

## Progress report on the implementation of the Code of Practice - Status 31.12.2016

### Summary on actions in 2015 to 2016:

Statistics Austria held discussions at a workshop in October 2016 about how to enhance the dialogue with the scientific community so that potential users can bring in their demands and possible activities in a direct way. Statistics Austria will enhance the activities in this regard. Discussions showed that a research committee would not necessarily facilitate this process. The internal strategy 2020 of Statistics Austria includes a number of measures to enhance internal and external mobility of staff. The action is considered as completed.

Statistics Austria has closed the action concerning publishing a pricing policy on its web page as its pricing policy is based on hourly rates of compensation for the work carried out throughout a project.

Statistics Austria put in place agreements with ONAs on issues such as the production of quality reports, as well as statements about deviations from the ES CoP. Agreements with two ministries are missing. Due to changes in responsibilities and dependency issues, the matter of agreements with ministries has to be reconsidered and further progress therefore depends on authorities outside the NSI.

In December 2015 Statistics Austria wrote to the Federal Minister responsible concerning the recommendations to amend the statistical law regarding access to and use of administrative data, internal governance and coordination of the national statistical system including its funding. They are still awaiting a reply.

Statistics Austria plans to implement a section on its webpages linking to European Statistics produced by ONAs. However, it has turned out as useful to embed this action in a general redesign of the web environment and work has been delayed. Work has also been delayed on the action concerning the free-of-charge distribution of the articles in the periodic journal "Statistische Nachrichten". It was thought that this pricing policy needed to be considered in a wider context including a complete redesign of "Statistische Nachrichten".

The following table provides the status on every improvement actions at the end of 2016:

Cop		IMPROVEMENT ACTION		TIMELINE		STATUS and COMMENTS	
Level	Number	Description	Explanation	Date (N.A.: Not applicable; TBC: To be confirmed)	Status on 31/12/2016 (Please select status from drop-down list)	Comments/Outputs	
1.1.1	1-4	<b>Improvement action 1-4 - Informing relevant authorities about recommendations of amending the statistical law.</b> Statistics Austria will send a letter to the relevant authorities, indicating that the final peer review report on Statistics Austria recommends an amendment of the statistical law and reconsiderations regarding internal governance and coordination of the national statistical system. In the letter Statistics Austria will point out the important role of the principles of the Code of Practice and will propose to launch a dialogue striving for an improvement of the legislation in line with the recommendations of the peer's.	a) Sending of letter b) Start of dialogue	a) Second half of 2015 b) Beginning 2016	Further progress depends on authorities outside of the NSI (please explain and name the authorities)	There is still no answer to the letter which was sent to the Federal Minister in the Federal Chancellery responsible for Statistics Austria on December 5th 2015. Further action depends on reaction of the Federal Chancellery.	
1.2.0	1-4	<b>Improvement action 1-4 - Informing relevant authorities about recommendations of amending the statistical law.</b> Statistics Austria will send a letter to the relevant authorities, indicating that the final peer review report on Statistics Austria recommends an amendment of the statistical law and reconsiderations regarding internal governance and coordination of the national statistical system. In the letter Statistics Austria will point out the important role of the principles of the Code of Practice and will propose to launch a dialogue striving for an improvement of the legislation in line with the recommendations of the peer's.	a) Sending of letter b) Start of dialogue	a) Second half of 2015 b) Beginning 2016	Expected to start as planned (please give the starting date)	There is still no answer to the letter which was sent to the Federal Minister in the Federal Chancellery responsible for Statistics Austria on December 5th 2015. Further action depends on reaction of the Federal Chancellery.	

