



IMPROVEMENT ACTIONS NORWAY



Statistisk sentralbyrå
Statistics Norway

**PEER REVIEWERS' RECOMMENDATIONS AND
IMPROVEMENT ACTIONS OF THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL
SYSTEM OF NORWAY IN RESPONSE TO THE
RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. Recommendation

Statistics Norway should identify concrete actions related to the implementation of its work programmes, in particular for development activities, based on explicit roadmaps for the activities covered by the programmes. (Improvement related: ES CoP, Indicator 1.5)

Current situation:

The perception of the peer review team is that Statistics Norway is making serious efforts in the implementation of the new Statistics Act and the long-term plan, but that progress is sometimes slower than expected. This may be due in part to unclear priority setting, a lack of identified intermediate and final targets and deadlines, and vaguely defined processes in terms of consultation with stakeholders and decision-making. In general, Statistics Norway could benefit from a more planned approach to development, redesign and improvement.

To this end, Statistics Norway has recently established a dedicated forum, the Development Meeting, which shall provide a holistic approach and be a driving force for development activities in Statistics Norway, and thus contribute to better coordination and continuation of the development work in the organisation. The Development Meeting has representatives from all departments in Statistics Norway and is chaired by the IT director, in close collaboration with the head of the Division for Methods and the head of the Division for Financial Management and Corporate Governance. One of the tasks of the Development Meeting will be to compile a roadmap for development activities in Statistics Norway.

Improvement action 1.1: Compile a roadmap for development activities

Statistics Norway will compile a road map for development activities under the supervision of the Development Meeting. The roadmap will contain an overview of prioritised activities in all departments and overall contexts, including details about responsibilities, deadlines, deliveries, risks and measures.

Deadline: Q4 2023

**Responsible institution for the improvement action and each of its sub-action:
Statistics Norway**

2. Recommendation

For future work programmes, Statistics Norway should strive towards a transparent and forward-looking priority setting of all official statistics, including potential new domains, and clear budget commitments covering development as well as modernisation activities. (Improvement related: ES CoP, Indicators 3.3, 3.4, 11.1 and 11.2)

Current situation:

The first national programme for official statistics 2021-2023 was meant to serve as a stocktaking of all existing official statistics, under the general condition of an unchanged budget. It also includes specific plans for new or amended statistics, and it highlights some themes for which the need for development shall be examined in more detail. The aim for the next programme is that it will be more forward-looking and cover relevant development needs, with potentially more producers of official statistics included. The link between the programme and the budget process for Statistics Norway and the ONAs needs to be addressed.

Improvement sub-action 2.1: Develop a proposal for a new programme for official statistics

Statistics Norway will develop a comprehensive proposal for a new multiannual programme for official statistics from 2024 in consultation with the Committee for Official Statistics. The proposal will take into account priority settings and budget consequences covering development.

Deadline: Q4 2023

Responsible institution for the improvement action and each of its sub-actions:

Statistics Norway

Improvement action 2.2: Develop procedures for the programming process for official statistics

Statistics Norway will improve and further develop procedures for the programming process in order to provide a forward-looking priority setting for all official statistics. This requires the active involvement of producers and potential producers of official statistics. Ways of improving user involvement and prioritisation will be considered. The challenges of including modernisation/development activities as well as of funding these in a multiannual perspective will also be addressed. The procedures will be based on, among others, experiences with the first and second multiannual programmes. The written procedures will be accessible.

Deadline: Q4 2025

Responsible institution for the improvement action and each of its sub-actions:

Statistics Norway

3. Recommendation

Statistics Norway should improve transparency about the budget structure. (Improvement related: ES CoP, Indicator 3.1)

Current situation:

Almost 30 per cent of Statistics Norway's budget stems from other sources than the yearly government appropriation. From an outside perspective, this gives the impression that non-governmental funding is substantial and a potential concern, while in reality most of these revenues (95 per cent) come from other ministries or public authorities. The rest of these revenues come from a truly market-related context, subject to competition from market actors. The peer review team believes that clarity about the budget allocations could strengthen the perception among both its own staff and the public that Statistics Norway is an independent statistical authority. Statistics Norway could achieve this by further specifying which sources qualify as external or "market" funding.

Starting from the annual report for 2021, Statistics Norway will include a detailed overview of the external income sources divided by sectors (state and municipal administrations, universities and research institutes, EU and foreign entities, other customers, etc.). Some changes in the funding structure are also foreseen concerning both research and statistics, which is expected to result in a lower share of external funding as some of the funding from other ministries will be transferred to the ordinary budget.

