



EUROPEAN
STATISTICAL
SYSTEM

IMPROVEMENT ACTIONS ROMANIA



Romania
National Institute of Statistics

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

<p>1. Recommendation</p> <p>The Romanian National Institute of Statistics and the relevant government authority should adopt and implement legislation which provides transparency in the procedure governing the appointment of the President of the Romanian National Institute of Statistics and the termination of the incumbency, notably through timely adoption and implementation of new legislation. (Compliance-relevant: ES CoP, Indicator 1.8)</p>	<p>9. Recommendation</p> <p>The Romanian National Institute of Statistics and the relevant government authority should ensure that future updates of the statistical law will enable wider access to privately held data and new data sources for the investigation of statistical potential and for use in the compilation of official statistics. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 2.4 and 2.2)</p>
<p>Current situation:</p> <p>The President of the NIS is appointed by the Prime Minister and there are no provisions in the current statistical law regarding the criteria for the selection or appointment of the President of the NIS or for termination of the incumbency. The need for greater transparency in the procedure governing the appointment of the President of the NIS and in the termination of the incumbency was a main driver for the revision of the statistical law which is currently in the legislative work.</p> <p>The new draft of the statistical law was updated with the provisions for a transparent procedure related to the recruitment, appointment and dismissal of the President of NIS, as well as the reasons for the termination of mandate.</p> <p>Currently, the new draft of the statistical law has been submitted to the flow of inter-institutional approval.</p>	<p>Current situation:</p> <p>Use of administrative data by the NIS continues to grow, with a very clear focus on using new data sources to minimize the statistical burden of data collection operations on enterprises and citizens, as well as supporting the development of new statistical indicators. With these objectives in mind, the NIS liaises with both public and private entities on access to data. However, apart from the specific case of the legal right of access to mobile and landline phone data for the purposes of the 2021 Population and Housing Census, the peer review noted that there is currently no legal basis for access to privately held data. The benefits and learnings from the 2021 Population and Housing Census present a strong case for strengthening the legal mandate in the statistical law for access to privately held data to enable the NIS to meet the growing needs of users and decision-makers for more timely, frequent and detailed information from these new data sources.</p> <p>The new draft of the statistical law was updated with the provisions on access to privately held data and new data sources.</p> <p>Currently, the new draft of the statistical law has been submitted to the flow of inter-institutional approval.</p>

<p>Improvement sub-actions 1.1 and 9.1:</p> <p>Updating the official statistics draft law with the observations received from the signatory institutions, including provisions on a transparent procedure related to the recruitment, appointment and dismissal of the President of NIS, as well as the reasons for the termination of mandate and provisions on access to privately held data and new data sources.</p>
<p>Deadline: Q3 2024</p>
<p>Responsible institution for improvement sub-actions 1.1 and 9.1: National Institute of Statistics</p>
<p>Improvement sub-actions 1.2 and 9.2:</p> <p>Sending the updated draft law on official statistics to the General Secretariat of the Government for its approval and transmission to the Romanian Parliament, for adoption.</p>
<p>Deadline: Q4 2024</p>
<p>Responsible institution for improvement sub-actions 1.2 and 9.2: National Institute of Statistics</p>
<p>Improvement sub-actions 1.3 and 9.3:</p> <p>Adoption of the draft law by the Romanian Parliament.</p>
<p>Deadline: Q1 2025</p>
<p>Responsible institution for improvement sub-actions 1.3 and 9.3: The Romanian Parliament</p>
<p>Improvement sub-actions 1.4 and 9.4:</p> <p>Implementing the legislation.</p>
<p>Deadline: Q4 2027</p>
<p>Responsible institution for improvement sub-actions 1.4 and 9.4: National Institute of Statistics</p>

2. Recommendation

The relevant government authorities, with the assistance of the Romanian National Institute of Statistics, should appoint a statistical head for each Other National Authority developing, producing and disseminating European statistics to comply with the professional independence requirement of the ES CoP. (Compliance-relevant: ES CoP, Indicators 1.2, 1.3 and 1.4)

Current situation:

Article 15 of the Law no. 226 / 2009 sets out the requirement for implementation of the ES CoP across the national statistical system and gives the Romanian National Institute of Statistics the responsibility for ensuring its implementation by the Other National Authorities developing, producing and disseminating official statistics. To demonstrate compliance with ES CoP by the Other National Authorities, the peer review team identified a need for nomination of a statistical head for each Other National Authority to ensure that a clear, formal line of reporting exists with the Romanian National Institute of Statistics on issues related to the compilation of official statistics.

