



# PEER REVIEW REPORT

ON COMPLIANCE WITH THE EUROPEAN STATISTICS CODE OF PRACTICE  
AND FURTHER IMPROVEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE NATIONAL  
STATISTICAL SYSTEM

## DENMARK

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY .....	3
2. INTRODUCTION.....	10
3. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEM .....	12
4. PROGRESS/ADVANCEMENT IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS .....	17
5. COMPLIANCE WITH THE CODE OF PRACTICE AND FUTURE ORIENTATION .....	19
5.1 STRENGTHS OF THE NSI AND THE PARTICIPATING ONAs IN RELATION TO THEIR COMPLIANCE WITH THE CODE OF PRACTICE.....	19
5.2 ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS .....	22
5.2.1 Strengthening the legal system .....	22
5.2.2 Ensuring adequate financial and human resources .....	24
5.2.3 Enhancing process quality and documentation .....	25
5.2.4 Ensuring and making output quality sustainable .....	26
5.2.5 Broadening and strengthening user engagement.....	27
5.2.6 Strengthening the statistical system as a whole .....	29
5.3 VIEWS OF THE NSI, AS THE NATIONAL COORDINATOR OF THE NSS AND THE PEER REVIEW, ON THOSE RECOMMENDATIONS WHERE THEY DIVERGE FROM PEER REVIEW EXPERTS' ASSESSMENT .....	31
ANNEX A – AGENDA OF THE VISIT .....	32
ANNEX B – LIST OF PARTICIPANTS.....	41

# 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Danish Statistical System, and Statistics Denmark in particular, relies on an institutional environment rooted in the principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice (ES CoP). More specifically, the Act on Statistics Denmark, as revised in 2018, provides a strong legal mandate to Statistics Denmark. It guarantees professional independence and grants Statistics Denmark the coordination of official statistics produced by Other National Authorities developing, producing and disseminating official statistics. Fifteen of these authorities are producing European statistics. Coordination is assured by binding guidelines for Other National Authorities, annual self-assessments by Other National Authorities and more thorough 'national peer reviews' on a rolling basis. The peer review team considered the mirroring of the European Statistical System approach at national level to be a good practice, possibly applicable in other national statistical systems. A specific strength is the focus on implementing the principle of professional independence by the Other National Authorities. In one of the Other National Authorities reviewed this has already led to a signed statement recognising its professional independence by the Head of Department of the Ministry.

Statistics Denmark and other statistical authorities have already been obtaining and utilising register information provided by public authorities and institutions for decades. This right of access is laid down in the Act on Statistics Denmark. Administrative data are linked via unique identifiers and georeferenced. This provides Statistics Denmark with a wealth of information, including long time series, which Statistics Denmark skilfully translates into a wide range of data and data services. This comprises plans to build a data portal (Datavindue) which will provide access to official data, comprising all national data, thus enhancing research opportunities and simplifying access to data for statistics, research and analysis.

Statistics Denmark's standardised solution to cover all structural and reference metadata (Colectica) established a sound basis for this development, allowing for metadata-driven search functionalities and data discovery. Statistics Denmark already makes microdata available for research purposes and is now investing in providing the research community and analysts with data services and a uniform entry-point to the official data currently held by multiple national authorities. Moreover, it has recently partnered with academia to establish its Data Science Lab, thus opening opportunities for improving fundamental statistical infrastructure for research, such as the development of a longitudinal database comprising the whole Danish population.

Statistics Denmark has a very active communication policy. It already disseminates statistics via its database StatBank Denmark. However, it is constantly striving for new communication channels. Noteworthy examples are the so-called 'lifelines' project based on the above-mentioned longitudinal population register, and tailored products to segmented user profiles. Statistics Denmark is active on social media with attractive visualisations and quizzes. It published experimental statistics during the pandemic, aiming at the fast provision of timely indicators on the development of society. While several new indicators have been provided on the impact of the COVID-19 crisis, experimental statistics cover a wider range of subjects and include the use of new high-frequency sources as well as privately held data, such as the vessel traffic Automated Information System, Danish Metro data and electricity smart meters.

Statistics Denmark actively fosters statistical literacy with educational material and information on statistics 'for beginners', an education portal for secondary school pupils and reach-out activities to schools of journalism.

The success of these endeavours is reflected in a general high trust in Statistics Denmark as an independent institution, which was confirmed by its reputation surveys as well as by stakeholders interviewed during the peer review visit.

Generally, the peer review team considers that Statistics Denmark demonstrates a high level of compliance with the European Statistics Code of Practice (ES CoP), which is also applied across the national statistical system. However, four compliance-relevant and eighteen improvement-related recommendations were identified and grouped under six major headings as listed below.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### I. Strengthening the legal system

The mandate for data collection, as stipulated in the Act on Statistics Denmark, explicitly lists the facts and phenomena for which Statistics Denmark is allowed to collect data from enterprises. Exceptions to this list are subject to ministerial approval. Although the peer review team was told that the purpose of this legislation was to limit the administrative burden on enterprises, the provisions could potentially hinder Statistics Denmark from exercising its full mandate for data collection and hamper the production of up-to-date business statistics.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

**1. *Statistics Denmark and the Danish Government should identify and implement solutions that empower Statistics Denmark with a more general mandate to collect data for statistical purposes. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 2.1)***

Privately held data are rapidly becoming a potential means for decreasing the burden imposed by statistical surveys, for producing more timely and granular statistics and for enriching statistics and creating new products. Access to privately held data is currently granted to Statistics Denmark on a voluntary basis. While good practices exist, the long-term and sustainable availability of these data is not guaranteed.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

**2. *Statistics Denmark and the Danish Government should ensure that appropriate legal and/or other mechanisms are in place to grant Statistics Denmark the authority to use privately held data. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 2.4)***

Following up on a recommendation from the 2015 peer review report, Statistics Denmark enshrined the mandate and the composition of its Supervisory Board in the Act on Statistics Denmark. Even if the Head of Statistics Denmark is the chairperson of the Supervisory Board, the extensive decision-making powers given to the Board could potentially limit the decision-making powers of the Head of Statistics Denmark. However, in practice the Supervisory Board does not currently utilise its decision-making powers.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

**3. *Statistics Denmark should reconsider the scope of the mandate of its Supervisory Board in order to remove any limitations, real or perceived, to the competences of the Head of Statistics Denmark and to better reflect current practice. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 1.4)***

The peer review team noticed that confidentiality rules were violated by laws on two occasions in Denmark. Firstly, Article 26.b. of the Law on Educational and Vocational Training, as amended in 2017, obliged Statistics Denmark to provide identifiable individual data that were collected for statistical purposes for an administrative purpose (employers' education contribution for employees participating in education or

vocational training). In the second case, the Law on Social Pensions, as amended in 2020, obliged Statistics Denmark to provide data on individuals in an identifiable form to assist the pension entitlement review process.

Statistics Denmark's objection and arguments were rejected in both cases after public hearings. In the second case, the government's reasoning referred to Article 23 of Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data ("GDPR regulation") and qualified the case as an acceptable restriction of the obligations and rights provided by the GDPR regulation, invoking reasons of 'urgent national interest'.

Notwithstanding this reasoning, the peer review team would argue that such obligations potentially undermine respondents' expectations that their data are only used for statistical purposes by Statistics Denmark and not disclosed for any other purpose. This may lead to the loss of their willingness to respond and harm the nationwide reputation of Statistics Denmark and even the reputation of European Statistics as a whole.

To comply with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

**4. *The Danish Government and Parliament should avoid legislative decisions that would oblige Statistics Denmark to provide identifiable statistical data on individuals for administrative purposes. Where such legislative decisions are still in place, they should be discontinued. (Compliance-relevant: ES CoP, Indicators 5.1 and 5.5)***

## **II. Ensuring adequate financial and human resources**

Since the 2015 peer review, the amount of government appropriations in Statistics Denmark's budget has decreased, even though Statistics Denmark's legally required tasks, including for the production of European statistics, has increased. At the same time, further efficiency gains (e.g., to update or replace legacy IT systems) seem to be difficult to achieve without additional funding. The ensuing gap between resources and tasks could pose a threat to the achievement of Statistics Denmark's legal obligations.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

**5. *The Danish government should ensure that Statistics Denmark's government appropriations match its legal obligations. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 3.1)***

The continuing decrease in government appropriations could also pose a threat to data quality. This is related to the fact that the workload associated with meeting new European data demands in particular, which cannot be (fully) satisfied with existing administrative data sources, puts pressure on staff to implement additional data collections. This in turn may ultimately lead to fewer resources being available for maintaining process and output quality for both existing and new statistics. It is imperative that such a threat be addressed in time.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

**6. *Statistics Denmark should develop an explicit contingency plan to safeguard the quality of European statistics in the light of the projected budgetary situation. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 3.1 and 3.3)***

Statistics Denmark has launched an ambitious strategy for innovation. It includes several modernisation projects, necessary to sustain Statistics Denmark's role in the future. Some of these projects rely on private (foundation) funds. The availability of such funding is not guaranteed. While it is true that these projects require substantial upfront investments, they could also achieve a high return on investment through efficiency gains.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

**7. *The Supervisory Board of Statistics Denmark should ensure that sufficient funding is available to achieve upfront investments in beneficial innovation projects. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 3.1)***

The peer review team noted that staff knowledge on institutional matters and statistical processes is rather limited. This may render it difficult, particularly in a context of high staff turnover, to sustain the implementation of the ES CoP in practice.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

**8. *Statistics Denmark should ensure that staff are trained on institutional matters and statistical processes. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 7.6)***

