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Annual Report of the Official Statistics Authority 2015

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Institutional Framework and Composition of the Official Statistics Authority

The institutional framework of official statistics in France was modified by the Law on Modernisation of the Economy (LME) of 4 August 2008. Article 1 of Law n°51-711 of 7 June 1951 on obligations, coordination and confidentiality in statistical matters, as amended by Organic Law n°2010 of 28 June 2010, established the Official Statistics Authority.

The institutional framework of official statistics in France is based on three pillars.

The National Council for Statistical Information (CNIS) provides a forum for users and producers of official statistics. It highlights new needs for information, guides programming of official statistical work and suggests ways to ensure that these statistics correspond as closely as possible to the questions of society.

The CNIS is chaired by Yannick Moreau.

The Official Statistical Service (SSP) drives conception, production and dissemination of official statistics.

On 31 December 2015, it comprises INSEE and 17 Ministerial Statistical Offices. It is coordinated by INSEE.

INSEE is headed by Jean-Luc Tavernier.

The Official Statistics Authority (ASP) ensures that official statistics are prepared in all professional independence and according to the fundamental principles in the “European Statistics Code of Practice”: impartiality, objectivity, relevance and data quality.

One of its missions is to write an annual report on official statistical activity. This report is handed in to Parliament and made public.

This report covers 2015, the seventh year of existence of the Authority.

Decree n° 2009-250 of 3 March 2009 on the Official Statistics Authority

Composition of the Official Statistics Authority

(notice published in the Official Journal of 6 May 2015):¹:

Mr Dominique Bureau, President, appointed by a decree of the Council of Ministers of 9 April 2015, succeeding Paul Champsaur.

Mr Abdeldjellil Bouzidi, appointed by the President of the National Assembly

Mr Denis Badré, appointed by the President of the Senate

Mr Philippe Le Clézio, appointed by the President of the Economic, Social and Environmental Council

Mr Jean Gaeremynck, President of the Statistical Confidentiality Committee, appointed by the Vice-President of the Council of State

Mr François Ecalle, appointed by the First President of the Court of Accounts

Mrs Véronique Hespel, appointed by the Department Head of the General Inspectorate of Finances

Mr Stéphane Paul, appointed by the Head of the General Inspectorate of Social Affairs

Mr Bruno Durieux, appointed by the Minister for the Economy, Industry and Digital Technologies

¹ Since 28 February 2016, the composition of the Authority has been modified:
<https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichTexte.do?cidTexte=JORFTEXT000032115760&categorieLien=id>

Preface

Democratic debate, public and private decision-making, social science research – all these areas need high-quality information on the economy and society, prepared totally independently and made available to all. As such, statistical systems are an essential component of the democratic process and of progress in society. The criteria of professional competence and independence, along with the objectivity, impartiality, relevance and quality of the data produced all determine their ability to fulfil the role as we would expect.

This is the mission of the Official Statistics Authority (ASP), to ensure compliance with these principles, with particular reference to the European Statistics Code of Practice, which is based on fifteen principles covering the institutional environment, adequacy of organisations and resources, and statistical procedures and output.

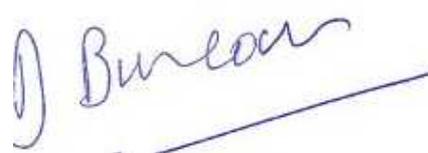
The first six years that the Authority has been in operation, presided over by Paul Champsaur, have shown the utility of systematic external monitoring of the way these principles are implemented, through a board composed of various leading figures to highlight the different facets of the issues under consideration. The Authority is now well established, including its mode of operation based on thoroughness and excellent relations with INSEE and the CNIS. Its main concern is to contribute to building a statistical system that is in constant transformation due to changing needs and data. In this respect, digital-related issues will inform the Authority's work schedule in 2016.

In this report, we put these changes into perspective and recall the specific topics that the ASP had to deal with in 2015: looking at the entities that make up the Official Statistical Service ("small Ministerial Statistical Offices (MSO)", overseeing the setting up of the MSOs for Internal Security and for Higher Education and Research), the quality labelling of statistics (expenditure on sickness insurance produced by CNAMTS), or looking at the rules for the dissemination of some indicators.

A very important event was the "peer review" carried out in 2015 by Eurostat, which monitored INSEE as well as the two MSOs of Agriculture and Sustainable Development –important providers of European statistics. This was an opportunity to obtain an overall diagnosis of our Official Statistical Service (SSP). In addition to opening up avenues in terms of quality policy and improvements in services to the user, which INSEE has incorporated into its medium-term strategic reflection ("INSEE 2025"), this review highlighted first and foremost the fact that the quality of INSEE's work is recognised internationally.

Its strength lies primarily in the vocational training provided for staff, who are therefore competent to deal with issues appropriately and find solutions to establish solid methodologies and appropriate tools. In this respect, the European Statistics Code of Practice recommends that "cooperation with the scientific community is organised to improve methodology, the effectiveness of the methods implemented and to promote better tools when feasible". This is undoubtedly the legacy of Edmond Malinvaud, who died in 2015, and who understood very early on the importance of such an approach: recognising the importance of the economy if society is to develop; constantly endeavouring to improve the quality of statistical production, to reduce the time taken to make information available and to open up public statistics to the outside, while always strengthening legitimacy and independence.

President of the Official Statistics Authority

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Bureau", is written over a horizontal line.

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1. Official statistics in France in 2015

1.1 Overview

In 2015, the Official Statistical Service (SSP) achieved some notable advances, particularly in relation to encouraging the widespread use of internet for collecting population census data, the publication of localised data on disposable income and monetary poverty, the promotion of key indicator calendars, new series for the number of authorised dwellings and housing starts, new indicators to monitor sustainable development at national and global level, and the introduction of the Ministerial Statistical Office (MSO) for Internal Security.

This progress is in line with the expectations of the National Council for Statistical Information (CNIS) whose medium-term opinions guide the production and statistical studies of the Official Statistical Service, within the framework of the 2014-2018 medium-term view and taking account of the progress and events of recent years. The directions considered by the CNIS to be of major importance concern both cross-cutting areas and different subject fields. The main ones are as follows:

- helping to facilitate access to official statistical data by different users,
- highlighting international comparisons, especially European comparisons,
- ensuring that citizens are able to understand and use official statistical data,
- monitoring the dissemination of indicators as a complement to GDP measurements and other information useful for understanding them,
- improving knowledge of territorial expenditure and moving forward in measuring the digital economy.

In addition, to increase productivity, the Official Statistical Service (SSP) has embarked on many different projects, including modernising the census, improving tools to enable businesses to reply online, using the Nominative Social Declaration (DSN), using new sources of data for official statistics, centralising INSEE's IT production in Metz, and grouping research departments together in the merged regions following territorial reform. There was a great deal of progress and innovation in 2015 in these areas, in a context where there are more and more providers of information, especially short-term information.

For the moment, the Institute is managing to meet budget constraints without compromising its mission, but the tension is building and the SSP is faced with having to make some difficult trade-offs. Indeed, INSEE is increasingly questioning its ability to cope with all the requests for "household" surveys that will emerge in the coming years, and which will be carried out by the network of INSEE survey interviewers. Some Ministerial Statistical Offices (MSOs) in the social field share the same concerns.

Given this context and to anticipate the challenges of the years to come, a medium-term strategic reflection has been launched by the Director General of INSEE. It is entitled "INSEE 2025" and follows on from a previous reflection, "Ambition 2015". This will give INSEE the opportunity to consider the adequacy of the human and financial resources required for the actions to be carried in the context of this discussion and the available resources. It should also ensure that major imbalances between the different parts of INSEE can be remedied, to take into account the

increasing scarcity of human and budgetary resources while maintaining the quality of statistical production.

This approach addresses the key issues that will have an impact on the activities of INSEE and on official statistics in general in the next ten years. The issues that have been particularly identified are the following: how can the Institute exert its influence on changes that are happening in official statistics? How to ensure efficient skills transfers in a context where many people will be taking retirement? How to maintain and adapt the Institute's multitude of computer applications? What should the stance be when dealing with "Big Data"?

1.2 Progress and investment by the Official Statistical Service (SSP)

- ***Generalised use of online data collection for the population census***

In 2015, everyone in all the municipalities surveyed had the possibility of replying to the population census online. One third of the households concerned chose this method. This represents almost 1.3 million households, or around 3.4 million individuals who chose to reply using the online questionnaire.

- ***Publication for the first time of localised data on disposable income and monetary poverty***

In June 2015, INSEE published for the first time localised data on disposable income and monetary poverty using a new localised and social system (FILOSOFI) covering income for 2012. This device is based on bringing together in an exhaustive file: income tax data, the residency tax file, files of beneficiaries of the National Family Allowances Fund (CNAF) the National Old-Age Insurance Fund (CNAV) and the Agricultural Social Insurance Fund (MSA). Every year, this device will produce declared and disposable incomes, standards of living and poverty rates down to a sub-municipal level, based on year n-3.

- ***Publication calendars brought forward for three key indicators of the French economy and for the poverty rate***

In 2015, INSEE launched studies to bring forward the publication calendar of several key French economic indicators, gross domestic product (GDP), the price index and the unemployment rate.

On 29 January 2016, the Institute published its first estimate of French GDP for Q4 2015, which was 30 days after the end of the quarter, compared with 45 days previously. In addition, unlike other European countries that publish within this 30-day deadline, publication in France is accompanied by an estimate for consumption, investment, foreign trade and stocks.

INSEE brought forward the publication of the quarterly unemployment figures by 15 days and more generally, all indicators on employment and the labour market based on the Labour Force Survey. The first results affected by this new calendar were those for Q1 2016.

From now on, INSEE will publish a provisional estimate of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) at the end of each month, which is 2 weeks earlier than before.

Lastly, for the first time, a provisional estimate of the poverty rate for 2014 was disseminated by INSEE in December 2015, whereas until now the Institute published the poverty rate more than a year and a half after the end of the year under consideration. This estimate was produced using micro-simulation models.

- ***New series on housing starts published by the MSO for Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy (SOeS)***

In January 2015, the SOeS disseminated some new series on the number of authorised dwellings and the number of housing starts. The underlying methodology for these new series compensates for the problem of underestimation in the previous series, which had increased since 2007 because of a growing problem with data collection. For housing starts, the methodological corrections consisted mainly in no longer waiting for administrative information to be reported, but instead in estimating housing starts based on the dates of building permits. As a result of using this methodology, the level and the profile of housing starts were revised substantially.²

The number of dwellings under construction across the country in 2014 was thus revised upwards by 58,000 dwellings, bringing the total to 356,000.

- ***New indicators to monitor sustainable development, at national and global levels***

Sustainable development issues lie at the heart of current political concerns both nationally and internationally. In this context, statistical offices have been in great demand to help determine new indicators and then produce and monitor them on a regular basis.