Improvement sub-action 2.1:

Analysis of the way to organize the statistical activities carried out.

Deadline: Q4 2024

Responsible institutions for improvement sub-action 2.1: Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, National Agency for Environmental Protection, General Inspectorate for Immigration, National Agency for Fisheries and Aquaculture, National Authority for Energy Regulation

Improvement sub-action 2.2:

Based on the analysis carried out and in case there is no statistical structure, appoint a coordinator of the statistical activity and define his/her responsibilities, by administrative act.

Deadline: Q2 2025

Responsible institutions for improvement sub-action 2.2: Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, National Agency for Environmental Protection, General Inspectorate for Immigration, National Agency for Fisheries and Aquaculture, National Authority for Energy Regulation

Improvement sub-action 2.3:

Based on the analysis carried out and in case there is a statistical structure that has a management position, and it is vacant, start to fill the management position by competition, under the conditions of the legislation in force, applicable to public institutions.

Deadline: Q4 2025

Responsible institutions for improvement sub-action 2.3: Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, National Agency for Environmental Protection, General Inspectorate for Immigration, National Agency for Fisheries and Aquaculture, National Authority for Energy Regulation

3. Recommendation

The Romanian National Institute of Statistics and the relevant government authorities should build on the current statistical activities of the Other National Authorities developing, producing and disseminating European statistics to organise the statistical functions of the Other National Authorities into a distinct statistical unit, where possible. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 1.3, 1.2 and 1.4)

Current situation:

Currently, the ONAs' statistical functions are allocated to teams within the government authorities and are not visible as producers of European Statistics that must adhere to the ES CoP. The peer review team recognized an opportunity to strengthen the NSS through the organization, where possible, of the statistical functions of each ONA into separate statistical units. The establishment of distinct statistical units in each ONA would greatly enhance the visibility of the statistical work of the ONAs and would demonstrate their distinct role as producers of European Statistics while also demonstrating a commitment to a strong, well-structured NSS.

Improvement sub-action 3.1:

Carrying out a SWOT analysis regarding the need to create a separate statistics structure.

Deadline: Q4 2024

Responsible institutions for improvement sub-action 3.1: Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, National Agency for Environmental Protection, General Inspectorate for Immigration, National Agency for Fisheries and Aquaculture, National Authority for Energy Regulation

Improvement sub-action 3.2:

Based on the SWOT analysis, elaborate a proposal regarding the establishment of a statistical structure within their institution (where it does not exist) and the description of the specific statistical activities in the organization and operation regulations, in accordance with the legal regulations, applicable to public institutions.

Deadline: Q4 2025

Responsible institutions for improvement sub-action 3.2: Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, National Agency for Environmental Protection, General Inspectorate for Immigration, National Agency for Fisheries and Aquaculture, National Authority for Energy Regulation

Improvement sub-action 3.3:

Based on the analysis carried out, constitution of statistical structures in those ONAs where it is possible and needed according to the SWOT analysis.

Deadline: Q4 2027

Responsible institutions for improvement sub-action 3.3: Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, National Agency for Environmental Protection, General Inspectorate for Immigration, National Agency for Fisheries and Aquaculture, National Authority for Energy Regulation

4. Recommendation

The Romanian National Institute of Statistics and all Other National Authorities developing, producing and disseminating European statistics should introduce the systematic use of a common logo to clearly identify official statistics. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 1.6)

Current situation:

Currently, there is no single logo for the official statistics published by the Romanian National Institute of Statistics and the Other National Authorities developing, producing and disseminating European statistics. The peer review team identified an opportunity to strengthen the brand of official statistics through the introduction of a shared logo. The logo would also underline the independence of official statistics from other outputs and the strong adherence to the European statistics Code of Practice by the Romanian National Institute of Statistics and Other National Authorities.

Improvement sub-action 4.1:

Developing a logo for the national statistical system of Romania.

Deadline: Q4 2024

Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 4.1: National Institute of Statistics

Improvement sub-action 4.2

Developing and publishing the instruction of use of the logo for the national statistical system.