### **III. Enhancing process quality and documentation**

Statistics Denmark has invested in the standardisation of data collection and dissemination systems, as well as in generic tools for some statistical sub-processes. However, systematic and centralised monitoring of statistical processes and products is not yet established. A few quality indicators are in place for some centralised processes but they are lacking for others. Leaving quality assurance of statistical products under the responsibility of each statistical production team may result in a fragmented approach and does not allow for a consistent and standardised approach.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

**9. *Statistics Denmark should establish a centralised monitoring framework to ensure that all processes operate efficiently and assure high product quality. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 8.3)***

Statistics Denmark's quality management system is well structured but the publicly available information on quality indicators remains rather limited. This hampers users' understanding of a product's quality features, which may impact its use.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

**10. *Statistics Denmark should systematically derive and provide information about process and output quality to users. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 15.7, 4.2 and 4.3)***

Statistics Denmark is developing process descriptions for sub-processes of the Generic Statistical Business Process Model. It has updated general guidelines in some methodological areas. Nevertheless, there are still some production lines and processes for which Statistics Denmark has limited documentation. This poses a risk for process quality and business continuity, e.g., when new process managers arrive.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

**11. Statistics Denmark should continue to work on process standardisation and documentation covering all sub-processes. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 7.2 and 8.4)**

#### **IV. Ensuring and making output quality sustainable**

In certain highly sensitive statistical areas, such as national accounts and GDP data, but also employment data, Statistics Denmark's revisions are frequent and of high magnitude. The peer review team noted that this is perceived by users as difficult to understand and may hamper economic analysis and data reconciliation over time.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

**12. Statistics Denmark should continue its investments in analysing, deciding upon and explaining revisions in statistical areas where these are frequent and of high magnitude. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 12.3 and 8.5)**

When breaks in time series occur in key data products, such as GDP, Statistics Denmark's data sometimes lack the necessary length of back-casted time series and sufficient explanations about the changes in methodology. The peer review team ascertained that this is perceived by users as difficult as it hampers time series analysis.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

**13. Statistics Denmark should increase the coherence of its statistics over time, following breaks in time series for key data products. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 14.2)**

Statistics Denmark does not disseminate seasonally adjusted data for all economic series where this could be of interest. The peer review team ascertained that users would appreciate it if Statistics Denmark could provide further seasonally adjusted data in order to facilitate comparisons over time based on the authoritative source.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

**14. Statistics Denmark should disseminate seasonally adjusted economic data more systematically. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 7.1, 7.2 and 14.2)**

#### **V. Broadening and strengthening user engagement**

The peer review team was informed by Statistics Denmark that other authorities which do not yet produce official statistics would be interested in integrating their statistics into Statistics Denmark's portfolio or to label them as Danish official statistics. However, a well-defined vision of which statistics could potentially be classified as official statistics does not exist to date. This may make it difficult for users to understand the distinction between official (national and European) and other statistics, and for Other National Authorities to be aware of the opportunities offered by such a label.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

**15. Statistics Denmark should develop a strategic vision of which statistics currently produced by other authorities could be integrated into Statistics Denmark's portfolio or be labelled as Danish official statistics. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 6.1)**

Continuing along the path of strengthening user involvement initiated in 2021, the peer review team supports Statistics Denmark's agenda to reach out to hitherto unreached users. This should include steps to engage groups of society beyond the traditional high-frequency and high-volume users. Broadening its user engagement could potentially generate more societal support for Statistics Denmark's activities.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

**16. Statistics Denmark should strengthen its strategic vision to reach out to new user groups and engage broader layers of society. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 11.1 and 15.2)**

Statistics Denmark offers a comprehensive amount of metadata but its language is not always adapted to the broader community of users. The peer review team could ascertain that this is perceived by users as sub-optimal. In particular, it was felt that the language is highly specialised, requiring technical statistical knowledge or expertise in a specific statistical area.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

**17. Statistics Denmark should invest in a user-friendly description of statistical products. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 15.1, 15.5 and 15.6)**

## **VI. Strengthening the statistical system as a whole**

The Other National Authorities developing, producing and disseminating official statistics who participated in the peer review have rather small statistics functions and it is common practice for staff working on the production of European statistics to have other tasks as well. Therefore, it is of particular importance that their management and staff have a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities regarding European statistics. At the same time, explicit institutional barriers are needed to support staff in safeguarding professional independence. It is part of Statistics Denmark's coordination role to identify possible weaknesses in this respect and to assist the Other National Authorities in remedying them, in order to guarantee the professional independence of the Other National Authorities.

To comply with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

**18. Building on its current practice and good practices from other Member States, Statistics Denmark should invest in strengthening the Danish Statistical System by taking the necessary initiatives to ensure that all Other National Authorities comply with the ES CoP in a sustainable manner. (Compliance-relevant: ES CoP, Indicators 1bis.1 and 1bis.2)**

The peer review team noted that in the Other National Authority: Environmental Protection Agency, the border between the Agency's statistics function and its administrative tasks is blurred to such an extent that the professional independence of the statistics function is compromised. The dissemination of European statistics is steered by ministerial priorities rather than statistical considerations. The Minister frequently determines, among other things, the publication dates and receives pre-release access. The arrangements for pre-release access are not made public.



To comply with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

**19. The Environmental Protection Agency should formalise its statistics function to reinforce its professional independence. It should furthermore ensure that European statistics are produced and disseminated free from Ministerial influence, including the choice of publication dates. Any pre-release arrangements should be made public. (Compliance-relevant: ES CoP, Indicators 1.1, 1.4 and 6.7)**

Documentation of statistical processes and methods underpins data quality and facilitates the sustainable production of European statistics, establishing and preserving the institutional knowledge. The Other National Authorities reviewed (the Danish Energy Agency, the Danish Environment Protection Agency and the Danish Immigration Service), while revealing a high degree of awareness of relevant methods and procedures, do not systematically document statistical processes and output quality. This poses a risk for business continuity, particularly as the statistical entities are very small.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

**20. The Other National Authorities reviewed (the Danish Energy Agency, the Danish Environment Protection Agency and the Danish Immigration Service) should ensure that their statistical processes and output quality are systematically documented. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 4.3, 4.2 and 8.3)**

The peer review team was informed that the same lack of documentation might apply to all Other National Authorities. As Statistics Denmark started operating an annual self-assessment exercise and a series of rolling 'national peer reviews' on the Other National Authorities, it received further signs that it would be advisable to focus on documentation practices more thoroughly in all institutions. Such actions should be coordinated and streamlined by Statistics Denmark.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

**21. Statistics Denmark should examine whether the need to document statistical processes and output quality applies to all Other National Authorities and, if so, introduce suitable measures. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, indicators 1bis.1, 8.4 and 15.1)**

In the case of the Other National Authority: Danish Energy Agency, the peer review team established that statistical confidentiality rules are not systematically applied. Due to the very small number of actors in the energy sector, a more careful treatment of business data should be developed, and the trade-off between the publicly available information on energy supply and the protection of the business data of the companies involved should be balanced.

To comply with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

**22. The Danish Energy Agency should ensure that statistical confidentiality rules are observed in all cases. (Compliance-relevant: ES CoP, indicators 5.4 and 5.5)**

In the spirit of continuous improvement integral to the European Statistical System (ESS), the National Statistical Institute will interpret the recommendations, formulated in this report, into improvement actions for implementation within the national statistical system (NSS).

## 2. INTRODUCTION

It is recognised that quality is one of the European Statistical System's (ESS) comparative advantages in a world experiencing a growing trend of instant information and new challenges, driven by exceptional circumstances or the continuous need for faster but quality-assured data. The European Statistics Code of Practice (ES CoP) is the cornerstone of the ESS common quality framework, and the ESS statistical authorities have committed themselves to adhere to it.

In this context, it is crucial for the ESS to be equipped with a review mechanism, the peer reviews, supporting with credible evidence this self-commitment to adhere to the ES CoP. The objective of this review mechanism is to enhance the integrity, professional independence and accountability of the ESS statistical authorities. The first round of peer reviews was carried out in 2006-2008, followed by a second round in 2013-2015.

In 2017, the ES CoP was reviewed and extended and now encompasses 16 principles. This revised version of the ES CoP triggered a third round of peer reviews, being carried out in the Member States of the European Union and of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), and Eurostat from 2021 to mid-2023. This round of peer reviews aims at improving the quality and trust in European statistics by assessing the compliance of the ESS with the principles of the revised ES CoP. The peer reviews cover the ESS statistical authorities (Eurostat, the National Statistical Institutes (NSIs) and selected Other National Authorities (ONAs)) developing, producing and disseminating European statistics. The peer reviews will be followed by a period of annual monitoring of the implementation of the improvement actions developed by the NSIs to address the recommendations laid down in the peer review reports.

The third round of peer reviews has the following two objectives:

- To review the compliance/alignment of the ESS with the ES CoP, in order to demonstrate to the ESS and to external stakeholders that the ESS is a system based on the principles of the ES CoP;
- To help NSIs, ONAs and Eurostat in their further improvement and development by indicating future-oriented recommendations; at the same time they should stimulate government authorities to support the implementation of these recommendations.

Each peer review is conducted by a team of four statistical experts (both from inside and outside the ESS). The peer review has four phases: completion of the Self-Assessment Questionnaires (SAQs) by a country; analysis of these SAQs by the peer review team; a country visit by the peer review team; and the preparation of the final report and ensuing recommendations by the peer review team. These recommendations are of two types:

- Compliance-relevant (ensuring compliance/alignment with the ES CoP);
- Improvement-related (less critical/technical supporting improvements).

A combination of an audit-like and a peer review approach is used when assessing the national statistical systems (NSS) in the countries to benefit from the positive aspects of both approaches. The audit-like approach requires the provision of documents as evidence, the ownership of the recommendations by the peer review expert team, and the right for the NSIs to express diverging views on the recommendations and to formulate the corresponding improvement actions. Whereas the peer review approach allows for common agreement within the ESS on the methodology, the objectives, scope and implementation arrangements, the focus on improvements and a peer learning process.