At national level, in the Council of Ministers on 4 February 2015, the Government adopted a national strategy for ecological transition to sustainable development (SNTEDD) 2015-2020. A dashboard of indicators was defined with which to monitor progress. This consists of 39 essential indicators and 33 complementary indicators which involved the entire Official Statistical Service (SSP) in 2015. The purpose of this dashboard is to measure changes in the situation as we face major ecological issues and the involvement of all of society in an ecological transition to sustainable development.

For an overall view of the risks and long-term issues facing French society, the Government published an initial report on “New Indicators of Wealth” on 27 October 2015. In accordance with the Law of 13 April 2015, resulting from a draft bill introduced by Member of Parliament Ms Eva Sas, the government agreed to deliver an annual report to Parliament showing changes in new wealth indicators over the previous years, and a qualitative or quantitative evaluation of the impact of the main reforms resulting from these indicators and of GDP growth.

The choice of the 10 indicators was based on consultation organised by France Stratégie and the Economic, Social and Environmental Council (CESE). The SSP was brought in with regard to methodology for measuring the indicators, which were the following: level of debt, research effort, carbon footprint, land artificialisation, employment rate, health expectancy, life-satisfaction, income inequality, living-conditions poverty and early school leaving.

Then at international level, the UN adopted new sustainable development goals on 25 September 2015. After the eight UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) which covered the period 2000 to 2015, we now have seventeen Goals made up of 169 targets on which to build a better future. The challenge for the United Nations is to end poverty by 2030 and “*transform lives while protecting the planet*”. At least one indicator per target should make it possible to monitor the implementation of these Goals. All countries, both developing and developed, are concerned by these goals and targets, and by monitoring them with indicators.

² [http://www.statistiques.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/sources-methodes/enquete-nomenclature/1542/0/base-sitdel2.html?tx_ttnews\[catdomain\]=752&cHash=582f5739273dead0ce01d2490474ffef](http://www.statistiques.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/sources-methodes/enquete-nomenclature/1542/0/base-sitdel2.html?tx_ttnews[catdomain]=752&cHash=582f5739273dead0ce01d2490474ffef)

INSEE took an active part in the process, notably by participating in the 28-country expert group responsible for putting a list of indicators before the March 2016 session of the Statistical Commission, before their adoption in September at the UN General Assembly. A statistical report on these new indicators is planned at global, regional and national levels. The process will be overseen by those countries that provide or at least validate data.

With around 240 indicators, disaggregated into population sub-groups, and sometimes into areas that are new for statistics, such as “governance”, this will be a real statistical challenge for all countries. While some indicators are already available in statistics produced by the French Official Statistical Service, others are not and will require some investment to be made. In particular, French official statistics may be required to look into the question of trust in its institutions.

- ***First publications by the Ministerial Statistical Office for Internal Security***

The MSO for Internal Security was created on 8 October 2014 and was set up accordingly. It published in its own name the first monthly report of crimes and offences recorded by the police and the gendarmerie at the end of a given month and launched its website on 6 October 2015 (for further details, see the hearing of the MSO page 37).

1.3 Governance of the Official Statistical Service

- ***Two new Laws have an impact on French official statistics***

Digital Law /Access to private data

The Digital Law adopted by the National Assembly on 26 January 2016 includes several articles which directly concern official statistics.

The first is an amendment put forward by the Law Commission forbidding the Official Statistical Service from collecting royalties associated with the re-use of official information from 1st January 2017. This was the context in which it was announced that there would be free access to the SIRENE register from 1st January 2017.³

This law also created the status of reference data: this is a new category of official data for those which are “particularly important for the economy and for society due to the many other uses to which they can be put”. These data must maintain a minimum level of quality. The associated data and quality norms will be defined in an implementing decree.

The law also includes an article opening up the possibility that companies should be required to transmit some of the information in their databases to the Official Statistical Service so that detailed

³ The SIRENE Register database gathers economic and legal information on about 10 million establishments in all sectors of activity (date of creation, salaried workforce, principal activity code, etc.).

statistics can be produced. This obligation will be effective on the basis of a decision by the Ministry for the Economy, for a specific purpose and for a limited period. In particular, this article will provide a legal framework for transmitting scanner data from large-scale retail distributors, and defining the rights and duties of each party in this data transmission.

Another article defines the conditions in which matches between databases could be made on the basis of an identifier derived from the National Registration Number (NIR), but which is not significant: the law states that matches made for the purposes of official statistics should be declared to the CNIL, that for matches made for official research purposes it will be necessary to obtain authorisation from the CNIL, while matches based on the NIR will require a decree by the Council of State.

Lastly, the law amends the financial conditions for the exchange of data between administrations.

Health Law⁴

Article 47 of the Health Law defines a new framework for access to personal data in medico-administrative databases, which include information of a personal nature on users of the health services, collected in the context of healthcare.

These databases contain a real wealth of information: they cover all patients throughout the country and every year they bring together the information contained in 1.2 billion treatment forms, 500 million medical acts and 11 million hospital stays.

The main aim of the reform is, on the one hand, to improve access to health data by organising the opening up of official data (*Open Data*) and on the other hand to provide access for researchers, studies and evaluations of public interest which are compatible with personal data confidentiality. Secondly, the aim is to allow the use of the NIR by healthcare professionals and establishments to index the files of the patients they care for. The adoption of a single common patient identification system is a necessary condition for the interoperability of information systems for healthcare professionals and establishments.

The law proposes to create a “national healthcare data system” by bringing together existing databases and information systems (SNIRAM, PMSI, causes of death) or by using data from the medico-social sector, and supplementary sickness insurance reimbursements. The law sets out a list of possible uses for this national health data system resulting in six targets: information about health, treatment, care and medico-social support; definition, implementation and evaluation of health policies and social protection; information on health expenditure, spending on national sickness insurance and medico-social care; information on the activity of healthcare or medico-social professionals, structures and establishments; health surveillance, monitoring and safety; and lastly research, studies and innovation in the areas of healthcare and medico-social care and support.

The law also provides for measures that will facilitate access to data by researchers, but without compromising the protection of privacy, these include replacing the need for a Decree by the Council of State, which is required for matching data using the NIR, by an authorisation from the CNIL.

⁴ Text adopted by the National Assembly on 17 December 2015

The chapter on healthcare data includes a measure concerning the transmission to INSEE of data on cause of death. This is as a result of the creation of the National Healthcare Data System (SNDS), which expressly stated that causes of death would be included in the SNDS, whereas at present, the collection of such data is permitted only to produce national statistics on cause of death and for public health research by the National Institute for Health and Medical Research (INSERM).

At INSEE, matching data according to a permanent demographic sample should give a better understanding of social and territorial inequalities in healthcare and mortality, by taking into account individuals' situations and trajectories in terms of profession, family and geography.

- ***Changes in SSP governance***

Transfer of the Youth and Sport MSO to a new service with national jurisdiction

As part of the reorganisation of the youth sector of the Ministry for the City, Youth and Sport (Ruling of 24 December 2015), Decree no. 2015-1771 of 24 December 2015 created a service with national jurisdiction entitled the “National Institute for Youth and Popular Education”, attached to the Director of Youth, Popular Education and Associations, and responsible notably for analysing the situation of young people and the policies that affect them. The public administrative establishment of the same name has been dissolved. In Article 3, the text states that the Studies, Observation and Statistics Section (Youth and Sport MSO) is now attached to the service with national jurisdiction and is no longer part of the Directorate for Youth, Popular Education and Associations.

MSO immigration is attached to the Directorate General for Foreigners in France

Decree no. 2015-1711 of 21 December 2015 attaches the Department of Statistics, Studies and Documentation (DSED-MSO immigration) directly to the Director General for Foreigners in France. Previously, the MSO was part of the Service of Strategy and International Affairs, which itself came under the Directorate General for Foreigners in France.

1.4 Surveys and publications

- ***Surveys on social issues***

The *Survey on Vocational Training and Qualifications (FQP)* was carried out in two phases by INSEE in 2014 and 2015. The survey questionnaire was based on five main themes: professional mobility, initial training, continued training, social background and earned income. This time, the survey will be matched with the panel of the Annual Declaration of Social Data (DADS), which will provide more in-depth information on the issue of professional mobility linked with initial and continued training.

In 2014, the DREES launched a series of surveys 2014-2016 of *dependent elderly people (CARE)*. The main aim was to monitor change in dependency, to estimate excess costs linked with dependency and measure the involvement of the family circle with the elderly person. In 2014, INSEE conducted the Everyday Life and Health filter survey on 200,000 people living in ordinary housing, by post, by internet or by telephone reminders. In 2015, survey data collected from elderly

people living in ordinary housing and from their family circle, carried out by INSEE, achieved its objectives. In 2016, elderly people living in institutions and their carers will be interviewed.

In 2015, the DREES also launched the ASCO survey on *social action by municipalities and inter-municipalities*. This edition of the survey is more complete than the previous one in 2002: now, inter-municipal entities are also questioned (communities of municipalities, metropolitan areas, etc.), the sample is much larger (10,000 entities interviewed compared with 3,000 in 2002) and territorialised analyses will be possible. The questionnaire expands the areas of competence dealing with social matters, and also looks at partnerships put in place by the municipality with associations, businesses, social security funds, etc. in the local area.

Data collection for the *first major survey on psychosocial risks at work* began in autumn 2015, following the recommendations of the Appraisal Board on monitoring psychosocial risks at work. This complements the more general surveys on working conditions that the DARES has carried out regularly since the 1980s.

- ***New publications***

In 2015, there were many publications on immigration. The Immigration MSO published three studies. The first dealt with *New migrants seeking healthcare*, based on a survey of migrants' trajectories and profiles; the second presented a *Portrait of immigrant women living in France for less than 10 years*, with data from the population census. The third study dealt with *Refugees' first years in France*.

INSEE carried out a new methodological study, over and above the migration balance, to try and *measure immigration and emigration*.⁵

For the sixth edition at the beginning of 2015, the DREES published a very full report (more than 300 pages), with all data producers, on the *State of health of the population in France*. More than 200 indicators combine various approaches, by population, by determinant and by pathology.

The DREES also published *Efforts of the Nation in favour of children in family policy*. This is both a conceptual study to define these efforts and a statistical study to measure their different components.

Regarding employment, the DARES produced its annual publication on *vacant jobs* based on the European concept of "job vacancies", validating quarterly data transmissions to Eurostat. The MSO published studies on *Open-ended contracts lasting less than one year*, *Employment in very small enterprises* and another on the *Affiliation of enterprises to employers' organisations in France*. For the first time, an *Atlas of local missions* was produced.

In the education sector, the DEPP published studies on *Sick leave taken by teaching staff in the public sector in 2012-2013*, *Absenteeism in secondary education*. The DEPP also published a study on the *Cost of education compared with other OECD countries*.