Deadline: Q4 2024

Responsible institutions for improvement sub-action 4.2: National Institute of Statistics and other national authorities producing official statistics

5. Recommendation

The Romanian National Institute of Statistics should extend its engagement and collaboration with all Other National Authorities developing, producing and disseminating European statistics on areas including, but not limited to, methodology, new data sources, privacy enhancing technologies, joint research projects and joint publications in order to address common opportunities, issues and challenges for the national statistical system. (Improvement-related: ES CoP Indicator 1bis.2)

Current situation:

The close bilateral coordination by and collaboration between the NIS and the ONAs developing, producing, and disseminating European statistics were very evident to the peer review team, including the formal coordination through COMSTAT and the regular informal collaboration between the NIS statistical areas and their ONA colleagues on compilation and development matters.

Currently, the partnership agreements between NIS and ONAs stipulate some common activities, related to the compliance of the ONAs with national and European legislation in the field of statistics, as well as the European Statistics Code of Practice. They include relevant statistical activities and their publication on the ONAs own website, the development of the Annual National Statistical Programme, a calendar for the dissemination of official statistics and its publication on the ONAs website. There is a need to update the agreements between NIS and ONAs with the provisions on the development of strategic documents of the NSS, methodology, training and others.

Improvement sub-action 5.1:

Updating the partnership agreements with ONAs, by expanding the collaboration methods in the following areas: development of strategic documents of the NSS, methodology, training, and others.

Deadline: Q2 2025

Responsible institutions for improvement sub-action 5.1: National Institute of Statistics and Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, National Agency for Environmental Protection, General Inspectorate for Immigration, National Agency for Fisheries and Aquaculture, National Authority for Energy Regulation
Improvement sub-action 5.2: Signing partnership agreements between the NIS and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, the National Agency for Environmental Protection, the General Inspectorate for Immigration, the National Agency for Fisheries and Aquaculture, the National Authority for Energy Regulation.
Deadline: Q2 2026
Responsible institutions for improvement sub-action 5.2: National Institute of Statistics and Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, National Agency for Environmental Protection, General Inspectorate for Immigration, National Agency for Fisheries and Aquaculture, National Authority for Energy Regulation
Improvement sub-action 5.3: Implementing the agreements, according to their content.
Deadline: Q4 2027
Responsible institutions for improvement sub-action 5.3: National Institute of Statistics and Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, National Agency for Environmental Protection, General Inspectorate for Immigration, National Agency for Fisheries and Aquaculture, National Authority for Energy Regulation

6. Recommendation
The relevant government authorities should ensure allocation of adequate human and financial resources to the Romanian National Institute of Statistics and all Other National Authorities developing, producing and disseminating European statistics, to allow them in particular, to deliver the Strategy for the Development of the National Statistical System 2022-2027 and to further embrace new data sources and technologies. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 3.1 and 10.2)
Current situation: Ensuring the adequacy and sustainability of human and financial resources to implement the Multi-Annual and Annual National Statistical Programmes and to build the skills and capacity to meet increasing user needs for official statistics as a critical input to policy and decision-making was one of the main challenges for the NIS and the ONAs identified by the peer review team. Furthermore, achieving the objectives of the Strategy for the Development of the National Statistical System 2022-2027 is critically conditional on the timely provision of resources. The Romanian Government, through its Commitment on Confidence, has an explicit commitment to support the credibility of Romanian official statistics by providing adequate and stable financial resources to improve the quality of official statistics and meet the requirements of the ESCoP. The urgency of the situation with regard to skills shortages and salary incentives for talent recruitment was an issue raised repeatedly during the discussions between the peer review team, the NIS, the ONAs and the General Secretariat of the Government.
Improvement sub-action 6.1: Negotiation with the General Secretariat of the Government, of the annual budget proposal necessary to fulfill the NIS obligations assumed through the strategic plans.
Deadline: Q4 2024 (annually afterwards)
Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 6.1: National Institute of Statistics
Improvement sub-action 6.2: The approval and transmission by the General Secretariat of the Government of the rectified budget to NIS according to NIS budget required.
Deadline: Q4 2024 (annually afterwards)

Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 6.2: General Secretariat of the Government
Improvement sub-action 6.3: Initiating the procedures for filling the vacant positions, in accordance with the legislation in force, applicable to public institutions.
Deadline: Q4 2025
Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 6.3: National Institute of Statistics
Improvement sub-action 6.4: Identify the financial and human resources necessary to carry out the statistical activities and, if they are insufficient, propose an increase to the responsible manager in the ONA, for decision.
Deadline: Q4 2025
Responsible institutions for improvement sub-action 6.4: Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, National Agency for Environmental Protection, General Inspectorate for Immigration, National Agency for Fisheries and Aquaculture, National Authority for Energy Regulation