Although all principles of the ES CoP will be reviewed for all countries through the SAQ, the peer review experts are free to customise the country visit to concentrate on those principles where more clarification/explanation is needed. However, certain principles such as those concerning professional

independence and coordination and cooperation, as well as principles including elements of modernisation, will be assessed during the peer review visit for every member of the ESS.

In addition to the common principles to be addressed for every member of the ESS, the peer review team also placed an emphasis on certain aspects of the adequacy of resources (principle 3), since it was pointed out that Statistics Denmark faces challenges in the allocation of funding and the training of staff, on output quality (principles 12 and 14) and on user orientation (principles 11 and 15), since users and stakeholders drew the peer review team's attention to the room for improvement in these fields. In some cases, the peer review team's attention was also drawn to issues of confidentiality (principle 5) and impartiality (principle 6).

Also, although the reports should not be used to compare one country to another, much effort has been made to ensure the harmonisation of the reports and the ensuing recommendations across the countries so that all countries are treated equitably.

The peer review of Eurostat was conducted by the European Statistical Governance Advisory Board (ESGAB).

### 3. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEM

#### Legislation

According to the *Act on Statistics Denmark*, the national statistical authority of Denmark is Statistics Denmark. Statistics Denmark is a professionally independent government authority within the jurisdiction of the Minister of the Interior and Housing. The legal status of Statistics Denmark does not include the authority to instruct other government departments.

The Head of Statistics Denmark (the National Statistician) has sole responsibility for defining the professional standards for the development, collection, production and dissemination of Statistics Denmark's statistical information, and is responsible for the professional and administrative management of Statistics Denmark.

The main tasks of Statistics Denmark, as set out in the Act on Statistics Denmark, are:

- development, collection, production and dissemination of statistical information regarding societal conditions;
- compilation of statistical services at the request of ministries, local and regional councils and other public authorities and institutions for the purposes of law-making, analysis and administration, subject to allocation of funding;
- management of or assistance in the design and use of the registers of public authorities and institutions that can be used for statistical purposes;
- coordination of official statistics produced by public authorities;
- safeguarding of professional interests in the statistical domain in connection with public digitisation initiatives; and
- tasks related to international statistical co-operation.

Statistics Denmark is *supervised by a board (Supervisory Board)*. The Supervisory Board ensures the professional independence of the official statistics produced by public authorities and of the institution of Statistics Denmark (Act on Statistics Denmark, Article 2b, paragraph 1). To this end, the Supervisory Board discusses and decides in matters of importance for the strategic management of the institution, including Statistics Denmark's work plan, statistical programme and budget, and decides to what extent and in what way data must be reported for statistical purposes (Article 2b, paragraph 2). Thus, the Supervisory Board is responsible for the overall strategic and financial management of Statistics Denmark.

#### Appointment procedures for the Head of the National Statistical Institute (NSI)

The Danish Minister for the Interior and Housing appoints and dismisses the Head of Statistics Denmark upon the recommendation of the Supervisory Board (Act on Statistics Denmark, Article 2a, paragraph 5).

Following an open call for applications, the Supervisory Board screens and selects the candidates to ensure that the nominated candidates have the necessary professional skills required to hold the position as the Head of Statistics Denmark (National Statistician). The overall recruitment procedure follows the rules of the Danish public service and is overseen by a recruitment committee, where the Supervisory Board is also represented. At the end of the procedure, a recommendation is given to the Minister.

The Head of Statistics Denmark (National Statistician) is employed in accordance with the generally applicable rules on employment of heads in the government sector, including the rules on fixed-term employment. The period of employment must not exceed 9 years. In order to assure professional independence and to avoid conflicts of interest, the Head's area of employment is restricted to Statistics Denmark.

### **Statistical programmes**

The Head of Statistics Denmark (National Statistician) has recently published Statistics Denmark's strategy (Strategy 2025) for the next three years<sup>1</sup>. The work programme is a short description of Statistics Denmark's key activities and how Statistics Denmark will underpin the core strategic goals in the current year. Statistics Denmark publishes an annual follow-up report on the work programme describing the status of the initiatives at the end of the year. The statistical programme, including all current statistics, is more of an inventory and figures as an appendix to the work programme. It is also published on the webpage.

### **Resources**

In 2021, government appropriations made up about 57% of the total budget, while the rest of the budget was covered by co-financing from ministries (17%) and sales of tailor-made statistics from the private and public sector (26%). Just over 300 employees, out of Statistics Denmark's 550 employees (FTE), dealt with the production of official statistics.

### **Coordination of the Danish Statistical System**

For the purpose of monitoring the Other National Authorities' (ONAs) compliance with the ES CoP, Statistics Denmark has developed a set of national guidelines, called 'Guidelines for Official Statistics'. The guidelines are based entirely on the ES CoP and contain examples of good practices. They are seen as a pragmatic translation of the quality requirements to comply with the ES CoP for the producers of European statistics (ONAs) taking into account that their core task is not the production of official statistics. Statistics Denmark has established a coordination mechanism centred around a Coordinating Committee on Official Statistics composed of the National Statistician (Chair) and representatives of all ONAs producing Official statistics. The purpose of the Coordinating Committee on Official Statistics is to coordinate all national activities for the development, collection, processing and communication of official statistics (Act on Statistics Denmark, Article 4 b). In practice, given the fact that the Danish administrative set-up does not allow Statistics Denmark to exercise any kind of governance authority over the ONAs, the main function of the Coordinating Committee is to ensure that important information about EU initiatives is passed on and understood by the ONAs.

The Act on Statistics Denmark makes it obligatory for all ONAs producing official statistics to comply with the ES CoP. For ONAs only producing national official statistics, it is obligatory to report on 'publicly produced statistics', but voluntary to sign up for monitoring of these statistics to become 'official statistics' in the Danish Statistical System.

There is no tradition for one authority to impose sanctions on other authorities within the Danish Statistical System. Thus, as an enforcement procedure of the law and the compliance with the guidelines, Statistics

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.dst.dk/en/Statistik/nyheder-analyser-publ/Publikationer/VisPub?cid=47814>

Denmark (SD) produces an annual report to the Minister of the Interior and Housing. The objective is for the yearly report to constitute a mechanism for the government to assess compliance with the ES CoP by all national authorities producing official statistics in Denmark. It is the intention that cases of non-compliance with the guidelines by an ONA will be referred to the Minister concerned or to a coordinating government body.

In order to determine the extent of 'publicly produced statistics' in Danish institutions, Statistics Denmark asks ministries and their affiliated institutions to report annually on their production of 'publicly produced statistics'. It is obligatory to report, but voluntary for the authorities to register their statistics as official statistics, thereby making the ONA subject to the monitoring procedure. All 'publicly produced statistics' that comply with the guidelines will be labelled 'official statistics', which ensures a common standard for official statistics at European and national level. For the purpose of labelling not only European statistics, but also all statistics produced by public authorities as 'official statistics', the Danish national producers of statistics are encouraged to ensure compliance with the principles of the guidelines.

### **ONAs reviewed during the peer review process**

Three ONAs were chosen for the peer review: the Danish Immigration Service, the Danish Energy Agency and the Danish Environmental Protection Agency. They represent 66% of the entire Danish portfolio of European statistics produced by all Danish ONAs.

#### ***Danish Energy Agency***

The Danish Energy Agency is an agency under the Ministry of Climate, Energy and Utilities. It is responsible for tasks linked to energy production, supply and consumption, as well as Danish efforts to reduce carbon emissions. The Agency is also responsible for supporting the optimisation of utilities which, in addition to energy, include water, waste and telecommunications. It is also responsible for user conditions, supply obligation and telecommunication statistics, as well as water supply and waste management. The Danish Energy Agency maintains direct contacts with practically every actor in Denmark's energy sector. It produces many European energy statistics, such as combined heat and power statistics (CHP), electricity and natural gas price statistics, statistics on electricity, natural gas, nuclear energy, oil, renewable energy and solid fuels. Its statistical activities are regulated in the various legislative acts of the energy supply area.

#### ***Danish Environmental Protection Agency***

The Danish Environmental Protection Agency (DEPA) is an agency under the Danish Ministry of Environment. The agency has an executive board and about 900 employees located in Odense, and several decentralised offices in all regions of Denmark. DEPA is the national authority for environmental and nature issues, working towards bountiful nature, pure water, safe chemistry and green production. DEPA's core business is to implement legislation aimed at finding a balance between the use and the protection of nature and the environment.

DEPA's tasks and delegation of powers are described in a legal act<sup>2</sup>. The agency enacts rules of a technical character, whereas the Ministry enacts the rules with political, economic and administrative importance. The work arrangements between the Ministry and the Agency are stated in a formal document, excluding the performance of any ministerial service for the Agency. DEPA has its own webpage<sup>3</sup> where, among other things, the public environmental statistics on waste and pesticides are disseminated. When the statistics are published, the agency comments on public remarks or criticisms, if relevant. The Statistical head of the agency is the head of the Executive office.

### **Danish Immigration Service**

The Danish Immigration Service is an agency under the Ministry of Immigration and Integration Affairs, which deals with cases concerning foreigners' rights to visit and stay in Denmark.

European Statistics are developed, produced and disseminated by the Statistics Team in the Business Analysis and Development Division. In matters of European Statistics, the Immigration Service is professionally independent. This means that these statistics must be developed, prepared and disseminated independently from the Ministry of Immigration and Integration. The Immigration Service complies with Statistics Denmark's guidelines for official statistics, which are based on the ES CoP. Compliance with the guidelines for official statistics is evaluated annually, and includes several criteria of professional independence. The professional independence is confirmed by a signed Recognition of the independent status of the units responsible for statistics.