Improvement action 3.1: Disseminate an annual overview of external funding divided by sectors from 2022 onwards

Statistics Norway will disseminate an overview of external funding divided by sources of funding (state and municipal administrations, universities and research institutes, EU and foreign entities, other customers, etc.) in the annual reports starting from the annual report for 2021.

Deadline: Q2 2022

Responsible institution for the improvement action and each of its sub-actions:

Statistics Norway

4. Recommendation

<p>Statistics Norway should further deepen and broaden methodological skills among statistical staff, thus allowing the Division for Methods to free capacity for present and future methodological development and research projects. (Improvement related: ES CoP, Indicators 7.6 and 3.1)</p>
<p>Current situation: New opportunities for the production of official statistics require new methods and skills from statistical experts. Statistics Norway's Division for Methods experiences a conflict between having resources to meet recurrent methodological demands from statistical departments to support existing production, and devoting resources to addressing continuous improvements, research and developments required for modernization and innovation. There has been a tradition of prioritizing support for existing production. Some areas have been particularly vulnerable, depending on individuals or because demand much exceeds available resources. Staff turnover implies that the need for methodological support will persist over time.</p>
<p>Improvement action 4.1: Increase standardization Statistics Norway will increase standardization to improve quality and the production processes, and hence free capacity.</p>
<p>Sub-action 4.1.1: Promote the use of international guidelines in the selection and implementation of statistical methods in the production processes, ranging from design and data collection to dissemination, through website articles, information sessions and handbooks/manuals.</p>
<p>Sub-action 4.1.2: Extend the set of methods contained in Statistics Norway's Code library of (statistical) methods and increase its accessibility. The Division for Methods will develop supplements to international guidelines to adapt the methods according to national conditions. The methods code library will contain both internally and externally produced methods written in open-source software accessible on Statistics Norway's IT platforms. The methods code library will be accessible not only within Statistics Norway but also externally to other official statistics producers through Github. This provides a platform for both sharing the library and maintaining code and tests for quality aspects.</p>
<p>Sub-action 4.1.3: Hold a seminar series to present and promote the use of the standardized tools in the methods code library. The recommended methods will be presented with reference to the statistical area and Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM).</p>
<p>Deadline: Q4 2024</p>
<p>Responsible institution for the improvement action and each of its sub-actions: Statistics Norway</p>
<p>Improvement action 4.2: Further develop training resources for methods Statistics Norway will continue and further develop the current portfolio of training resources within the methodological areas of official statistics.</p>
<p>Sub-action 4.2.1: Establish a yearly routine for the dialogue on the need for training within Statistics Norway and with the ONAs and the methodological network. Preferred formats (digital/physical, live/recorded, manuals/guidelines etc.) will be explored as part of the dialogue. The methodological network established as part of the quality system will be used to explore the needs of the ONAs.</p>

Sub-action 4.2.2: Develop an offer for the ONAs to participate in Statistics Norway's internal training courses.
Sub-action 4.2.3: Monitor the participation in methodological training activities and report on it annually.
Deadline: Q4 2023
Responsible institution for the improvement action and each of its sub-actions: Statistics Norway
Improvement action 4.3: Strengthen coding skills Statistics Norway will increase staff training in generic programming languages such as Python and R to enable the use of libraries of methodological packages for official statistics, increase the standardization of production, and raise the general capacity for development and modernization in the organization. In addition to freeing capacity in the Division for Methods, the strengthening of coding skills should contribute to improved data integration and more effective production processes.
Sub-action 4.3.1: Organise internal courses in generic programming languages such as Python and R and facilitate access to online training resources.
Sub-action 4.3.2: Promote the increased use of Git for version control by holding courses and producing accessible introduction material.
Sub-action 4.3.3: Establish internal networks for competence sharing. Forums for both formal teamwork (between IT, methods and subject matter areas) and informal, low-threshold groups will be established.
Deadline: Q4 2027
Responsible institution for the improvement action and each of its sub-actions: Statistics Norway

5. Recommendation

Statistics Norway should proactively communicate the framework for competence management and career paths and intensify its implementation by taking actions that prioritise staff motivation, satisfaction and engagement. (Improvement related: ES CoP, Indicators 3.1 and 7.6)

Current situation:

Statistics Norway started developing a framework for competence management and career paths in 2021. However, the framework is not known by everyone, and the effects of the actions included in the framework have not yet yielded tangible results among staff.

