

PEER REVIEW REPORT

ON COMPLIANCE WITH THE CODE OF PRACTICE AND
THE COORDINATION ROLE OF THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL INSTITUTE

SWEDEN

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Sweden, relative to other comparable countries, has a highly decentralised statistical system consisting of the NSI, Statistics Sweden, and 26 other Government Authorities that have been given explicit legal responsibility by Government for producing statistics in specified statistical areas. This structure goes back approximately 20 years to a deliberate policy decision by the then Government to place large areas of statistical production closer to key users so that they could have a greater influence on what is being produced. In terms of statistical products produced as official statistics, Statistics Sweden has currently direct responsibility for only one third of the total – although in terms of appropriations allocated it accounts for almost 60% of the total budget.

On the basis of the detailed documentation supplied, complemented by the information provided in discussions during the peer review visit, the Peer Review team is satisfied that Statistics Sweden exhibits a high degree of compliance with all aspects of the European statistics Code of Practice (CoP). With the exception of a concern regarding the decision making role of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and Construction Index Boards, no serious compliance problems were identified in respect of any of the Principles. The Peer Review team was struck by the substantial investment by Statistics Sweden in developing best practice methodologies and quality assurance procedures in respect of its statistical processes and products. In the team's view this puts it very much amongst the most advanced national statistical institutes internationally in this regard. Accordingly, the team has no hesitation in nominating a number of them as innovative practices.

On the basis of evidence presented to the Peer Review team, mainly in respect of the three selected Other National Authorities (ONAs), it would also appear that there is a good degree of compliance throughout the rest of the National Statistical System (NSS) although there is some variation between ONAs in respect of the level of compliance with some of the principles (notably: the ability to adopt or adhere to the best quality practices, and the level of service provided to all users).

In view of the relatively decentralised nature of the Swedish statistical system, coordination must be viewed as a high priority. Statistics Sweden's role in this regard is largely facilitated through the Council for Official Statistics (Council). The Council meets formally twice a year and its main work is currently undertaken through a number of permanent and temporary working groups, with remits such as methods and quality; data provision from respondents; preparations for the Council; statistical data disclosure control; and publishing. Outputs from the Council include: an Annual Report, which provides a comprehensive overview of official statistics in Sweden; recommendations and guidelines; and the organisation of conferences and events on matters of relevance to the statistical system. The activities of the Council, in conjunction with Statistics Sweden, undoubtedly contribute to improving the coordination of the overall system. However, it is the firm opinion of the Peer Review team that a stronger form of coordination is necessary and this is a major focus of the issues and challenges, and related recommendations, identified in this report. Another challenge that is addressed is the need to provide a high quality customer service to all users in an integrated manner across the whole national statistical system.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Role of Consumer Price Index and Construction Index Boards

1. Ordinance (2007:762) with the Directives for Statistics Sweden should be amended so that the Boards for the Consumer Price Index and the Construction Index have only an advisory role. (European statistics Code of Practice, Principle 1)

Improved governance and strategic focus for the National Statistical System (NSS)

2. The definition and the formal mechanisms for the practical implementation of the concept 'Official statistics' should be reviewed and clarified, particularly in relation to the other concepts of European and national/governmental statistics. (European statistics Code of Practice, Principles 1, 2, 4, 7, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15)
3. Standard mechanisms and procedures should be put in place to review the quality of official statistics and thus certify whether the different products comply with the label "Official Statistics of Sweden". (European statistics Code of Practice, Principles 4, 6, 7, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15.)
4. The structure and legal basis of the current national statistical system, with many legally mandated and independent small statistical authorities with limited statistical resources, should be reviewed in order to promote greater planning and coordination. (European statistics Code of Practice, Principles 1, 5, 10, 14, 15)
5. Authorities and mechanisms to develop national coordinated plans and strategies for official statistics, including evaluation and follow up, should be put in place. (European statistics Code of Practice, Principles 10, 11, 14, 15)
6. Formal and practical mechanisms should be put in place in order to ensure more efficient usage of existing tools and methodologies developed and available within Statistics Sweden or within other authorities. (European statistics Code of Practice, Principles 7, 8, 10, 15)
7. An in-depth review of the whole system should be undertaken in order to assess the use of best practice quality procedures. (European statistics Code of Practice, Principles 4, 7, 8)¹
8. A methodological framework, based on the Statistics Sweden model, should be developed for application throughout the national statistical system. (European statistics Code of Practice, Principles 7, 8)
9. An institutional framework and tools should be developed to universally plan and monitor the quality of the statistical production process, and to ensure that product quality is regularly monitored, assessed, and documented. (European statistics Code of Practice, Principles 4, 7, 8)
10. Procedures and mechanisms should be enhanced to enable the transfer of skills and methods between the Swedish statistical authorities, for instance by increased possibilities for staff rotation and common training courses. (European statistics Code of Practice, Principles 7, 8, 10)
11. The statistical legislation should be amended in order to facilitate the greater use of administrative registers for statistical purposes including: clarifying the right of all statistical authorities to be informed about the development of the registers, and their ability to influence the content of the registers. (European statistics Code of Practice, Principles 9, 10)

¹ The Peer Review team was informed that the Swedish National Audit Office is currently undertaking a review with the aim to investigate whether the system for official national statistics is designed in such a way that it achieves its goals in an appropriate and effective way. The review will focus on the statistical system and the individual statistical authorities' ability to work with quality. This review is much in line with Recommendation 7.

12. Greater efforts should be made to ensure that all statistical authorities are in a position to use more cost-effective data collection methods such as electronic questionnaires and web forms. (European statistics Code of Practice, Principles 7, 8, 9, 10, 15)

A high quality customer focused service for users of official statistics

13. Statistics Sweden should ensure that there is greater transparency around, and follow-up of, the work of its various user councils and groups. (European statistics Code of Practice, Principles 4,11)
14. User consultations for the whole Swedish statistical system should be reviewed to ensure greater coordination between statistical areas and to support the balancing and the development of the statistical system as a whole. (European statistics Code of Practice, Principles 4, 11)
15. Wide ranging user satisfaction surveys should be conducted on a regular basis covering all official statistics. (European statistics Code of Practice, Principles 4, 11)
16. A more user-oriented solution (for example, through a common portal with full functionality) for handling and disseminating all official statistics should be established, including common rules for the production of tables and graphs and the greater use of English. (European statistics Code of Practice, Principles 10, 11, 15).
17. Statistics Sweden should ensure that its replacement for the Annual Statistical Yearbook will serve as a consolidated source of key statistical data on all aspects of Sweden and its people. (European statistics Code of Practice, Principles 11, 15)
18. Procedures should be put in place to provide an opportunity for greater engagement with researchers to address their concerns in regard to access to micro-data and pricing. (European statistics Code of Practice, Principle 15)

2. INTRODUCTION

This peer review report is part of a series of assessments, the objective of which is to evaluate the extent to which National Statistical Institutes (NSIs) and the European Statistical System (ESS)² comply with the European statistics Code of Practice (CoP).

The CoP, which sets out a common quality framework for the ESS, was first adopted in 2005 by the Statistical Programme Committee and updated in 2011 by its successor, the European Statistical System Committee. The CoP – 15 principles and related indicators of good practice – covers the institutional environment, the statistical production process and the output of European statistics. The ESS is committed to fully complying with the CoP and is working towards its full implementation. Periodic assessments review progress towards reaching this goal.