### **Data Access**

Statistics Denmark and other statistical authorities have access to administrative data owned by public authorities and institutions. This access is provided for by law. Administrative data are by far their most important data source; surveys remain an exception. The mandate to collect data by surveys is restricted to those areas where the use of administrative data is not possible. Privately held data can only be accessed on a voluntary basis. However, during the COVID-19 crisis, Statistics Denmark experienced a markedly more conducive climate regarding data sharing and access to privately held data, some of whose owners were previously somewhat reluctant to share data with Statistics Denmark.

On the user side, authorised research and analysis institutes can receive online access to de-identified microdata. The Research Services division of Statistics Denmark provides microdata for research purposes while the Consulting office provides tailor-made services in connection with the use of microdata as well as customised statistical products against payment.

### **Relations with users / dissemination of statistical products and services**

There is free access to all Statistics Denmark's statistics and all statistical results and metadata are communicated through Statistics Denmark's website, [www.dst.dk](http://www.dst.dk). Statistics Denmark publishes newsletters, periodicals, themed publications and posts on social media. Statistics Denmark also has a frequently used information service for external users in need of guidance to find statistics (services and information taking less than 10 minutes are free of charge). All releases of new and updated statistics take place at 8:00 a.m.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.retsinformation.dk/eli/lta/2021/1514>

<sup>3</sup> <https://eng.mst.dk/>

This regards news releases, publications and tables in Statbank Denmark. Publishing dates are announced one year in advance, and no users have access to Statistics Denmark's statistics before they are made public.



## **4. PROGRESS/ADVANCEMENT IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS**

### **Development of the legislative background and coordination of the Danish Statistical System**

Statistics Denmark and the Other National Authorities reviewed (ONAs) developing, producing and disseminating European statistics generally enjoy a high level of professional independence and an adequate legal mandate to collect data to be used for official statistics. The Act on Statistics Denmark no. 146 of 2018 entered into force on 1 July 2018, introducing an impressive amount of new, detailed provisions based on the recommendations of the 2015 peer review.

Originating partly from the implications of the revised regulation on European Statistics, the amendments and new provisions of the Act on Statistics Denmark clarified management matters in a comprehensive manner: it includes a detailed definition and the mandate of Statistics Denmark, the role of the Head of Statistics Denmark (National Statistician) within official statistics is clearly defined and the composition, operation and detailed rights of the Supervisory Board of Statistics Denmark are also included.

The revised Act on Statistics Denmark also introduced a new, explicit obligation for the institution to coordinate the development, collection, production and dissemination of official statistics (including those serving European interests), through guidelines that apply to the official statistics produced by different public authorities in the country. These guidelines serve as a reflection and explanation of the European Statistics Code of Practice (ES CoP) for the ONAs. A continuous evaluation of compliance with these guidelines has also been introduced since the act entered into force. Based on these provisions, an annual self-assessment exercise and a rotation of 'national peer reviews' have been launched within the Danish Statistical System.

### **Access to data from respondents and administrative sources**

In the revision process of the Act on Statistics Denmark, significant efforts were needed to legally oblige respondents to answer surveys through electronic portals (via a cross-governmental service portal), so that outdated ways of data collection from businesses and individuals would become exceptions. Specific confidentiality provisions for statistics were also planned in the revision process, but received less support. Statistical confidentiality is therefore linked to the Danish Data Protection Act, based on the provisions of the General Data Protection Regulation of the European Union and referred to as "processing of data for scientific or statistical purposes". Although attempts were made to revise the existing solutions (both legally and technically), improved access to privately held data and to massive unstructured datasets (Big Data) was targeted by legislation at the same time and so, at the end of the legislative process, the final version of the revised Act on Statistics Denmark did not include provisions addressing these issues. However, good practical examples and successful projects of voluntary cooperation with data owners had already emerged (e.g., access to SmartMeters, scanner data and ship signals).

As Denmark is one of the countries that possesses a wide range of administrative public registers (most important are CPR - the central person register, CBR - the central business register and BDR - the building and dwelling register), Statistics Denmark uses them to a significant extent for producing statistics. In recent years, Statistics Denmark has established a standard procedure for collaboration between Statistics Denmark and the providers of administrative data, including the signing of formal service-level agreements. At the time of the peer review, the range of these agreements was almost complete.

## **Data management and integration, process standardisation and quality developments**

Regular sources of data, such as from surveys (of individuals and businesses) and through administrative data transmissions, are handled mostly within Statistics Denmark's widely used data management platforms, IBS and CEMOS. These have been developed in-house and incorporate the Generic Statistical Business Process Model. For statistical data editing, Statistics Denmark has also developed a Data Archive with an integrated editing interface (called DAF). The investments have resulted in optimised data editing on the level of the individual statistical product. Despite the fact that there are still some so-called "stovepipes" in the process, there have been major improvements in process standardisation. To illustrate this further, Statistics Denmark has recently initiated the development of a programme to compile national accounts based on a coherent and modernised set of sources, methods and processes, forming a transparent framework of national accounts. A Large Cases Unit (LCU) was also established in 2018 to develop and consolidate enterprise-level information and improve data consistency across selected statistics.

The Single Integrated Metadata Structure (SIMS) has been implemented internally as a quality reporting standard for all statistics. Information on methods and processes is documented and available on Statistics Denmark's webpage in a form that is understandable for users (Euro SDMX Metadata Structure (ESMS)). Statistics Denmark strives to gather all structural metadata in one system, called Colectica. The vision is to establish a purely metadata-based statistics production chain, where this is feasible, and Statistics Denmark is working on migrating the last structural metadata residing in older systems, as well as finishing a documentation portal for internal purposes. Since 2020, statistical classifications are included in Colectica with data models that would account for versioning of developments over time. They are available to statistical production through several IT-solutions such as SAS or R.

## **Dissemination, communication and advanced services for users**

Statistics Denmark has – on a strategic level – put a lot of emphasis on user consultations. Based on feedback from high level interviews and regular user assessments of outputs, Statistics Denmark has collected an updated overview of the emerging needs on outputs and services, and these were reflected in the recently published 'Strategy 2025'. During the COVID-19 crisis in 2020, Statistics Denmark was able to offer pertinent, accurate and timely information based on registers and, moreover, some experimental statistics were produced to provide quick information on relevant phenomena. Statistics Denmark also invested in new types of releases, combining different data sources in innovative ways.

Statistics Denmark's dissemination database (Statbank Denmark) offers complex multi-dimensional data queries for users, available also in English. At the end of 2021, Statistics Denmark moved to a broad topic-based dissemination of releases and data on its website. Statistics Denmark is active on Twitter, LinkedIn and Facebook, where relevant statistics and infographics are posted. Statistics Denmark also responds to user requests on social media. A monthly digital customer magazine, "Statistical Perspective" has been introduced, for existing users and to attract potential new users, and a monthly digital newsletter has been produced and disseminated to subscribers. Statistics Denmark provides a wide range of access to its microdata for research purposes. It is currently preparing to establish Denmark's Data Portal (Danmarks Datavindue), providing access to official data from various sources to Research Services, researchers and analysts in order to enhance research possibilities and simplify access to data.

## **5. COMPLIANCE WITH THE CODE OF PRACTICE AND FUTURE ORIENTATION**

### **5.1 STRENGTHS OF THE NSI AND THE PARTICIPATING ONAs IN RELATION TO THEIR COMPLIANCE WITH THE CODE OF PRACTICE**

#### **Compliance with the ES CoP rooted in legislation**

The Danish Statistical System, and Statistics Denmark in particular, relies on an institutional environment rooted in the principles of the ES CoP. In 2018, the Act on Statistics Denmark was revised and aligned with Regulation 223/2009 on European Statistics, even to the extent that some provisions of this Act mirror those of the Regulation and the ES CoP. More specifically, the Act on Statistics Denmark provides a strong legal mandate to Statistics Denmark. According to the Act, Statistics Denmark is responsible for the development, collection, production and dissemination of statistical information regarding societal conditions and also for the compilation of statistical services at the request of ministries, local and regional councils and other public authorities and institutions for the purposes of law-making, analysis and administration, subject to allocation of funding. It is also responsible for the management of or assistance in the design and use of registers of public authorities and institutions that can be used for statistical purposes as well as for the coordination of official statistics produced by public authorities. Lastly, it is responsible for the safeguarding of professional interests in the statistical domain in connection with public digitisation initiatives, and tasks related to international statistical co-operation. Statistics Denmark's mandate for collecting information for European Statistics regarding businesses is specified in the Act on Statistics Denmark as well as the mandate to obtain administrative data from public authorities for statistical purposes. (ES CoP, Indicator 2.1)

#### **Wealth of administrative data**

Statistics Denmark and other statistical authorities have already been obtaining and utilising information provided by public authorities and institutions for decades (Article 6 of the Act on Statistics Denmark). Such administrative data cover a vast array of subjects, sometimes over very long time periods, and are all directly linked via unique identifiers and geo-references. This provides Statistics Denmark with a wealth of information, referred to by users as ranking among the top in a worldwide comparison. Statistics Denmark invests in assessing and improving the quality of its data, providing much appreciated feedback to the owners of administrative records. Statistics Denmark has for decades made microdata available for research purposes and has recently partnered with academia to establish its Data Science Lab, thus opening opportunities for improving fundamental statistical infrastructure for research, such as the development of a longitudinal database comprising the whole Danish population. (ES CoP, Indicators 8, 9, 15.3 and 15.4).

#### **Metadata-driven integration of statistics and data for research**

Statistics Denmark's data are accompanied by metadata on data methodology and quality, based on the European Single Integrated Metadata Structure (SIMS) standard. With a vision to fully integrate Statistics Denmark's data and metadata, thus enabling metadata-driven data compilation and search functionalities, Statistics Denmark has invested and continues to invest in the establishment of a Data Documentation Initiative (DDI)-based solution "Colectica" to cover all reference and structural metadata.