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2.3.0	1-4	<b>Improvement action 1-4 - Informing relevant authorities about recommendations of amending the statistical law.</b> Statistics Austria will send a letter to the relevant authorities, indicating that the final peer review report on Statistics Austria recommends an amendment of the statistical law and reconsiderations regarding internal governance and coordination of the national statistical system. In the letter Statistics Austria will point out the important role of the principles of the Code of Practice and will propose to launch a dialogue striving for an improvement of the legislation in line with the recommendations of the peer's.	a) Sending of letter b) Start of dialogue	a) Second half of 2015 b) Beginning 2016	Further progress depends on authorities outside of the NSI (please explain and name the authorities)	There is still no answer to the letter which was sent to the Federal Minister in the Federal Chancellery responsible for Statistics Austria on December 5th 2015. Further action depends on reaction of the Federal Chancellery.	
4.2.1	1-4	<b>Improvement action 1-4 - Informing relevant authorities about recommendations of amending the statistical law.</b> Statistics Austria will send a letter to the relevant authorities, indicating that the final peer review report on Statistics Austria recommends an amendment of the statistical law and reconsiderations regarding internal governance and coordination of the national statistical system. In the letter Statistics Austria will point out the important role of the principles of the Code of Practice and will propose to launch a dialogue striving for an improvement of the legislation in line with the recommendations of the peer's.	a) Sending of letter b) Start of dialogue	a) Second half of 2015 b) Beginning 2016	Further progress depends on authorities outside of the NSI (please explain and name the authorities)	There is still no answer to the letter which was sent to the Federal Minister in the Federal Chancellery responsible for Statistics Austria on December 5th 2015. Further action depends on reaction of the Federal Chancellery.	
4.2.1	5-6	<b>Improvement action 5/6 - Informing relevant authorities about recommendations of amending the statistical law.</b> Statistics Austria will send a letter to the relevant authorities, indicating that the final peer review report on Statistics Austria recommends an amendment of the statistical law and reconsiderations regarding internal governance and coordination of the national statistical system. In the letter Statistics Austria will point out the important role of the principles of the Code of Practice and will propose to launch a dialogue striving for an improvement of the legislation in line with the recommendations of the peer's.	a) Sending of letter b) Start of dialogue:	a) Second half of 2015 b) Beginning 2016	Further progress depends on authorities outside of the NSI (please explain and name the authorities)	There is still no answer to the letter which was sent to the Federal Minister in the Federal Chancellery responsible for Statistics Austria on December 5th 2015. Further action depends on reaction of the Federal Chancellery.	
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1.1.2	7	<b>Improvement action 7 - Informing relevant authorities about recommendations of amending the statistical law.</b> Statistics Austria will send a letter to the relevant authorities, indicating that the final peer review report on Statistics Austria recommends an amendment of the statistical law and reconsiderations regarding internal governance and coordination of the national statistical system. In the letter Statistics Austria will point out the important role of the principles of the Code of Practice and will propose to launch a dialogue striving for an improvement of the legislation in line with the recommendation of the peer's.	a) Sending of letter b) Start of dialogue	a) Second half of 2015 b) Beginning 2016	Further progress depends on authorities outside of the NSI (please explain and name the authorities)	There is still no answer to the letter which was sent to the Federal Minister in the Federal Chancellery responsible for Statistics Austria on December 5th 2015. Further action depends on reaction of the Federal Chancellery.	
1.4.1	8	<b>Improvement action 8 - Informing relevant authorities about recommendations of amending the statistical law.</b> Statistics Austria will send a letter to the relevant authorities, indicating that the final peer review report on Statistics Austria recommends an amendment of the statistical law and reconsiderations regarding internal governance and coordination of the national statistical system. In the letter Statistics Austria will point out the important role of the principles of the Code of Practice and will propose to launch a dialogue striving for an improvement of the legislation in line with the recommendation of the peer's.	a) Sending of letter b) Start of dialogue	a) Second half of 2015 b) Beginning 2016	Further progress depends on authorities outside of the NSI (please explain and name the authorities)	There is still no answer to the letter which was sent to the Federal Minister in the Federal Chancellery responsible for Statistics Austria on December 5th 2015. Further action depends on reaction of the Federal Chancellery.	