The first global assessment, a round of peer reviews in 2006–2008, explored how the NSIs and Eurostat were progressing in implementing the parts of the CoP relating to the institutional environment and dissemination of statistics (principles 1–6 and 15). This resulted in reports for each NSI and Eurostat, available on the Eurostat website³. These reports also include a set of improvement actions covering all the principles of the CoP; these informed the annual monitoring of the implementation of the CoP in the ESS in the period 2009-2013.

The scope of this second round of peer reviews is broader: the assessment of CoP compliance covers all principles; the CoP compliance of selected other national producers of European statistics (as well as the NSI) in each country is being assessed; and the way in which statistical authorities coordinate the production and dissemination of European statistics within their statistical systems is being explored.

It should be underlined that there is a fundamental difference between the reports in the previous round of peer reviews conducted in 2006-2008 and the reports from this round. In the 2006-2008 round compliance with principles 1 to 6 and 15 of the CoP was assessed by means of a four-level scale (fully met; largely met; partly met and not met) and improvement actions were agreed on all 15 principles. After five years of continuous development most of the improvement actions have been implemented and significant progress towards full compliance with the CoP has been made. Therefore, rather than stating the state of play for all principles of the CoP, the reports from the 2013-2015 round mainly focus on issues where full compliance with the CoP has not been found or further improvements are recommended by the Peer Review team.

In order to gain an independent view, the peer review exercise has been externalised and an audit-like approach, where all the answers to the self-assessment questionnaires have to be supported by evidence, has been applied. As in 2006-2008, all EU Member States and EFTA/EEA countries and Eurostat are subject to a peer review.

Each peer review in the Member States and EFTA/EEA countries is conducted by three reviewers and has four phases: completion of self-assessment questionnaires by a country; their assessment by Peer Reviewers; a peer review visit; and the preparation of reports on the outcomes. The peer review of Eurostat has been conducted by the European Statistical Governance Advisory Board (ESGAB).

² The ESS is the partnership between the Union statistical authority, which is the Commission (Eurostat), and the national statistical institutes (NSIs) and other national authorities responsible in each Member State for the development, production and dissemination of European statistics. This Partnership also includes the EEA and EFTA countries.

³ <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/quality/first-round-of-peer-reviews>

To test and complete the methodology, it was piloted in two countries, Iceland and Slovakia, over the summer of 2013.

The Swedish Peer Review was conducted by Mr Gerry O'Hanlon (chair), Ms Katalin Szép and Mr Jan Byfuglien, with a Peer Review visit to Stockholm on 20-24 October 2014. The programme of the visit is in Annex A and the list of participants in Annex B.

This report focuses on compliance with the CoP and the coordination of European statistics within the Swedish statistical system. The report highlights some of the strengths of the Swedish NSI in these contexts and contains recommendations for improvement. However, in view of the relatively high level of decentralisation within the Swedish system, which is reinforced through deliberate Government decision and legislation, an emphasis is also placed on assessing the compliance of the overall system throughout the report. Improvement actions developed by the NSI on the basis of this report will be published within the four-week period starting when the final report is sent to the NSI.

3. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEM

Structure of National Statistical System (NSS)

Sweden, relative to other comparable countries, has a relatively decentralised statistical system consisting of the National Statistical Institute (NSI), Statistics Sweden, and 26 other Government Authorities that have been given explicit legal responsibility by Government for producing statistics in specified statistical areas. This structure goes back approximately 20 years to a deliberate policy decision by the then Government to place large areas of statistical production closer to key users so that they could have a greater influence on what is being produced. In terms of statistical products produced as official statistics, Statistics Sweden has currently direct responsibility for only one third of the total – although in term of appropriations allocated it accounts for almost 60% of the total budget. The Other National Authorities producing statistics (ONAs) are able to outsource, at their discretion, some or all of their statistical production, including to Statistics Sweden. When account is taken of this it is estimated that Statistics Sweden's share of the statistical products rises to two thirds and to over 75% of the budget for official statistics. European statistics are produced by Statistics Sweden and to varying degrees by 16 of the other statistical agencies. Details of the operation of the NSS are given in the annual report Official Statistics of Sweden⁴, which is produced by the Council for Official Statistics. Responsibility for the production of certain monetary and financial statistics, including the Balance of Payments, is held by the Swedish Central Bank, which is not part of the NSS. Accordingly, these statistics are not treated as official statistics even though much of their production has been outsourced by the Bank to Statistics Sweden.

Main legal acts

The legislation governing the production of official statistics in Sweden is, when viewed from the outside, a complex mixture of general administrative legislation and specific instruments relating directly to statistics. The main acts and ordinances are as follows:

- Instrument of Government Ordinance (1972:152) and Government Agencies Ordinance (2007:515), which establish the basis on which Government Agencies function and address issues such as the appointment and independence of the heads of agencies in relation to matters under their control. These instruments have a particular relevance in regard to having a legal basis for compliance with Principle 1 of the CoP relating to Professional Independence.
- Official Statistics Act (2001:99), Official Statistics Ordinance (2001:100) and Ordinance (2007:762) containing Directives for Statistics Sweden. These are the main instruments that address the detailed functioning of the NSS.
- Access to Public Information and Secrecy Act (2009:400) and Personal Data Act (1998:204), which provide a legal underpinning for Principle 5 on Statistical Confidentiality.

Co-ordination of the NSS

Official statistics and the agencies responsible for producing them are set out in Official Statistics Ordinance (2001:100). The agencies are fully independent in determining the scope and content of the statistics within their remit unless otherwise specified by the Government. A review of the operation of the NSS in 1998 recommended the development of a coordination function at

⁴ Official Statistics of Sweden - Annual Report 2013

Statistics Sweden. The Council for Official Statistics was subsequently set up at Statistics Sweden for this purpose and its legal status and mandate are laid out in Section 8 of Ordinance (2007:762). In short, the Council is an advisory body that has the task of supporting the statistical agencies *“in matters of principle on the accessibility, quality and usefulness of the official statistics, as well as regarding issues of facilitating data provision”*. As an advisory body, the Council cannot make decisions on issues relating to official statistics but Statistics Sweden has the possibility to adopt further regulations specifically relating to accessibility and quality, after consulting all the other statistical agencies. In practice this is a light form of coordination and in a recent comprehensive governmental inquiry into the entire statistical system⁵ it was recommended that the *“level of ambition”* should be raised in regard to coordination in order to safeguard the quality of statistics.

Statistics Sweden

Statistics Sweden is an independent authority, within the political remit of the Ministry of Finance, with the sole purpose of producing statistics of public interest. In accordance with general governance arrangements for public agencies, the Director General (DG) is responsible for the operations of the authority and is fully independent in that respect. The DG is appointed for an initial period of six years, which can be extended for a further three years at the discretion of the Government.

The vision for Statistics Sweden is to be *“a world class leader in refining data into statistical information adapted to customer needs”*. It is a relatively large agency with 1,367 staff – 533 employees work in the Stockholm office, a further 701 in Orebro and there are 133 field interviewers deployed across the country. The agency has 14 departments each of which has its own defined remit and the organisational structure supports and reflects the process-based working methods that are employed.