Based on the experiences from the pilot phase, there is a need to clarify the intentions behind the career paths. Continuously challenging the organization to explore and identify Statistics Norway's future need for competence is an important task and will be prioritized.

To achieve the desired progress in implementation and a successful outcome, the task has been divided into two separate, but still intertwined, activities. The first priority will be to further develop and complete a minimum viable product of the competence management framework. Second, new approaches to identifying attractive and motivating career paths will be tested.

In addition to HR, management and employees, the labour unions have been and will continue to be represented in the work as important advisers and partners.

The full effects of implementing the framework for competence management and career paths must be seen in a long-term perspective, in which staff motivation, satisfaction and engagement will be measured.

Improvement action 5.1: Further develop and promote the competence management information on Statistics Norway's internal web pages

Statistics Norway will further develop and promote the competence management information on the internal web pages.

Sub-action 5.1.1: Update the internal website with new training materials (videos, presentations, tools, descriptions of processes, etc.).

Sub-action 5.1.2: Promote the site as an important channel for information about the framework for competence management. Management will be guided on how to use the website as a part of the implementation process.

Deadline: Q2 2023

Responsible institution for the improvement action and each of its sub-actions:
Statistics Norway

Improvement action 5.2: Carry out the step-by-step implementation of the framework for competence management

Statistics Norway will carry out the step-by-step implementation of the framework for competence management, starting with implementation in the three statistics departments. When the framework has been properly tested, other departments will be able to gradually access the framework until it is implemented throughout the organisation.

Deadline: Q4 2027

Responsible institution for the improvement action and each of its sub-actions: Statistics Norway
Improvement action 5.3: Define career paths in statistical production and for support staff Statistics Norway will continue to define career paths in statistical production and for support staff. Employees and management will be involved through activities such as workshops, meetings, and gatherings in order to ensure that the career paths and development opportunities meet future competence needs and contribute to making Statistics Norway an attractive place to work.
Deadline: Q4 2024
Responsible institution for the improvement action and each of its sub-actions: Statistics Norway

6. Recommendation

After finishing the quality evaluation report of the national statistical system, Statistics Norway should draw up a roadmap and an action plan for the whole national statistical system, in consultation with the Committee for Official Statistics. (Improvement related: ES CoP, Indicator 1bis.2)

Current situation:

Statistics Norway has established a national system to ensure quality in European and other official statistics based on the ES CoP. The system has been developed in cooperation with the Committee for Official Statistics. Annual assessments on all producers of official statistics by Statistics Norway was included in the quality system from 2021. These assessments are followed by meetings with other producers to discuss statistical and quality matters. The first annual report on the quality of official statistics was sent to the Ministry of Finance in 2022.

In the report for 2022, Statistics Norway describes plans for development of the quality system. Statistics Norway has highlighted the methodological approach for the quality evaluation.

The main recommendations from the quality evaluation are that producers should:

- improve the written documentation for guidelines, routines, methods and quality;
- raise awareness of and routines for publishing preliminary statistics, check if preliminary statistics are required;
- increase knowledge about confidentiality, improve the understanding of and find good solutions for the safeguarding of professional independence;
- establish agreements on the provision of data and cooperation on quality in administrative information systems.

In addition, a methodology network for Statistics Norway and ONAs has been established and ONAs will be invited to training activities in Statistics Norway.

Improvement action 6.1: Develop a roadmap and an action plan to follow up the quality evaluation

Statistics Norway, in consultation with the Committee for Official Statistics, will draw up a roadmap and an action plan for the whole national statistical system, following up on the recommendations from the quality evaluation. This requires input from all the producers of official statistics. Statistics Norway, in cooperation with ONAs, will annually monitor the progress of the action plans.

Deadline: Q4 2023

Responsible institution for the improvement action and each of its sub-actions:

Statistics Norway

Improvement action 6.2: Involve all the producers of official statistics in quality work

Statistics Norway will set up a plan and organise meetings with other producers of official statistics to follow up on the improvement recommendations from the national quality evaluations, ensure contributions to the action plan and encourage active participation in the methodology network. Statistics Norway will assist the other producers in the process.

