statistical methods, standards and procedures, and on the content and timing of statistical releases.*

**Fully met**

Comments: The ISTAT and its President have by law (see Legislative decree No 322 of 6 September 1989 and the Decree of 1 August 2000), the responsibility to produce and disseminate the National Statistical Program (NSP) and ensure in practice an independent data production and dissemination.

*Indicator 1.5: The statistical work programmes are published and periodic reports describe progress made*

**Fully met**

Comments: ISTAT drafts, carries out and publishes the national statistical program for a three- year period, as well as yearly updates. After opinion of CPSI and the Authority for Privacy, and approval by the Interministerial Committee for Economic Planning and the Conference State-Regions, the Program is approved by Decree of the President of the Republic. A yearly reporting to the Parliament is produced by ISTAT to evaluate the progress made.

*Indicator 1.6: Statistical releases are clearly distinguished and issued separately from political/policy statements.*

**Fully met**

Comments: ISTAT publishes its own press releases which are clearly identified as an ISTAT product and labelled with its logo.

*Indicator 1.7: The statistical authority, when appropriate, comments publicly on statistical issues, including criticisms and misuses of official statistics.*

**Fully met**

Comments: ISTAT has a policy to react to criticism or misuse of its statistics. These reactions are produced only on non political criticism and when technical issues are challenged or there is a missinterpretation of data or results. Reactions are part of the ISTAT communication strategy and need to be balanced, because such reactions are not always considered necessary or useful.

**Principle 2: Mandate for Data Collection**

*Statistical authorities must have a clear legal mandate to collect information for European statistical purposes. Administrations, enterprises, households, and the public at large may be compelled by law to allow access to or deliver data for European statistical purposes at the request of statistical authorities.*

Overall assessment: The legal system in force on public statistics in Italy is in compliance with Principle 2.

*Indicator 2.1: The mandate to collect information for the production and dissemination of official statistics is specified in law.*

**Fully met**

Comments: According to Legislative decree N° 322 of 6 September 1989, Article 15, ISTAT “(b) shall ... carry out the censuses and other statistical surveys provided for by the national statistical programme that has been entrusted to the institute; ... (g) publish and disseminate the data, analyses and studies produced by the institute or by other offices of the National Statistical System that are not able to do so directly ...”

*Indicator 2.2: The statistical authority is allowed by national legislation to use administrative records for statistical purposes.*

**Fully met**

Comments: According to Legislative decree N° 322 of 6 September 1989, Article 7, “... all public authorities, agencies, and bodies shall be required to supply any data and information that is requested of them for the surveys provided for by the national statistical programme.” ISTAT is using data from administrative records as much as possible. The main challenge is that it is difficult to harmonise the methodology with administrative bodies in charge of administrative data bases that could be useful for statistical purposes.

*Indicator 2.3: On the basis of a legal act, the statistical authority can compel response to statistical surveys*

**Fully met**

Comments: Article 7 of Legislative decree N° 322 of 6 September 1989 extends the obligation to supply statistical data to “public authorities, agencies and bodies” as well as “private subjects”. It is also stated that “Those who, being required to supply data and information (...), fail to do so or knowingly provide inaccurate or incomplete information, shall be liable to administrative fines (...), imposed in accordance with the procedure specified therein.” It has to be noticed that ISTAT is currently not applying that kind of sanctions for communication reasons, because they think that it would damage the relations with households and enterprises concerned, and because the collection of penalties for non-response would be too difficult. Other actions are used (reminders, official letters from ISTAT president, hot line).

### **Principle 3: Adequacy of Resources**

*The resources available to statistical authorities must be sufficient to meet European Statistics requirements.*

Overall assessment: Facing a relatively low level of resources, ISTAT is giving the priority to European Statistics requirements. With the high level of decentralisation of the national statistical system in Italy other partners contribute additional resources. However, the cost of coordination of the whole system is not negligible, and the rigidity of budgetary procedures limits organisational adaptations and the flexibility of the system.

*Indicator 3.1: Staff, financial, and computing resources, adequate both in magnitude and in quality, are available to meet current European Statistics needs.*

#### **Partly met**

Comments: The level of resources of ISTAT is low in comparison to other large European countries. Indeed, it has to be kept in mind that the Italian national statistical system is highly decentralised. ISTAT staff represents (in full time equivalent) less than 50 % of the total staff of the national statistical system. However, it should be noted that European statistics needs are mainly (around 95 %) covered by ISTAT. Thus ISTAT is giving the priority to meeting the main current European Statistics needs and national needs. The resource constraints poses a risk for meeting new European requirement. It should also be taken in consideration that the cost of coordination of the whole system is not negligible.

*Indicator 3.2: The scope, detail and cost of European Statistics are commensurate with needs.*

For European level reply

*Indicator 3.3: Procedures exist to assess and justify demands for new European Statistics against their cost.*

For European level reply

*Indicator 3.4: Procedures exist to assess the continuing need for all European Statistics, to see if any can be discontinued or curtailed to free up resources.*

For European level reply

### **Principle 4: Quality commitment**

*All ESS members commit themselves to work and co-operate according to the principles fixed in the Quality Declaration of the European Statistical System*

Overall assessment: ISTAT has a strong culture in relation to quality management which is implemented from the drafting of the National Statistical Programme, with the intervention of the Quality Circles, to the production and dissemination of statistics. ISTAT produces guidelines on quality issues and acts as coordinator of the Member of the SISTAN. A specific structure in ISTAT has been established, and is responsible for quality management. An overall approach to total quality management (TQM) is not followed, although several activities are carried out according to TQM, even if EFQM model has not been implemented.

*Indicator 4.1: Product quality is regularly monitored according to the ESS quality components*

#### **Fully met**

Comments: Quality is regularly monitored by ISTAT according to the ESS quality components as well as compliance with EU legislation. An overall quality control of the products from other members of SISTAN it is not legally part of the ISTAT mandate

*Indicator 4.2: Processes are in place to monitor the quality of the collection, processing and dissemination of statistics*

**Largely met**

Comments: Quality is regularly monitored. Processes are in place for evaluating all outputs, as well as for all stages of the statistical production. There exists different kinds of monitoring mechanisms ranging from self assessments to quality reports and the production of quality indicators. Internal audits are in the process of being implemented.