Statistics Sweden is responsible for a broad range of statistical areas – including labour market, national accounts, trade in goods and services, demography, living conditions, business activities and prices and consumption. Its income is split almost 50:50 between appropriations for the official statistics assigned to it directly by Government and income from fees received for work commissioned by Ministries and other agencies (including other statistical agencies) mainly in the public sector.

⁵ Vad är officiell statistik? (What is official statistics?) SOU 2012:83

4. COMPLIANCE WITH THE CODE OF PRACTICE AND THE COORDINATION ROLE WITHIN THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEM

This section summarises the Peer Reviewers' assessment of CoP compliance and the nature and effectiveness of coordination within the NSS. In line with the review mandate, the first section focuses on the strengths of the NSI while the second explores specific issues and makes specific recommendations that the Peer Review team considers would strengthen compliance throughout the system as a whole. However, as mentioned already, the Swedish system is relatively decentralised and thus some efforts are also made in the first section to assess the strengths of the ONAs in complying with the CoP.

4.1 STRENGTHS OF THE NATION STATISTICAL INSTITUTE IN RELATION TO ITS COMPLIANCE WITH THE CODE OF PRACTICE AND TO ITS COORDINATION ROLE

On the basis of the detailed documentation supplied, complemented by the information provided in discussions during the visit, the Peer Review team is satisfied that Statistics Sweden exhibits a high degree of compliance with all aspects of the Code of Practice. With the exception of a concern regarding the decision making role of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and Construction Index Boards (which is raised under issues below), no serious compliance problems were identified in respect of any of the Principles. On the basis of evidence presented to the team, mainly in respect of the three selected ONAs, it would also appear that there is a good understanding of the CoP and a satisfactory level of compliance with the CoP throughout the rest of the NSS. (CoP all principles)

While the legislative basis for statistics in Sweden is somewhat complex, in that it is a mixture of general administrative laws (such as the Instrument of Government (1974:152), which ensures *inter alia* that the heads of all Government Agencies are fully independent in the discharge of their duties), and specific statistical legislation (notably: the Official Statistics Act (2001:99), the Official Statistics Ordinance (2001:100) and Ordinance (2007:762) with the Directives for Statistics Sweden), it is clear that there is a strong legislative underpinning for the production of official statistics in Sweden. (CoP principles 1, 2, 5 and 6)

All statistical authorities are mandated to collect data for the purposes of compiling statistics within their assigned areas of competence. Statistics Sweden also tends to encourage enterprises to respond to mandatory surveys rather than resort to legal measures to ensure compliance. In common with other Nordic countries, Sweden has a long tradition of exploiting administrative data for statistical purposes. Indeed Section 4 of the Official Statistics Ordinance (2001:100), as recently amended, requires statistical agencies “...to the greatest extent possible use information from existing registers for the production of official statistics”. Furthermore Section 6 of the same Ordinance makes it mandatory on Government agencies to supply the data required for the production of official statistics to the statistical agencies. (CoP principle 2, 7 and 8)

There is a clear understanding of the absolute importance of the statistical confidentiality principle at all levels within Statistics Sweden and a wide range of measures are in place to ensure strict adherence to it in practice. The principle is legally underpinned by the relevant provisions of the Public Access to Information and Secrecy Act (2009:400) and the Personal Data Act (1998:204). From reviewing the information provided by the selected ONAs, the Peer Review team is well satisfied that there is also a high degree of compliance throughout the wider statistical system. (CoP principle 5)

The Peer Review team was struck by the substantial investment by Statistics Sweden in developing and using new methodologies and quality assurance procedures in respect of its statistical

processes and products. In the Peer Review team's view this puts it very much amongst the most advanced national statistical institutes internationally in this regard. The team considers that the following are good examples of fresh and innovative type approaches and thinking that have been adopted in Sweden. Many of the elements of what is involved are, of course, already well known in the international statistical sphere but what is innovative in the team's view is the way they have been brought together to provide a coherent and comprehensive overall approach towards achieving high quality throughout the organisation :

- Product Support System (PSS) and Maintenance Management Model (MMM) – these are integrated and complementary approaches, linked to the Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM), for managing and developing statistical processes and products in a systematic and quality assured manner.
- Adoption of the ISO 20252 standard (for Market, Opinion and Social Research) as a means of externally certifying adherence to best quality standards throughout the organisation.
- Development of the ASPIRE system (A System for Product Improvement, Review and Evaluation), in conjunction with international experts, to evaluate the quality in statistics (currently being used for the evaluation of ten of the most important products at Statistics Sweden).
- Existence of a Scientific Council that advises on matters relating to statistical methodology and quality. A notable feature is the involvement not only of Swedish academics but also of international experts as deemed necessary. (CoP principles 4 and 7 – 15)

Coordination

In view of the relatively decentralised nature of the Swedish NSS, coordination must be viewed as a high priority. Statistics Sweden's role in this regard is largely facilitated through the Council for Official Statistics, which is established in accordance with Section 8 of Ordinance (2007:762) with the Directives for Statistics Sweden. The Council is specifically required to "*promote cooperation between the statistical agencies and develop and administer a statistics network*". The Council is chaired by the DG of Statistics Sweden and six other DGs of ONAs serve on the Council on a rotating basis. The Council meets formally twice a year and its main work is currently undertaken through five working groups which have the following remits: methods and quality; data provision from respondents; preparations for the Council; statistical data disclosure control; and simultaneous publishing. Outputs from the Council include: an Annual Report, which provides a comprehensive overview of official statistics in Sweden; recommendations and guidelines; and the organisation of conferences and events on matters of relevance to the statistical system. The activities of the Council, in conjunction with Statistics Sweden, undoubtedly contribute to improving the coordination of the overall system. However, it is the firm opinion of the Peer Review team that a stronger form of coordination is necessary and this is dealt with in the next section.

4.2 ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

As mentioned above, the Peer Reviewers identified one issue of significant concern (namely: the decision making roles of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and Construction Index Boards) with regard to compliance with the CoP. In addition, the Peer Review team believes that the overall level of compliance throughout the NSS could be enhanced through addressing two issues of a general nature, namely the need to introduce:

- Improved governance arrangements and a strategic focus to the NSS; and
- A high quality customer focused service for users of official statistics.

These three issues are discussed with specific recommendations in the following paragraphs. The implementation of many of the recommendations may require legislative/institutional changes and thus they are implicitly addressed to the “appropriate relevant authorities” without specific designation. In these cases the Peer Review team assumes that Statistics Sweden would take the initial steps at national level in securing an appropriate response to the recommendations.

4.2.1 ROLE OF CONSUMER PRICE INDEX AND CONSTRUCTION INDEX BOARDS

Ordinance (2007:762) with the Directives for Statistics Sweden establishes in Sections 11 – 19 Boards for the CPI and the Construction Index. These boards are given the right to “*decide on matters of principle concerning the application of basis for index calculations*” (Sections 12 and 13). The legislation requires that the Boards include representatives of external bodies (e.g. the Swedish Central Bank and Ministry of Finance). This power to take decisions in relation to these indexes is considered by the Peer Review team to be contrary to Principle 1 Professional Independence. In particular, it is at variance with Indicator 1.4, which stipulates that the head of the National Statistical Institute shall “have sole responsibility for deciding on statistical methods, standards and procedures”. This issue was also mentioned in the Inquiry on Statistics 2012 (SOU 2012:83).