Deadline: Q4 2023

Responsible institution for the improvement action and each of its sub-actions:

Statistics Norway

7. Recommendation

<p>Statistics Norway should consider ways of ensuring compliance with the ES CoP by all other national authorities. (Improvement related: ES CoP, Indicator 1bis.2)</p>
<p>Current situation: According to the Letter of Allocation from the Ministry of Finance, Statistics Norway shall oversee the monitoring of compliance with the requirements for quality in official statistics. The national quality system for official statistics establishes methods and tools for monitoring, measuring and developing the quality of official statistics. Each ONA is responsible for the quality of its own official statistics. There is a need to consider what kind of means are available to ensure compliance with the ES CoP in the event that one or several ONAs are not compliant.</p>
<p>Improvement action 7.1: Statistics Norway will examine ways to ensure compliance with ES CoP by all other national authorities and consider additional needs Statistics Norway will examine how compliance with the ES CoP for all other producers of official statistics could be ensured and consider if there is a need to develop additional courses of action.</p>
<p>Sub-action 7.1.1: Map and report on compliance with the ES CoP among all producers of official statistics.</p>
<p>Sub-action 7.1.2: Formulate recommendations to improve compliance with the ES CoP for all producers of official statistics.</p>
<p>Sub-action 7.1.3: Follow up the recommendations by encouraging the producers to define improvement actions and annually report on the progress to Statistics Norway.</p>
<p>Sub-action 7.1.4: Examine the mechanisms and possibilities for ensuring compliance with the ES CoP for other producers of official statistics and consider the need for additional courses of action, e.g. procedures, guidelines, training courses or other actions.</p>
<p>Deadline: Q4 2025</p>
<p>Responsible institution for the improvement action and each of its sub-actions: Statistics Norway</p>

8. Recommendation

<p>The four other national authorities reviewed (Norwegian Institute of Public Health (NIPH), Directorate of Fisheries (DoF), Directorate of Immigration (UDI) and Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research (NIBIO)) should be proactive in their relations with both national and international peers with a view to sharing information about best practices and new developments. (Improvement related: ES CoP, Indicator 1bis.3)</p>
<p>Current situation:</p> <p>Statistics Norway leads the Committee for Official Statistics, which was established by the Ministry of Finance in November 2019. ONAs and authorities in charge of the main administrative registers are members. Statistics Norway's coordination work is implemented through the Committee for Official Statistics with regular meetings as well as bilateral meetings and contact via other means of communication.</p> <p>The four ONAs reviewed consider the Committee for Official Statistics useful for discussing and developing statistics and statistical processes within their organisations. They are also looking for collaboration in areas such as developing quality templates, data sharing, microdata, dissemination and methodology. In addition to national collaboration, international statistical forums and expert groups could offer ONAs professional support and cooperation possibilities.</p>
<p>Improvement action 8.1: The Norwegian Institute of Public Health (NIPH) will establish an internal group for sharing information and invitations</p> <p>The Norwegian Institute of Public Health (NIPH) will establish an internal group for official statistics through which information and invitations from national networks and other authorities may be shared, to encourage participation in external events and improve communication.</p>
<p>Deadline: Q4 2022</p>
<p>Responsible institution for the improvement action and each of its sub-actions:</p> <p>The Norwegian Institute of Public Health (NIPH)</p>
<p>Improvement action 8.2: The Directorate of Immigration (UDI) will participate actively in the Committee for Official Statistics and associated activities and training</p> <p>The Directorate of Immigration (UDI) will continue its active participation in the Committee for Official Statistics and associated activities such as the Methodology Network, and strengthen its knowledge of quality work and quality systems through participation in organized training when available. Participation will be measured by the number of meetings and training courses attended annually.</p>
<p>Deadline: Q4 2027</p>
<p>Responsible institution for the improvement action and each of its sub-actions:</p> <p>The Directorate of Immigration (UDI)</p>
<p>Improvement action 8.3: The Directorate of Immigration (UDI) will participate in relevant international events</p> <p>The Directorate of Immigration (UDI) will participate in relevant international events (such as events organised by Eurostat, the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA), and the European Migration Network (EMN)) to raise competence regarding the UDI's role in the European as well as the national statistical systems.</p>
<p>Deadline: Q4 2027</p>
<p>Responsible institution for the improvement action and each of its sub-actions:</p> <p>The Directorate of Immigration (UDI)</p>