7. Recommendation
The relevant government authority should resolve the misalignment of remuneration between the staff of the Romanian National Institute of Statistics and the staff of other government authorities in order to support the recruitment and retention of skilled staff. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 3.1)
Current situation: Staff recruitment and retention were identified by the peer review team as significant issues for the NIS and for the ONAs, considering that the vacancy rate for the NIS stood at 12% at the time of the peer review and that there can be long periods of time between recruitment competitions, due to legislative or budgetary restrictions. These challenges were acknowledged by the external stakeholders contributing to the peer review as key risks for the delivery and development of the official statistics needed to meet the needs of policy and decision-makers, researchers, and analysts. Contributing to the recruitment and retention challenge, a misalignment of the remuneration of NIS staff when compared with other government authorities, which is acknowledged by the relevant authorities, was raised repeatedly during the discussions between the peer review team, the NIS and the external stakeholders. To further support an improved environment for the recruitment and retention of the necessary skills, the peer review team identified a recommendation on remuneration levels for NIS staff.
Improvement action 7: Negotiation with relevant institutions in order to align the remuneration of NIS staff with that of other government authorities.
Deadline: Q4 2025
Responsible institutions for improvement action 7: National Institute of Statistics and General Secretariat of the Government

<p>8. Recommendation</p> <p>The Romanian National Institute of Statistics and all Other National Authorities developing, producing and disseminating European statistics should investigate and implement non-financial incentives, particularly through training and skills development, staff mobility and, where possible, by the extension of flexible working arrangements. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 7.6 and 3.1)</p>
<p>Current situation:</p> <p>The NIS's commitment to staff training and skills development was evident during the peer review and the peer review team was informed about some formal and informal training options available for the staff of the NIS and the ONAs. To further develop their staff's skills, and to address staff retention challenges in particular, the NIS and the ONAs could extend and promote formal training and education schemes. Additionally, increased flexibility in working arrangements was identified as a further opportunity to support staff retention.</p> <p>Moreover, there is currently no formal process for staff mobility at the NIS. A formal mobility process would give the NIS the opportunity to further increase employee engagement, develop staff competencies and exchange and share innovations, practices and methodologies across teams. Staff could also gain new perspectives on their roles and on the varied work of the NIS. The development and implementation of a policy on staff mobility could provide another incentive for staff retention.</p>
<p>Improvement sub-action 8.1:</p> <p>Identify ways of non-financial motivation of staff for career development.</p>
<p>Deadline: Q4 2024</p>
<p>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 8.1: National Institute of Statistics</p>
<p>Improvement sub-action 8.2:</p> <p>Include in the annual professional training plan training courses, covering all areas of statistical activity.</p>
<p>Deadline: Q4 2024 (annually afterwards)</p>
<p>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 8.2: National Institute of Statistics</p>
<p>Improvement sub-action 8.3:</p> <p>Disseminate the calendar of free trainings organized by the NIS to the ONAs, in order for the statistical staff from ONAs to participate online.</p>
<p>Deadline: Q4 2024 (annually afterwards)</p>
<p>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 8.3: National Institute of Statistics</p>
<p>Improvement sub-action 8.4:</p> <p>Inform and support NIS and ONAs staff to participate in ESTP courses, internal and international seminars and conferences, in the field of official statistics.</p>
<p>Deadline: Q4 2024 (annually afterwards)</p>
<p>Responsible institutions for improvement sub-action 8.4: National Institute of Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, National Agency for Environmental Protection, General Inspectorate for Immigration, National Agency for Fisheries and Aquaculture, National Authority for Energy Regulation</p>
<p>Improvement sub-action 8.5:</p> <p>Develop the infrastructure to enable a teleworking regime and grant the possibility of teleworking to staff.</p>
<p>Deadline: Q4 2024</p>
<p>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 8.5: National Institute of Statistics</p>
<p>Improvement sub-action 8.6:</p>

Develop a mobility policy for NIS staff including a process to inform staff and a procedure for implementing mobility.
Deadline: Q4 2024
Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 8.6: National Institute of Statistics