*Indicator 4.3: Processes are in place to deal with quality considerations, including trade-offs within quality, and to guide planning for existing and emerging surveys*

**Largely met**

Comments: ISTAT has processes established to decide on quality consideration including trade offs as timeliness/reliability, timeliness/frequency of revisions, etc. At present, a TQM model is not applied. A procedure for planning new surveys is in place and steps are already planned to have a quality certification for all new surveys.

*Indicator 4.4: Quality guidelines are documented and staff is well trained. These guidelines are spelled out in writing and made known to the public*

**Fully met**

Comments: ISTAT's awareness on quality considerations is very high and has drafted quality guidelines which are available for all its products. These guidelines are complemented with adequate training, regularly offered to most of the staff. The guidelines are also available to external users allowing to assess the quality of the products disseminated, mainly on the ISTAT website.

*Indicator 4.5: There is a regular and thorough review of the key statistical outputs using external experts where appropriate*

**Largely met**

Comments: ISTAT organizes reviews of its main statistical outputs such as the LFS, HBS, EU SILC and National Accounts, often including external experts. A new project on statistical audits is now in progress and ISTAT is considering a more overall approach to integrate users needs in relation to the quality of its products. The journalist consulted by the peer review team as a representative of the media pointed out the following areas for quality review: employment, house rents, and government accounting.

**Principle 5: Statistical Confidentiality**

*The privacy of data providers (households, enterprises, administrations and other respondents), the confidentiality of the information they provide and its use only for statistical purposes must be absolutely guaranteed.*



Overall assessment: The protection of privacy is a very sensitive subject in Italy. ISTAT is devoting a particular attention to the guarantee of confidentiality to all providers of statistical data. It relies for this purpose on existing legal acts and internal rules of practice for staff and data users.

*Indicator 5.1: Statistical confidentiality is guaranteed in law*

**Fully met**

Comments: Article 9 of the Legislative decree N° 322 of 6 September 1989 states that “Data collected by statistical offices within the statistical surveys included in the national statistical programme may not be disclosed other than in aggregate form such that no reference to identifiable people can be extracted. Furthermore, they may be used only for statistical purposes.” In addition, the Legislative decree 196 of 30 June 2003 has established the personal data protection code that also covers the processing of data for statistical purposes.

*Indicator 5.2: Statistical authority staff signs legal confidentiality commitments on appointment*

**Fully met**

Comment: In the standard contract signed by any new employee recruited by ISTAT, it is stated (Article 5) that the new employee is obliged to follow the rule on statistical secrecy following the decree N° 322/1989 and to observe the duties stated in article 9 of this decree. The issue of confidentiality is also addressed during the introductory training of newly appointed staff.

*Indicator 5.3: Substantial penalties are prescribed for any wilful breaches of statistical confidentiality*

**Fully met**

Comments: Legislative decree N° 196 of 30 June 2003 on Personal data protection code covers the data collected for statistical purposes. Part III, Title III, of the decree provides for substantial penalties (several thousands of euros) and in certain cases imprisonment for several months for those who breach the confidentiality.

*Indicator 5.4: Instructions and guidelines are provided on the protection of statistical confidentiality in the production and dissemination processes. These guidelines are spelled out in writing and made known to the public*

**Fully met**

Comments: There is a regular practice of strict protection of confidentiality at ISTAT. Instructions and guidelines are periodically adjusted to changes of risk estimates.

*Indicator 5.5: Physical and technological provisions are in place to protect the security and integrity of statistical databases*

**Fully met**

Comments: In relation to the geographical and institutional decentralisation of the national statistical system, networks used for transfer of data are secured. Specific agreements are established between ISTAT and its partners on data protection measures.

*Indicator 5.6: Strict protocols apply to external users accessing statistical microdata for research purposes.*

**Fully met**

Comments: Researchers can apply for use of microdata through the data analysis centre on the website of ISTAT. They have to declare the purpose of their research and the unit where the research will be conducted. Once the request has been accepted, a standard contract is signed by ISTAT and the researcher. No transfer by Internet is allowed. ISTAT has established a unique repository for its microdata bases. ISTAT is also trying to coordinate its protocols with other bodies of the national statistical system.

**Principle 6: Impartiality and objectivity**

*Statistical authorities must produce and disseminate European Statistics respecting scientific independence and in an objective, professional and transparent manner in which user are treated equitably*

Overall assessment: In general ISTAT has a proper legislative framework in relation to this principle (see in particular Legislative decree N° 322 of 6 September 1989, Articles 12, 13, and 15), and the practise is also generally in line with good practices. The main challenge appears to be the development of more systematic user-oriented documentation, also accessible for the international community (English).

*Indicator 6.1: Statistics are compiled on an objective basis determined by statistical considerations.*

**Fully met**

Comments: The evaluation of this indicator is related to indicator 1.1 and is supported by Decree no. 322 of 1989 which gives ISTAT the task of drafting the National Statistical Programme, and Decree of 1/08/2000 concerning the organisation of ISTAT describing i.a the tasks for the president of ISTAT. There was no evidence provided that the development of the statistical programme and procedures was biased by political considerations, even if an evaluation of user requirements is a central element of program development.

*Indicator 6.2: Choices of sources and statistical techniques are informed by statistical considerations*

**Fully met**

Comments: This is supported by the legal basis as mentioned under indicator 6.1 and there was no evidence that other non-professional considerations governed the choice of sources and methods.

*Indicator 6.3: Errors discovered in published statistics are corrected at the earliest possible date and published.*

**Fully met**

Comments: It was stated by ISTAT management and confirmed by junior staff that there are procedures in place for correcting errors as soon as detected and that any corrections are published in a relevant manner.