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1.4.1	9	<b>Improvement Action 9 - Completing the set of written agreements with ONAs.</b> Statistics Austria will continue to invite all remaining ONAs relevant for the production of European Statistics to sign the agreement. Statistics Austria will assist ONAs in producing regular quality reports and provide feedback on potential non-compliances with the Code of Practice.	-	End of 2016	Further progress depends on authorities outside of the NSI (please explain and name the authorities)	Agreements with two ministries are missing. Due to changes in responsibilities and dependency issues the matter of agreements with ministries has to be reconsidered	
1.1.1	10	<b>Improvement Action 10 - Investigation on enhancement of cooperation with research community.</b> Statistics Austria will start an initiative to enhance the cooperation with the research community. After seeking support by the Statistics Council Statistics Austria will contact relevant persons within academics aiming at the establishment of a possible research committee.	Discussion with the Statistics Council on triggering a contact process to the research community about a possible establishment of a research committee	Autumn 2015	Completed (please explain and refer to specific outputs)	The discussions at the workshop ( <a href="https://statistik.at/wcm/idc/idcplg?IdcService=GET_PDF_FILE&amp;dDocName=109321">https://statistik.at/wcm/idc/idcplg?IdcService=GET_PDF_FILE&amp;dDocName=109321</a> ) held on 20.10.2016 pointed in a direction that the dialogue between the scientific community and Statistics Austria should be enhanced in a way that potential users can bring in their demands and possible activities in direct way, therefore Statistics Austria will enhance the activities in this regard. As discussion showed a research committee would not necessarily facilitate this process.	
5.3.0	11/12	<b>Improvement action 11/12- Informing relevant authorities about recommendations of amending the statistical law.</b> Statistics Austria will send a letter to the relevant authorities, indicating that the final peer review report on Statistics Austria recommends an amendment of the statistical law and reconsiderations regarding internal governance and coordination of the national statistical system. In the letter Statistics Austria will point out the important role of the principles of the Code of Practice and will propose to launch a dialogue striving for an improvement of the legislation in line with the recommendations of the peer's.	a) Sending of letter b) Start of dialogue:	a) Second half of 2015 b) Beginning 2016	Further progress depends on authorities outside of the NSI (please explain and name the authorities)	There is still no answer to the letter which was sent to the Federal Minister in the Federal Chancellery responsible for Statistics Austria on December 5th 2015. Further action depends on reaction of the Federal Chancellery.	
5.3.0	11/12	<b>Improvement action 11/12- Informing relevant authorities about recommendations of amending the statistical law.</b> Statistics Austria will send a letter to the relevant authorities, indicating that the final peer review report on Statistics Austria recommends an amendment of the statistical law and reconsiderations regarding internal governance and coordination of the national statistical system. In the letter Statistics Austria will point out the important role of the principles of the Code of Practice and will propose to launch a dialogue striving for an improvement of the legislation in line with the recommendations of the peer's.	a) Sending of letter b) Start of dialogue:	a) Second half of 2015 b) Beginning 2016	Further progress depends on authorities outside of the NSI (please explain and name the authorities)	There is still no answer to the letter which was sent to the Federal Minister in the Federal Chancellery responsible for Statistics Austria on December 5th 2015. Further action depends on reaction of the Federal Chancellery.	
	13	<b>Improvement action 13 - Balancing competences at the Statistics Council.</b> Statistics Austria will inform the authority coordinating the nomination procedure to the Statistics Council about the recommendation. By doing so the need to strengthen the academic membership in the Statistics Council will be stressed.	-	End of 2015			
	N.A.	<b>Diverging view.</b> According to the Federal Statistics Act Statistics Austria is held to develop a strategic concept for period of five years. In 2015 the concept for 2016 to 2020 will be elaborated. The concept extending to 2020 will include strategic goals also valid beyond this time frame. However, also due to the Vision 2020 horizon of the ESS, it is not considered feasible to embark on a strategy exercise going beyond this time frame.	Divergent view	N.A.			
	N.A.	<b>Diverging view.</b> In its midterm financial planning Statistics Austria is considering all ESS-projects relevant for strategic development. This includes international activities like the participation in important forthcoming projects as far as they are known for the envisaged planning period of five years. The relevant budgetary resources are part of the planning process and already included in the budget envelope	Divergent view	N.A.			