10. Recommendation
The Romanian National Institute of Statistics and, where applicable, the Other National Authorities developing, producing and disseminating European statistics, should actively engage with private data holders to investigate opportunities for official statistics. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 2.4)
Current situation: Considering the long time required to update legislation and recognizing the need to gain further experience on the statistical potential of privately held data, the peer review team recognized the opportunity for the Romanian National Institute of Statistics and the Other National Authorities to further develop partnerships and relationships with key stakeholders to investigate how these data can help to meet growing user needs.
Improvement sub-action 10.1: Identify the holders of private data whose data can be used in the production of official statistics.
Deadline: Q4 2026
Responsible institutions for improvement sub-action 10.1: National Institute of Statistics and where applicable, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, National Agency for Environmental Protection, General Inspectorate for Immigration, National Agency for Fisheries and Aquaculture, National Authority for Energy Regulation
Improvement sub-action 10.2: Negotiate and conclude collaboration protocols with the holders of identified private sources.
Deadline: Q4 2027
Responsible institutions for improvement sub-action 10.2: National Institute of Statistics and where applicable, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, National Agency for Environmental Protection, General Inspectorate for Immigration, National Agency for Fisheries and Aquaculture, National Authority for Energy Regulation

11. Recommendation
The Romanian National Institute of Statistics should engage with the relevant government authorities to ensure that the importance of effective access to administrative data is understood and supported at the highest level by the government authorities. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 2.2)
Current situation: Right of access to administrative data for the NIS and the ONAs is provided for in Article 22 of the statistical law in accordance with the activities set out in the Annual National Statistical Programme. However, this access can sometimes be difficult to achieve in practice and high-level engagement may be needed, where necessary, to highlight this legal right of access and to ensure effective cooperation on the provision of administrative data by the relevant government authorities.
Improvement sub-action 11.1 Organize working meetings with the main relevant government authorities to convince them of the need for the NIS to obtain free access to administrative data and their use for statistical purposes only, while ensuring confidentiality and data protection at the same time.
Deadline: Q4 2026

Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 11.1: National Institute of Statistics
Improvement sub-action 11.2 Update the collaboration agreements with holders of administrative data to receive extended access to them.
Deadline: Q4 2027
Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 11.2: National Institute of Statistics

12. Recommendation
The Romanian National Institute of Statistics should develop a plan to monitor compliance with ES CoP by all Other National Authorities developing, producing and disseminating European statistics, assisted by the documentation developed for the peer review. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 1bis.2 and 4.1)
Current situation: The NIS has a formal coordination role across the NSS as stipulated in Article 7 of the statistical law. The peer review team confirmed that the coordination role of the NIS is effectively exercised in practice, and this coordination is highly appreciated by the other producers and stakeholders of the NSS. The Annual and Multi-annual National Statistical Programmes of the NIS and the ONAs are coordinated through COMSTAT, and ONA representation and participation in the work of the NSC to coordinate on meeting user needs was also very evident to the peer review team. Under Article 15 of the statistical law, the NIS has the responsibility for monitoring the ONAs' implementation of the concepts regarding the management of quality in statistics and the concepts of the ES CoP. The peer review team was informed that the NIS is developing a quality assessment tool to monitor the ONAs' compliance with the ES CoP. It should also develop a formal plan to monitor such adherence, building on the strong coordination arrangements and on the documentation and preparation undertaken with the ONAs as part of the peer review process.
Improvement action 12.1: Develop a plan in order to monitor the compliance with the ES CoP within ONAs.
Deadline: Q1 2025
Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 12.1: National Institute of Statistics
Improvement sub-action 12.2: Organize training courses for ONAs staff on ES CoP, QAF and quality policies.
Deadline: Q2 2025
Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 12.2: National Institute of Statistics
Improvement sub-action 12.3: Complete a self-assessment questionnaire on compliance with the ES CoP.
Deadline: Q4 2025
Responsible institutions for improvement sub-action 12.3: Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, National Agency for Environmental Protection, General Inspectorate for Immigration, National Agency for Fisheries and Aquaculture, National Authority for Energy Regulation
Improvement sub-action 12.4: Summarize the results of the self-assessments by ONAs in a report.
Deadline: Q2 2026

Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 12.4: National Institute of Statistics
Improvement sub-action 12.5: Elaborate improvement recommendations for ONAs, following the analysis of the report on the results from the self-assessments by ONAs.
Deadline: Q4 2026
Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 12.5: National Institute of Statistics
Improvement sub-action 12.6: Monitor the implementation of the improvement recommendations by the ONAs.
Deadline: Q2 2027
Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 12.6: National Institute of Statistics
Improvement sub-action 12.7: Draft an overall report on the degree of implementation of the recommendations to reach compliance with the ES CoP by ONAs.
Deadline: Q4 2027
Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 12.7: National Institute of Statistics

13. Recommendation
The Romanian National Institute of Statistics should ensure that the Quality Guidelines for Romanian Official Statistics are relevant for all Other National Authorities developing, producing and disseminating European statistics and should monitor and review their implementation. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 1bis.2 and 4.2)
Current situation: The NIS's quality policy is based on two documents: a Quality Declaration and Quality Guidelines for Romanian Official Statistics, both available on the NIS website. Additionally, each statistical domain has developed and implemented guidelines and handbooks in line with European methodology and these documents are available in the externally accessible metadata database. A new version of the Quality Guidelines for Romanian Official Statistics, using the Generic Statistical Business Process Model framework, has been developed and is being tested with the production directorates of the NIS. It is important for the NIS to receive input from the ONAs to finalize these updated quality guidelines.
Improvement sub-action 13.1: Organize meetings with ONAs in order to present the national guidelines and provide training on them.
Deadline: Q4 2024
Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 13.1: National Institute of Statistics
Improvement sub-action 13.2: Receive feedback from ONAs regarding the way in which the national guidelines will be implemented in their activities.
Deadline: Q1 2025
Responsible institutions for improvement sub-action 13.2: Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, National Agency for Environmental Protection, General Inspectorate for Immigration, National Agency for Fisheries and Aquaculture, National Authority for Energy Regulation
Improvement sub-action 13.3:

Update the national guidelines at the NIS level, based on the feedback received from the ONAs, if necessary.
Deadline: Q4 2025
Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 13.3: National Institute of Statistics
Improvement sub-action 13.4: Monitor the implementation of national guidelines for quality assurance by ONAs.
Deadline: Q4 2026
Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 13.4: National Institute of Statistics
Improvement sub-action 13.5: Draft a report on the implementation and degree of implementation of the national guidelines for quality assurance within the ONAs.
Deadline: Q1 2027
Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 13.5: National Institute of Statistics

14. Recommendation
The Romanian National Institute of Statistics should improve the integration and automation of its metadata systems to facilitate the central management of metadata that meets all purposes. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 8.4)
Current situation: The NIS's metadata database provides information on the sources, concepts and methods for each statistical survey in the Annual National Statistical Programme, including the surveys of other producers of official statistics. This database also contains definitions of the outputs and indicators as well as theoretical statistical information. The NIS plans to further improve the content of its metadata database using the methodology documents developed for each statistical area as part of the CONRENA project. Acknowledging the ongoing work to improve metadata, the peer review team believes that the NIS should investigate the possibility of streamlining the systems and processes for populating and updating the metadata database, ideally using automation where possible.
Improvement sub-action 14.1: Identify external funds for the creation of the metadata definition and storage platform (reference and structural metadata) which will integrate information on sources, concepts and methods for each statistical survey with the methodology documents developed according to GSBPM.
Deadline: Q3 2025
Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 14.1: National Institute of Statistics
Improvement sub-action 14.2: Subcontracting a company for the elaboration of the financing request and the project sheet for developing the metadata definition and storage platform.
Deadline: Q1 2026
Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 14.2: National Institute of Statistics
Improvement sub-action 14.3: Implement the metadata definition and storage platform.

Deadline: Q4 2027
Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 14.3: National Institute of Statistics

15. Recommendation
The Romanian National Institute of Statistics should continue to develop and disseminate standardized metadata in its dissemination and quality reporting systems. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 15.5)
Current situation: The NIS has partly implemented the Single Integrated Metadata Structure (SIMS) for the description and public dissemination of metadata reports for most of its statistical surveys, available in its metadata database on the NIS website. The peer review team was informed that the NIS plans to develop a comprehensive internal quality reporting guide. The peer review team recommends that in this guide, and in future updates of the metadata database, the NIS continues this work to implement SIMS as fully as possible across its systems for gathering, collating and reporting metadata.
Improvement sub-action 15.1: Complete the guide on the preparation of quality reports.
Deadline: Q2 2024
Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 15.1: National Institute of Statistics
Improvement sub-action 15.2: Organize meetings with the production departments of the NIS, in order to present the guide on the preparation of quality reports.
Deadline: Q2 2024
Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 15.2: National Institute of Statistics
Improvement sub-action 15.3: Post on the NIS website the guide on the preparation of quality reports.
Deadline: Q2 2024
Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 15.3: National Institute of Statistics
Improvement sub-action 15.4: Training of NIS specialists regarding the use of the ESS MH (ESS Metadata Handler) application for metadata and quality reporting.
Deadline: Q4 2024
Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 15.4: National Institute of Statistics