<p>Improvement action 8.4: The Directorate of Fisheries (DoF) will develop a plan for topics to put forward for discussion</p> <p>The Directorate of Fisheries (DoF) will develop a plan for topics to bring up for discussion in various national and international fora and in which areas the DoF can be a contributor.</p>
<p>Deadline: Q4 2023</p>
<p>Responsible institution for the improvement action and each of its sub-actions:</p> <p>The Directorate of Fisheries (DoF)</p>
<p>Improvement action 8.5: The Directorate of Fisheries (DoF) will participate in relevant national and international events</p> <p>The Directorate of Fisheries (DoF) will participate in relevant national and international events (e.g. the Nordic Statistical Meeting (NSM), the European Conference on Quality in Official Statistics, and the European Statistical Training Programme (ESTP)) that can help raise competence in the production and dissemination of official statistics.</p>
<p>Deadline: Q4 2027</p>
<p>Responsible institution for the improvement action and each of its sub-actions:</p> <p>The Directorate of Fisheries (DoF)</p>
<p>Improvement action 8.6: The Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research (NIBIO) will participate actively in the Committee for Official Statistics and associated activities and training</p> <p>The Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research (NIBIO) will continue its active participation in the Committee for Official Statistics and associated activities (e.g. the Methodology Network) and strengthen its knowledge of quality work and quality systems through participation in organized training when available. Participation will be measured by the number of meetings and training courses attended annually.</p>
<p>Deadline: Q4 2027</p>
<p>Responsible institution for the improvement action and each of its sub-actions:</p> <p>Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research (NIBIO)</p>
<p>Improvement action 8.7: The Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research (NIBIO) will participate in relevant international events</p> <p>The Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research (NIBIO) will participate in relevant international events to raise competence regarding the NIBIO's role in the European as well as the national statistical systems.</p> <p>Examples are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the EAA-APS working party (Economic Accounts for Agriculture - Agricultural Price Statistics); • the Nordic Seminars on Agricultural Statistics; • ad hoc meetings with sister institutions in other Nordic countries (recent topics include the compilation of regional economic accounts for agriculture and the economic implications of the termination of fur production).
<p>Deadline: Q4 2027</p>
<p>Responsible institution for the improvement action and each of its sub-actions:</p> <p>NIBIO</p>

9. Recommendation

<p>The four other national authorities reviewed (Norwegian Institute of Public Health (NIPH), Directorate of Fisheries (DoF), Directorate of Immigration (UDI) and Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research (NIBIO)) should improve the transparency and visibility of the role of official statistics and statistical activities in their organisations and on their websites. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 1.6)</p>
<p>Current situation:</p> <p>The four ONAs reviewed show good quality in their statistical activities and knowledge. However, since statistics is a minor part of the activities of the ONAs, only a limited amount of information about official statistics and statistical quality is communicated on the respective organisations' websites. It is important that there is public trust in the statistics produced by these ONAs and in their professional independence when producing official statistics.</p>
<p>Improvement action 9.1: The Norwegian Institute of Public Health (NIPH) will modernise the statistics banks for health registries</p> <p>The Norwegian Institute of Public Health (NIPH) will modernise the statistics banks for NIPHS health registries, including with the expansion and harmonisation of related metadata sections.</p>
<p>Deadline: Q4 2024</p>
<p>Responsible institution for the improvement action and each of its sub-actions:</p> <p>The Norwegian Institute of Public Health (NIPH)</p>
<p>Improvement action 9.2: The Directorate of Immigration (UDI) will improve the communication of its role in the official statistical system, and enrich metadata and background information on its website</p> <p>The Directorate of Immigration (UDI) will improve the communication of its role in the official statistical system by adding information on the pages for statistics and analysis on its external website udi.no, and by enriching the information on udi.no about metadata and background information.</p>
<p>Deadline: Q4 2023</p>
<p>Responsible institution for the improvement action and each of its sub-actions:</p> <p>The Directorate of Immigration (UDI)</p>
<p>Improvement action 9.3: The Directorate of Fisheries (DoF) will establish a system for the maintenance of documentation and guidelines</p> <p>The Directorate of Fisheries (DoF) will establish a system for the maintenance of existing documentation and guidelines.</p>
<p>Deadline: Q4 2024</p>
<p>Responsible institution for the improvement action and each of its sub-actions:</p> <p>The Directorate of Fisheries (DoF)</p>
<p>Improvement action 9.4: The Directorate of Fisheries (DoF) will improve the availability of documentation</p> <p>The Directorate of Fisheries (DoF) will improve the availability of documentation on the statistical processes and outputs, including by creating a plan for implementation and an overview of planned improvement measures.</p>
<p>Deadline: Q4 2025</p>
<p>Responsible institution for the improvement action and each of its sub-actions:</p> <p>The Directorate of Fisheries (DoF)</p>