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2.2.0	16/17	<b>Improvement Action 16/17 - Enhancing job satisfaction at Statistics Austria.</b> Statistics Austria will develop standardized outputs of yearly staff appraisals including a personalized training plan. Measures promoting internal rotation and international staff exchange, including a broad communication to all staff members, will be taken.	-	End of 2016	Expected to start as planned (please give the starting date)	Task force developing models for internal job rotation part of Statistics Austria's Strategy 2020 is still working. A report is to be expected for mid 2017. Templates for standardized outputs for yearly staff appraisals are already available	
2.1.0	16/17	<b>Improvement Action 16/17 - Enhancing job satisfaction at Statistics Austria.</b> Statistics Austria will develop standardized outputs of yearly staff appraisals including a personalized training plan. Measures promoting internal rotation and international staff exchange, including a broad communication to all staff members, will be taken.	-	End of 2016	Completed (please explain and refer to specific outputs)	The internal strategy 2020 of Statistics Austria includes a number of measures to enhance internal and external mobility of staff.	
4.1.0	18	<b>Improvement action 18 - Further enhancement of respondents motivation.</b> In cooperation with relevant stakeholders Statistics Austria will keep up initiatives to increase respondents' motivation to participate in statistical surveys. The measures taken will include feedback processes to respondents as well as providing more detailed information material to respondents (for instance leaflets). As a result of the currently ongoing action of profiling of statistical units in the business sector the possibility of a more streamlined approach to respondents could be expected.	-	Action already ongoing, continuous task.	Continuous task (please explain)	Statistics Austria continues to keep up its efforts in motivating respondents. Additional information is now available for respondents. Example: A leaflet explaining the efforts and conditions covering the topic of data protection and confidentiality was produced for economic surveys and additionally a similar leaflet social surveys will be developed.	
3.1.1	19	<b>Improvement action 19 - Implementation of internal quality audits.</b> Statistics Austria will start to implement a series of internal quality audits. Quality Management, Risk Management and Internal Audit will closely cooperate when designing the relevant process for the audits. Basis for the quality audits will be the quality guidelines which are currently under revision. A pilot test for a quality audit is currently ongoing. After the pilot phase it is planned to have one product audited quarterly.	a) Pilot for Quality Audit b) Internal discussion on concepts (format, structure, coverage, etc.) of quality audits, as well as fixing short and medium term audit plans c) Implementation of audit plan	a) already started b) 4th quarter 2015 c) 2016 and following years.	Continuous task (please explain)	Audits for 2016 have been completed as scheduled. An audit plan for 2017 was scheduled	
5.2.1	20.1	<b>Improvement action 20.1 - Development of a repository of statistical concepts, definitions and methods.</b> Statistics Austria will develop a repository of statistical concepts, definitions and methods. This repository will serve as a reference document for standard documentations and also be accessible through the internet.	-	End of 2017	Expected to start as planned (please give the starting date)	Action has started as planned at the begin of 2017. A set of concepts, definitions and relevant statistical terms has been integrated in the Quality Guidelines of Statistics Austria. This will serve as a kernel for the repository.	
5.2.1	20.2	<b>Improvement action 20.2 - Providing metadata in English.</b> For all statistical products covered by a standard documentation Statistics Austria will provide the Executive Summaries and the table of important figures in English	-	End of 2017	Expected to start as planned (please give the starting date)	The Action will start in the second quarter of 2017	
5.2.2	21.1	<b>Improvement action 21.1 – Improving accessibility and working on visualisation.</b> Statistics Austria will make its webpage accessible in a user friendly way also on mobile devices. Statistics Austria will participate in Eurostat's Task Force on Data Visualisation in order to share other NSIs' experiences and best practises related to different types of data visualisation, infographics, widgets, mobile phone applications, etc. Statistics Austria will take the following initiatives with respect to visualisation: Development of new ideas and concepts for data visualisations and infographics, definition of internal standards on visualisation, investigation of possible tools for visualising figures, clarification of organisational aspects, assessment of impact on the strategy 2016-2020. The skill level of staff regarding visualisation will be raised.	<b>Web-Accessibility:</b> a) Roll out of mobile version of web access b) Usability study of Statistics Austria's webpage <b>Visualization:</b> c) Set up of an internal action plan on visualization	a) 2nd half of 2015 b) 1st half of 2016 c) Begin 2016	In progress as scheduled (please explain)	a) action completed b) Aspects of a usability study will be embedded in a qualitative user satisfaction study which will be conducted during 2017 c) Working group on visualization is working in accordance with time schedule	