To further increase its services for users, Statistics Denmark is developing a data portal (Datavindue) as one of the office's flagship projects requiring a high financial investment. This forms part of the strategic goal to offer one common data entry point for users, serving multiple purposes. The future data portal will provide

access to official data, comprising all national data, thus enhancing research opportunities and simplifying access to data for statistics, research and analysis. In June 2022 a first milestone will be accomplished, covering all data available in Statistics Denmark. This comprises a data warehouse approach for business statistics, based on microdata linkage via unique identifiers, to be made available to researchers by the end of 2023. A next phase aims at including selected external data. Statistics Denmark has partnered with universities and the national Genome centre to exploit i.a. IT technology, including high performance computing capabilities.

### **Attractive product portfolio**

Statistics Denmark disseminates statistics via its dissemination database StatBank Denmark, including in English, and via a dedicated mobile version as well as an Application Programme Interface (API). For some products, such as the consumer price index, the database includes time series from 1900 onwards. More recently, the so-called 'life lines' project has exploited available data in an innovative manner.

In addition to these more traditional products and services, Statistics Denmark recently enhanced its dissemination portfolio. In line with its recently adopted "Strategy 2025", Statistics Denmark has broadened its communication channels, tailoring products to segmented user profiles. Active on some social media, the dissemination portfolio has been expanded to include attractive visualisations and quizzes. A sharp increase in users, reflected also in participation in Statistics Denmark's user survey, and overall high satisfaction rates underpin the success of the approach.

Accelerated by the COVID-19 crisis, Statistics Denmark publishes experimental statistics, aiming at the fast provision of timely indicators on the development of society. The topics cover a wide range of statistical areas, use innovative data sources and include high frequency (daily and weekly) figures.

Statistics Denmark actively fosters statistical literacy through its webpage, which includes educational material and information on statistics 'for beginners'. The development of an education portal for secondary school pupils and reach-out activities to schools of journalism were considered inspirational by the peer review team.

### **High trust in Statistics Denmark**

Confirmed by its reputation surveys (last edition in 2018) and by stakeholders interviewed during the peer review visit, trust in Statistics Denmark as an independent institution remains high. This also holds for Statistics Denmark's treatment of confidential data, an important feature allowing Statistics Denmark's on-boarding of sensitive data in its data science lab, run in partnership with a university.

### **Streamlining of ES CoP implementation across the Danish Statistical System**

The Danish Statistical System is rooted in the Act on Statistics Denmark, which emphasises the coordination role of Statistics Denmark (Article 4b), not least through preparing and revising a set of guidelines, which are binding for Other National Authorities (ONAs) and on which compliance is evaluated and reported on an annual basis (Article 4c). The guidelines developed by Statistics Denmark are fully based on the ES CoP and have been drawn up in consultation with the ONAs. Annual self-assessments of all ONAs are complemented by more thorough 'national peer reviews' with lower frequency (approximately every five years), each involving two other ONAs on the reviewer side. The results of the monitoring are reported in annual reports to the Minister and in summary reports on the self-assessments and the peer reviews. It is being considered to make the summary reports publicly available in the future. As a result of this process, national statistics produced in compliance with the guidelines are (in addition to European statistics) labelled as official

statistics. The peer review team considered the mirroring of the European Statistical System approach at national level to be a good practice, possibly applicable in other national statistical systems.

### **Professional independence**

In the opinion of the peer review team, a specific strength is the focus on implementing the principle of professional independence by the ONAs, for which Statistics Denmark's guidance stipulates that "Steps are taken to ensure that the statistics-producing unit can work as a professionally independent unit, involving e.g. the legal framework, the authority's mandate, functional description, organisational set-up or similar" and that "a head of section has been appointed who is responsible for the statistical production of the authority". In practice, implementation is on-going in ONAs. The peer review team identified a good practice for the statistics team of the Danish Immigration Service, which forms part of the Ministry of Immigration and Integration: its professional independence is confirmed by a signed Recognition by the Director of the Danish Immigration Service and the Head of Department of Asylum of the Ministry, positions at a very high political level.

### **ONAs' strengths**

The **statistics function of the Danish Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)** can rely on a long history of collecting and processing environmental data and making comprehensive waste and pesticides statistics, including long time series, available to users.

The **Danish Energy Agency (DEA)** offers easy access to a wide range of the data it possesses in an easy-to-interpret form. Infographics make it easy to understand how energy production is turned into supply, and how energy supply is turned into consumption throughout the Danish economy and households. The DEA statistics team collaborates closely with the owners of administrative data on the production of heat and electricity. The database for oil has been extended to make it suitable for statistical purposes.

The **statistics function in the Danish Immigration Service** is well delineated and its professional independence is guaranteed by a document signed by the Head of Department, a position at a very high political level. This setting allows for optimal knowledge sharing with the offices providing and using the data, while at the same time impartiality and neutrality are guaranteed in a highly contested area of policy-making.

### **Innovative practices**

The peer review team identified and would like to highlight the following innovative practices that are noteworthy and possibly applicable in some way in other national settings:

- Based on guidelines developed by Statistics Denmark, all ONAs complete annual self-assessments, complemented by more thorough 'peer reviews' with lower frequency (approximately every five years), each involving two other ONAs on the reviewer side.
- Statistics Denmark has put in place a standardised solution (Colectica) to cover all structural and reference metadata. This provides the basis for metadata integration based on the European Statistical System Single Integrated Metadata Structure.
- Statistics Denmark invests in developing its role in society towards providing a uniform entry-point and data services for the research community and analysts to official data currently held by multiple national authorities.
- As one achievement of its Data Science Lab, Statistics Denmark publishes a longitudinal register (Life Lines) that allows users to follow the life course of the Danish population since 1986. The annually

updated register facilitates sampling of individuals based on their lifelines, i.e., by cohort, period, age, length of observations, etc..

## 5.2 ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### 5.2.1 Strengthening the legal system

Paragraphs (1) to (5) of Article 8 of the current Act on Statistics Denmark - after the latest revision through Act no. 146 of 28 February 2018 - contain an exhaustive list of the facts and phenomena for which Statistics Denmark may collect data for statistical purposes from all legal persons carrying out economic activities. The peer review team noticed, however, that Statistics Denmark experiences obstacles when it would like to get information from legal persons on topics which are not explicitly listed in Article 8.

Article 3 a. (1) and (2) of the Act on Statistics Denmark provides an exceptional solution for such cases, in which further data collection activities are necessary for the implementation or application of European Union legislative acts on the collection and processing of statistical information. However, these exceptions require action from the minister. Although the peer review team was told that the purpose of this legislation was to limit the administrative burden on enterprises, the provisions de facto restrict Statistics Denmark's legal mandate, requiring exceptional procedures based on a governmental decision. These provisions limit the scope of data collections and, as such, hinder Statistics Denmark from exercising its full mandate for data collection.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

**R1. Statistics Denmark and the Danish Government should identify and implement solutions that empower Statistics Denmark with a more general mandate to collect data for statistical purposes. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 2.1)**

The possibility to access privately held data for statistical purposes is one of the most discussed emerging needs in the field of European statistics. A legal basis for accessing such data for statistical purposes is not yet guaranteed. However, access to privately held data would be very beneficial for decreasing the burden imposed by statistical surveys, for producing more timely and granular statistics that would be more useful to enterprises and citizens alike, and for enriching existing statistics or creating new products. Access to privately held data is currently granted to Statistics Denmark on a voluntary basis. Good examples exist, as Statistics Denmark was able to conclude contracts with various data holders (high-frequency electricity consumption monitoring by SmartMeters, retail sales in the four largest supermarket chains as recorded by scanner data and access to the Automatic Identification System data for maritime statistics.) However, the long-term and sustainable availability of these and other sources is not guaranteed.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

**R2. Statistics Denmark and the Danish Government should ensure that appropriate legal and/or other mechanisms are in place to grant Statistics Denmark the authority to use privately held data. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 2.4)**

The 2015 peer review report recommended that "The Board of Statistics Denmark should be specified in the new legislation, with a clear indication on the extent of its mandate". The peer review team in 2015 believed "that there is scope for a more in-depth analysis of the role of the Board itself, including whether it should

have advisory or management functions". Following up on this recommendation, Statistics Denmark enshrined the mandate and the composition of a Supervisory Board of Statistics Denmark in the Act on Statistics Denmark. Since in practice the Supervisory Board supported Statistics Denmark's activity and no issues of concern had occurred, the Supervisory Board's mixture of decision-making power in certain aspects and advisory role in other aspects has been retained in the legislation. This has resulted in a mandate that gives extensive decision-making powers to the Supervisory Board. The present peer review team noted that these decision-making powers are not currently utilised, making them de facto superfluous. However, there remains a potential threat that, if they were, the decision-making powers of the Head of Statistics Denmark could be limited.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

**R3. Statistics Denmark should reconsider the scope of the mandate of its Supervisory Board in order to remove any limitations, real or perceived, to the competences of the Head of Statistics Denmark and to better reflect current practice. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 1.4)**

The peer review team noticed that confidentiality rules were violated on two occasions in Denmark, by the use of identifiable statistical data for administrative reasons without the urgent reasons provided for by European and national law.

Firstly, Article 26.b. of the Law on Educational and Vocational Training, as amended in 2017 obliged Statistics Denmark to provide identifiable individual data that were collected for statistical purposes for an administrative purpose (employers' education contribution for employees participating in education or vocational training).

In the second case, the Law on Social Pensions as amended in 2020 obliged Statistics Denmark to provide data on individuals in an identifiable form to assist the pension entitlement review process.