<p>Improvement action 9.5: The Directorate of Fisheries (DoF) will provide guidelines and documentation in English</p> <p>The Directorate of Fisheries (DoF) will create and disseminate English editions of guidelines and documentation.</p>
<p>Deadline: Q4 2026</p>
<p>Responsible institution for the improvement action and each of its sub-actions:</p> <p>The Directorate of Fisheries (DoF)</p>
<p>Improvement action 9.6: The Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research (NIBIO) will improve the communication of its role in the official statistical system, and provide relevant documentation and background information</p> <p>The Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research (NIBIO) will improve the communication of its role in the official statistical system by adding information on the statistics page of its external website and supplementing the distribution of official statistics with relevant documentation and background information.</p>
<p>Deadline: Q4 2023</p>
<p>Responsible institution for the improvement action and each of its sub-actions:</p> <p>The Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research (NIBIO)</p>
<p>Improvement action 9.7: The Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research (NIBIO) will develop an information sheet describing the NIBIO's role as a provider of statistics</p> <p>The Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research (NIBIO) will develop an information sheet describing the NIBIO's role as a provider of statistics in the national and the European statistical systems, and make the sheet available on the NIBIO's intranet and external document servers.</p>
<p>Deadline: Q2 2023</p>
<p>Responsible institution for the improvement action and each of its sub-actions:</p> <p>The Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research (NIBIO)</p>

10. Recommendation

The Directorate of Immigration (UDI) should clarify internally and externally the delineation between its role as an authority providing services to the public and its role as a statistical authority. (Improvement related: ES CoP, Indicators 1.3, 1.4 and 6.7)

Current situation:

The Directorate of Immigration (UDI) produces statistics and data on immigration. The Statistics and Analysis Division within the UDI produces statistics and makes decisions on statistical matters independently, but this mandate is not sufficiently visible within the organisation nor to the users of the official statistics.

Improvement action 10.1: The Directorate of Immigration (UDI) will improve information about the production of official statistics and the mandate for producing the statistics

The Directorate of Immigration (UDI) will document the procedures for the production of official statistics and the mandate for the team producing the statistics, and add the information to the external and internal websites of the UDI.

Deadline: Q4 2023

Responsible institution for the improvement action and each of its sub-actions:

The Directorate of Immigration (UDI)

11. Recommendation

The Norwegian Institute of Public Health (NIPH) should formalise the professional independence of the statistics, e.g. by including professional independence as well as the ES CoP in the job description or working arrangements of one of the department heads and giving them the formal responsibility for official statistics within the NIPH.
(Improvement related: ES CoP, Indicators 1.1, 1.3 and 1.4)

Current situation:

In the Norwegian Institute of Public Health (NIPH), responsibilities related to statistics are distributed among several divisions and departments. No department head or director has the responsibility for official statistics, nor do they have professional independence from other departments or bodies.

Improvement action 11.1: The Norwegian Institute of Public Health (NIPH) will formalise the distribution of responsibility in a formal instruction, and establish a new coordinator role

The Norwegian Institute of Public Health (NIPH) will formalise the distribution of responsibility in an institute-wide formal instruction. A coordinator role for all departments in the NIPH that are responsible for producing official statistics will be assigned to the department director of the Department for Statistics and Solutions for Preparedness.

Deadline: Q4 2023

Responsible institution for the improvement action and each of its sub-actions:

Norwegian Institute of Public Health (NIPH)