In agriculture, the Official Statistical Service highlighted the results of several surveys, the farm structure survey of 2013, the structure of private forests, innovation and the use of information technology in the agri-food industries (IAA), and energy consumption in the agri-food industries.

⁵ This exploratory study was published in the *INSEE Analyses* collection.

The SOeS published its first report on the *Indicators of the national strategy of ecological transition towards sustainable development* and has begun to invest in producing an “advanced” carbon footprint, which includes greenhouse gas emissions due to imported products. Through its involvement in COP 21, the MSO produced a special publication on *Key climate figures* and gave presentations on the carbon footprint. The SOeS also published the first results of the Phebus survey on the energy performance of housing and household equipment, and energy needs and uses. INSEE disseminated the *first results of the long-awaited Housing Survey*. More detailed results will be published in 2016.

Regarding economic data on enterprises, INSEE continued its work on *group profiling*⁶ (see *INSEE Références on Enterprises in France*).

Faced with growing demand for information and analyses of the new regions, INSEE quickly disseminated a set of data about the new map including the territorial reform with the *INSEE Références* issue on “*France and its territories*” on 15 April 2015. The Institute also disseminated the main local data to be found on the website at Insee.fr. In response to the expectations of local stakeholders, the INSEE Regional Offices also published their first studies covering the new regions.

Finally, INSEE published a document for the first time on *Couples and families*.

1.5 Opinion of the Authority on the production of official statistics

For several years, the Official Statistics Authority has noted that the official statistical system is faced with global demand which is growing constantly. It must also adapt to the very specific and increasing needs of European bodies and local authorities. It has to cover new fields like sustainable development, the "Big Data" phenomenon, etc.

Given this situation, the Authority applauds the efforts of the Official Statistical Service to increase productivity, especially with the population census, the use of the Nominative Social Declaration (DSN) with its important consequences for information systems on employment, and improvements in methods applied to business statistics (profiling) etc.

The Authority notes with satisfaction that a great deal of progress was made in 2015 and new publications produced, showing that the Official Statistical Service has been able to find a degree of flexibility in order to innovate and meet the expectations of its users despite the increasing pressure on its resources.

Concerning the many demands made on the Official Statistics Service and the limitations imposed on the budget, the Authority will ensure that the Service can continue to produce information of the highest quality.

⁶ Profiling consists in identifying any company(ies) in the groups that have autonomy in decision-making and reconstituting their consolidated accounts. INSEE carries out this profiling automatically for small groups, but face to face for the largest groups or those with the most complex organisation.

In this regard, the Authority commends the discussions that INSEE is having about the medium-term effects on studies dealing with the key issues that will have an impact on official statistics in the next ten years.

2. The European context and compliance with the European Statistics Code of Practice

2.1 The European context

- *Regulation 759/2015*

A new framework for European statistics was published on 29 April 2015, amending Regulation 223/2009. The purpose of the revisions to Regulation 223/2009 fixing the European Statistical Law is to strengthen the governance and the efficiency of the European Statistical System. They mainly cover:

- *strengthening the professional independence of statisticians* that should prevail when developing, producing and disseminating European statistics. Specifically, the new Regulation states that the procedures for recruiting and appointing the head of the National Statistical Institute (NSI) and the heads of other national authorities producing European statistics should be transparent and based solely on professional criteria,
- *strengthening the coordination of the entire national statistical system through the head of the NSI concerning European statistics*. The head of the NSI becomes responsible for coordinating the European statistical programme, for producing implementation reports, for defining quality management guidelines as applied to European statistics, for the transmission of statistics, the purpose being to coordinate statistical activities more effectively at national level (including quality standards). Regarding the monitoring of these quality rules, each NSI is requested to prepare a two-yearly self-assessment of compliance of the national Official Statistical Service to the European Statistics Code of Practice.
- *free and immediate access for national statistical authorities to administrative sources for the purpose of producing European statistics, and consultation and association of these authorities in amendments to administrative files*.
- strengthening measures to maintain confidence in European statistics through signed agreements between the government and the Commission.

In addition, alongside the NSI, the amended regulation introduces Other National Authorities (ONAs), bodies that contribute to European statistics, of which there are many in most countries.⁷

The amended European regulation is directly applicable in the Member States. The law of Member States may not contradict this regulation. In the case of France, it is therefore possible that some amendments to regulatory texts governing official statistics may be needed.

However, concerning measures “to maintain confidence in European statistics”, France considers that the amendment to the 1951 Law by which ASP was created already constitutes a major commitment to maintaining confidence and that the regular monitoring of action plans put in place in response to previous peer review recommendations will be sufficient to enable the Official Statistical Service to make progress in respecting the principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice.

⁷ In France, as well as MSOs, there are many bodies that contribute to European statistics: for example, INSERM (National Institute for Health and Medical Research), DGITM (Directorate General for Infrastructure, Transport and the Sea), DGAC (Directorate General for Civil Aviation), etc.

A European task force was set up in autumn 2015 to help Member States introduce the revised European regulation into the context of their national statistics. Its first recommendation was to put in place an exchange of information on the practices of the different Member States.

- *Second “peer review” report*

In 2005, the European Statistical System (ESS) adopted its European Statistics Code of Practice and committed to respect its principles and work towards its implementation.

In 2007, a first evaluation of compliance with the code was carried out in each Member State, the “first peer-review”. In the case of INSEE, out of the 35 criteria assessed, 25 were totally satisfactory, 8 were largely satisfactory (commitment on quality, statistical confidentiality, impartiality and objectivity, accessibility and clarity) and 2 were partially satisfactory (professional independence, statistical confidentiality). 15 improvements and 5 recommendations were put forward at that time by the peer reviewers, and INSEE subsequently implemented most of these. Notably, the ASP was created and provided a framework based on the European Statistics Code of Practice, which was enshrined in French law.

Six years after the first European quality audit was carried out by Eurostat in the European NSIs, a second peer review was started, with the report published in 2015. In 2012, the ESS had decided to set in motion a second peer review to assess the compliance of European statistics with the Code and to report on coordination within national statistical systems and their level of integration into the European Statistical System. INSEE and two Ministerial Statistical Offices (MSO), which between them account for 80% of European statistics published by the MSOs, i.e. the MSOs for agriculture and sustainable development, were part of this assessment. It took the form of a preparatory self-assessment report and an audit was carried out from 8 to 12 December 2014.

The final report of the audit of the French Official Statistical System was published on the Eurostat website on 24 March 2015.

The auditors’ appraisal of the French official statistical system was very positive, highlighting the high level of compliance with the European Statistics Code of Practice, the efficiency of its governance and of national coordination and the professionalism of its staff. The auditors produced 18 recommendations which will help INSEE and the MSOs to enhance compliance with the Code (see Annexe 2).

The creation of the ASP and the organisation of governance were commended. However, the auditors produced recommendations concerning the institutional framework. They recommended strengthening the conditions that ensure independence, in particular by setting out the rules for appointing and dismissing the Director General of INSEE and aligning MSO practices for release under embargo with those of INSEE.

Recommendations on quality management highlighted the very substantial quality system in place but considered that it could be better systematised. They suggested strengthening the quality review programme and coordinating the tasks of Official Statistical Service bodies involved in quality management more efficiently.

These recommendations led to a 13-point action plan being defined for the next four years which will be monitored annually by Eurostat. Implementation will consist largely in applying the amended European Regulation 223/2009 on European statistics to the framework of the French institutional and legal environment. This revised regulation names the Director General of INSEE as being responsible by law for coordinating methodology, quality procedures and dissemination policy with regard to European statistics. For the sake of clarity, it has been decided to extend this coordination of methods and practice to cover all European and national statistics. It is therefore proposed to align the embargo rules for all the MSOs with those in force in INSEE by the end of 2017.

- ***Modernising modes of production of European statistics***

A new strategic direction, called Vision 2020, was designed in response to the original modernisation project produced by Eurostat at the end of the 2000s (Vision 2.0). This new vision is an attempt to set out the principles for modernising the architecture of the European Statistical System, designed jointly by Eurostat and the NSIs. Member States are working with Eurostat on this ambitious project (Vision 2020).

The aim is to develop common tools and to implement production processes that will involve the NSIs and promote exchange and cooperation.

Given the challenges with which the NSIs will be faced in the years to come, five key areas have been identified on which the new Vision should focus: identifying the needs of users while ensuring cooperation between all those involved in statistics; promoting the quality of statistics and the associated services in response to the needs of users; exploiting new data sources; promoting more robust and effective statistics production processes and promoting new vectors of communication and dissemination of European statistics in response to the many changing needs of users.

To define the landmarks for producing these guidelines, a strategy has been devised for implementing the new Vision for the production of EU statistics. This is based on a set of projects covering computer infrastructure, the nature of data and data processing and the development of tools to be shared between NSIs.

Several of these projects involve INSEE and some MSOs: foreign trade, company profiling, European statistical business register, “Big Data”, etc. These projects will take time and may raise some serious difficulties (legal, technical, variations in quality of European data between countries, etc.) especially when moving on to a more operational phase.

2.2 Compliance of the Official Statistical Service with the European Statistics Code of Practice⁸

The Authority is particularly attentive to ensuring strict implementation by the Official Statistical Service of the Principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice.

Principle 1: Professional independence

In 2015, the Authority noted no failure to observe the principle of professional independence in the Official Statistical Service.

Principle 3: Adequacy of resources

Budgetary constraints on INSEE increase every year. In 2016, the Institute’s budget once again followed the downward trend of public spending. Excluding spending on staff, this decrease includes a reduction in the lump-sum grant awarded to municipalities for carrying out the census, associated with the increased burden of online data collection.

⁸ This report mentions only the Principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice which required particular attention in 2015.

The decrease in budget for spending on staff is around 2%. At present, INSEE manages to satisfy requests to reduce staffing without compromising its missions. However, with its limited means, the Institute has to cope with increasing demand for surveys, especially those conducted with households.

There are also concerns over the funding of recurring statistical surveys or major structural surveys carried out by certain MSOs in the social field (DARES, DREES), and they worry that they will not be able to carry out these surveys over the long term.

In this respect, results in terms of quality of household surveys conducted in 2015 were slightly better than those of 2014, even though they remain below the response levels obtained before the reform put in place in 2013, when new employment terms were introduced for survey workers. In the Labour Force Survey, for example, 60.7% of sample households replied to the survey in Q3 compared with 60.3% in 2014, and there was a substantial improvement in the Île de France region, where results had declined considerably. However, survey workers have to deal with a growing reluctance on the part of the population to open their doors. There is a clearer and more consistent improvement in results on price readings.