Statistics Denmark's objection and arguments were rejected in both cases after public hearings. In the second case, the government's reasoning referred to Article 23 of Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data (GDPR regulation) and qualified the case as an acceptable restriction of the obligations and rights provided by the GDPR regulation, invoking reasons of 'urgent national interest'.

The confidentiality of the data collected for statistical purposes is one of the main fundamental values in the process of producing European Statistics. In Denmark, it is explicitly guaranteed by Article 10 of the Danish Data Protection Act. The legislative measures taken in this context are to serve and strengthen public trust in official statistics. A violation of this fundamental guarantee by taking national legal measures undermines the promise that data for statistics cannot and may not be used for administrative purposes. Although the trust in Statistics Denmark remains high, conflicting legislative actions in the future may yet lead to a loss of this existing confidence in Statistics Denmark that could be fatal in relation to the use of data from administrative sources for the production of statistics, as well as in relation to the willingness to respond to surveys in areas not covered by data from administrative sources, thereby harming the nationwide reputation of Statistics Denmark and even the reputation of European Statistics as a whole.

To comply with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

**R4. The Danish Government and Parliament should avoid legislative decisions that would oblige Statistics Denmark to provide identifiable statistical data on individuals for administrative purposes. Where such**

legislative decisions are still in place, they should be discontinued. (Compliance-relevant: ES CoP, Indicators 5.1 and 5.5)

## 5.2.2 Ensuring adequate financial and human resources

Statistics Denmark's funding consists of three pillars: government appropriations, co-financing (including from the EU) earmarked for specific purposes, and commercial activities and services. Since the 2015 peer review, the amount of government appropriations has decreased, even though Statistics Denmark's legally required tasks, including for European statistics, has increased. At the same time, further efficiency gains (e.g., to update or replace legacy IT systems) seem to be difficult to achieve without additional funding. The ensuing gap between resources and tasks could pose a threat to the achievement of Statistics Denmark's strategic goals, which aim to sustain its role for society.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

**R5. The Danish government should ensure that Statistics Denmark's government appropriations match its legal obligations. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 3.1)**

The continuing decrease in government appropriations could also pose a threat to data quality. Statistics Denmark explained that the workload associated with meeting new European data demands in particular, which cannot be (fully) satisfied with existing administrative data sources, puts pressure on staff to implement additional data collections. This in turn may ultimately lead to fewer resources being available for maintaining process and output quality for both existing and new statistics. It is imperative that such a threat be addressed in time.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

**R6. Statistics Denmark should develop an explicit contingency plan to safeguard the quality of European statistics in the light of the projected budgetary situation. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 3.1 and 3.3)**

Statistics Denmark has launched an ambitious multi-annual strategy for innovation, setting goals for the development of Statistics Denmark in keeping up with users' needs and expectations. The strategy is translated into objectives along three main pillars: organisational development, new and improved statistics products, and secure and easy access to data. This comprises the exploration of new data sources and an ambition to provide data stewardship for making all data on society accessible to researchers, analysts and authorities. The resulting modernisation projects are considered necessary to sustain Statistics Denmark's role in the future. Some of these projects, e.g., those aiming at modernising Statistics Denmark's IT infrastructure, rely on private (foundation) funds. However, the availability of such funding is not always guaranteed. This may pose a threat to Statistics Denmark's ability to invest in particular in those projects, which require longer-term developments and continuity of purpose. While it is true that many projects resulting from Statistics Denmark's strategy require substantial upfront investments, they could also achieve a high return on investment through efficiency gains and user satisfaction. The mandate of the Board of Statistics Denmark explicitly mentions responsibilities for the overall strategic and financial management. It could thus be ideally placed to support Statistics Denmark in securing the funds that are needed to realise its multi-annual strategy.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:



**R7. The Supervisory Board of Statistics Denmark should ensure that sufficient funding is available to achieve upfront investments in beneficial innovation projects. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 3.1)**

The peer review team noted that staff knowledge on institutional matters and statistical processes is rather limited. At the same time, Statistics Denmark is confronted with high staff turnover in some areas. Thus, learning on the job may become more difficult to provide and formal training on statistical matters becomes more important to sustain the implementation of the ES CoP in practice. This holds even more given the rather small overall size of Statistics Denmark.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

**R8. Statistics Denmark should ensure that staff are trained on institutional matters and statistical processes. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 7.6)**

### **5.2.3 Enhancing process quality and documentation**

Statistics Denmark has established an organisational structure for quality management. It consists of a quality coordinator with a dedicated team of five persons working full time on quality and metadata. A Directors Committee for Quality, Metadata and Statistical Methodology meets up to four times a year and monitors the work on quality management in order to take strategic decisions. There are two groups under the Directors Committee: a Working Group on Quality and a Metadata Group. They meet up to eight times a year to discuss new initiatives. The Quality Unit conducts quality reviews of statistical products. These internal quality reviews have the direct purpose of examining the compliance of products with the ES CoP. Quality reviews have been completed for around 50 out of 250 products of Statistics Denmark.

Statistics Denmark has invested in the standardisation of data collection and dissemination systems, as well as in generic tools for some statistical sub-processes. However, systematic and centralised monitoring of statistical processes and products is not yet established. There are some numeric quality indicators for centralised processes, such as data collection and dissemination, but they seem to be lacking for other processes. Quality assurance of statistical products and of some processes is left under the responsibility of statistical units. This may result in using different, less efficient methods and procedures and does not allow for a consistent and standardised approach.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

**R9. Statistics Denmark should establish a centralised monitoring framework to ensure that all processes operate efficiently and assure high product quality. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 8.3)**

Wide-ranging developments in quality management started in 2015. One of the main achievements was the thorough conceptualisation and implementation of a quality management system, and the mapping of processes. Statistics Denmark's quality management system is built on three main pillars - process mapping according to the Generic Statistical Business Process Model, documentation and internal quality reviews. The mapping covers a good part of Statistics Denmark's processes.

At the time of the peer review visit, although there had been progress in the implementation of the quality management system, publicly available information on quality indicators was very limited. Although the peer review team was told that further access to product quality data would be available in the foreseeable future,

there is room for improvement concerning the calculation and publication of standard quality indicators on statistical data, which would characterise their production. Statistics Denmark already produces indicators on timeliness and punctuality on its end products, but standard statistical quality indicators for statistical surveys (e.g., coverage, level of imputation, sampling and non-sampling errors) are not systematically monitored, and users are not informed about the quality of the data they access.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

**R10. Statistics Denmark should systematically derive and provide information about process and output quality to users. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 15.7, 4.2, and 4.3)**

A well-established infrastructure for internal documentation is in place. A central metadata system (Colectica) based on the Single Integrated Metadata Structure (SIMS 2.0), concepts, classifications and variables is used to handle the documentation of statistics. Statistics Denmark is in the process of migrating the last structural metadata, descriptions of variables and registers currently residing in older systems to Colectica. However, metadata resulting from running statistical processes are only being gathered in Colectica indirectly.

Statistics Denmark has updated general guidelines in some methodological areas (sampling and estimation; statistical data editing; imputation; seasonal adjustment; statistical disclosure control). The guidelines are relatively brief and do not contain detailed technical descriptions. These guidelines still need to be systematically implemented throughout Statistics Denmark. The peer review team is aware that Statistics Denmark plans to develop guidelines for quality assurance of register-based statistics and to set up a new framework system for managing samples of short-term statistics in 2022.

Statistics Denmark aims at process standardisation. Data collection is fully digitalised - survey data enter Statistics Denmark through the IBS system, while administrative data enter Statistics Denmark through the CEMOS system. For statistical data editing Statistics Denmark has developed Standardised and Modernised Data Editing (SMOF) and Data Archive with an integrated editing interface (called DAF). Dissemination is done through Statbank Denmark ([www.statbank.dk](http://www.statbank.dk)). A rather large number of standard components (framework tools) are currently in use. However, integration of these tools into a common workflow is rather time-consuming and not yet fully implemented. There are still some production lines which are not standardised to the full potential and processes for which Statistics Denmark has limited documentation. This poses a risk for process quality and business continuity, e.g., when new process managers arrive.

Statistics Denmark needs to continue further harmonisation and standardisation of all statistical production lines according to GSBPM and to develop process descriptions for all GSBPM sub-processes.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

**R11. Statistics Denmark should continue to work on process standardisation and documentation covering all sub-processes. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 7.2 and 8.4)**

## **5.2.4 Ensuring and making output quality sustainable**

In certain highly sensitive statistical areas, such as national accounts and GDP data, but also employment data, Statistics Denmark's revisions are frequent and of high magnitude. Statistics Denmark has initiated a development called 'FODANA' in order to ensure more coherence within national accounts and to avoid large

and biased revisions of major economic indicators in the future. Statistics Denmark has a revision policy, but the effects of revisions are not systematically evaluated. The peer review team could ascertain that the current practice is perceived by users as difficult to understand and might hamper economic analysis and data reconciliation over time. The peer review team detected a slight tension between the NSI's opinion and relevant users interviewed on former GDP revisions: the users found the level of explanation on the NSI's methodological view and the consultation with users on the reasons and impacts of the revision in the past insufficient.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

**R12. Statistics Denmark should continue its investments in analysing, deciding upon and explaining revisions in statistical areas where these are frequent and of high magnitude. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 12.3 and 8.5)**

When breaks in time series occur in key data products, Statistics Denmark's data sometimes lack the necessary length of back-casted time series and sufficient explanations about the changes in methodology. At the same time, when doing so, Statistics Denmark has received explicit criticism for leaving such steps insufficiently communicated as larger revisions of gross domestic product time series were not easy for users to interpret. The peer review team could ascertain that this is perceived by users as problematic as it hampers time series analysis. The trade-off between leaving time series untouched or revising them is not handled systematically, therefore users are missing explanations: whether or not some major time series should be revised, and if they should, how the NSI decides for how long the revisions should reach back and what effect this has on other statistics.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

**R13. Statistics Denmark should increase the coherence of its statistics over time, following breaks in time series for key data products. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 14.2)**

Statistics Denmark does not disseminate seasonally adjusted data for all economic series where this could be of interest. During consultations with professional users, the peer review team felt that in some cases they carry out such missing steps on their own. The peer review team ascertained that users would appreciate it if Statistics Denmark could provide further seasonally adjusted data in order to facilitate comparisons over time based on the authoritative source. The further processing of official statistics data is not uncommon practice. However, leaving such a relevant processing step to the user imposes coherence risks: if unique methods are applied to datasets, their processed result may interfere with official statistics statements, causing uncertainties for users interpreting the data.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

**R14. Statistics Denmark should disseminate seasonally adjusted economic data more systematically. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 7.1, 7.2 and 14.2)**

## **5.2.5 Broadening and strengthening user engagement**

Article 4a of the Act on Statistics Denmark defines official statistics as "statistics of common public interest produced by public authorities, which comply with the guidelines (...)". It furthermore sets out that "public authorities and institutions that want their statistics (...) to be part of the official statistics (...) shall submit

their request to Statistics Denmark in that regard". This is a new feature, which had been introduced in 2018 by the revised Act on Statistics Denmark.