*Indicator 6.4: Information on the methods and procedures used by the statistical authority are publicly available.*

**Largely met**

Comments: Substantial documentation on methods and procedures is already publicly available in publications and on the ISTAT website with, inter alia, a developed section devoted to statistical tools and metadata. However, the systematic presentation of this documentation can be improved and especially, the availability of

documentation in English, especially on the web site, which at present is more or less non-existent will have to be developed.

*Indicator 6.5: Statistical release dates and times are pre-announced.*

### **Fully met**

Comments: A detailed release calendar for the whole year is disseminated at the beginning of every year for all short term and economic releases, and is strictly adhered to. For social statistics the release is only announced one week in advance. Thus some minor improvement could be foreseen.

*Indicator 6.6: All users have equal access to statistical releases at the same time and any privileged pre-release access to any outside user is limited, controlled and published. In the event that leaks occur, pre-release arrangements should be revised so as to ensure impartiality.*

### **Fully met**

Comments: There is a strict policy of release at 10.00 a.m. for all users. However, a pre-release in a closed lockup for journalists is practised for some key statistical indicators (Consumer Price Index, Producer Price Index, National Accounts and Labour Force Survey) starting at 9.30 a.m. the day of the release. It was stated by ISTAT management that there was no external access to any information in advance of the release time, and no leak had occurred during the last years.

*Indicator 6.7: Statistical releases and statements made in Press Conferences are objective and non-partisan.*

### **Fully met**

Comments: It was stated that there were clear guidelines and routines for developing press releases and comments in order to avoid subjective statements and the use of qualitative judgements (avoiding adjectives etc.). There was no information indicating that ISTAT had been accused of being non-objective or biased.

## **Principle 15: Accessibility and clarity**

*European Statistics should be presented in a clear and understandable form, disseminated in a suitable and convenient manner, available and accessible on an impartial basis with supporting metadata and guidance.*

Overall assessment: ISTAT is to a large extent complying with this principle. However, there is a need for improvement actions in order to better meet user requirements both for accessing data and metadata, not least for the international community.

*Indicator 15.1: Statistics are presented in a clear and understandable form.*

### **Partly met**

Comments:

ISTAT has developed manuals and guidelines for presentation in publications and on the Web.

ISTAT may establish ad-hoc committees with user representatives to improve the understanding and presentation of specific areas of statistics. Such committees have already been organized for CPI, environmental and social statistics.

ISTAT has a wide and well developed dissemination program. However, there is considerable room for improved standardisation of the website and improved and more user-oriented presentations. This view was supported by the representative of the media.

Websites of ISTAT and SISTAN should be improved in order to ease overview of, and access to, all Italian official statistics. Moreover, it would be useful to establish on these websites links to statistics produced by the Central Bank of Italy. Development of a common portal would be useful.

A full user survey following the recommended approach had not been implemented. However, some results were reported from a survey conducted in 2004. This survey was distributed to some 36 000 users, and responded by some 4 500. On the basis of this survey it was found that many users required some improved timeliness and more disaggregated statistics. Some proposed actions include improved language of tables/text and harmonized publication structures, improved web site including help function and access to data via metadata.

*Indicator 15.2: Statistics are disseminated using modern information technology*

**Fully met**

Comments: ISTAT already for some time developed Web products, but still maintains a large volume of hard copy publications. This is ISTAT's dissemination policy: in order to meet the needs of different users, different supports are used, including paper printed publications and electronic publications. ISTAT is in the process of redesigning and improving its web site in order to make it a more user-oriented.

*Indicator 15.3: Custom-designed analyses are provided when feasible.*

**Fully met**

Comments: Custom-designed analyses can be provided on a contractual basis. In practice, however, ISTAT has only limited capacities to prepare such products.

*Indicator 15.4: Existence of strict protocols to access micro data for research purposes.*

**Fully met**

Comments: See indicator 5.6 above.

*Indicator 15.5: Metadata are documented according to standardised metadata systems.*

**Largely met**

Comments: For the moment there is no agreed and standard solution for documenting statistical metadata across the production process and covering all aspects. On one side an attempt is to develop and utilise a standard model for metadata, and on the other side work is going on to document data in a pragmatic way, partly corresponding to the SDDS template and the SDMX initiative. Thus there is a need to implement a specific action in this area in order to ensure consistent documentation of different subject areas. It is also necessary to assist users in understanding statistics on the web. Development of an English version of the documentation is important as this now is more or less non-existent.

*Indicator 15.6: Users are kept informed on the methodology and the quality of statistical processes and output.*

**Largely met**

Comments: This indicator is closely related to indicator 15.5. As most of this information for the moment is only available in Italian it was hard to assess the content and the quality of this information. The assessment of the peer review team is that this indicator can only be assessed as largely fulfilled due to lack of systematic information on methodology and quality aspects available on the web site, in other languages than Italian.

## **4. Coordination role of ISTAT**

The statistical system in Italy (SISTAN) is extremely complex with a high number of different authorities, altogether around 3 500, including some 3000 municipalities. Thus the task of coordination which by law is attributed to ISTAT is very demanding and even if the power of methodological coordination of ISTAT is strong, as stated by law, the administrative fragmentation poses a challenge. Around half of the surveys included in the statistical program of SISTAN is performed by ISTAT, and it was mentioned that this share had been diminishing due to the growth in other parts of the statistical system. Thus the challenge of coordination also might be increasing.

An issue to be considered is whether or not some surveys at present included in the National Statistical Programme should be there provided that they only have regional or local interest. It should also be noted that ISTAT is focussing on the coordination of statistics of national interest, including regional disaggregation of national figures.

The Central Bank of Italy (Banca d'Italia) is not part of SISTAN. There is an informal agreement between ISTAT and Banca d'Italia for exchange of aggregated data. There is no coordination of surveys (especially business surveys) conducted by Banca d'Italia with business surveys conducted by ISTAT and other parts of SISTAN.

There is also a major challenge to ensure uniform statistical culture and competences across the whole system as some of the services being part of SISTAN are rather small (1-2 persons) and may have limited statistical training.