In order to remove this direct conflict with Principle 1 of the CoP, **the Peer Reviewers recommend that:**

1. **Ordinance (2007:762) with the Directives for Statistics Sweden should be amended so that the Boards for the Consumer Price Index and the Construction Index have only an advisory role. (European statistics Code of Practice, Principle 1)**

4.2.2 IMPROVED GOVERNANCE AND STRATEGIC FOCUS FOR THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEM (NSS)

Definition and application of the concept ‘official statistics’

The original version of the Official Statistics Act (2001:99) defined official statistics as follows:

“Official statistics shall be available for the purposes of public information, investigative activities and research. It shall be objective and publicly available”. (Section 3)

By the amendment in 2013 (2013:945) Section 3 was changed and extended with a new point 3a so that official statistics are now defined in law as follows:

Section 3: Official statistics shall be available for the purposes of public information, investigative activities and research.

Section 3a: Official statistics shall be objective and publicly available. Official statistics shall be developed, produced and disseminated on the basis of uniform standards and of harmonised methods. In this respect, the following quality criteria shall apply:

- 1) *Relevance: measuring the degree to which statistics meet current and potential needs of the users;*
- 2) *Accuracy: the closeness of estimates to the unknown true values;*
- 3) *Timeliness: the period between the availability of the information and the event or phenomenon it describes;*
- 4) *Punctuality: the delay between the date of the release of the data and the target date (the date by which the data should have been delivered);*

- 5) *Accessibility and clarity: the conditions and modalities by which users can obtain, use and interpret data;*
- 6) *Comparability: the measurement of the impact of differences in applied statistical concepts, measurement tools and procedures where statistics are compared between geographical areas, sectoral domains or over time;*
- 7) *Coherence: the adequacy of the data to be reliably combined in different ways and for various uses.*

The quality criteria set down in Section 3a are in fact identical to those set down for European statistics in Article 12 of Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 on European statistics⁶. Accordingly, it might be assumed that all European statistics can be classified as official statistics but in practice this is not always the case as the formal designation of the latter in some cases can be somewhat arbitrary and/or dependant on institutional arrangements. For ease of presentation, however, the focus of the following analysis is on official statistics on the basis that any recommendations/improvements can be seamlessly, if not automatically, applied also to European statistics.

While the new definition of official statistics gives greater clarity by setting down the criteria to be taken into consideration, the formulation only defines the criteria to be taken into account – it does not set any objective targets or requirements. Furthermore, there are no mechanisms for systematic review or certification.

Section 4 of the Official Statistics Act goes on to say that when official statistics are made available they shall be marked as Official Statistics of Sweden or with the symbol shown in the Appendix to the Act. At first glance, therefore, it would appear that the intention of the Act was to give a type of “quality stamp” to official statistics, which would differentiate them in the eyes of users from other statistics produced by the statistical authorities or other public agencies. However, the Peer Review team has found that this is not the case in practice and that there are a number of anomalies and shortcomings.

In accordance with Ordinance (2001: 100) – defining authorities and statistical areas - it is up to the different authorities individually to independently define which products they consider to be official statistics and thus eligible to use the specific stamp. There is no process in place to control and verify the application of the stamp. Given the heterogeneity of the authorities one might, therefore, expect inconsistent results. In the discussions with Statistics Sweden and with users and other producers it became clear that the concept of official statistics is often considered to be somewhat arbitrary and thus the designation is more producer-oriented than user-oriented.

It also emerged that important statistical outputs such as the Balance of Payments, which are produced and published by Statistics Sweden on commission from the Swedish Central Bank, are not classified as official statistics because the Bank (which has formal responsibility for these statistics) is not a statistical authority under the law.

The present legislation is also unclear about the difference between official statistics and what is called national or governmental statistics (both used for the Swedish ‘statlig’ in existing English translations). The Official Statistics Act and the Official Statistics Ordinance do not discuss this issue at all, whereas in Ordinance (2007:762) with the Directives for Statistics Sweden the role of Statistics Sweden is mentioned in relation both to official statistics and other national statistics, and in Section 2 the task is only mentioned in relation to ‘government statistics’.

⁶ OJ L 87, 31.3.2009, p. 169.

This lack of clarity related to this central concept affects the scope and the borderlines of official statistics and thus also several principles of the CoP. Actually, the current legislation could be seen as giving some potential for political influence on the definition and the implementation of this concept as it is the Government that defines authorities and statistical areas to be covered (and thus also not to be covered) by official statistics.

To further enhance compliance with the CoP, **the Peer Reviewers recommend that:**

- 2. The definition and the formal mechanisms for the practical implementation of the concept ‘official statistics’ should be reviewed and clarified, particularly in relation to the other concepts of European and national/governmental statistics. (European statistics Code of Practice, Principles 1, 2, 4, 7, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15)**
- 3. Standard mechanisms and procedures should be put in place to review the quality of official statistics and thus certify whether the different products comply with the label “Official Statistics of Sweden”. (European statistics Code of Practice, Principles 4, 6, 7, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15.)**

Planning and coordination of the system as a whole

The present statistical legislation in the opinion of the Peer Review team provides a limited basis for planning, developing or coordinating the system of official statistics of Sweden in an effective manner. The Official Statistics Act (2001:99) says nothing about planning, follow up and coordination. In particular, Statistics Sweden is not mentioned as an agency responsible for coordination of official statistics. Furthermore, the Council for Official Statistics is not mentioned in the basic Official Statistics Act.

The Official Statistics Ordinance (2001:100) also does not say anything about planning, follow up and coordination of official statistics. On the contrary, it reinforces the independence of action of the individual official statistical agencies in Section 2 as follows:

“The statistical agencies shall determine the content and scope of statistics within the statistics area(s) for which they are responsible, unless otherwise specified by the government”

The 27 official statistical agencies as well as their assigned areas of statistical responsibility are formally listed in the annex to this Ordinance.

Section 16 gives Statistics Sweden a mandate to issue instructions on the implementation of the provisions to provide information as well as on quality and these instructions have been issued and published⁷.

This list of statistical products represents to some extent basic elements of a plan for the Swedish NSS, but there is no process for establishing, and especially updating this list, in the same legislation. Furthermore it is not clear whether or how any updating is done in practice.

In Ordinance (2007:762) with the Directives for Statistics Sweden it is said in Section 1 that Statistics Sweden shall be the central administrative agency for official statistics and other national statistics.

⁷ Statistics Sweden’s regulations and general guidelines for the release, publishing, etc. of official statistics (SCB-FS 2002:16)

In Section 2⁸ it is further said that Statistics Sweden shall:

- 1) *Develop, produce and spread government statistics,*
- 2) *Coordinate the delivery of statistical information to international organisations, and*
- 3) *Coordinate the government statistical system.*

The Section 2 formulation can be seen as somewhat vague and ambiguous; develop government statistics could mean that Statistics Sweden should play an active role in planning and developing the whole statistical system of Sweden. However, there are no further formal mechanisms provided for Statistics Sweden to play a more active role in this respect. Moreover, during the Peer Review it was confirmed that Statistics Sweden did not consider it a task of the organisation to take responsibility for a national plan for official statistics and to play a more active role in coordination.