The peer review team was informed by Statistics Denmark that other authorities which do not yet produce official statistics would be interested in integrating their statistics into Statistics Denmark's portfolio or to label them as Danish official statistics, as foreseen by the Act. This was confirmed during the peer review by some of the owners of administrative data, which also provide statistics to their users. However, in practice, this opportunity to label further statistics of common public interest as 'official' is not yet systematically pursued. There are in particular no operational criteria to identify them nor a well-defined vision of which statistics could potentially be classified as official statistics and would thus be eligible to apply for the label. This may make it difficult for users to understand the distinction between official (national and European) and other statistics and for ONAs to be aware of the opportunities offered by such a label.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

**R15. Statistics Denmark should develop a strategic vision of which statistics currently produced by other authorities could be integrated into Statistics Denmark's portfolio or be labelled Danish official statistics. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 6.1)**

Statistics Denmark invests in systematically consulting users through pre-defined channels and structured dialogues. User committees and working groups exist for central statistical areas and are complemented by informal contacts with key users on selected topics. Statistics Denmark also regularly conducts user surveys. In 2021, it launched an in-depth consultation of 30 key stakeholders, which helped Statistics Denmark to develop and confirm key aspects of its strategy. Continuing along the path initiated in 2021 of strengthening user involvement, the peer review team supports Statistics Denmark's agenda to reach out to hitherto unreached users. This should include steps to engage particular groups of society beyond the already known high-frequency, high-volume users, such as teachers, young or elderly people or the general public. Broadening its user engagement could potentially generate more societal support for Statistics Denmark's activities.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

**R16. Statistics Denmark should strengthen its strategic vision to reach out to new user groups and engage broader layers of society. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 11.1 and 15.2)**

Statistics Denmark offers a comprehensive amount of metadata but its language is not always adapted to the broader community of users. The peer review team could ascertain that this is perceived by users as sub-optimal. In particular it was felt that the language is highly specialised, requiring technical statistical knowledge or expertise in a specific statistical area.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

**R17. Statistics Denmark should invest in a user-friendly description of statistical products. (Improvement-related, ES CoP, indicators 15.1, 15.5 and 15.6)**

## 5.2.6 Strengthening the statistical system as a whole

The ONAs who participated in the peer review had rather small statistics functions and it is common practice for staff working on the production of European statistics to have other tasks as well. Therefore, it is of particular importance that their management and staff have a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities regarding European statistics. At the same time explicit institutional barriers are needed to support staff in safeguarding professional independence. It is part of Statistics Denmark's coordination role to identify possible weaknesses in this respect and to assist the ONAs in remedying them.

To comply with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

**R18. Building on its current practice and good practices from other Member States, Statistics Denmark should invest in strengthening the Danish Statistical System by taking the necessary initiatives to ensure all Other National Authorities comply with the ES CoP in a sustainable manner. (Compliance-relevant: ES CoP, Indicators 1bis.1 and 1bis.2)**

The peer review team established that in the ONA Environmental Protection Agency, the border between the agency's statistics function and its administrative tasks is blurred to such an extent that the professional independence of the statistics function is compromised. Independence is merely defined as neutrality and a 'commitment to the truth'. The ONA does not have a separate statistical entity. Employees are involved in both statistical and administrative tasks. The dissemination of European statistics is steered by ministerial priorities rather than statistical considerations. The ONA's publications are presented as ministerial reports; the Minister frequently determines, among other things, the publication dates and receives pre-release access. The arrangements for pre-release access are not made public.

To comply with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

**R19. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) should formalise its statistics function to reinforce its professional independence. It should furthermore ensure that European statistics are produced and disseminated free from Ministerial influence, including the choice of publication dates. Any pre-release arrangements should be made public. (Compliance-relevant: ES CoP, Indicators 1.1, 1.4 and 6.7)**

Documentation of statistical processes and methods underpins data quality and facilitates the sustainable production of European statistics, establishing and preserving the institutional knowledge. The reviewed ONAs, while revealing a high degree of awareness of relevant methods and procedures, do not however systematically document statistical processes and output quality. The peer review team could determine that due to the small number of staff involved, expertise in official statistics is very much person-related within the organisation of the reviewed ONAs. In recent times some areas (e.g., oil production statistics at the Danish Energy Agency) were generally covered by new process documentation, while there are still some statistical fields where current practices are based on less detailed working documents from previous years. Output quality is also less documented as the reviewed ONAs usually rely on long-established and usually very obvious and narrow circles of data sources and respondents, and produce long-time standard datasets and other outputs of a rather permanent nature. The general level of trust and close relationship between the ONAs, their sources and the users of statistics has not so far initiated an urgent need for a systematic quality documentation, but these relations are also extensively based on existing personal relations.

Nevertheless, this situation poses a risk for business continuity, particularly as the statistical entities are very small. The unexpected absence of a staff member or the termination of an employment contract would cause

operational challenges to ONAs and the loss of their established contacts. Therefore, a conscious move from work documents to a standardised documentation system, and more detailed knowledge on output quality components and their impact would be beneficial. These shortcomings were also identified and emphasised during Statistics Denmark's 'national peer reviews', and the ONAs are due to initiate work in this field.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

**R20. The Other National Authorities reviewed (the Danish Energy Agency, the Danish Environment Protection Agency and the Danish Immigration Service) should ensure that their statistical processes and output quality are systematically documented. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 4.3, 4.2 and 8.3)**

The peer review team was informed that the same lack of documentation might apply to all Other National Authorities. Operating an information system with less documented processes imposes a risk on the reproducibility of steps and has an impact on several quality components of official statistics. As Statistics Denmark started operating an annual self-assessment exercise and a series of rolling 'national peer reviews' on ONAs, Statistics Denmark received further signs that it would be advisable to focus on documentation practices more thoroughly in all institutions. As the resources and the size of the ONAs' statistical entities are rather small, Statistics Denmark should take a leading role, providing coordinated and perhaps joint actions to streamline the ONAs' efforts, in order to avoid burdensome parallel actions while improving their general compliance.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

**R21. Statistics Denmark should examine whether the need to document statistical processes and output quality applies to all Other National Authorities and, if so, introduce suitable measures. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 1bis.1, 8.4 and 15.1)**

In the case of the ONA Danish Energy Agency, the peer review team established that statistical confidentiality rules are not systematically applied. The market monitored by the Agency is very narrow, therefore a specific trade-off exists between the public interest in disclosing information on the actors and performance of the energy production sector, and the fact that the number of respondents is small. As a practical example, the Agency provides regular supply statistics on the operation of the 2 oil refineries in Denmark in an identifiable way. This practice overrides known confidentiality rules.

To comply with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

**R22. The Danish Energy Agency should ensure that statistical confidentiality rules are observed in all cases. (Compliance-relevant: ES CoP, Indicators 5.4 and 5.5)**

**5.3 VIEWS OF THE NSI, AS THE NATIONAL COORDINATOR OF THE NSS AND THE PEER REVIEW, ON THOSE RECOMMENDATIONS WHERE THEY DIVERGE FROM PEER REVIEW EXPERTS' ASSESSMENT**

None

## ANNEX A – AGENDA OF THE VISIT

Timing	Topic	Participants
<b>Day 1: Institutional environment, Resources</b>		
09.00-10:00	Preparatory meeting: practical aspects of the visit and getting to know each other.	<p><b>The peer review expert team:</b> All</p> <p><b>Statistics Denmark:</b> National Peer Review Coordinator Head of division: Management office Chief advisor: Management office Chief advisor: Quality coordinator</p>
10.00-11.30	Presentation of the National Statistical System, including institutional setup and Strategy 2025	<p><b>The peer review expert team:</b> All</p> <p><b>Statistics Denmark:</b> National Statistician Director Business Statistics Director Social Statistics Director Economic Statistics Director Communication and Sales Director User Service Head of division: Management office Chief advisor: Management Office</p>
11.30-11.45	Coffee break	
11.45-13.00	The law of Statistics Denmark and the role of Statistics Denmark in the future incl. questions on professional independence.	<p><b>The peer review expert team:</b> All</p> <p><b>Statistics Denmark:</b> National Statistician Head of division: Management office Chief advisor: Management Office</p>
13:00-14:00	Lunch	



14:00-15.30	Resources.	<p><b>The peer review expert team:</b> All</p> <p><b>Statistics Denmark:</b> National Statistician Director Business Statistics Director User Service Director Communication and Sales Head of division: Management office Chief advisor: Management Office</p>
15:30-15.45	Coffee break	
15:45-17:00	Statistical planning process and statistical work program, incl. new ways to consult users.	<p><b>The peer review expert team:</b> All</p> <p><b>Statistics Denmark:</b> National Statistician Director Business Statistics Head of division: Management office Chief advisor: Quality coordinator Chief advisor: Management office</p>
17:00-19:00	Peer review expert team discussion	