Principle 4: Commitment to quality

The INSEE and MSO Quality Plan in 2015

Several events in 2015 caused INSEE to make changes to the framework of its quality process:

- ✓ The second peer review in France showed the need for a quality assurance framework that was embedded throughout the entire statistical system, based notably on regular quality reviews of processes at INSEE.
- ✓ The revision of European regulation no. 223/2009 defining measures for implementing European statistics specifically mentions quality as one of the main themes for national coordination by the NSIs.
- ✓ A team from the INSEE General Inspectorate, tasked with reporting on the work of the Quality Unit at INSEE two years after it was first created, recommends that the quality process should be generalised and systematised. One way to do this is to set up a quality assurance framework covering all work done at the Institute.
- ✓ The first recommendations of the “Quality” working group of “INSEE 2025”, the medium-term reflection launched by the INSEE Director General, also suggest that quality should be a generalised process.

Until Q1 2015, the format of INSEE’s action plan had been a continuation from the first peer review in 2007, the aim being to improve INSEE’s compliance with the European Statistics Code of Practice. As these actions were gradually carried out, especially those that corresponded to the first peer review recommendations, INSEE reached a very good level of compliance with the Code. This was pointed out by the auditors in the second peer review.

The issue now is not so much compliance with the Code, even though INSEE must still ensure that it maintains its excellent level of compliance, but rather it is a question of building an overall quality procedure, especially to provide better risk control over production chains and dissemination and to seek a greater coherence when disseminating information between the different producers.

The principle behind the quality action plan has therefore been revised and INSEE's multiannual action plan, which also involves the wider Official Statistical Service, is based on the following 13 actions:

- Implementation of amended Regulation 223/2009
- Access to data held by private entities
- Strengthening statistical confidentiality in the context of legal proceedings and archives
- Embargo rules in the MSOs
- Strengthening quality policy by defining and implementing a quality assurance framework for the whole of the Official Statistical Service
- Adopting European models for quality reports
- Overhaul of the metadata framework
- Publication of the policy for revising figures
- Shortening the time lag for access to microdata via the Secure Data Access Centre (CASD) of the GENES
- Documentation on the three types of individual data available from INSEE and on how to access them
- Consultation with potential users of the Official Statistical Service on how to raise their statistical awareness

From 2015, given the changes made as a result of the amendment to Regulation 223/2009, the MSOs have been better involved in INSEE's quality process. The action plan produced in 2015 includes a number of actions that relate specifically to the MSOs.

These actions are as follows:

- Align embargo rules with those of INSEE
- Disseminate European quality reports on European statistics on their websites
- Track any punctuality issues between announced and effective publication dates (recommendation in the ASP report of 2014)

All actions regarding INSEE and the MSOs are to extend over the next four years.

To implement the new quality strategy of the Official Statistical Service (INSEE and Ministerial Statistical Offices) in line with amended Regulation 223/2009, a new committee, the "Quality Strategy Committee" has been created. This committee is responsible for monitoring the implementation of the multiannual quality action plan. It will receive reports of the quality action plans on processes that it has selected and analysis of what can be learned from them in order to gradually improve the quality assurance framework. The committee is also informed about the use of resources put into implementing the Institute's quality policy.

At the same time, some of the MSOs have put their own quality procedures in place.

This is the case for the DEPP, which in 2015 strengthened a quality procedure it had introduced in 2012. Two of their procedures are now AFNOR-approved, the CEDRE⁹ surveys and the organisation set up by the DEPP to meet the demand for statistical information. The CEDRE surveys assess the skills of pupils at the end of primary school and the end of lower secondary school (*collège*). To do this, they use psychometric techniques, which are too specific for the Quality Label Committee to rule on, and so a different body had to be used to recognise the quality of the surveys. The procedure for response to demand is approved for the service provided for its users (responsiveness, relevance, efficiency, etc.).

⁹ The subject assessment cycle on a sample (CEDRE), operational since 2003, measures pupils' skills at the end of primary school and the end of lower secondary school.

Principle 5: Statistical confidentiality

At the end of 2013, INSEE decided to no longer disseminate detailed files derived from household surveys (apart from those from the population census) on the website because of the possible risk of breaching statistical confidentiality that this may present.

Because it is widely reported in the media and is used by a wide range of users, the detailed file of the Labour Force Survey is still online. However, it has been simplified. In the editions of this detailed file that were put online in 2015, labelled 2013, the number of variables has been reduced to about one hundred, whereas there were previously 500.

Principle 6: Impartiality and objectivity

- **Embargo breaches**

As every year, the Authority examines embargo breaches. In 2015 it observed one such breach, in May 2015, relating to one of the main short-term indicators published by INSEE.

Embargo breach on the growth figure in Q1 2015

An embargo breach occurred when the figure for growth for Q1 2015 was released, and this raised some questions about the arrangements for disseminating statistics.

The *Les Échos* newspaper disseminated the growth figures for Q1 2015 ahead of time on Tuesday 12 May 2015. The figure was disseminated around 9pm on the paper's website and became the headline for the paper edition, disseminated electronically from 10.30pm, whereas the figures were officially due for release by INSEE the next morning, on Wednesday 13 May at 7.30am (when the embargo was due to be lifted). The information was immediately picked up by the media.

Although for short-term indicators, no press releases are sent under embargo to the media, in accordance with clearly defined rules that are well known to the public, the figures are communicated the day before to the Cabinet of the Ministry for Finance and Public Accounts, to the Ministry for the Economy, Industry and Digital Technologies and also to the cabinets of the President of the Republic and the Prime Minister.

As a result of this embargo breach, the INSEE Director General changed the rules for early dissemination: the most sensitive short-term indicators, for which the embargo is lifted at 7.30am, will not now be sent at 6.00pm but at 9.00pm, and circulation will be more restrictive (see Annexe 3 page 59).

- **Announcement of dissemination calendars**

The professional independence of the Official Statistical Service is enhanced by extending the projected indicator publication calendar to all topics covered by official statistics.

INSEE and a large number of Ministerial Statistical Offices now follow the recommendation of the ASP and have made their pre-announced indicator publication calendars available on their websites.

In 2015, for the first time, and at the request of the ASP, *the Ministerial Statistical Office for Higher Education and Research (SIES)* posted a dissemination calendar on its website.

The calendar covers all the main statistical data relating to higher education and research: data on research and development expenditure, student numbers in higher education and success indicators. A provisional programme for all publications (statistical data and studies) will be disseminated in a second phase.

This calendar can be consulted at:

<http://www.enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr/cid88080/calendrier-2015-relatif-aux-principaux-indicateurs-statistiques-de-l-enseignement-superieur-et-de-la-recherche.html>

Since October 2015, the *Ministerial Statistical Office of Internal Security within the Ministry for the Interior (SSMSI)* has also posted in advance the publication dates for *Interstats Conjoncture*, which provides a short-term analysis of crimes and offences recorded by the police and the gendarmerie at the end of a given month.

This calendar can be consulted at:

<http://www.interieur.gouv.fr/Interstats/Communiqués/Agenda>

In addition, as announced in 2014 and following the request by the ASP, *the Ministerial Statistical Office of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy (SOeS)* has made additions to its provisional calendar for 2016 with two new annual indicators concerning social housing stock and the price of land and property (size of social housing stock and cost of building an individual house).

Lastly, in 2015, the *Immigration Statistical Office (DSED)* brought out its publication calendar. This too has had some additions with the first estimates of numbers of residence permits issued and coverage has been extended to include statistics of deportations of foreigners in an irregular situation. The scope of annual statistics published by the MSO now covers the entire field of migration and international protection.

All these calendars can also be found among the dissemination calendars published on the INSEE website, either in the monthly calendar in the case of short-term monthly indicators (e.g. MSO Customs and MSO Internal Security), or in the annual dissemination calendar for annual indicators and/or publications.

<http://www.insee.fr/fr/service/agendas/agenda.asp>

<http://www.insee.fr/fr/service/default.asp?page=presse/calendrier-structurel.htm>

Principle 9: Non-excessive burden on respondents

The incorporation of workforce movement declarations in the Nominative Social Declaration (DSN) system represents a significant reduction in the reporting burden placed on businesses.

In particular, establishments that submit a DSN no longer have to make a workforce movement declaration (DMMO). This was the first declaration since 2013 for which the DSN could be substituted. With the entry into force in May 2015 of the intermediate requirement to draw up DSNs

for companies that declared €2 million or more of social contributions in 2013, the number of establishments declaring with the DSN has increased significantly.

A major project carried out jointly by the DARES and Pôle Emploi resulted in the publication in 2015 of identical changes in temporary employment, which helps clarify the public debate. Since 2015, the monthly figures for temporary assignments, a source used for estimates of temporary employment which in turn constitute one of the components of quarterly payroll employment estimates, have been gradually replaced by the DSN.

From 2016 onwards, the DSN will be compulsory for all declarations that employers must make. The DSNs are transmitted via Electronic Data Interchange (EDI), which means that establishments are no longer required to fill in paper forms and questionnaires or enter their data online on the data collection website.

Principle 10: Cost effectiveness

Growth in online data collection

The generalisation in 2015 of online data collection for the population census gave a boost to further studies at INSEE regarding all household surveys, and especially the Labour Force Survey, in order to diversify data collection methods by offering the option of replying online. An experimental project has been set up which will first test the feasibility of questioning respondents online. Further tests will be carried out to put a protocol in place that combines different collection modes, using interviewers in cases where there is a non-response online. Finally, impact tests will have to be carried out to measure any effects linked with this new collection mode.

For the first time, the DREES collected data for the survey of establishments and services for the disabled online, using its online data collection tool. In 2015, preparations were made for online data collection for the survey of establishments for the elderly, and this started in January 2016.

As far as companies are concerned, the aim of the COLTRANE project is to enable businesses to reply online. This project will eventually cover all business surveys within the productive scope of INSEE and the MSOs. It will automatically generate questionnaires and provide data collection management services.

Since April 2015, companies questioned by the DARES for the quarterly Labour Activity and Employment Status (ACEMO) surveys have been able to reply online via the COLTRANE platform. This possibility was first offered to 1,000 companies in April, and was then gradually extended to 10,000 companies in July 2015 and it will be offered to all companies in the sample from 1st January 2016. Online response has also been put in place for surveys of those completing professionalisation contracts.

The generalisation of online data collection for the Road Freight Transport survey (RFT) prepared by the SOeS in 2015 has been operational since the beginning of 2016.

The agriculture MSO has extended online data collection to new sector surveys (milling, beers) and there are also preparations to make the survey on the observation of prices of intermediate consumption required by farms paperless.

Enhanced use of administrative sources

The CARE surveys by the DREES of dependent elderly people will be much enhanced by data from various administrative sources: tax and social data relating to income, medico-administrative data on healthcare consumption, data from departmental councils on people receiving the personalised autonomy allowance (APA).

The next DREES survey on delays in access to care (data collection in H1 2016) will use INSERM's CONSTANCES cohort, using the infrastructure of the cohort and especially the data collected for this study.