Ordinance (2007:762) establishes in Section 8 a Council for Official Statistics at Statistics Sweden. Section 8 sets out the functions and composition of the Council as follows:

The Council has the task of supporting the agencies responsible for statistics in matters of principle on the accessibility, quality and usefulness of the official statistics, as well as regarding issues of facilitating data provision.

The Council shall prepare an annual report on the official statistics, compile an annual publishing plan and maintain a register of the statistical agencies and their products. The Council shall also promote cooperation between the statistical agencies, and develop and administer a statistics network.

The Council has the Director General of Statistics Sweden as chair, and with up to six other Director Generals for agencies named as producers of official statistics. The Council meets twice a year.

This Council is thus a council of producers, with rather limited representation of the many authorities that are involved in the production of official statistics. It was proposed in the inquiry on the statistical system in 2012 (SOU 2012:83) that the membership of this body should be extended in order to meet some critical opinions regarding the usefulness of the body.

Even if this Council, and especially the working groups established by it to address specific issues, contribute to the spread of good practice and some coordination, it is the view of the Peer Reviewers that it falls well short of providing an adequate basis for providing effective coordination, planning, development and follow up of the Swedish NSS as a whole. This issue was also raised by the aforementioned statistics inquiry where it was recommended that the “*level of ambition*” should be raised in regard to coordination in order to safeguard the quality of statistics.

Thus neither Statistics Sweden nor any other body has any formal basis for the review and the control of quality and performance of the system as a whole. On the other hand the task to produce what is called ‘official statistics’ is distributed to 27 authorities. Twelve of these authorities allocate one or less man years each to the production of official statistics. Only 7 authorities, including Statistics Sweden, use 10 man years or more on official statistics each year. Statistics Sweden has formal or legal responsibility for only 33 per cent of the statistical products defined and accounts for 60 per cent of the resources allocated for official statistics. Statistics

⁸ As discussed earlier, the Peer Review team notes that the terms “official statistics”, “other national statistics” and “government statistics” are all used in these two Sections. It is not clear the extent to which this is deliberate or reflects simply the limitations of the English translation (in the original Swedish version the term ‘statlig’ is used for both national and government). This issue was referred to above in regard to having greater clarity around the concept of official statistics.

Sweden is of course responsible for some major products such as labour force survey, living conditions survey, CPI and national accounts.

Three authorities filled out self-assessments, and were reviewed by the Peer Review team. Some of those reviewed indicated a high level of cooperation with Statistics Sweden, including outsourcing large parts of their statistical production to the latter. However, the Peer Reviewers also detected some reluctance on the part of at least one ONA to allow Statistics Sweden to have too much influence on how it performed its statistical work. Maintaining separate dissemination channels was seen by all as a priority.

To further enhance compliance with the CoP, **the Peer Reviewers recommend that:**

- 4. The structure and legal basis of the current national statistical system, with many legally mandated and independent small statistical authorities with limited statistical resources, should be reviewed in order to promote greater planning and coordination. (European statistics Code of Practice, Principles 1, 5, 10, 14, 15)**
- 5. Authorities and mechanisms to develop national coordinated plans and strategies for official statistics, including evaluation and follow up, should be put in place. (European statistics Code of Practice, Principles 10, 11, 14, 15)**

Cost-efficiency of the statistical system

The Peer Review team was informed that major investments had been made within Statistics Sweden in the development of tools for data collection, data editing, quality management and dissemination. These highly efficient and cost-effective tools and procedures are not automatically available for sharing by the ONAs and thus there would appear to be a low take up in their use elsewhere in the system. Indeed the Peer Review team was given the distinct impression that some authorities, almost as a matter of principle linked to their independence, are reluctant to use the competences and tools available from Statistics Sweden and prefer to use private sub-contractors or undertake separate in-house development. Moreover, when Statistics Sweden bids for outsourced statistical work from the ONAs they must, in compliance with public procurement rules, include an element of the development costs of existing tools in their price quotation.

One specific issue discussed, that seemed unclear for some ONAs, was whether Statistics Sweden would have to be paid for supplying some of its existing generally available tools for dissemination. For example, it was confirmed that the producers could get PC-Axis solutions for dissemination free-of-charge from Statistics Sweden, but still only two other producers had used this possibility so far.

Thus there is little common development and several barriers in relation to sharing statistical tools and methodologies, both perceived and real. This situation leads to duplication of development work, and less efficient usage of available methods and tools, in addition to increasing risks and the potential for less efficient quality work and dissemination.

To further enhance compliance with the CoP, **the Peer Reviewers recommend that:**

- 6. Formal and practical mechanisms should be put in place in order to ensure more efficient usage of existing tools and methodologies developed and available within Statistics Sweden or within other authorities. (European statistics Code of Practice, Principles 7, 8, 10, 15)**

The use of best practice quality procedures

Statistics Sweden has a well-developed Process Support System with the objective to include all of the common methods, tools and approaches that have been agreed upon. Within Statistics Sweden it is the main source of information about the common processes and available standards according to the business process model covering all phases of statistical activity, including dissemination. In the opinion of the Peer Review team, the existence of many authorities with limited competences and capacities in the production of statistics brings with it the risk of an uneven approach and ability to adopt, and adhere to, best practice quality procedures throughout the NSS. There are also major risks that the perceptions and practices in relation to independence and confidentiality differ, and might be below acceptable standards. Some indication of the variation in standards can be gleaned from the answers given by the statistical authorities to questions on quality as outlined in Annex 11 of the Official Statistics of Sweden – Annual Report 2103. In order to mitigate the risks of wide and unnecessary diversity, consideration should be given to the development of such an information basis for the whole NSS or at least make publicly available the existing Process Support System and consider its adaptation for use throughout the system.

The Official Statistics Act (2001:99) defines quality criteria in line with the EU standard and the Official Statistics Ordinance (2001:100) prescribes the preparation and public availability of documentation and a quality declaration for all official statistics. While quality is one of the main strengths of Statistics Sweden the practice in the ONAs would appear to be varied as evident from a review of the situation in the selected agencies. The Council of Official Statistics issued the guidelines on Sufficient Quality in 2006. However, as a follow-up only a short general report (not structured) is included in the Council's Annual report. There is no system of external monitoring on implementation and, critically, no institution or body has a mandate to do so. Accordingly, there is no information or tool available for a general assessment of compliance with CoP Principle 4 throughout the NSS. As a consequence this information source is lacking when planning the future of the Official statistical system. In order to meet the criteria of the CoP, this year the Council adopted a national version of the European Quality Assurance Framework as a new guideline. However, there is not any special obligation on its implementation and there is not a clear picture on the actual practice.

To further enhance compliance with the CoP, the Peer Reviewers recommend that:

- 7. An in-depth review of the whole system should be undertaken in order to assess the use of best practice quality procedures. (European statistics Code of Practice, Principles 4, 7, 8)⁹**
- 8. A methodological framework, based on the Statistics Sweden model, should be developed for application throughout the national statistical system. (European statistics Code of Practice, Principles 7, 8)**
- 9. An institutional framework and tools should be developed to universally plan and monitor the quality of the statistical production process, and to ensure that product quality is regularly monitored, assessed, and documented. (European statistics Code of Practice, Principles 4, 7, 8)**

⁹ The Peer Review team was informed that the Swedish National Audit Office is currently undertaking a review with the aim to investigate whether the system for official national statistics is designed in such a way that it achieves its goals in an appropriate and effective way. The review will focus on the statistical system and the individual statistical authorities' ability to work with quality. This review is much in line with Recommendation 7.