One issue raised and discussed was the boundaries of the public statistical system and especially the relationship between statistical surveys and surveys that primarily are collected for administrative purposes, but might also be used for statistical purposes and microdata or aggregate results sent to ISTAT. While as a principle only surveys providing administrative data used for statistical purposes shall be included in the National Statistical Programme, and not purely administrative surveys, it was not possible to verify to what extent some surveys that were called "administrative surveys" by the responsible authority, actually were used also for administrative purposes in the respective ministries. The borderline between the treatment of data collected on the basis of the statistical law and administrative data needs to be clarified, especially in those parts of the statistical system where the statistical services are closely integrated into the central administration of these authorities.

ISTAT has in principle free access to all administrative data sources, but wanted however stronger influence on the development of these sources in order to ensure better harmonisation with statistical requirements.

Thus the implementation of the Code of practice for the whole Italian statistical system, which is highly desirable in order to be comparable with countries with a more centralised system, also faces difficult challenges in relation to several principles. This might especially refer to principles 9 "Non-excessive burden on respondents", 10 "Cost effectiveness" and 14 "Coherence and comparability", even if these principles are not reviewed during this peer review.

## **5. Good practices to be highlighted**

- Quality circles as a way to integrate different actors in the process of preparing the national statistical program and reporting on its implementation. Quality circles are permanent working groups established by decision of the President of ISTAT covering one sector of the National Statistical Programme. Their purpose is to investigate technical issues faced by official statistics such as integration of sources, rationalisation of statistical production, etc. They include representatives of ISTAT in charge of the

sector concerned, representatives of other parts of SISTAN that are directly involved in the sector, as well as representatives of local authorities, financial institutions, NGOs, universities, etc.

- Well documented solutions and regulations for handling confidential data. The legislative decree of September 1989 and the Personal Data Protection Code (legislative decree N° 196 of 30 June 2003) are the basis for protection of privacy in statistical data<sup>1</sup>. They are enforced by directives issued by the president of ISTAT, which are periodically adjusted to changes of risk estimates. It is worth mentioning that staff members of ISTAT are informed of, and periodically trained on, confidentiality rules.
- Controlled micro data access - even if there is a need to develop the service for users outside ISTAT. Applications for access to microdata are strictly controlled. Researchers have to declare the purpose of their research and the unit where the research will be conducted, they sign a contract with ISTAT once their request has been accepted, and they cannot use Internet for the transfer of data. The establishment of a unique repository for microdata bases by ISTAT is another efficient tool of control over the access to microdata.

## 6. Recommendations of the peer review team

- To look into the implications of the current organisation of the Italian statistical system, at present rather complex, in order to prepare for the implementation of the Code of practice to the whole system;
- To improve user consultations and user contacts in order to improve the usage of statistics in different sectors of society;
- To develop and put in place a more consistent and complete metadata solution, also in English;
- To have a program for improving the ISTAT and SISTAN web pages in order to improve user orientation and accessibility also of data bases and historical data, and to establish links to statistics produced by Banca d'Italia;
- To continue implementing more efficient data collection solutions, including modern technology and improved sample design, in line with the positive experiences of the LFS;
- To consider improving coordination with Banca d'Italia on statistical surveys conducted by the Central Bank and by SISTAN;
- To implement a quality certification procedure for planning new surveys

## 7. List of improvement actions by principle of the Code

### 7.1. Comments of the peer review team

It is worth mentioning that indicators that have been rated “partly met” or “largely met” are covered by ISTAT’s improvement actions. There is only one exception. Indicator 15.1 (“*Statistics are presented in a clear and understandable form*”) that is rated “*partly met*”, is covered by improvement actions 4.5, 6.3, 15.1, and 15.2 of ISTAT. However, the peer review team has also suggested in its comments on this indicator that ISTAT consider the development of a common portal, providing access to websites of ISTAT, SISTAN, and to statistics produced by the Central Bank of Italy. This could be considered by ISTAT for an additional improvement action.

**Table of Correspondence between ISTAT Action Plans and Code of Practice Indicators related to Principles 1 - 6 and 15**

Improvement Actions	Code of Practice Indicators	Peer Review Rating
1.1	1.1	Fully met

<sup>1</sup> Two codes of conduct related to statistical data are attached to the Personal Data Protection Code: (i) the code of conduct and professional practice applying to the processing of personal data for statistical and scientific research purposes within the framework of the national statistical system; and (ii) the code of conduct and professional practice applying to the processing of personal data for statistical and scientific purposes, which has been undersigned by 11 professional and scientific associations active in the areas of epidemiology, social science, economics, biometrics, statistics, market surveys and opinion polls, etc., as well as the conference of rectors of Italian universities.

<b>2.1</b>	<b>2.1/4.5</b>	<b>Fully/Largely met</b>
<b>3.1</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>Partly met</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>Largely met</b>
<b>4.2</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>Largely met</b>
<b>4.3</b>	<b>4.5/2.1</b>	<b>Largely/Fully met</b>
<b>4.4</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>Largely met</b>
<b>4.5</b>	<b>4.5/15.1</b>	<b>Largely/Partly met</b>
<b>5.1</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>Fully met</b>
<b>5.2</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>Fully met</b>
<b>6.1</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>Largely met</b>
<b>6.2</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>Largely met</b>
<b>6.3</b>	<b>6.4/15.1</b>	<b>Largely/ Partly met</b>
<b>15.1</b>	<b>15.1/6.4</b>	<b>Partly/Largely met</b>
<b>15.2</b>	<b>15.1/6.4</b>	<b>Partly/Largely met</b>
<b>15.3</b>	<b>15.5 &amp; 15.6</b>	<b>Largely met</b>

## 7.2. List of improvement actions provided by ISTAT

### IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EUROPEAN STATISTICS CODE OF PRACTICE ACTION PLANS BY PRINCIPLES ISTAT