Audit process used at the INSEE General Inspectorate

In 2015, the INSEE General Inspectorate carried out assessments and audits to optimise resources, improve procedures and provide help with decision-making.

These studies included audits on the smaller MSOs, a report on data collection for the Housing Survey in Ile de France, an inventory of statistical provision and INSEE's strategy in the Overseas Departments (DOM), low-performance computer applications, follow-up to the Stiglitz-Sen-Fitoussi Commission recommendations on measuring economic performance and social progress, etc.

Since 2011, the General Inspectorate has also carried out efficiency audits on a number of INSEE's major operations, especially the Consumer Price Index, the population census, the SIRENE register and household surveys.

A new audit on assessing the cost of major operations at INSEE was launched in 2015, with specific reference to indicator 10.4 in the European Statistics Code of Practice, "Statistical authorities promote and implement standardized solutions that increase effectiveness and efficiency".

Strategic reflection on INSEE in 2025 enters its operational phase in 2015

The "INSEE 2025" medium-term strategic reflection, initiated by the Director General, to define the key issues that will affect INSEE's actions and official statistics in general in the next ten years, completed its strategic reflection phase in 2015 and is now entering a phase of operational application. On the basis of reports from 8 working groups and proposals collected from MSO employees at various meetings, the INSEE 2025 steering committee has decided on the strategic directions that INSEE will take in the years to come and has drawn up an initial list of main objectives.

These main directions are as follows:

- ✓ Make the figures speak – don't publish them without explaining them - and anticipate the needs of all types of public;
- ✓ Innovate and be in the front line for data sources, especially data from private enterprises;
- ✓ Contribute actively to European statistics, involving the entire official statistical system, passing on international publications more and being proactive in constructing European statistics;
- ✓ Demonstrate collective flexibility and restraint.

The current stage in the process consists in setting out a detailed plan of actions that can be operational and programmable, with measurable results within three years.

Principle 11: Relevance

The CNIS

The CNIS organises consultation between users and producers of official statistics and can therefore highlight new information needs. It organises the programme of official statistics projects, suggests new avenues to ensure that societal issues are dealt with as thoroughly as possible. These studies fulfil the principle of relevance (*see Annexe 4 page 61 for the detailed review of the CNIS for 2015*).

Satisfaction surveys

Satisfaction surveys are one of the ways INSEE is able to be attentive to the needs of users and to adapt its services accordingly. They cover specific topics where changes are needed. They provide results that are compared with other information gathered elsewhere, and from these a corrective action plan can be formulated.

Satisfaction surveys of the image that people have of INSEE and the data they produce are carried out regularly.

In June 2015, an Image survey was conducted with the general public. Questions covered people's knowledge of INSEE and their opinion of the Institute, the credibility of the indicators (birth rate, census data, price index, rent reference index, growth rate, unemployment rate, public debt and purchasing power) and their confidence in the published figures.

The results of this survey show that in 2015, the Institute still had a good reputation among the general public. Compared with 2014, however, the public's good opinion had declined slightly, as had their confidence in the figures. The credibility of the different indicators varied from one to another compared with November 2014 (stability for the price index, more credibility for the growth rate, drop in credibility for the unemployment rate).

Another survey on INSEE's image was carried out among visitors to the Insee.fr website.

In 2015, 91% of Internet users had a good opinion of the Institute. More than nine out of ten internet users consider that the Institute is useful and more than eight out of ten believe that INSEE fulfils its function well. On the question of independence from political power, INSEE is losing ground: 60% of respondents believe that the information is independent from political power, which is three points down on 2014. All the other criteria defining INSEE's image remain stable or are down very slightly on 2014.

INSEE conducted further satisfaction surveys in 2015 on the pages of the sirene.fr website, on the national accounts, and with partners working on studies in the regions.

After each survey, INSEE prepared an action plan with the aim of improving the service it provides. Since 2014, some survey results have been posted on the INSEE website. The survey on INSEE's image and that of the indicators can be found at:

<http://www.insee.fr/fr/Insee-statistique-publique/default.asp?page=connaître/enquetes/enquetes-satisfaction.htm>

Principle 15: Accessibility and clarity

Education, popularisation and communication

In 2015, INSEE continued to work on education and popularisation, by putting various animated videos and interactive maps on the website. The maps are educational and will be of interest to a wider public. The StatApprendre website also has educational quizzes. An information kit on the topic of immigration is currently being prepared and will be online in 2016 (video, *INSEEn Bref* brochure and quiz).

To inform the debate on statistics on ethnicity, INSEE has added a page to the website which explains how the law stands in relation to these statistics. This can be found at:

<http://www.Insee.fr/fr/Insee-statistique-publique/default.asp?page=statistique-publique/statistiques-ethniques.htm>

Specific rules for access to household survey data collected online

Some household surveys that are currently being carried out online are somewhat experimental. However, they are of considerable interest and this justifies making the corresponding files available to researchers.

For autonomous online surveys (carried out independently of all face-to-face data collection and hence not used for purposes of comparing collection modes), it is compulsory to make files available, accompanied by an annexe explaining the methodological precautions to be taken when exploiting the data (especially any potential bias when response behaviour is linked with the survey topic, or the potential effect of the collection mode on the nature of the responses).

When the aim of experimental online surveys combined with face-to-face and/or telephone surveys is to document one or other aspect of data comparability according to the different collection modes, these data are made available as follows: the data from the online survey are accessible to researchers six months after the face-to-face data at the earliest, so that there is no interference with the message from the face-to-face data and the dissemination of the related results. In addition, an inseparable set of documents is made available, including the production and research file (FPR) for the parent survey, the FPR for the online survey and the methodology document describing the precautionary measures to be taken.

New data sources made available via the secure data access centre (CASD)

The secure data access centre (CASD) of the Group of National Schools of Economics and Statistics (GENES) is a system that enables researchers to work remotely, in a highly secure environment, on very detailed individual data.

An agreement was signed with the ACOSS at the beginning of December 2015 to make its data available on the CASD.

The agreement with the DARES to provide access via the CASD to data from about fifteen data sources was signed in January 2016.

The agreement between the CASD and the SOeS is being finalised.

The opening up of tax data to researchers became legally possible from the end of 2014, and it was in 2015 that around 90 research projects were launched involving more than 250 researchers. Most

of the requests from researchers covered mixed data which required matches to be made between statistical data and tax data.

In 2015, the CASD carried out trusted third party operations for matching the NIR to the IRDES health and social protection survey. It also undertook preparatory work for matching the CARE survey (Capabilities, Aid and Resources of the elderly) by the DREES and the RPS survey (psychosocial risks) by the DARES.

Finally, the CASD won a tender to make PMSI data available (all detailed data concerning all hospital stays in France). Access to these data should be available at the beginning of 2016.

2.3 Opinion of the Authority concerning compliance by the Official Statistical Service with the European Statistics Code of Practice

The Official Statistics Authority notes that through its actions in 2015, the Official Statistical Service made every effort to respect the Principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice. Nevertheless, it has some specific comments to make regarding some of the Principles of the Code.

Principle 2: Adequacy of resources

The ASP expressed concern in 2013 and again in 2014 over the drop in response rates to INSEE's household surveys after the introduction in January 2013 of the new status for survey interviewers. The Authority notes that results from household surveys are more reassuring in 2015 although response rates are still lower than those from before the reform. The Authority will monitor changes in these results carefully.

Principle 4: Commitment to quality

The ASP approves and will be sure to monitor actions put in place by INSEE following the recommendations of the peer review concerning quality policy strategy and also actions to improve the service provided for users.

It welcomes the creation of the Quality Strategy Committee, where the quality strategy of the Official Statistical Service can be implemented, in line with amended Regulation 223/2009.

Principle 6: Impartiality and objectivity

Concerning embargo breaches

It is essential that embargo rules are respected by all parties concerned. This provides users with the necessary transparency to guarantee the credibility of the information. The Authority is therefore highly attentive to any breach of these principles.

This is why it approved the restriction proposed by INSEE regarding the rules on early dissemination of the short-term economic indicators, to limit the risk of leaks.

The Authority also approves aligning the embargo rules for all MSOs with those currently in force at INSEE. It will monitor this action very closely as it guarantees uniformity and gives credibility to the figures concerned. The Authority recommends that the new embargo rules should apply from Q2 2017.

Concerning the announcement of dissemination calendars

The Authority is pleased to note the growing number of provisional calendars being posted online by the Ministerial Statistical Offices. However, it would encourage all the other MSOs to do the same.

In its 2014 report, the ASP also asked that it should be possible to track punctuality issues between the announced and the actual publication dates.

The Authority duly notes that this recommendation is now recorded in the quality plan for INSEE and the MSOs and that it will be monitored by the Quality Unit at INSEE.

Principle 11: Relevance

The Official Statistics Authority approves the priorities set out by the CNIS and will pay close attention to the directions its work takes in future.

The Authority notes that INSEE is continuing its programme of satisfaction surveys of its users to ensure that the figures it provides are useful and match people's expectations. Given the results from INSEE's 2015 Image surveys, it recommends that the Official Statistical Service strengthens communication to improve confidence in the indicators.

Principle 15: Accessibility and clarity

The Authority will continue to monitor carefully the service provided by the CASD to meet the needs of researchers. It will encourage all the Ministerial Statistical Offices and the bodies whose statistics it has approved to make their individual data available on the CASD.

3. Activity of the Official Statistics Authority in 2015

3.1 Sessions of the Authority

The Official Statistics Authority met four times in 2015, with the agendas described below.

18 March 2015

- Quality labelling of the monthly series on sickness insurance expenditure: hearing of Nicolas REVEL, Director General of the CNAMTS, accompanied by Claude GISSOT, Director of Strategy, Studies and Statistics at the CNAMTS and Jean-Philippe PERRET, Head of the Department of analyses and forecasts at the CNAMTS;
- Quality labelling of the monthly series on sickness insurance expenditure: hearing of Chantal MADINIER, President of the Quality Label Committee, accompanied by Marc CHRISTINE, Rapporteur of the Quality Label Committee;
- Presentation of the Authority's 2014 annual report, by Claudine GASNIER, ASP Rapporteur.

17 June 2015

- Presentation for the attention of the new members of the Authority of the Authority's main missions and activities by Claudine GASNIER, ASP Rapporteur;
- Presentation of the report on the "small" Ministerial Statistical Offices by Philippe CUNÉO, Head of the General Inspectorate of INSEE;
- Presentation of the activities, resources and insertion into the Ministry for Culture and Communication of the Ministerial Statistical Office for Culture and Communication: hearing of Lucie MUNIESA, Deputy Secretary General of the Ministry for Culture and Communication, accompanied by Xavier NIEL, Head of the Department of Studies, Forward Studies and Statistics (DEPS, MSO Culture and Communication);
- Presentation of the activities, resources and insertion into the Ministry of Defence of the Ministerial Statistical Office for Defence: hearing of Hughes BIED-CHARRETON, Director of Financial Affairs (DAF) in the General Secretariat for the Administration of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Line BONMARTEL-COULOUME, sub-Director of DAF and Christian CALZADA, Head of the Economic Observatory for Defence (OED, MSO Defence);
- Point of information on the peer review carried out in 2014 and the amendment to Regulation 223/2009 fixing the Statistical law by Stéphane GRÉGOIR, Director of the Methodology, Statistical Coordination and International Relations Directorate at INSEE;
- Point of information on the embargo breach over the figure for growth in Q1 2015.