Transfer of skills and technologies

On the basis of the review of the three ONAs and Statistics Sweden, the Peer Reviewers concluded that there is very little, if any, formal and systematic skills transfer or technology sharing between the statistical authorities.

This links to the issues above related to efficiency and quality. While the Peer Review team is aware that informal mobility occurs between the authorities, it is nevertheless concerned that there may be a potential threat to the sustainability of the competences of some of the smaller ONAs in the absence of more formal arrangements. Furthermore, the maintenance and support of mission critical processes could be facilitated in a more effective manner through the greater use of standard systems.

It was noted that there had been increasing efforts to establish working groups and seminars in order to improve common training and sharing of knowledge. However, this appears not to be very systematic, and it might be that not all authorities are equally involved and can benefit from this activity.

To further enhance compliance with the CoP, **the Peer Reviewers recommend that:**

- 10. Procedures and mechanisms should be enhanced to enable the transfer of skills and methods between the Swedish statistical authorities, for instance by increased possibilities for staff rotation and common training courses. (European statistics Code of Practice, Principles 7, 8, 10)**

Coordination of data collection

It was reported during the discussion with respondents that there are cases of duplication in data collection with consequential additional burden on respondents. It is also assumed that administrative registers might be underutilised for statistical purposes as some statistical agencies might not be fully informed about available registers nor in a position to influence their contents (only Statistics Sweden has this right under current legislation). Furthermore, it is unclear to what extent data is shared between the different authorities for statistical purposes. Finally, it is clear that not all authorities are on the same level (because of size and availability of technical knowledge and resources) when it comes to using more cost-effective data collection approaches such as electronic questionnaires and web forms.

To further enhance compliance with the CoP, **the Peer Reviewers recommend that:**

- 11. The statistical legislation should be amended in order to facilitate the greater use of administrative registers for statistical purposes including: clarifying the right of all statistical authorities to be informed about the development of the registers, and their ability to influence the content of the registers. (European statistics Code of Practice, Principles 9, 10)**
- 12. Greater efforts should be made to ensure that all statistical authorities are in a position to use more cost-effective data collection methods such as electronic questionnaires and web forms. (European statistics Code of Practice, Principles 7, 8, 9, 10, 15)**

4.2.3 A HIGH QUALITY CUSTOMER FOCUSED SERVICE FOR USERS OF OFFICIAL STATISTICS

Processes to consult users

Neither the Official Statistics Act (2001:99) nor the Official Statistics Ordinance (2001:100) address the issue of user consultation or provide mechanisms in this respect. However with the latest amendment in 2013, some quality criteria are included that give a stronger focus on, for instance, relevance, accessibility and clarity – and thus also a clearer demand for systematic user consultation.

Even without formal requirements, Statistics Sweden has extensive consultations with a broad range of users through user councils. At present it has nine user councils who regularly meet several times a year to discuss the agency's work plan, strategies, negative priorities, long term priorities, modifications in statistics and proposals for new statistics. The primary task of the user councils, however, is to share their knowledge with Statistics Sweden as to new and changing needs for statistics. The current list of councils or user groups is the following:

- User council for Labour Market Statistics
- User council for Population, Demography and Education
- User council for Democracy Statistics
- User council for Economic Statistics
- User council for R&D Statistics
- User council for Regional Statistics
- User council for Land use and Real estate statistics
- User council for Environment and Environmental-economic Accounts
- User council for Welfare Statistics

The setting up of the above user councils within Statistics Sweden is decided by the DG on the initiative of the respective head of department. The discussions are documented and the user groups deliver an annual report.

In addition, the already mentioned Boards for the CPI and Construction Index can be considered as a form of user group albeit with some formal decision making powers. There are also less formal boards for national accounts and the labour force survey (LFS) with the aim to handle methodologies and principles related to these areas.

Statistics Sweden also hosts several informal reference groups with a network of users who offer their viewpoints on the relevance of statistics.

According to the views - expressed during the Peer Review visit - of some external users, who were involved in some user councils and groups, they considered these user groups useful but follow-up of the issues discussed was not always clear and transparent.

The ONAs involved in the peer review have a number of their own user councils related to their specific topics. The team got no full overview of all existing user councils, but within the three reviewed it was confirmed that there at least existed the following groups:

- Annual small user group on agricultural statistics as well as larger forum meeting every third year.
- User council for goods transport and user council for road accidents.
- User councils for energy statistics and electricity statistics.

In addition to the user groups and councils a range of other measures are taken to monitor users' needs. Statistics Sweden's Letter of Instruction from the Ministry of Finance requires it to consult with important users before significant changes are made to its statistics. Statistics Sweden also carries out annual analyses of downloads from the database and requests for information. Finally, Statistics Sweden undertakes some user surveys related to its products among some customers but there is no system to get feedback on user satisfaction in general by contacting a wide range of users, including the general public.

Altogether there are many user councils and groups and activities in order to consult users of statistics both at Statistics Sweden and at other authorities producing statistics. However, what is somewhat missing are mechanisms to assess the balance between the different statistical areas and to support the development of the statistical system as a whole. This missing tool was also confirmed from the consultations with representatives from the users. There might also be some redundancy and inefficiency in the present set-up as there is little or no coordination between the user councils within Statistics Sweden and ONAs.

To further enhance compliance with the CoP, **the Peer Reviewers recommend that:**

- 13. Statistics Sweden should ensure that there is greater transparency around, and follow-up of, the work of its various user councils and groups. (European statistics Code of Practice, Principles 4,11)**
- 14. User consultations for the whole Swedish statistical system should be reviewed to ensure greater coordination between statistical areas and to support the balancing and the development of the statistical system as a whole. (European statistics Code of Practice, Principles 4, 11)**
- 15. Wide ranging user satisfaction surveys should be conducted on a regular basis covering all official statistics. (European statistics Code of Practice, Principles 4, 11)**

User-oriented dissemination

Statistics Sweden's dissemination services use modern information and communication technology, the website and statistical databases facilitate self-tabulation in different formats (e.g. xlsx, PC-Axis, HTML and others) and provide descriptions and metadata of the products in a standardised form. The PSS facilitates the application of standard methods for dissemination.

Statistics Sweden has a comprehensive statistical database, in principle covering most areas, which contains over 3,000 tables and over 40% of these are available in English.

The Statistics Sweden website provides a complete list of all official statistical products and provides links to access the data. However, in many cases this is simply a link to the home page of the website of the agency responsible for the statistical product. Accordingly, it is difficult for general users to find and access and manipulate information related to several areas. The Statistical Yearbook used to give a good and complete overview of Swedish statistics, but as this is being discontinued such a readily accessible overview may be more difficult to obtain in the future. The Peer Review team was informed that Statistics Sweden has plans to introduce a new product, "Sweden in Figures", which will contain both digital and analogue presentations. It will be important that this new product will succeed in its objective of targeting the general population, particularly those not very familiar with statistics and their use.