<p>16. Recommendation</p> <p>The Romanian National Institute of Statistics should introduce the systematic review of statistical processes and outputs, building on the documentation gathered in the quality reports. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 4.2)</p>
<p>Current situation:</p> <p>The peer review team noted that quality reports are systematically drawn up as part of the NIS's obligations towards European regulations. These reports have a great potential to contribute in a cost-effective way towards building a system for the systematic quality review of statistical processes and outputs. To ensure that statistical quality reports are used comprehensively to continuously drive quality improvements in its statistical processes, over and beyond EU reporting obligations, the peer review team noted an opportunity for the NIS to develop and introduce a systematic approach to monitoring and reviewing the quality of statistical production processes based on the information and documentation available from the quality reports.</p>
<p>Improvement sub-action 16.1:</p> <p>Develop Guidelines for a Systematic Review of Statistical Processes and outputs.</p>
<p>Deadline: Q3 2025</p>
<p>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 16.1: National Institute of Statistics</p>
<p>Improvement sub-action 16.2:</p> <p>Pilot the Guidelines of Systematic Review of Statistical Processes and outputs in the field of agricultural statistics.</p>
<p>Deadline: Q1 2026</p>
<p>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 16.2: National Institute of Statistics</p>
<p>Improvement sub-action 16.3:</p> <p>Gradually implement the Guidelines of Systematic Review of Statistical Processes and outputs.</p>
<p>Deadline: Q4 2027</p>
<p>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 16.3: National Institute of Statistics</p>

<p>17. Recommendation</p> <p>The Romanian National Institute of Statistics should ensure the development of standard methodology approaches for implementation by the statistical production areas. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 7.2)</p>
<p>Current situation:</p> <p>A Methodological Endorsement Committee (MEC) has been established within the NIS. It has a consultative role and consists of 10 members who are selected from the NSC. The MEC is responsible for approving the methodological projects related to statistical surveys, statistical classifications, nomenclatures and statistical instruments, as well as other statistical work. While acknowledging and commending the MEC's role in the development and improvement of the methodologies used by the NIS, the peer review team identified a need for the NIS to ensure that best-practice methodologies are implemented across its statistical areas, as standards are currently not automatically implemented and applied.</p>
<p>Improvement sub-action 17.1:</p> <p>Identify standard methodologies applicable in various domains.</p>
<p>Deadline: Q2 2025</p>

Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 17.1: National Institute of Statistics
Improvement sub-action 17.2: Training of staff on the identified standard methodologies.
Deadline: Q4 2025
Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 17.2: National Institute of Statistics
Improvement sub-action 17.3: Implement the standard methodologies and evaluate their implementation across statistical domains.
Deadline: Q4 2027
Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 17.3: National Institute of Statistics

18. Recommendation
The Romanian National Institute of Statistics should organise a more systematic and comprehensive consultation with users to improve the identification of future user needs and new users, building on the current three-yearly user survey. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 11.1, 11.2 and 11.3)
Current situation: The peer review team observed that the NSC provides the various user groups represented on the Council with opportunities to convey their needs for new statistical outputs with the NIS and the ONAs. Additionally, the NIS conducts a user survey every three years and users also have the opportunity to make contact regarding their needs at any stage via the NIS website. However, given the three-year gap between the user survey and the importance of identifying needs across the widest possible number of users, the peer review team identified the need for a more frequent and coordinated procedure of consultation and prioritization of user needs across all stakeholders and sectors.
Improvement sub-action 18.1: Identify the main groups of users like journalists, academia, researchers of statistical data, etc. (based on the analysis of the "Questionnaire of statistical data users" posted on the NIS website).
Deadline: Q4 2024 (updated annually afterwards)
Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 18.1: National Institute of Statistics
Improvement sub-action 18.2: Organize meetings with users to be consulted on their current and future opinions and needs, regarding access to the content of statistical information disseminated by the NIS.
Deadline: Q1 2025 (annually afterwards)
Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 18.2: National Institute of Statistics