7 October 2015

- Hearing of François CLANCHÉ, Head of the Ministerial Statistical Office for Internal Security (MSO-SI) (*review as a result of the opinion given by the ASP at the session of 18 June 2014*);
- Hearing of Simone BONNAFOUS, Director General for Higher Education and Professional Integration, accompanied by Isabelle KABLA-LANGLOIS, Head of the Ministerial Statistical Office for Higher Education and Research (SIES) (*review as a result of the opinion given by the ASP at the session of 29 September 2009*);

- Presentation of INSEE’s action plan in response to the recommendations of the peer review by Stéphane GRÉGOIR, Director of the Methodology, Statistical Coordination and International Relations Directorate.

16 December 2015

- Hearing of Yannick MOREAU, President of the National Council for Statistical Information (CNIS)
- Hearing of Jean-Luc TAVERNIER, Director General of INSEE.

The subjects dealt with in these sessions produced recommendations, which are set out below in the concluding paragraph (3-4).

The Authority was also required to issue an opinion, approved electronically by the Board, in accordance with Article 6 of the Internal Regulations of the Official Statistics Authority. Thus the Authority issued an opinion, subject to additional elements, in favour of the draft decree for the application of Article 11 of order no. 2005-722 of 29 June 2005 concerning the Public Investment Bank (BPI).

Minutes of all the decisions of the Authority sessions are accessible on the Official Statistics Authority website: <http://www.autorite-statistique-publique.fr/asp/>

3.2 Hearings of official statistics producers

In 2015, the Authority continued with hearings of the “small Ministerial Statistical Offices (MSOs)” in order to assess whether these Offices were structurally adequate to respect the general principles of independence and professionalism that underpin the European Statistical Code of Practice in the light of their positioning, activities and resources.

It was in this context that in October 2014 the ASP was required to examine the status of the MSO Fisheries, however, it became clear that a more general approach to coordination was necessary.

To this end, the Director General of INSEE entrusted an internal mission on “small MSOs” to the head of the General Inspectorate of INSEE.

Meanwhile, the ASP held hearings of the Ministerial Statistical Offices for Culture and Communication and for Defence, both of which are considered as “small MSOs”.

Under “reviews”, the ASP conducted a hearing of the MSO for Internal Security and the MSO for Higher Education and Research.

This re-hearing of the MSO for Internal Security was one year after its creation and was a result of the clause for review stipulated by the ASP at the session on 18 June 2014.

The reason for the hearing of the MSO for Higher Education and Research was to ensure that since its creation on 25 January 2010, the Office has adequate resources and can operate in compliance with the Principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice.

- *The Department of Studies, Forward Studies and Statistics (DEPS, MSO Culture and Communication)*

Presentation of the DEPS

The DEPS has been in existence for 50 years and has been an MSO for 10 years. The department is part of the General Secretariat of the Ministry for Culture and Communication (MCC) in the service of the Cultural Policy Coordination and Innovation Department. The MSO has a staff of 18, working in a statistical centre, which should be strengthened, a study and forward studies centre and a publications, dissemination and application centre. Five people in the MSO are from INSEE.

The main reason for holding this hearing of the DEPS was the forthcoming draft bill on the “freedom of creation, architecture and heritage” and the possible future creation of an “observatory for artistic creation”, which will mainly provide access to ticket sales of cultural institutions, but could also potentially affect the department’s ability to carry out its statistical mission. Ultimately, only the measure to make it compulsory to communicate these data was retained.

Activities of the DEPS

The missions of the DEPS are set out in a 2009 ruling. They include studies, research and statistical analysis of the socio-economics of culture and the media, any studies required for guiding the work of the Ministry and future cultural policy, and the production of studies, the coordination and operational organisation of the Directorates General. By creating an annual programme of studies and projects, the DEPS can identify and coordinate the needs expressed by the Directorates General and by public operators. This programme is discussed at an annual meeting to approve the main directions and priorities for future studies.

The DEPS produces analyses, studies and summaries based on existing sources: surveys by INSEE, administrative sources, social sources. However, the MSO produces few of its own statistics, apart from the four-yearly survey of local government on cultural spending and the household survey on cultural practices, which takes place every ten years. In addition, a survey of Schools of Culture is conducted every year, organised by the MCC on behalf of the Ministry for Higher Education and Research. This current output consists mainly of official statistics.

The DEPS also orders more specific or even experimental studies from university departments or consultancies: studies on collectors of contemporary art, photographers, the local music scene, the diversification of library resources, etc. These studies are based on existing quantitative information, such as the Household Wealth Survey by INSEE, or the SINÉ survey by INSEE on business creations and takeovers.

Regarding publication, the DEPS has its own series of publications, for some of which there is a charge (works) and some are free (syntheses), also research studies published in the form of research reports. The head of the MSO is the editorial director. He informs the hierarchy and the cabinet of the next publication so that a press release can be prepared in advance.

The MSO does not publish short-term data or European data, however it is participating in Eurostat studies to find a statistical definition of culture and to produce a methodology for setting up a satellite account for culture.

The DEPS must progress further in its production of short-term data to enhance indicators in the field of culture, to establish a method for constructing these indicators, and ensure that they can be sustained.

- ***Economic Observatory for Defence (OED, MSO Defence)***

Presentation of the OED: positioning and activities

The actions of the OED consist in providing statistics and support for discussions on the economics of defence, which need to be backed up by reliable, robust and incontrovertible information. Data disseminated by the OED are the authoritative figures for the world of defence. Statistical production is a significant activity in the OED. The census of government employees and the information system on suppliers to the Ministry for Defence can be found in various formats, including the statistical directory for the Ministry for Defence for which the OED is entirely responsible.

The OED fulfils the criteria for an MSO, as it is attached to the General Secretariat which guarantees its neutrality in respect of all departments. It complies with the European Statistical Code of Practice in respect of independence, publications, quality of work and statistical confidentiality. Notably, the OED is a member of a CNIS commission and therefore has a preliminary draft of its statistical programme, like all the other MSOs. In addition, statistical publications by the MSO are clearly differentiated from all policy communications, and are disseminated separately. The OED is the first MSO to have introduced a quality procedure, by monitoring training and producing a detailed description of in-house production processes. Regarding statistical confidentiality, all the members of the OED sign confidentiality clauses and have been trained in the use of data confidentiality software.

A quality procedure has been put in place. The statistics collection is clearly identified to demonstrate the transparency and independence of statistical production by the Office, training sessions have been organised and processes are currently being formalised.

However, as it is small in size, the Office does find it difficult to find enough high quality staff from INSEE in order to guarantee the quality of the work carried out. In addition, studies should be disseminated more widely, while bearing in mind the confidential nature of some of the data.

- ***Ministerial Statistical Office for Internal Security (SSMSI)***

Setting up the SSMSI

The SSMSI currently has 14 members of staff, the number originally announced, although it only reached this size in May 2015. After some problems at first, working conditions are now perfectly acceptable.

The fact that the Office is within the Ministry is emphasised, within the Directorate General of the National Police, the Directorate General of the National Gendarmerie and the cabinet of the Minister for the Interior. The office quickly resumed the monitoring of delinquency figures recorded by the security forces and fulfilled requests for geographic information or other subjects from cabinets, directors or the Minister. This activity occupies half the team, who are then able to position themselves within the Ministry as experts on figures.

Given this demand for expertise, the SSMSI certainly provides value added when compared to its predecessors, mainly thanks to its technical skills in analysing time series, and demonstrating complementarity between administrative data and survey data. Its operational expertise with information systems has also eased the assimilation process: the SSMSI has helped to design, analyse and understand the problems that can arise in information systems contributing to the production of statistical information.

Visibility of the SSMSI in the public sphere

The SSMSI has only very recently gained visibility outside the Ministry: this dates from the beginning of October 2015. As announced, the office was able to construct statistical series based on administrative data on a certain type of insecurity indicator: crimes and offences recorded by the police and the gendarmerie. This work was carried out with the strictest methodological rigour, and resulted in nine solid, reliable and documented indicators. A short-term report is now released on the fourth working day of every month.

The first went online on the morning of 6 October, accompanied by a press release sent by the Ministerial press department, although prepared by the SSMSI. Press feedback was fairly positive. The quality and objectivity of the indicators were noted.

The InterStats website was therefore opened on 6 October 2015. A press conference was held on 5 October to present the SSMSI, emphasising its independence, explaining the data that were to be published online and presenting the new short-term report. The journalists asked some questions on the complementarity of the office with the ONDRP and noted that the nine indicators did not cover the entire field of offences, but excluded in particular sexual violence and economic crime. In these areas today, the proportion of incidences reported to the security forces remains low and has a tendency to change, which makes it difficult to adjust for bias in this area.

However, to overcome the limitations of the statistical information on security and delinquency obtained from administrative statistics, victimisation surveys by INSEE on the entire population over the last twenty years to identify the number of victims of certain acts, produce more reliable information, and at yearly intervals. On its website the MSO publishes not only its new statistical indicators, but also framework data from the INSEE surveys and a number of studies, an activity that the SSMSI carries out, just like all the other MSOs.

Statistical programme of the SSMSI

At present, the statistical programme of the SSMSI focuses on the short-term report published every month and the routine exploitation of the main results from the Living Environment and security Survey conducted by INSEE in collaboration with the ONDRP. In addition, the SSMSI will carry out other activities, especially themed or regional studies. It should also make available detailed geographic and individual data from administrative sources, to be used for research purposes.

Concerning questions of independence and compliance with the Code of Practice, the SSMSI made sure to document its methods and publish them at the same time as the short-term report. The SSMSI worked totally independently from the ministerial departments in constructing the indicators and preparing the report. The only question concerned the period to focus on in publications, given that changes were calculated over 1, 3 and 12 months. It was finally decided to favour the most robust period in a short-term analysis, namely the quarter. The SSMSI also keeps full control over its website, and manages the writing and the posting of its data. It remains totally independent from a technical point of view with its *Twitter* account, which the office hopes to use to inform the public of forthcoming publications.

Overall, the statistical office has managed to integrate itself very well into the Ministry for the Interior. It seems to have met the technical challenge to create new indicators.