12. Recommendation

<p>Statistics Norway should increase the visibility, transparency and documentation of its quality assurance of statistics and consider ways to certify its quality framework. (Improvement related: ES CoP, Indicators 4.1 and 15.7)</p>
<p>Current situation:</p> <p>The Norwegian Statistical System (NSS) has a very strong commitment to quality. Statistics Norway has a specific quality system for official statistics. Although the “About the Statistics” sections on Statistics Norway’s website are informative, it would still be possible to publish more information on quality, e.g. the documentation on general methods and the quality reports sent to Eurostat.</p> <p>Statistics Norway also has an extensive and excellent quality review system for reviewing the processes and products of several statistics each year, which results in an improvement plan that is followed up in subsequent years.</p> <p>A potential consequence of the quality system as a whole could be that it might take some time for stakeholders and users to completely understand all the interlinkages and be fully assured of the quality of the official statistics. Some kind of external review of the quality system as a whole, e.g. through certification, might be helpful in communicating quality assurance and in encouraging and ensuring more frequent internal quality reviews by the statistical departments themselves.</p>
<p>Improvement action 12.1: Develop a reference database for metadata based on SIMS</p> <p>Statistics Norway will explore developing a reference database for metadata, based on SIMS (Single Integrated Metadata Structure), as an authoritative source for reference metadata.</p> <p>Such a reference database will improve the “About the Statistics” sections, the harmonisation of quality reports to Eurostat, and the routines related to updating reference metadata. This will lead to a greater and better documentation of quality. The database will also be an important tool for general quality work in Statistics Norway, by enabling the monitoring of content across statistical domains, the more frequent updating of the content, and as a source of quality information for the annual public quality report. In the long run, it may also be possible for ONAs to contribute and use this reference metadata database.</p>
<p>Deadline: Q4 2024</p>
<p>Responsible institution for the improvement action and each of its sub-actions:</p> <p>Statistics Norway</p>
<p>Improvement action 12.2: Conduct a gap analysis of the documented quality system and consider certification</p> <p>Statistics Norway will conduct a gap analysis of the documented quality system compared to the ISO 9001 standard on quality management, including a cost/benefit analysis. Statistics Norway will consider ways to document and communicate quality assurance, e.g. through certification.</p>
<p>Deadline: Q4 2024</p>
<p>Responsible institution for the improvement action and each of its sub-actions:</p> <p>Statistics Norway</p>
<p>Improvement action 12.3: Explore tools to systemise and organise documentation</p> <p>Statistics Norway will investigate if an off-the-shelf solution can improve, systemize and increase the visibility of quality documentation, and provide a new source of information for the annual public quality report to the Ministry of Finance.</p>
<p>Deadline: Q4 2022</p>
<p>Responsible institution for the improvement action and each of its sub-actions:</p> <p>Statistics Norway</p>

13. Recommendation

<p>Statistics Norway should explore the potential of disseminating more and more detailed statistics to better serve its users, including further increasing its access to statistical data from other producers. (Improvement related: ES CoP, Indicators 2.4, and 11.1)</p>
<p>Current situation: Statistics Norway and the ONAs adhere to the disclosure requirements of the European Statistical System, the General Data Protection Regulation, and the Norwegian Statistics Act. There seem to be several unresolved issues or uncertainties in the interpretation of the requirements stemming from the new Statistics Act. For example, since its introduction, some previous exceptions from statistical confidentiality have been removed. This is a dilemma in particular in domains that rely on detailed breakdowns of territorial units and categories of economic activity.</p> <p>All official statistics are published on the websites and public databases of Statistics Norway and the ONAs respectively. There is no common single website and database for all official statistics. Statistics Norway aims to develop a common database and, from this, a common platform for all official statistics based on Statistics Norway's website ssb.no. This must be done in collaboration with the ONAs.</p>
<p>Improvement action 13.1: Establish an advisory committee for statistical disclosure control/statistical confidentiality Statistics Norway will establish an advisory committee for statistical disclosure control/statistical confidentiality. The statistical departments, legal officers, and the Division for Methods will be represented in the committee. Suitable and efficient forms of involvement and representation of ONAs should be established. The mandate should be to discuss and resolve issues relating to the implementation of confidentiality and the interpretation of the requirements in the new Statistics Act, and to investigate the potential for disseminating more detailed statistics. The work of the committee should lead to the development of guidelines and/or handbooks to support the production and dissemination processes in Statistics Norway and ONAs.</p>
<p>Deadline: Q4 2023</p>
<p>Responsible institution for the improvement action and each of its sub-actions: Statistics Norway</p>
<p>Improvement action 13.2: Develop a technical framework for making Statistics Norway's StatBank a common database for all official statistics Statistics Norway will develop a technical framework for making its StatBank a common database for all official statistics, facilitating data transfer (e.g. by using APIs) between Statistics Norway and other producers, in cooperation with the ONAs in the Committee for Official Statistics.</p>
<p>Deadline: Q4 2025</p>
<p>Responsible institution for the improvement action and each of its sub-actions: Statistics Norway</p>