Principles/Overall assessment/Improvement actions		Priority	Timeframe						
			2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
<b>Principle 1: Professional Independence</b>	The professional independence of statistical authorities from other policy, regulatory departments and bodies, as well as from private sector operators, ensures the credibility of European Statistics.								
<b>Overall assessment</b>	ISTAT has a professional independence supported by the Italian Statistical Law (Decree N322 of 6/9/2006) and applied in practice in its institutional relations. The professional independence of other producers was not the object of this review.								
<b>Improvement actions</b>	<b>1.1 Revision of Statistical Law</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Unpredictable</b>						
	<i>Istat has already a solid legal framework, however specific aspects can be improved by a revision of statistical law in order to further strengthen the basic legal framework and to adapt it to changes.</i>								
<b>Principle 2: Mandate for Data Collection</b>	Statistical authorities must have a clear legal mandate to collect information for European statistical purposes. Administrations, enterprises, households, and the public at large may be compelled by law to allow access to or deliver data for European statistical purposes at the request of statistical authorities.								
<b>Overall assessment</b>	The legal system in force on public statistics in Italy is in compliance with Principle 2.								
<b>Improvement actions</b>	<b>2.1 Improvement of the coordination role of Istat within the SISTAN</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Continuously in progress</b>						
	<i>In order to enhance the coordination activities, consultations with other bodies belonging to Sistan will be implemented. Furthermore the involvement of SISTAN's bodies in quality circles will be enhanced</i>								
<b>Principle 3: Adequacy of Resources</b>	The resources available to statistical authorities must be sufficient to meet European Statistics requirements								
<b>Overall assessment</b>	Facing a relatively low level of resources, ISTAT is giving the priority to European Statistics requirements. With the high level of decentralisation of the national statistical system in Italy other partners contribute additional resources. However, the cost of coordination of the whole system is not negligible, and the rigidity of budgetary procedures limits organisational adaptations and the flexibility of the system..								
<b>Improvement actions</b>	<b>3.1 Discussion at government level on the flexibility of resources devoted to Istat, aiming at enhancing the autonomy budget</b>	<b>1</b>							
	<i>Although Istat has specific budget in order to implement the statistical activities planned, however it is defined within public budgets which can be revised due to financial law. In order to establish a more flexible budget devoted to statistical activities of Istat and more autonomous from possible financial resources cut by financial laws, Istat will implement consultations at government level to define possible solutions</i>								



Principles/Overall assessment/Improvement actions		Priority	Timeframe							
			2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	
<b>Principle 4: Quality commitment</b>	All ESS members commit themselves to work and co-operate according to the principles fixed in the Quality Declaration of the European Statistical System									
<b>Overall assessment</b>	ISTAT has a strong culture in relation to quality management which is implemented from the drafting of the NSP, with the intervention of the Quality Circles, to the production and dissemination of statistics. ISTAT produces guidelines on quality issues and acts as coordinator of the members of the SISTAN. A specific structure in ISTAT has been established, and is responsible for quality management. An overall approach to total quality management (TQM) is not followed, although several activities are carried out according to TQM, even if EFQM model has not been implemented.									
<b>Improvement actions</b>	<b>4.1 Implementation of internal audit</b>	<b>1</b>								
	<i>Istat has created a new service in charge of defining and implementing an activity of internal quality audits. Internal quality audits are aimed at evaluating the statistical processes, highlighting weaknesses as well as strengths of the processes.</i>									
<b>Improvement actions</b>	<b>4.2 Quality certification of new surveys</b>	<b>2</b>								
	<i>In the framework of the internal quality audits, Istat is going to define a formal procedure in order to certify the planning of the new surveys. On the basis of established criteria, the conformity of the planning will be assessed and a "Quality Label" will be assigned.</i>									
<b>Improvement actions</b>	<b>4.3 Improvement of the coordination role of Istat within the SISTAN</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Continuously in progress</b>							
	<i>In order to enhance the coordination activities, consultations with other bodies belonging to Sistan will be implemented. Furthermore the involvement of SISTAN's bodies in quality circles will be enhanced (see 2.1)</i>									
<b>Improvement actions</b>	<b>4.4 Enhancing partnerships</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Continuously in progress</b>							
	<i>Istat is implementing measures to enhance partnership with statistical and research community (NSIs in EU, national and European universities) in order to develop possible projects within VII framework programme.(see 7.4)</i>									
<b>Improvement actions</b>	<b>4.5 Identifying Users demands</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Continuously in progress</b>							
	<i>Istat is implementing specific actions in order to enhance the contact with users, for a sensible identification of statistics demand (see 11.2)</i>									
<b>Principle 5: Statistical Confidentiality</b>	The privacy of data providers (households, enterprises, administrations and other respondents), the confidentiality of the information they provide and its use only for statistical purposes must be absolutely guaranteed.									
<b>Overall assessment</b>	The protection of privacy is a very sensitive subject in Italy. ISTAT is devoting a particular attention to the guarantee of confidentiality to all providers of statistical data. It relies for this purpose on existing legal acts and internal rules of practice for staff and data users									
<b>Improvement actions</b>	<b>5.1 Experiment Remote access solution</b>	<b>2</b>								