Position of the SSMSI in the Ministry for the Interior

The SSMSI is placed under the Central Directorate of the Judicial Police which is itself part of the General Directorate of the National Police. The office is therefore three hierarchical levels away from the Minister. However, the SSMSI is in fact in direct relationship with the Directorates General of the Police and the Gendarmerie and with the Minister's cabinet. The DCPJ is in no way a filter for information moving upstream or downstream. It "houses" the SSMSI in a constructive way rather than directing it, and provides human and material resources.

The Central Directorate of the Judicial Police also houses other departments that cut across the security services, such as the forensic police team, fingerprints records, international relations, the platform for reporting illegal internet sites and some specialised central departments. If the SSMSI were to leave the Central Directorate of the Judicial Police, it would be a very small, isolated unit in the hierarchy, and would be costly to manage. It therefore seems appropriate to maintain the current position, at least in the medium term.

Sharing tasks between SSMSI and ONDRP

The ONDRP is part of a public body and is placed under the Prime Minister and does not work only in the field of security, nor only in the field of official statistics, like the SSMSI. In principle, the production of official statistics is the domain of the SSMSI alone, with the ONDRP applying its expertise and exploiting various types of data, whether statistical or not.

However, the decree amending the attributions of the ONDRP states that the Observatory has the role of ordering the work for the national survey on victimisation with INSEE, although the SSMSI is associated. The joint operation of the Environment and Safety survey still needs improvement, given that although the SSMSI is associated with the governance of the survey and can exploit the results as it wishes, the ONDRP still has priority when it comes to publication of the first results.

- ***Ministerial Statistical Office for Higher Education and Research (SIES)***

Presentation of the SIES

The SIES was created in 2009 as a statistical service responsible for higher education and research from an Under-Directorate of the DEPP, which at that time covered national education, research and higher education. To this DEPP department was added a series of offices and departments in charge of information systems.

Placed within a service shared by two ministerial Directorates, the Directorate General for Research and Innovation and the Directorate General for Higher Education and Professional Integration (DGESIP), the SIES produces and disseminates statistics across a particularly vast subject area. By being part of the DGESIP it is able to be associated with upstream concerns and be aware of changes in higher education issues as a whole.

Since 2014, taking advantage of a general reorganisation, the SIES became part of the joint service in charge of coordinating higher education and research (ESR) strategies, although this did not in any way change its work as MSO. The SIES comprises 63 agents, 13 of whom are INSEE managers. Since 2009, staff numbers have been maintained (64 originally) and the number of INSEE managers has increased (10 originally). The SIES is made up of three departments: the statistical studies department, with one centre for higher education and one for research (30 staff), the decision tools department (10 staff) and the information system department (20 staff).

Progress report for the SIES 2009-2015

The first task of the SIES was to consolidate the existing data collection methods. It achieved this goal by bringing together three statistical systems from higher education and research: annual feedback on student numbers and diplomas (SISE); the system to track a panel of students every six years (2002, 2008 and 2014) as they graduate from high school, then throughout their higher education trajectory, and annual surveys on R&D activity and funding, which is a very old system. In higher education, as in research, the SIES has to cope with a very great diversity of structures being surveyed and with institutions of very different status. It therefore worked hard to harmonise and systematise approaches so that different typologies could be merged for statistical production. The MSO also modernised data collection by developing paper-free methods, and enhanced statistical production by introducing new systems, such as the internship survey or by taking on responsibility for data collection which until then had been the remit of different Directorates, like the survey on local authority research budgets or surveys of doctoral schools.

Higher education and research have undergone some profound changes which require adaptations in collection instruments and analysis tools. From this point of view, the integration of the SIES was an asset, as it placed statisticians in direct contact with the new higher education and research topics; it gave them the opportunity to get to grips with new information needs and provided easier access to the expertise of members of the operational directorates.

The SIES upgraded its publications in 2014 with the introduction of a brief two-page information sheet, to disseminate the main statistical indicators as early as possible. These sheets appear on a publication calendar, published since 2015, and are in addition to their information notes and two annual publications, *The State of Higher Education and Research in France* and *Regional Atlas: Student population*. The service is also involved in a joint production with the DEPP, *Repères et références statistiques sur les enseignements, la formation et la recherche (Statistical points of reference on teaching programmes and research)*.

The service has put some effort into information dissemination by putting a portal in place in 2010 specifically for disseminating indicators with different levels of detail, which are useful for the teaching and research community. Since 2014, the SIES has also used an Open Data platform. Regarding digital dissemination on the state of higher education and research, many very up-to-date functionalities have been introduced which make access to information simpler and easier. In addition, the SIES also ensures that data are always sourced.

The role of the Ministerial Statistical Office is now clearly defined and well-established in the Official Statistical Service. All staff are trained in the use of official statistics and are the guarantors of the independence of the office. This identity is also respected in the hierarchy. Thus the head of the MSO is the editor of all the publications. Since 2015, a publication calendar has fixed the publication date for the main indicators. The office ensures overall compliance with the European Statistics Code of Practice and the dissemination of a maximum of data while maintaining statistical confidentiality. Lastly, the SIES has managed to retain all its staff and resources.

Future prospects

Five priority topics have been identified: a more in-depth knowledge of student trajectories; more statistical information on doctoral students and PhDs; a more extensive observation system for jobs

in science; better quantitative analysis of the links between private and public research, and adapting and extending statistical production at sub-national level.

Educational trajectories, for example, are interspersed with key moments such as careers guidance, student success rates, whether students remain on their original trajectory, and entry into the world of work. Expectations are high for data on these subjects and it is hoped that these data will help clarify many issues, such as whether it is better to encourage as many students as possible to go on to higher education, to adapt higher education resources to requirements or to develop more transition pathways and/or priority guidance systems.

The SIES is trying to produce more detailed data in this area and to work on some new sources. A new student panel has just been set up, in coordination with the DEPP, for high school graduates of 2014. The Post-Baccalauréat Admission system (APB) should clarify some important issues, especially when used in conjunction with the database on student numbers and diplomas and the data from tracking cohorts. The SIES programme of work includes the register of National Pupil Identifiers, covering students and apprentices and set up by the DEPP for the 2016-2017 academic year. Tracking this register into higher education will provide an opportunity to collect individual data from institutions on a systematic basis and to carry out statistical analysis and studies based on following students from primary school through to the end of higher education.

In terms of data collection, the SIES intends to continue to encourage paperless surveys. 99% of businesses now reply online to surveys on R&D. For panels, multimodal collection is enhanced still further with the use of tablets and smartphones. The MSO is also hoping to develop “non-structured” data methodologies, with bibliometric databases for example, for an improved exploitation of more structured databases. Finally, regarding Open Data, the SIES has a project to build an open and generic infrastructure, “Data ESR”, to systematise the exploitation of statistical data and disseminate on a more or less open basis with some very productive functionalities. For this project, the service was a prize-winner in a future investment programme launched in 2015.

Overall, the SIES has been able to continue with the missions that had until now been carried out jointly with National Education and to take advantage of being included in the operational Directorates.

3.3 Quality labelling of statistics from administrative sources

- *Quality labelling of monthly statistics on sickness insurance expenditure produced by the CNAMTS was granted by the Authority in 2015*

The quality labelling procedure

On behalf of the ASP and at their request, the Quality Labelling Committee examines the processes for exploiting and disseminating data collected by administrations, public bodies and private bodies entrusted with a mission on behalf of the public sector (Chapter IV of Decree no. 2013-34 of 10 January 2013 amending Decree no. 2009-318 of 20 March 2009).

The CNAMTS wished to apply the quality labelling process to statistics that it had produced over a long period and in large quantities, on monitoring spending, medical demographics, the activity of healthcare professionals or health data on the understanding of illnesses. This activity is carried out

by a separate Directorate, with a staff of 90, who devote 80% of their time to the production of statistics.

Quality labelling is an important issue when developing the production and dissemination of statistical data, especially in a context of high demand for the communication of health-related data. The CNAMTS also hopes that it will be shown that the statistical data produced is of good quality so that a relation of confidence can be established with users. Finally, the CNAMTS considers that the quality labelling process is a way to improve the quality of statistical production even further.

In 2013, the CNAMTS submitted to the Official Statistics Authority a quality label application for some of the series that it produces. The President of the Authority called on the Official Statistics Quality Label Committee which had dealt with the case and prepared an opinion. The Quality Label Committee reported on their initial findings at the ASP session of 7 December 2014.

To start with, the procedure focused on two monthly series of expenditure used to track the ONDAM (National health insurance expenditure target) sub-annually and annually. Two series were put forward for quality labelling, relating to monthly tracking of expenditure based on the reimbursement date and on the date of care. These data are monitored by everyone who wants to know what changes are anticipated in healthcare spending.

Series of monthly expenditure by reimbursement date

The statistics for expenditure based on reimbursement date are taken from invoices received by the sickness insurance funds. Therefore this series does not show the date the care was given, but when it was reimbursed, as provided by the invoice processing tools. It covers all types of care given, whether by private health professionals, healthcare institutions or medico-social centres, and also cash sickness benefits (daily sickness benefits and disability pensions) as part of the general insurance regime, i.e. for all employees and local mutualist arrangements (civil servants, students, etc.). However, anyone covered by a special insurance regime is excluded from the scope of the analysis.

The series consists of gross monthly amounts, with expenditure cumulated from 1st January of the current year and change compared with a comparable period from the previous year (PCAP). Also included is a classification based on the services delivered and reimbursed by the sickness insurance.

Series of monthly expenditure by date of care

Unlike expenditure by reimbursement date, the series based on date of care concentrates on local care only and excludes all hospital expenditure, as it is not possible to associate services provided by healthcare institutions to the month when care was given.

This concept is closer to the production of care in the strict sense and according to the ONDAM, as it is expressed according to date of care. However, this series proves more difficult to produce as patients may present their claims for reimbursement up to two years after care was given and so in order to find out the total care dispensed in a given month, it would apparently be necessary to wait two years. To overcome this problem, data are completed using previous history according to an established method.

The scope of this series is the same as the previous one in terms of insurance regime and geographic scope. It comprises monthly amounts corrected for bank holiday effects and seasonal variations, and with expenditure cumulated from 1st January of the year in question and change according to PCAP. The series is revised every month, enhanced with data as they are collected. The classification proves to be less detailed. Completeness of the method is audited and tested every year; in particular, it is examined by the Court of Auditors in the framework of the auditing procedure and certification of accounts.

In the quality label procedure, the CNAMTS was supported by the Quality Label Committee and the DREES. It also hoped to go further than just these first two series and define, with the Authority, a programme that can extend this quality labelling process to other statistical series.

Opinion and recommendations of the Quality Label Committee

In accordance with the texts, a specific commission was created, which met on 6 February 2015 to examine issues concerning the Code of Practice. Specifically, it verified statistical confidentiality, studied the methodology adopted and the statistical processing applied (completeness, adjustment for seasonal variations, etc.). It also checked the relevance of these data and their punctuality.