14. Recommendation

<p>Statistics Norway should deepen and widen the current relationships with users by strengthening relations with specific user groups in Stortinget (the Parliament) and by expanding the scope of user satisfaction surveys. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 11.1 and 11.3)</p>
<p>Current situation:</p> <p>Statistics Norway has an extensive network for user contacts. There is a range of advisory councils and committees, as well as reference, working, and focus groups for statistical topics. The use of data is monitored through website counters. About 30 per cent of Statistics Norway's budget comes from additional statistical and research programmes financed by specific users. These programmes also constitute a basis to inform Statistics Norway about user needs for data, statistics, and analysis. Once every year, user satisfaction with the website is measured through a survey. Nevertheless, a somewhat more comprehensive and regular contact with, for instance, the administration of Stortinget (the Parliament), or the members of the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs, could be useful. Also, the system of user contacts is not currently integrated into a unified framework, in which gaps could be identified.</p>
<p>Improvement action 14.1: Strengthen contact with specific user groups in Stortinget (the Parliament)</p> <p>Statistics Norway will consider how to strengthen contact with key users of official statistics in Stortinget (the Parliament), e.g. through regular joint meetings and training for the administration, political advisers, etc. The purpose will be to inform and guide users in Stortinget about official statistics and research provided by Statistics Norway and to receive user feedback. Statistics Norway will establish a plan for offering training and joint meetings for users in Stortinget and thereafter implement the plan.</p>
<p>Deadline: Q4 2023</p>
<p>Responsible institution for the improvement action and each of its sub-actions: Statistics Norway</p>
<p>Improvement action 14.2: Improve the system for storing and making available user insights by establishing a common data repository</p> <p>Statistics Norway will improve the system for storing and making available user insights by gathering data from across the institution in a common repository. The common repository will make the system easier to navigate and search and facilitate easier access to relevant information on user behaviour and user needs for the whole organization. The improved system will also make it easier to identify gaps in Statistic Norway's knowledge of user needs.</p>
<p>Deadline: Q3 2023</p>
<p>Responsible institution for the improvement action and each of its sub-actions: Statistics Norway</p>

15. Recommendation

<p>Statistics Norway should improve the microdata services, in consultation with users, and establish an explicit roadmap for improvement actions. (Improvement related: ES CoP, Indicators 15.4 and 15.6)</p>
<p>Current situation:</p> <p>In the last few years, Statistics Norway has taken important steps to improve its microdata services. Through Microdata.no, there is much improved and easier access to microdata for researchers. For more detailed and more specific research purposes, it is possible to obtain relevant datasets, and this is described on the website.</p> <p>Several forums have been established to ensure that the users of Statistics Norway's data-sharing services are consulted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a strategic forum at the director level, in which Statistics Norway discusses possible developments in the main principles and practices for data sharing with representatives from the research community; • a user committee with user representatives who provide direct input on how the data-sharing services work; • a separate user forum for Microdata.no, in which Statistics Norway gathers insights for the further development of that service. <p>Statistics Norway will continue efforts to develop and improve microdata services based on input from user forums and other user contacts.</p>
<p>Improvement action 15.1: Provide more training courses and improve information about the microdata services</p> <p>Statistics Norway will provide more training and information about the microdata services, by setting up more courses, providing a regular newsletter, and increasing the number of staff providing guidance for users.</p>
<p>Deadline: Q4 2027</p>
<p>Responsible institution for the improvement action and each of its sub-actions: Statistics Norway</p>
<p>Improvement action: 15.2 Develop a new application form for microdata</p> <p>Statistics Norway will develop a new, user-tested application form for microdata with decision support.</p>
<p>Deadline: Q4 2022</p>
<p>Responsible institution for the improvement action and each of its sub-actions: Statistics Norway</p>
<p>Improvement action 15.3: Establish a roadmap for planned improvement actions for microdata services</p> <p>Statistics Norway will establish a roadmap for planned improvement actions for microdata services. The planned actions may include proposals for better services to provide a clear and comprehensive overview of the data available from Statistics Norway, services that provide a better connection between published statistics and the data on which the statistics are based, more efficient services for data access (such as export to safe centres), and services that provide better information about data, data quality and data application.</p>
<p>Deadline: Q4 2023</p>
<p>Responsible institution for the improvement action and each of its sub-actions: Statistics Norway</p>