19. Recommendation
The Romanian National Institute of Statistics and all Other National Authorities developing, producing and disseminating European statistics should continue to develop and implement communications to improve the profile of official statistics, including engagement with users to promote statistical literacy. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 15.2, 15.6 and 15.7)
Current situation: The NIS promotes statistical literacy through seminars and conferences and has held information sessions with the media in the past, which the attendees found very helpful for improving their understanding of

official statistics. Recognizing the importance of outreach initiatives to all types of users, the peer review team encourages the NIS to continue to further develop statistical literacy outreach programmes.
Improvement sub-action 19.1: Organize the European Statistics Competition supported by Eurostat for both age groups of 14-16 years and 16-18 years.
Deadline: Q4 2024 (annually afterwards)
Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 19.1: National Institute of Statistics
Improvement sub-action 19.2: Promote the results of the European Statistics Competition and granting the awards to the winners.
Deadline: Q1 2025 (annually afterwards)
Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 19.2: National Institute of Statistics
Improvement sub-action 19.3: Organize specific events dedicated to official statistics, such as European Statistical Day, Open Data Week or National Statistician Day.
Deadline: Q4 2024 (annually afterwards)
Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 19.3: National Institute of Statistics

20. Recommendation
All Other National Authorities developing, producing and disseminating European statistics should implement a formal release calendar for official statistics, coordinated by the Romanian National Institute of Statistics. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 6.5)
Current situation: The peer review team noted that, while the timetable of outputs by the ONAs is included in the Annual National Statistical Programme for the NSS, the ONAs do not publish formal release calendars. To clearly demonstrate their independence in the dissemination of official statistics, the peer review team considered that each ONA should develop a release calendar for their official statistical outputs and that their calendar should be made public.
Improvement sub-action 20.1: Develop a template for the dissemination calendar of official statistics.
Deadline: Q4 2024
Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 20.1: National Institute of Statistics
Improvement sub-action 20.2: Develop calendars for the dissemination of ONA's official statistics, based on the template and posting it on the websites.
Deadline: Q4 2025 (annually afterwards)
Responsible institutions for improvement sub-action 20.2: Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, National Agency for Environmental Protection, General Inspectorate for Immigration, National Agency for Fisheries and Aquaculture, National Authority for Energy Regulation

<p>21. Recommendation</p> <p>All Other National Authorities developing, producing and disseminating European statistics should develop and implement pre-release access policies, where such pre-release access occurs. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 6.7)</p>
<p>Current situation:</p> <p>The Romanian National Institute of Statistics is well aware of the principle of equal access to data for all users and does not provide pre-release access to its results, while awareness about the important principle of no pre-release may not be sufficiently present at all levels in the Other National Authorities developing, producing and disseminating official statistics. To clearly demonstrate their independence as disseminators of official statistics, the peer review team considered that the Other National Authorities should review and clearly publicize their pre-release access policy and practices or state that there is no pre-release to data to any user, also not inside the supervising authority.</p>
<p>Improvement sub-action 21.1:</p> <p>Inform ONAs about the need to develop and implement pre-release access policies.</p>
<p>Deadline: Q1 2025</p>
<p>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 21.1: National Institute of Statistics</p>
<p>Improvement sub-action 21.2:</p> <p>Develop a common policy regarding the pre-release access policy.</p>
<p>Deadline: Q4 2025</p>
<p>Responsible institutions for improvement sub-action 21.2: National Institute of Statistics and Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, National Agency for Environmental Protection, General Inspectorate for Immigration, National Agency for Fisheries and Aquaculture, National Authority for Energy Regulation</p>
<p>Improvement sub-action 21.3:</p> <p>Post the pre-release access policy on ONAs websites.</p>
<p>Deadline: Q4 2025</p>
<p>Responsible institutions for improvement sub-action 21.3: Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, National Agency for Environmental Protection, General Inspectorate for Immigration, National Agency for Fisheries and Aquaculture, National Authority for Energy Regulation</p>
<p>Improvement sub-action 21.4:</p> <p>Implement the pre-release access policy within ONAs</p>
<p>Deadline: Q1 2026</p>
<p>Responsible institutions for improvement sub-action 21.4: Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, National Agency for Environmental Protection, General Inspectorate for Immigration, National Agency for Fisheries and Aquaculture, National Authority for Energy Regulation, where the necessity is imposed</p>