Principles/Overall assessment/Improvement actions		Priority	Timeframe						
			2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
	<i>In order to improve the lines of getting closer to the needs of those who analyse microdata, Istat will experiment remote access solution. The remote access system will be available , in the first place to the institutions who have set up a protocol of research with Istat, enlarging the community of users once a filter software will be developed.</i>								
<b>Improvement actions</b>	<b>5.2 Creation of regional data analysis centres inside Istat regional offices for the access to microdata (regional laboratories)</b>	<b>2</b>							
	<i>An important piece of the new system for the release and access to microdata is the creation of regional data analysis centres inside Istat regional offices (in total 18 regional offices are present in the whole of Italy). The technical solution will be distributed i.e. could rely on a remote desktop system on a virtual private network whereas the organisational solution will remain centralized at Istat</i>								
<b>Principle 6: Impartiality and objectivity</b>	Statistical authorities must produce and disseminate European Statistics respecting scientific independence and in an objective, professional and transparent manner in which user are treated equitably								
<b>Overall assessment</b>	In general ISTAT has a proper legislative framework in relation to this principle (see in particular Legislative decree N° 322 of 6 September 1989, Articles 12, 13, and 15), and the practise is also generally in line with good practices. The main challenge appears to be the development of more systematic user-oriented documentation, also accessible for the international community (English).								
<b>Improvement actions</b>	<b>6.1 Implementation of WEB site in English</b>	<b>1</b>							
	<i>Istat will implement activities for the English version of the website to cover all the contents of the site in order to improve the accessibility by external users</i>								
<b>Improvement actions</b>	<b>6.2 Introduction of English abstract in all new methodology Notes and procedure</b>	<b>1</b>							
	<i>In order to improve the access from external users to the methodology and rules for official statistics, Istat will carry out activities to provide abstract in English</i>								
<b>Improvement actions</b>	<b>6.3 Updating the user survey</b>	<b>1</b>							
<b>Principle 7: Sound Methodology</b>	Sound methodology must underpin quality statistics. This requires adequate tools, procedures and expertise.								
<b>Improvement actions</b>	<b>7.1 Improvement of Business register</b>	<b>1</b>							
	<i>The activities to improve the quality of the BR are especially oriented to implement the following components:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. to develop the BR for local units</li> <li>2. to insert in the BR the public administration</li> </ol> <i>to insert in the BR the agriculture enterprises</i>								
<b>Improvement actions</b>	<b>7.2 Increasing use of administrative population sources</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Continuously in progress</b>						
	<i>Istat will increase efforts towards a more extensive use of administrative records for demographic statistics as a base to obtain statistical microdata and to establish frames for sample surveys.</i>								

Principles/Overall assessment/Improvement actions		Priority	Timeframe						
			2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
<b>Improvement actions</b>	<b>7.3 Preliminary estimates</b>	<b>1</b>							
	<i>Istat is implementing a research program aiming at defining statistical methods, supported by proper software tools, useful for obtaining preliminary estimates of short term business surveys close to the final estimate and with a low level of revision error (see 13.1).</i>								
<b>Improvement actions</b>	<b>7.4 Enhancing partnerships</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Continuously in progress</b>						
	<i>Istat is implementing measures to enhance partnership with statistical and research community (NSIs in EU, national and European universities) in order to develop possible projects within VII framework programme.</i>								
<b>Improvement actions</b>	<b>7.5 Organization of specific events</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Continuously in progress</b>						
	<i>Istat is undertaking to organize seminars and workshops on the application of harmonised classifications and good practices.</i>								
<b>Principle 8: Appropriate Statistical Procedures</b>	Appropriate statistical procedures, implemented from data collection to data validation, must underpin quality statistics.								
<b>Improvement actions</b>	<b>8.1 Increasing use of statistical concepts and classifications in administrative sources</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Continuously in progress</b>						
	<i>In accordance with the conceptual frame of the EU official statistics, Istat is developing initiatives for adopting this framework in the administrative sources. Istat is enhancing the cooperation with public administrations, in order to standardize forms and archives.</i>								
<b>Improvement actions</b>	<b>8.2 Dissemination and training on Recommended Practices (RPs) for questionnaire design and testing</b>	<b>2</b>							
	<i>The Handbook of RPs for questionnaire design and testing methods (QDET) for CATI and CAPI surveys, developed under Istat coordination will be internally disseminated and training courses will be held.</i>								
<b>Improvement actions</b>	<b>8.3 Development of RPs for editing and imputation</b>	<b>2</b>							
	<i>An handbook of RP for EU statistics on editing and imputation will be developed under Istat coordination (Recommended Practices for Editing and Imputation in Cross Sectional Business Surveys in the ESS - EDIMBUS). The RP practices will be internally disseminated.</i>								
<b>Principle 9: Non-Excessive Burden on Respondent</b>	The reporting burden should be proportionate to the needs of the users and should not be excessive for respondents. The statistical authority monitors the response burden and sets targets for its reduction over time								
<b>Improvement actions</b>	<b>9.1 Measuring and reducing response burden</b>	<b>1</b>							
	<i>Istat is implementing a research program aiming at defining statistical methods, supported by proper software tools, useful for the coordination of business surveys sample selections. The methods allow to keep under control the statistical burden on enterprises (monitoring and reducing the burden) and, at the same time, to assure predefined levels of overlapping of the selected samples.</i>								

Principles/Overall assessment/Improvement actions		Priority	Timeframe						
			2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
<b>Principle 10: Cost Effectiveness</b>	Resources must be efficiently used								
<b>Improvement actions</b>	<b>10.1 Increasing use of computer assisted data collection techniques</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Continuously in progress</b>						
	<i>Istat will increase the use of computer assisted data collection techniques in its surveys (both households and businesses) in order to efficiently use its resources and to improve quality as well.</i>								
<b>Improvement actions</b>	<b>10.2 Exploitation of open source tools</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Continuously in progress</b>						
	<i>Istat will increase the use of open source tools in order to reduce costs, to achieve self-reliance in using applications and to improve data exchange among public administrations.</i>								
<b>Principle 11: Relevance</b>	European Statistics must meet the needs of the users								
<b>Improvement actions</b>	<b>11.1 Meeting users needs</b>	<b>1</b>							
	<i>Istat will undertake improvement actions in order to better meet user requirements:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moving from the current “call centre” to a “competence centre” supported by a management system of the statistical information flow driven by user demand;</li> <li>• Providing Istat management with a constantly up to date analysis of the user profile and degree of satisfaction for services and products provided;</li> </ul> <i>Providing the editorial products with abstracts in English to be put in the catalogue (see action 15.2).</i>								
<b>Improvement actions</b>	<b>11.2 Identifying Users demands</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Continuously in progress</b>						
	<i>Istat is implementing specific actions in order to enhance the contact with users, for a sensible identification of statistics demand.</i>								
<b>Improvement actions</b>	<b>11.3 Enhancing statistical information contents</b>	<b>2</b>							
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dissemination of results concerning the collection of specific information needs to analyse foreign population in Italy;</li> <li>• Implementation of an Integrated Data Warehouse to disseminate information on Foreign People in Italy (see 14.1);</li> <li>• Implementation of an Integrated Data Warehouse to disseminate information on Labour Market (see 14.1).</li> </ul>								
<b>Improvement actions</b>	<b>11.4 Development of an integrated dissemination system</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Continuously in progress</b>						
	<i>Istat is promoting the development of an integrated Data Warehouse for an harmonised statistical information dissemination (see 14.2).</i>								
<b>Principle 12: Accuracy and reliability</b>	European Statistics must accurately and reliably portray reality								
<b>Improvement actions</b>	<b>12.1 Definition of a minimum set of user-oriented quality indicators</b>	<b>2</b>							
	<i>Istat will define a minimum set of quality indicators to be disseminated to external users</i>								
<b>Improvement actions</b>	<b>12.2 Dissemination of Quality Declarations</b>	<b>2</b>							
	<i>Istat will gradually implement the dissemination of Quality Declaration providing metadata and quality indicators for its statistical products.</i>								
<b>Principle 13: Timeliness and</b>	European Statistics must be disseminated in a timely and punctual manner								