Many ONAs do not currently offer a statistical database approach (despite such tools being readily available at Statistics Sweden for many years), and indeed some are investing, or intend to invest, in developing their own solutions. The Peer Review team took the opportunity to review the practice in a number of ONAs, with the following findings:

- The Agriculture Board has a database similar to Statistics Sweden: it uses Pc-Axis but the design of tables is different – even for the same topic. Only available in Swedish.
- The National Board of Health and Welfare has several multidimensional tables, probably also built on PC-Axis. Some of the tables are available in English.
- The National Council of Crime Prevention only has a series of excel tables without a database. Only available in Swedish.
- The National Agency for Education has a series of simple excel files and three types of databases, more detailed and probably more management oriented (but not too user-friendly). Only available in Swedish.

Thus, in the opinion of the Peer Reviewers, there is a major challenge for the NSS to develop a consolidated and comprehensive common portal with full functionality including some common solutions for a standard statistical database. One solution might be that it would be a task of Statistics Sweden to maintain all areas in its present database. This latter solution would also help to improve the service to users seeking cartographical or other sophisticated presentations of statistics as few, if any, of the ONAs offer such possibilities.

To further enhance compliance with the CoP, **the Peer Reviewers recommend that:**

16. A more user-oriented solution (for example, through a common portal with full functionality) for handling and disseminating all official statistics should be established, including common rules for the production of tables and graphs and the greater use of English. (European statistics Code of Practice, Principles 10, 11, 15).

17. Statistics Sweden should ensure that its replacement for the Annual Statistical Yearbook will serve as a consolidated source of key statistical data on all aspects of Sweden and its people. (European statistics Code of Practice, Principles 11, 15)

Access to micro-data

Several ONAs provide access to micro data for researchers, but the rules, procedures and protocols are different. Statistics Sweden facilitates access via its Microdata On-line Access system (MONA) (even to combined datasets) and with this controls the software researchers can use and their access to the data. Others provide micro-data on a CD/DVD, which are issued to users subject to agreed conditions. Not surprisingly, some of the users interviewed by the Peer review team expressed their preference for the latter more traditional approach on the grounds of being able to use their own software tools and being able to share access with students/collaborators. Concerns were also expressed about a lack of transparency and consistency in the pricing policy for facilitating access to micro data.

The Peer Review is impressed by the MONA system and is satisfied that it provides an excellent service to researchers that takes account of confidentiality and other legal requirements. However, it believes that there is a need for a greater engagement with researchers to address their concerns in regard to access and pricing.

To further enhance compliance with the CoP, **the Peer Reviewers recommend that:**

18. Procedures should be put in place to provide an opportunity for greater engagement with researchers to address their concerns in regard to access to micro-data and pricing. (European statistics Code of Practice, Principle 15)

4.3 NATIONAL STATISTICAL INSTITUTE VIEWS WHERE THEY DIVERGE FROM PEER REVIEWERS' ASSESSMENT

Statistics Sweden commends the comprehensive review carried out by the Peer Review team and their overall conclusion that Statistics Sweden exhibits a high degree of compliance, and the Other National Authorities assessed as part of the review a good degree compliance, to the principles in the Code of Practice. Statistics Sweden appreciates the conclusion that there is a high level of credibility of the statistics produced in Sweden and believe that the statistics are considered both nationally and internationally to be of high quality. The statistical system in Sweden, decentralised as it is, is able to meet both existing and emerging needs for European statistics in a timely and quality-driven manner.

The system of official statistics in Sweden has developed over several decades and is a stable system where there is good knowledge about and cooperation among the statistical producers. The structure and legal basis of the system, referred to in recommendation 4, has been reviewed by a recent government enquiry and found to be satisfactory. Indeed the inquiry concluded that “the official statistics system works well today” and found “no fundamental system errors that would require an overhaul of the system”. While there are weaknesses in the system which are being discussed at a national level, Statistics Sweden is of the same opinion as the recent government inquiry, that the system of official statistics in Sweden continuously produces relevant, high-quality statistics that meet the primary needs of the users. A further review by the National Audit Office on the coordination of the system is currently ongoing.

The Swedish statistical system is based on the Swedish administrative system of independent governmental authorities with expert and in-depth knowledge of their respective areas of competence. The fundamental basis of the system is the strong autonomy of these authorities, both from government and from each other, and the belief that the authorities themselves are best able to decide upon and carry out their activities. Statistics Sweden believes that the recommendations referring to the imposition of statistical methods and frameworks on the statistical authorities are contrary to this fundamental principle of Swedish administrative law. In adherence to fundamental law, authorities must be able to decide themselves which methods and tools best suit their statistical production in the context of their own organisational set-up.

In Sweden there has been a long tradition of utilising administrative data and registers for the production of statistics. Statistics Sweden believes that the current use of registers is both integral and effective, perhaps with the exception of the last point in recommendation 11, related to the ability to influence the content of the registers.

Statistics Sweden has no diverging views related to the other conclusions or recommendations of the Peer Review team.

ANNEX A: PROGRAMME OF THE VISIT

AGENDA

Time		Programme	Organisation	Participants
Day 1 – Monday 20 October 2014				
09.00 – 10.30	1	PR team discussion to finalise the preparation of the visit.	PR Team	
10.30 – 10.45		Coffee break		
10.45 – 12.00	2	Preparatory meeting with the NSI coordinator team and, possibly, other national participants in the visit to discuss practical aspects of the visit.	Ms Anna Heinstedt, Mr Magnus Häll, Ms Cathy Krüger, Ms Helena Käll, Ms Heather Bergdahl, Mr Mats Bergdahl	
12.30 – 13.15		Lunch		
13.15 – 14.15	4	Welcome and introduction of programme, organisational matters. General information session with a description on how the national statistical system is organised (bodies, distribution of responsibilities, relations between authorities).	Mr Stefan Lundgren, Ms Anna Heinstedt Observers: Mr Magnus Häll, Ms Cathy Krüger	
14.15 – 15.30	5	The statistical law and related legislation (CoP principles 1, 2, 5 and 6)	Ms Anna Heinstedt, Ms Eva Nilsson, Ms Cecilia Hertzman, Ms Inger Eklund Observer: Ms Cathy Krüger	
15.30 – 15.45		Coffee break		
15.45 – 17.00	6	Programming, planning and resources, including training (CoP principles 3, 9 and 10)	Ms Anna Heinstedt, Ms Eva Bolin, Ms Inger Eklund, Ms Cecilia Hertzman, Mr Magnus Häll Observers: Ms Cathy Krüger, Ms Helena Käll,	
Day 2 – Tuesday 21 October 2014				
08.30 – 10.00	7	Meeting with main users – Media	Mr Olle Lindström, Ms Eva Jacobsson, Mr Nizar Chakkour, Observers: Ms Anna Heinstedt, Ms Cathy Krüger	
10.00 – 11.30	8	Meeting with main users – Ministries and other public/private institutions (including Central Bank as a user)	Mr Jyry Hokkanen, Mr Jesper Hansson, Mr Thomas Bergman, Mr Thomas Pettersson Observers: Ms Anna Heinstedt, Ms Cathy Krüger	
11.30 – 12.30		Lunch		
12.30 – 14.00	9	Meeting with main users – Scientific community	Mr Erik Mellander, Mr Bertil Holmlund, Mr Thomas Laitila, Mr Eskil Wadensjö Observers: Ms Anna Heinstedt, Ms Cathy Krüger, Ms Eva Nilsson	
14.00 – 15.30	10	Meeting with main data providers/respondents	Mr Tomas Lööv, Mr Derk de Beer Observers: Ms Anna Heinstedt, Mr Magnus Häll, Ms Heidi Törmälä	
15.30 – 15.45		Coffee break		
15.45 – 17.00	11	Meeting with Junior staff	Mr Peter Beijron, Mr Olof Dunsö, Ms Johanna Jonsson, Ms Karin Lindgren No SCB observers	
Day 3 – Wednesday 22 October 2014				
09.30 – 10.30	12	Meeting with the Swedish Energy Agency	Ms Karin Sahlin, Mr Niklas Notstrand, Mr Jonas Paulsson, Observers:	