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5.2.2	21.2	<p><b>Improvement action 21.2 – Modernizing dissemination strategy.</b> Based on the experiences with its twitter presence, Statistics Austria will consider further Social Media activities, e.g. intensifying twitter activities including the use of shareable input (tables, graphs, infographics, pictures etc.) creating a complementary "statistical blog"</p> <p>Further improvements suggested:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- strengthening the relationship with the open data community in order to encourage the development of mobile apps based on open data</li> <li>- developing statistical Apps (e.g. on the personal inflation calculator)</li> </ul>	-	End of 2016	Continuous task (please explain)	There is now continuous work on extending the twitter account. Infographics as well as other visualisation elements play a key role when distributing information using twitter.	
3.2.1	22	<p><b>Improvement action 22 - Standardization of data collection and internal data management.</b> Statistics Austria will assess:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- rolling out the recently developed survey infrastructure technology to all business areas as well as</li> <li>- developing a data warehouse to become the central tool for internal data management.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Survey infrastructure:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Development of survey infrastructure technology including pilot projects in the area of social statistics: currently on-going</li> <li>b) Assessment of a possible roll out to other business areas: 1st quarter 2016</li> </ul> <p><i>Data warehouse:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>c) Pilot phase for data warehouse prototype: currently on-going</li> <li>d) Assessment of the results of the pilot phase and planning of implementation: 2015 to 2016</li> <li>e) Development and implementation: 2016-2018</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) currently on-going</li> <li>b) 1st quarter 2016</li> <li>c) currently on-going</li> <li>d) 2015 to 2016</li> <li>e) 2016-2018</li> </ul>	In progress as scheduled (please explain)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Activities of survey infrastructure are ongoing.</li> <li>b) The assessment of a possible roll-out of possible business statistics will be undertaken.</li> <li>c) and d) Pilot Phase of Data Warehouse and assessment of its results is completed</li> <li>e) Development and implementation phase is starting, metadata concepts for Data Warehouse has been developed</li> </ul>	
5.1.1	23	<p><b>Improvement action 23 - Informing relevant authorities about recommendations of amending the statistical law.</b> Statistics Austria will send a letter to the relevant authorities, indicating that the final peer review report on Statistics Austria recommends an amendment of the statistical law and reconsiderations regarding internal governance and coordination of the national statistical system. In the letter Statistics Austria will point out the important role of the principles of the Code of Practice and will propose to launch a dialogue striving for an improvement of the legislation in line with the recommendations of the peer's.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Sending of letter</li> <li>b) Start of dialogue</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Second half of 2015</li> <li>b) Beginning 2016</li> </ul>	Further progress depends on authorities outside of the NSI (please explain and name the authorities)	We received still no answer to the letter which was sent to the Federal Minister in the Federal Chancellery responsible for Statistics Austria on December 5th 2015. Further action depends on reaction of the Federal Chancellery.	

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1.4.3	24	<b>Improvement action 24 - Enhancing contacts to Other National Authorities.</b> Statistics Austria will launch a series of bilateral meetings with ONAs in order to detect possible deviations from the Code of Practice and develop proposals for improvement actions. One related aim will be the signing of written agreements taking into account the principles and indicators of the Code of Practice especially the documentation of quality of the data as well as dissemination guidelines and a release calendar.	-	End of 2016	Continuous task (please explain)	Bilateral meetings are now institutionalized with every ONA	
1.4.5	25	<b>Improvement action 25 – Web section linking to other national producers.</b> Statistics Austria will implement a section on its webpage linking to European Statistics produced by Other National Authorities. To facilitate this process Statistics Austria will in its planned bilateral meetings (see improvement actions 9 and 24) emphasize the need of a release calendar.	-	End of 2016	The work has been delayed (please explain the state of play, the reasons for delay and indicate the new completion date)	It turned out as useful to embed this action in a general redesign of our Web environment	
	26	<b>Improvement action 26 - Informing the responsible authorities on the Peers' funding recommendations.</b> Statistics Austria will develop the strategic concept 2020 taking into account financial planning and assess the total costs of the projects assigned to the strategic concept 2020. Subsequently Statistics Austria will seek approval from the Economic Council indicating that the final peer review report on Statistics Austria recommends secure budgetary arrangements for safeguarding the implementation of the strategic programme.	-	End of 2015			
	N.A.	<b>Diverging view.</b> The annual work programme of Statistics Austria consists of two parts. The first one includes a textual description of the main projects assigned to responsible subject matter areas the second one lists all projects characterised by administrative items. The financing background of each individual project is highlighted by using different colours in the attached table (lump sum (grey background) or not (white background)). This is explained in the foreword of the annual's programme textual part.	Divergent view	N.A.			
5.2.2	28.1	<b>Improvement action 28.1 - Enhancing the webpage by publishing a pricing policy.</b> Statistics Austria will develop a document about its pricing policy containing comprehensive information and publish it on its webpage.	-	Mid of 2016	Closed and no further work is planned (please justify and explain)	The pricing policy of Statistics Austria is based on hourly rates of compensation for the work carried out throughout a project.	
5.2.2	28.2	<b>Improvement action 28.2 - Providing articles published in Statistics Austria's periodic journal "Statistische Nachrichten" free of charge.</b> Statistics Austria will develop a strategy to make articles of "Statistische Nachrichten" available free of charge	-	End of 2015	The work has been delayed (please explain the state of play, the reasons for delay and indicate the new completion date)	After first discussions it was concluded that this aspect has to be decided in a broader context taking into consideration a complete redesign of "Statistische Nachrichten"	