Principles/Overall assessment/Improvement actions		Priority	Timeframe						
			2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
<b>Punctuality</b>									
<b>Improvement actions</b>	<b>13.1 Preliminary estimates</b>	<b>1</b>							
	<i>Istat is implementing a research program aiming at defining statistical methods, supported by proper software tools, useful for obtaining preliminary estimates of short term business surveys close to the final estimate and with a low level of revision error.</i>								
<b>Improvement actions</b>	<b>13.2 On-line data dissemination</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Continuously in progress</b>						
	<i>Istat increases on-line data dissemination</i>								
<b>Principle 14: Coherence and Comparability</b>	European Statistics must be consistent internally, over time, and comparable between regions and countries; it should be possible to combine and make joint use of related data from different sources.								
<b>Improvement actions</b>	<b>14.1 Integrated Data Warehouse</b>	<b>2</b>							
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation of an Integrated Data Warehouse to disseminate information on Foreign People in Italy;</li> <li>• Implementation of an Integrated Data Warehouse to disseminate information on Labour Market.</li> </ul>								
<b>Improvement actions</b>	<b>14.2 Development of an integrated dissemination</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Continuously in progress</b>						
	<i>Istat is promoting the development of an integrated Data Warehouse for an harmonised statistical information dissemination.</i>								
<b>Improvement actions</b>	<b>14.3 Statistical Integration</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Continuously in progress</b>						
	<i>Istat is developing methods to link different administrative sources (gathering the same type of data) with the statistical concepts. This activity started with both central and local administrations. Furthermore Istat will implement an integrated informative statistical system where all the administrative archives will be documented coherently.</i>								
<b>Improvement actions</b>	<b>14.4 Metadata Integration</b>	<b>1</b>							
	<i>Development of a software in order to disseminate metadata in a coherent and harmonised way.</i>								
<b>Principle 15: Accessibility and clarity</b>	European Statistics should be presented in a clear and understandable form, disseminated in a suitable and convenient manner, available and accessible on an impartial basis with supporting metadata and guidance.								
<b>Overall assessment</b>	ISTAT is to a large extent complying with this principle. However, there is a need for improvement actions in order to better meet user requirements both for accessing data and metadata, not least for the international community								
<b>Improvement actions</b>	<b>15.1 Implementation of WEB site in English</b>	<b>1</b>							
	<i>Istat will implement activities for the English version of the website to cover all the contents of the site in order to improve the accessibility by external users</i>								
<b>Improvement actions</b>	<b>15.2 Introduction of Catalogue in English on all publications</b>	<b>2</b>							
	<i>The objective is to give the opportunity to users to have an overview in English of all publication</i>								
<b>Improvement actions</b>	<b>15.3 English version of SiQual</b>	<b>1</b>							
	<i>Istat has developed an information system for quality documentation, named SIQual, addressed to</i>								

Principles/Overall assessment/Improvement actions		Priority	Timeframe							
			2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	
	<i>external users and accessible from Istat Web site. In order to enhance the dissemination of information on quality Istat will improve the content of the system and make it available in English</i>									

**Annex A: Agenda of the visit of the peer review team**

**ISTAT  
23 - 25 October 2006**

<b>Day</b>	<b>Timetable</b>	<b>Item/Principles</b>	<b>Contacts</b>
<b>1st day Discussion with ISTAT</b>			
<b>23 October</b>	09.30 – 10.00	Welcome Introduction of programme Organisational matters	L. Biggeri V. Buratta C. Cingolani M. Gandolfo
	10.00 – 12.30	<b>Meeting with management and senior staff</b> Principle 1- Professional Independence -  Principle 2 – Mandate for Data Collection -  Principle 3 – Adequacy of Resources -	L. Biggeri, V. Buratta, P. Cacioli, M. Simeone  L. Biggeri, V. Buratta, M.R. Simeone, M. Calzaroni O. Cianfarani, V. Buratta, G. Gamba, V. Lo Moro, G. Fontanarosa
	12.30 – 13.30	Principle 6 – Impartiality and Objectivity –	V. Buratta, G. Barbieri, P. Cacioli, G.P. Oneto, M. Signore, V. Terra Abrami
	13.30 – 14.00	Lunch break	
	14.00 – 15.00 15.00 – 16.00	Principle 5 – Statistical Confidentiality  Principle 15 – Accessibility and Clarity – <b>Presentation of results of user-satisfaction survey</b>	V. Buratta, G. Giacummo, L. Franconi, M.R. Simeone  G. Barbieri, P. Cacioli, L. Franconi, A. Orasi  G. Barbieri, S. Montagna, A. Orasi
	16.00 – 17.00	<b>Interview with Directors and quality manager</b> Principle 4 - Quality Commitment -	V. Buratta, G. Giacummo, R. Monducci, M. Signore, S. Gazzelloni
	17.00 – 18.00	<b>Meeting with junior staff</b> Principle 1-6 Principle 15	F. Bacchini, G. Brancato, P. Collesi, J. Giaconi, , G. Giungato, N. Massarelli, N. Mignolli, G. Seri, A.M. Tononi, M. Benedetti