Timing	Topic	Participants
<b>Day 2: Coordination</b>		
09:00-10:00	Kick-off session with the NSI unit responsible for coordination	<p><b>The peer review expert team:</b> All</p> <p><b>Statistics Denmark:</b> Head of division: Management office Chief advisor: Quality coordinator Chief advisor: Management Office Head of section: Management Office</p>
10:00-11:00	Danish Energy Agency	<p><b>The peer review expert team:</b> József Kárpáti Jolanta Minkevica</p> <p><b>DEA:</b> Statistical head Special advisor, Centre for System Analysis</p>
10:00-11:00	Danish Immigration Service	<p><b>The peer review expert team:</b> Martina Hahn Stephan Moens</p> <p><b>DIS:</b> Head of division and head of statistics Chief advisor, statistics team Special advisor, statistics team</p>
11:00-11.30	Coffee break	
11.30-12:30	Danish Environmental Protection Agency	<p><b>The peer review expert team:</b> All</p> <p><b>DEPA:</b> Head of Statistics Head of division for management and communication Consultant and person responsible for interdisciplinary work on statistics and indicators Function manager for circular economy and waste Technical administrator, pesticides and biocides</p>
12:30-13:30	Lunch	

13:30-14:45	Wrap-up meeting with the NSI coordination unit	<p><b>The peer review expert team:</b> All</p> <p><b>Statistics Denmark:</b> Head of division: Management office Chief advisor: Quality coordinator Chief advisor: Management Office Head of section, Management Office</p>
14:45-15.45	Confidentiality	<p><b>The peer review expert team:</b> All</p> <p><b>Statistics Denmark:</b> Director Social Statistics Chief advisor, Data Protection Officer (DPO) Head of division, Methodology and Analysis Head of division, Management office Chief advisor, Management Office</p>
15:45-16:00	Coffee break	
16.00-17:00	<p>Innovative projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National accounts project (FODANA),</li> <li>• Denmark's Data Portal (DDP),</li> <li>• Standardisation projects (SMOF, DAF etc.)</li> </ul>	<p><b>The peer review expert team:</b> All</p> <p><b>Statistics Denmark:</b> FODANA: Director Economic Statistics 3 collaborators DDP: Director Social Statistics 3 collaborators Standardisation: Director Business Statistics 4 collaborators</p>
17:00-19:00	Peer review expert team discussion	

Timing	Topic	Participants
<b>Day 3: Data collection, methodology</b>		

09:00-10:30	Administrative data – collection and agreements	<p><b>The peer review expert team:</b> All</p> <p><b>Statistics Denmark:</b> Director Business Statistics Director Social Statistics Director Economic Statistics</p>
10:30-10:45	Coffee break	
10:45-12:15	Other data sources – data collection and data sharing – now and in the future	<p><b>The peer review expert team:</b> All</p> <p><b>Statistics Denmark:</b> Director Business Statistics Director Economic Statistics Head of division: Methodology and Analysis Head of division: Business Data Collection and Registers Head of division: Management office</p>
12:15-13:15	Lunch	
13:15-14:45	Quality and metadata management	<p><b>The peer review expert team:</b> All</p> <p><b>Statistics Denmark:</b> Director Communication and Sales Head of division: Methodology and Analysis Chief advisor: Quality coordinator</p>
14.45-15:00	Coffee break	
15:00-16:30	Methodology – efforts on standardisation; process approach vs stove pipes	<p><b>The peer review expert team:</b> All</p> <p><b>Statistics Denmark:</b> Director Communication and Sales Head of division: Methodology and Analysis Director Business Statistics Professor: Data Science Lab</p>
16:30-18:30	Peer review expert team discussion	

Timing	Topic	Participants
<b>Day 4: Junior staff, staff training, stakeholders, dissemination</b>		
09:00-10:00	Session with junior staff	<p><b>The peer review expert team:</b> All</p> <p><b>Junior staff:</b>  Head of section: Business Data Collection and Registers  Senior advisor: Business Dynamics  Senior clerk: National Accounts  Head of section: Government Finances  Head of section: Communication  Head of section: DST Consulting  Head of section: Population and Education  Head of section: Research Services  Head of section: IT</p>
10.00-11:00	HR: Staff training	<p><b>The peer review expert team:</b> All</p> <p><b>Statistics Denmark:</b>  Director User Service  Chief advisor: HR  Chief advisor: HR  Head of section: Staff representative</p>
11:00-11.15	Coffee break	
11.15-12.00	Meeting with stakeholders: government users	<p><b>The peer review expert team:</b> All</p> <p><b>Stakeholders:</b>  Director: Danish Economic Council  Head of Surveillance and Forecast: Danmarks Nationalbank  Head of Division: Ministry of Finance</p>

12:00-12:45	Meeting with stakeholders: Data providers	<p><b>The peer review expert team:</b> All</p> <p><b>Stakeholders:</b> Statistics Manager, Head of statistics: Confederation of Danish Employers Head of department: KL – Local Government Denmark Chief analyst, Economic policy and analysis: DI – The Confederation of Danish Industry Vice director, Head of business policy: DTL – Danish Transport and logistics</p>
12.45-13.45	Lunch	
13:45-14:30	Meeting with stakeholders: Academia and non-academic research	<p><b>The peer review expert team:</b> All</p> <p><b>Stakeholders:</b> Senior analyst: The Economic Council of the Labour Movement (ECLM) Professor: National Institute of Public Health Professor: Vive - The Danish Centre for Social Science Research</p>
14:30-15:15	Meeting with stakeholders: Media	<p><b>The peer review expert team:</b> All</p> <p><b>Stakeholders:</b> Landbrugsmedierne FinansWatch Momentum</p>
15:15-15:30	Coffee break	
15:30-17:00	In-depth session on dissemination and communication: innovative projects	<p><b>The peer review expert team:</b> All</p> <p><b>Statistics Denmark:</b> Director Communication and Sales Head of Division: Communication Public Relations Officer: Communication Chief advisor: Communication</p>
17:00-19:00	Peer review expert team discussion	

Timing	Topic	Participants
<b>Day 5: Innovation, clarifications and final meetings</b>		
09.00-10.00	Overarching discussion session on innovation and the organisational and strategic measures	<p><b>The peer review expert team:</b> All</p> <p><b>Statistics Denmark:</b> National Statistician Director Business Statistics Director Social Statistics Director Economic Statistics Director Communication and Sales Director User Service Head of division: Management office</p>
10.00-10.30	Coffee break	
11:30-12:30	Final meeting with ONAs	<p><b>The peer review expert team:</b> All</p> <p><b>Energy Agency:</b> Statistical head Special advisor: Centre for System Analysis</p> <p><b>Immigration service:</b> Head of Division and head of statistics Chief advisor, statistics team Special Advisor, statistics team</p> <p><b>Environmental protection Agency:</b> Head of Statistics and head of division for management and communication Consultant and responsible for interdisciplinary work on statistics and indicators Technical administrator, pesticides and biocides</p>
12.30-13.30	Lunch	

13.30-14.30	Final meeting with the senior management of the NSI: conclusions and recommendations	<p><b>The peer review expert team:</b> All</p> <p><b>Statistics Denmark:</b> National Statistician Director Business Statistics Director Social Statistics Director Economic Statistics Director Communication and Sales Director User Service Head of division: Management office</p>
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## **ANNEX B – LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

### **Statistics Denmark:**

Head of Statistics Denmark (National Statistician)  
Director Social Statistics  
Director User Service  
Director Communication and Sales  
Director Economic Statistics  
Director Business Statistics  
National peer review coordinator  
Quality coordinator of Statistics Denmark  
Head of Division, management office  
Chief Advisor, Management Office  
Head of Division, Short term Statistics  
Chief Advisor, Data Protection Officer  
Head of Division, Methodology and Analysis  
Chief advisor, National accounts  
Chief advisor, National accounts  
Chief advisor, Management office  
Head of section, Management office  
Head of division, Science Technology and Culture  
Head of IT, IT office  
Head of Division, Business Data Collection and Registers  
Chief advisor, HR  
Chief advisor, HR  
Head of division, Communication  
Chief advisor, Communication  
Head of section, Staff representative  
Public Relations Officer, Communication  
Head of section, Business Data Collection and Registers  
Senior advisor, Business Dynamics  
Senior clerk, National Accounts  
Head of section, Government Finances  
Head of section, Communication  
Head of section, DST Consulting  
Head of section, Population and Education  
Head of section, Research Services  
Head of section, IT

### **ONAs:**

#### **Danish Energy Agency:**

Head of Statistics  
Special advisor, Centre for System Analysis

#### **Danish Immigration Service:**

Head of Statistics  
Chief Advisor, Statistical team

Special Advisor, Statistical team

**Danish Environmental Protection Agency:**

Head of Statistics

Consultant, responsible for interdisciplinary work on statistics

Function manager, waste

Technical administrator, pesticides

**Stakeholders:**

Director, Danish Economic Councils

Head of Division, Ministry of Finance

Head of Surveillance and Forecast, Danmarks Nationalbank

Head of business policy, DTL – Danish Transport and logistics

Head of statistics, Confederation of Danish Employers

Head of department, KL – Local Government Denmark

Chief analyst, economic policy and analysis, DI – The Confederation of Danish Industry

Senior analyst, The Economic Council of the Labour Movement

Professor, National Institute of Public Health

Professor, Vive - The Danish Centre for Social Science Research

Media: Landbrugsmedierne

Media: FinansWatch

Media: Momentum