Time		Programme	Organisation	Participants
				Ms Anna Heinstedt, Ms Cathy Krüger
10.30 – 10.45		Coffee break		
10.45 – 12.00	13	Quality (organisational structure, tools, monitoring, ...) (CoP principles 4 and 11 to 15)		Ms Lilli Japac, Ms Eva Bolin, Ms Heather Bergdahl, Observers: Ms Anna Heinstedt, Ms Cathy Krüger, Ms Helena Käll, Mr Mats Bergdahl
12.00 – 13.00	14	Presentation of ISO 20252 and ASPIRE		Ms Lilli Japac, Ms Heather Bergdahl, Observers: Ms Anna Heinstedt, Ms Cathy Krüger
13.00 – 14.00		Lunch		
14.00 – 15.30	15	Methodology, data collection, data processing and administrative data (CoP principles 2, 7 and 8)		Ms Lilli Japac, Ms Eva Bolin, Ms Cecilia Hertzman, Mr Jan Hörngren Observers: Ms Anna Heinstedt, Ms Cathy Krüger, Ms Heather Bergdahl, Mr Mats Bergdahl
15.30 – 15.45		Coffee break		
15.45 – 17.00	16	Dissemination, including user's consultation (CoP principles 6, 11 and 15)		Ms Inger Eklund, Ms Christina Cronsioe, Ms Eva Nilsson Observers: Ms Anna Heinstedt, Ms Cathy Krüger, Ms Heather Bergdahl
Day 4– Thursday 23 October 2014				
09.00 – 10.30	17	Cooperation / level of integration of the ESS		Ms Anna Heinstedt, Mr Magnus Häll, Ms Inger Eklund, Ms Sara Frankl, Mr Jens Olin Observers: Ms Cathy Krüger, Ms Johanna Ekberg
10.30 – 10.45		Coffee break		
10.45 – 12.30	18	Meeting with Transport Analysis		Mr Per-Åke Vikman, Mr Jan Östlund Observers: Ms Anna Heinstedt, Ms Cathy Krüger
12.30 – 13.30		Lunch		
13.30 – 15.00	19	Meeting with the Swedish Board of Agriculture		Ms Ann-Marie Karlsson, Mr Ulf Svensson Observers: Ms Anna Heinstedt, Ms Cathy Krüger
15.00 – 15.15		Coffee break		
15.15 – 17.00	20	Coordination, including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Role of NSI • Council for Official Statistics • Definition and certification of official statistics 		Ms Anna Heinstedt, Mr Magnus Häll, Ms Cathy Krüger, Ms Ann-Marie Karlsson, Ms Annika Pontén, Mr Mikael Schöllin
Day 5– Friday 24 October 2014				
09.00 – 11.30	21	PR team discussion		PR Team
11.30 – 11.45		Coffee break		
11.45 – 13.00	22	Clarifications, remaining or additional issues and focus areas		Mr Stefan Lundgren, Ms Anna Heinstedt, Mr Magnus Häll, Ms Cathy Krüger, Ms Helena Käll, Ms Heather Bergdahl, Mr Mats Bergdahl

ANNEX B. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Peer Review visit to Sweden 20-24 October 2014

	Peer reviewers
1	Mr Gerry O'Hanlon (Chair)
2	Mr Jan Byfuglien
3	Ms Katalin Szep
	Eurostat observer
4	Mr Antonio Baigorri , Head of Task Force Peer Reviews
	Participants from Statistics Sweden
5	Mr Stefan Lundgren, Director General
6	Ms Anna Heinstedt, Deputy Director General
7	Ms Eva Nilsson, Chief Legal Adviser, DG Office
8	Ms Cecilia Hertzman, Director, Department for data collection from enterprises and organisations
9	Ms Inger Eklund, Director, Department for population and welfare statistics
10	Ms Eva Bolin, Director, Process Department
11	Ms Lilli Japiec, Director, Research and Development Department
	Peer review coordinator team Statistics Sweden
12	Ms Cathy Krüger, Senior Adviser, National and International Coordination (<i>national coordinator</i>)
13	Mr Magnus Häll, Deputy Director, DG Office
14	Ms Helena Käll, Senior Adviser, DG Office
15	Mr Mats Bergdahl, Deputy Director, Process Department
16	Ms Heather Bergdahl, Senior Adviser, Research and Development Department
	Other participants of Statistics Sweden
17	Ms Christina Cronsioe, Communications Department
18	Mr Nizar Chakkour, Communications Department
19	Ms Sara Frankl, International Coordination, DG Office
20	Ms Johanna Ekberg, International Coordination, DG Office
21	Ms Heidi Törmälä, Department for data collection from enterprises and organisations
22	Mr Jan Hörngren, Department for data collection from individuals and households

23	Mr Peter Beijron, Department for population and welfare statistics
24	Mr Olof Dunsö, Department for regional and environmental statistics
25	Ms Johanna Jonsson, Department for data collection from enterprises and organisations
26	Ms Karin Lindgren, Process Department
27	Mr Jens Olin, Department for Economic Statistics
28	Mr Mikael Schöllin, Department for Population and Welfare Statistics
	Participants from other organisations
	Main users, data providers/respondents
29	Mr Jyry Hokkanen, National Central Bank
30	Mr Jesper Hansson, National Institute of Economic Research
31	Mr Thomas Bergman, Ministry of Finance
32	Mr Thomas Pettersson, Ministry of Social Affairs
33	Mr Erik Mellander, Institute for Evaluation of Labour Market Policy
34	Mr Bertil Holmlund, Department of Economics, Uppsala University
35	Mr Thomas Laitila, University of Örebro
36	Mr Eskil Wadensjö, Swedish Institute for Social Research, Stockholm University
37	Mr Tomas Lööv, Board Swedish Industry and Commerce
38	Mr Derk de Beer, Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions
39	Mr Olle Lindström, Tidningarnas Telegrambyrå (news agency)
40	Ms Eva Jacobsson, Hem & Hyra (magazine focused on housing sector)
	Participants from ONAs
41	Ms Karin Sahlin, Analysis Department, Swedish Energy Agency
42	Mr Niklas Notstrand, Analysis Department, Swedish Energy Agency
43	Mr Jonas Paulsson, Analysis Department, Swedish Energy Agency
44	Mr Per-Åke Vikman, Head of Department for Evaluation and Statistics, Transport Analysis
45	Mr Jan Östlund, Department for Evaluation and Statistics, Transport Analysis
46	Ms Ann-Marie Karlsson, Statistics Department, Swedish Board of Agriculture
47	Mr Ulf Svensson, Statistics Department, Swedish Board of Agriculture
48	Ms Annika Pontén, Department of Higher Education Analysis, Swedish Higher Education Authority