Day	Timetable	Item/Principles	Contacts
	18.00 – 18.45	<b>Meeting with management to review additional issues of NSI</b>	V. Buratta, C. Cingolati, M. Gandolfo
		<b>Meeting with representatives from regional (branch) offices</b>	F. Corea, M. Ricci
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> day Discussion with external stakeholders</b>			
<b>24 October</b>	09.30 – 11.30	<b>Meeting with other national data producers/users</b>	Ministry of Economy and Finance (C. Porta)
			Ministry of Labour and Social Security (S. Pirrone)
			Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry Policy (M. Esposito)
			Ministry of Interior (A.E. Cesarano)
			Ministry of Justice (F. De Santis)
			Ministry of Public Function (P. Marconi)
			Municipality of Padova (M. Novello)
			Municipality of Potenza (E. Venetucci)
			CISIS (P. Baldi)
			Banca d'Italia (R. Tedeschi, A. Bassanetti)
	11.30 – 12.30	<b>Meeting with relevant authorities/bodies for official statistics</b>	Representative of Commission for the Protection of Statistical Information (A. Chiappetti – also member of Istat Statistical Council)
			Co-ordinating Committee for Statistical Information (Comstat) (P. Baldi – also member of CISIS)
			Representative of Policy-making and Co-ordinating Committee for Statistical Information (Comstat) (G. Alleva – also member of Istat Statistical Council)
	12.30 – 13.30	Lunch break	
	14.00 – 15.00	<b>Meetings with other users:</b>	Representative of University



Day	Timetable	Item/Principles	Contacts
	15.00 – 16.00	<b>Universities</b>	(A.Golini)
	16.00 – 17.00	<b>Media</b>  <b>Meeting with representative of respondents and private users</b>	Representative of Press (S. Lepri, contacted by email)  Confcommercio (N. Bartoli)
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> day Conclusions</b>			
<b>25 October</b>	09.30 – 11.30	<b>Meeting with management to sum-up and detailed review of list of improvement actions for all principles</b>  <b>Presentation of strategic Master Plan</b>	L. Biggeri V. Buratta G. Barbieri P. Cacioli C. Cingolani G. Gamba M. Gandolfo M. Signore
	11.30 – 13.00	<b>Conclusions, Best Practices, Recommendations and Follow-up (improvement actions)</b>	L. Biggeri V. Buratta C. Cingolani M. Gandolfo M. Signore

## Annex B: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS IN THE PEER REVIEW MEETINGS

### ISTAT

Luigi Biggeri	President
Olimpio Cianfarani	Director General
Vittoria Buratta	Director - Department for Statistical Production and Technical Scientific Coordination
Giovanni Barbieri	Director - Information Needs, Integration and Territory
Patrizia Cacioli	Director - Communication and Press
Manlio Calzaroni	Director - Administrative archives, data and statistical registers
Giuseppe Antonio Certomà	Director - Structural Economic Statistics
Claudia Cingolani	Director - International Relations and Cooperation
Alfonsina Caricchia	Director - National Accounts
Franco Corea	Director -Regional Offices Coordination
Gerardo Giacommo	Director - Technology and Methodological Support
Vincenzo Lo Moro	Director - Accounting
Andrea Mancini	Director - General Censuses
Roberto Monducci	Director - Price Statistics and Foreign Trade
Gian Paolo Oneto	Director - Short-Term Statistics on Industry, Services and Employment
Aldo Orasi	Director - Dissemination of Statistical Information and Support to Publishing Work
Valerio Terra Abrami	Director - Statistics and Surveys on Social Institutions
Fabio Bacchini	Short-term Economic Statistics
Mirko Benedetti	Communication Office
Giovanna Brancato	Project on Quality Audit
Patrizia Collesi	Dissemination of Statistical Information and Support to Publishing Work
Luisa Franconi	Statistical disclosure control
Giulietta Gamba	Management System Section
Marina Gandolfo	International Relations and Cooperation
Saverio Gazzelloni	Surveys on Living Conditions and Quality of Life
Jolanda Giaconi	International Relations and Cooperation
Gerolamo Giungato	Structural Economic Statistics
Nicola Massarelli	Surveys on living conditions and quality of life
Nadia Mignolli	Scientific technical support to statistical production analysis
Silvia Montagna	Dissemination of Statistical Information and Support to Publishing Work
Marco Ricci	Head of Regional Office of Emilia - Romagna
Giovanni Seri	Statistical disclosure control
Marina Signore	Project on Quality Audit
Maria Rosaria Simeone	Executive Office, Presidency Liaison Office
<b>Other National Statistical Authorities</b>	
Achille Chiappetti	Representative of Commission for the Protection of Statistical Information (also member of ISTAT Statistical Council)
Giorgio Alleva	Representative of Comstat (also member of ISTAT Statistical Council)

### **Ministries**

Anna Enrica Cesarano	Ministry of Interior - Responsible of the Statistical Office
Fausto De Santis	Ministry of Justice - Responsible of the Statistical Office
Maurizio Esposito Massimo Natalucci	Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry Policy - Representatives of the Statistical Office
Pia Marconi	Ministry of Public Function - Responsible of the Statistical Office
Salvatore Pirrone	Ministry of Labor and Social Security - Responsible of the Statistical Office
Carla Porta	Ministry of Economy and Finance - Responsible of the Statistical Office

### **Municipalities**

Maria Novello	Municipality of Padova - Responsible of the Statistical Office
Elisabetta Venetucci	Municipality of Potenza - Representative of the Statistical Office
Paola Baldi	CISIS (Interregional Center for the Information and the Statistical System) - Representative

### **Bank of Italy**

Antonio Bassanetti	Bank of Italy - Representative
Roberto Tedeschi	Bank of Italy - Representative

### **Main Users (University, Press, Other)**

Antonio Golini	University of Rome "La Sapienza"
Stefano Lepri	Press "La Stampa"
Nadia Bartoli	Confcommercio