The Quality Label Committee recommended that the Official Statistics Authority issue a favourable opinion for granting the quality label of general interest and statistical quality for the monthly statistics on sickness insurance according to date of reimbursement and date of care. However, this proposal was accompanied by a certain number of recommendations.

These recommendations related to documentation on the ameli.fr website, to the scope and range of the quality-labelled statistics, to production processes and checks, methodology, and the presentation of the series.

The Quality Label Committee asked that the CNAMTS agree to identify the quality-labelled series and differentiate them from other series published on the ameli.fr website. The CNAMTS was also asked to announce and respect a statistics dissemination calendar with the possibility of revisions on a sliding basis.

The CNAMTS does indeed carry out a large number of studies and must ensure that its priorities are in order. The committee stresses the importance of ensuring, in the context of these studies, that monthly and annual data, concepts, scopes and classifications are all coherent.

Compliance with the European Statistics Code of Practice

As part of this process, the CNAMTS replied to the questionnaire on good practice. Regarding professional independence related to publication, the CNAMTS drew up a publication calendar for 2015 for the two series submitted for quality labelling. There is also a total disconnect between the monthly news release on expenditure that the fund publishes and the publication of these series. They do not relate to the same data (the news release covers expenditure according to date of reimbursement adjusted for working days and seasonal variations). In addition, the quality-labelled series are communicated to everyone at the same time and there is no priority given to early dissemination to Ministerial cabinets. Concerning the quality labelling process, the CNAMTS agrees to produce more information and metadata on these series. Once they receive quality label status, the series will be identified as such on the CNAMTS website.

Further quality labelling

Several series could subsequently be proposed for quality labelling:

- annual data on the demographics of independent healthcare professionals, which are now made available to healthcare professionals and the public alike on the CNAMTS website and are fully reusable;

- data on supplementary universal medical insurance (CMU-C), on condition that preliminary studies are carried out to gather together all data that are not covered by the general insurance regime (especially MSA data), in association with the CMU fund;
- data on reimbursed drugs, the list of products and services and biological acts, which are published on the website, but which also require some work so that they also cover local mutual sections and thus ensure the coherence of the series being put forward;
- data on long-term illnesses (ALD): expenditure that is reimbursed for these illnesses are included in the scope of the series put forward for quality labelling, but they are not sufficient to know the state of health of the population. To achieve this, the CNAMTS has developed algorithms to produce data on illnesses independently of the ALD and hopes that these data will eventually be quality-labelled.

3.4 Recommendations of the Official Statistics Authority

Further to the hearings of official statistics producers and the hearings relating to quality labelling of statistics from administrative sources, the Authority issued the following recommendations. These recommendations are given in the minutes of the decisions of the ASP sessions.

On the Ministerial Statistical Office for Culture and Communication:

The representatives of the Ministry for Culture and Communication informed the Authority that in the draft bill relating to the freedom of creation, architecture and heritage there were no longer plans to create an “observatory for artistic creation” to which some statistical missions might be transferred from the Department of Studies, Forward Studies and Statistics (DEPS). They stated that it was the wish of the Minister, on the contrary, to strengthen the role of this department, attached to the General Secretariat of the Ministry, to meet the need for statistics in the field of cultural practices and for a knowledge of public and private stakeholders operating in this sector. Under these conditions, the ASP agreed that some of the reasons that had caused it to query retaining the DEPS with the status of “Ministerial Statistical Office” (MSO) now no longer applied.

However, the review of “small MSOs” by the ASP was working towards a more general objective, i.e. to ensure their compliance with the assessment criteria for statistical production, their ability to comply with the European Statistics Code of Practice and their efficiency, which define recognition as a Ministerial Statistical Office.

In this respect, the ASP notes that, while the production of the DEPS is recognised in terms of utility and quality, the activity of statistical production per se remains limited, and could benefit from being developed further. The Authority therefore notes the intention of the DEPS to create a short-term indicator.

The ASP also notes that the abovementioned draft bill could provide the ideal opportunity to build a better basis for the transmission of data on expenditure and activities by local authorities in this field, while not placing an excessive burden on them. The scope and quality of official statistics would thereby be improved, providing local authorities with reference information for creating their policies.

The Authority requests that a service project on statistical production, overseen jointly by the Secretary General of the Ministry and the Director General of INSEE, should be presented at the March 2016 session.

On the Ministerial Statistical Office for Defence:

The representatives of the Ministry for Defence demonstrated their keenness to have an MSO and their agreement to respect the attached conditions relating to professional independence and dissemination of publications. They also indicated their commitment to a quality procedure, produced jointly with the Quality Unit at INSEE.

The Authority did query the size of this MSO, however, as the statistical units comprise only three attachés, which it considers to be a critical factor especially in proving professional independence and developing a real statistical project.

The Authority asks that a service project on statistical production, which sets out the aims in this field and establishes the conditions necessary for achieving them, and which is overseen jointly by the Secretary General of the Ministry and the Director General of INSEE, should be presented before it at the March 2016 session.

On the Ministerial Statistical Office for Internal Security:

The hearing of the heads of the SSMSI demonstrated that this new MSO is becoming established in accordance with the plan and the objectives that had been set out. In a field of information that is crucial for the public, it has already improved statistical production, especially through a better use of administrative sources, in terms of professionalism, method and professional independence, in compliance with the principles set out in the European Statistics Code of Practice.

The first step has been taken. To enable the service to go further in its analyses, including making its contribution to a better appreciation of the “security-justice” continuum, its increased level of operation must be recognised and taken into account in staff allocation priorities, so that it achieves its critical mass.

Concerning the positioning of the SSMSI in the organisation chart of the Ministry for the Interior, it appears that the current institutional situation, where the SSMSI is hosted by the Directorate of the Judicial Police, operates very satisfactorily. Nevertheless, this situation should be reviewed periodically.

However, the ASP notes that the Decree of 1st October 2015 redefining the missions of the ONDRP did not draw all the conclusions relating to the creation of the SSMSI and there are still some ambiguities about sharing missions between the SSMSI and the ONDRP which will inevitably be detrimental in terms of efficiency and transparency for the public. Not only must the two bodies cooperate together and gradually differentiate their missions, but these ambiguities must be dealt with, as work on the production and dissemination of statistics on internal security obviously falls into the domain of the SSMSI.

On the Ministerial Statistical Office for Higher Education and Research:

Following the hearing of the Director General of Higher Education and Professional Integration and the head of the SIES, the Authority observes that the creation of the SIES means that the field of “higher education and research” can be covered much better. In addition, this service has carried out some important actions related to monitoring the student population and the methodology for carrying this out. The Authority stresses that the MSO must continue along this route, making sure to provide statistical insight into all subjects of major interest, such as international competition issues related to the knowledge economy, for example.

Nevertheless, the Authority regrets that the professional integration surveys of university graduates do not yet have a quality label to guarantee all the quality criteria required for all statistical production. This situation should be rectified as soon as possible. The Authority also considers that this statistical survey on professional integration should be extended to cover all types of school (engineering schools, business schools, etc.).

Concerning employment in Higher Education and Research, the ASP considers that data disseminated by the SIES should be enhanced considerably and should represent a source of reference for the public.

Concerning the quality labelling of monthly statistics on sickness insurance expenditure produced by the CNAMTS

A majority of the members of the Authority issued an opinion in favour of quality labelling the monthly statistics on sickness insurance expenditure produced by the CNAMTS. These statistics derive from accounting information and are the monthly series based on reimbursement date and the monthly series based on date of care.

This decision was accompanied by the following recommendations:

- Publish a dissemination calendar for the quality-labelled series annually, this calendar can be subject to revisions on a sliding basis, while keeping the publication date unchanged for the month immediately following the revision date
- 1- Present the monthly series as values, as raw data for the series based on reimbursement date
- 2- Present the monthly series as values, as reprocessed data for the series based on date of care, in other words, completed and adjusted for effects of seasonal variations and working days
- 3- Identify the quality-labelled series to distinguish them from other series
- 4- Provide users with explanatory notes on all aspects of production and data processing, especially definition of scope in terms of the insurance regimes covered, the limits of the different series and whether they include sickness insurance payments to healthcare establishments, geographic scope, the different treatment agreements and concepts used
- 5- Produce annually a list of the main events that have had an impact and given rise to changes in services or in prices, and consequently in reimbursements

- 6- Produce a detailed and accessible methodological document on the different types of treatment for the series based on date of care, especially on the question of completeness, price-volume sharing and adjustments for seasonal effects and working days
- 7- Start work to prepare for future quality labelling for other annual series
- 8- Publish the monthly news release of the CNAMTS on changes in monthly expenditure on sickness insurance after the statistical validation of these data in application of Principle 6 point 7 of the European Statistics Code of Practice.

The quality label was granted for a 5-year period with a review clause for 2016, by which date the above recommendations should have been implemented on the CNAMTS website.

Concerning actions by INSEE after the peer review recommendations

The ASP approves and will monitor actions implemented by INSEE following the recommendations that came out of the peer review on strategy regarding quality policy and actions to improve the service for the user.

Concerning recommendations on the institutional environment, the Authority observes that Regulation 223 could provide the opportunity for INSEE to strengthen and modernise the statistical service.

In general, however, the Authority observes that with this process there could be some risk of focusing too much on the formalities rather than on the real quality. The ASP therefore recommends that the transposition of the European texts into French law should be done intelligently, ensuring that the new rules really do reinforce professionalisation in practical terms and do not impose constraints on the official statistics service that would conflict with the execution of its missions, which, in general, is excellent, as highlighted in the peer review. In particular, any chosen solutions must not disregard the conditions that helped to build a French statistical system of which the quality is acknowledged to be excellent.

While the regulations require the application of professional criteria when appointing the DG of INSEE and safeguards before any dismissal, the means to do this must be pragmatic and effective, and must contribute fundamentally to ensuring “professional independence”.

Concerning the rules on disseminating the main indicators

The Authority approves the restrictions proposed by INSEE on the rules concerning the early dissemination of short-term indicators, to reduce the risk of leaks. From now on, the most sensitive of these indicators, for which the embargo is lifted at 7.30 in the morning, will now only be sent out at 9pm, and only to the Directors of the cabinets of the Ministers in charge of the economy and finances.

In order to ensure that the recipients of information under embargo really are made aware that it is essential to respect the rules for dissemination of the short-term indicators (to give users, and especially institutional users and the financial markets, the guarantee of independence and transparency which are essential to ensure the credibility of the information, and equal access to it), the Authority considers that when these data are transmitted they should be accompanied systematically by a warning.

This could specify that, *“This message and all attached documents are produced for the exclusive use of the recipients and the information herein is strictly confidential. Any improper use, any dissemination or publication of any kind, of all or part of this information, is forbidden. The Official Statistics Authority ensures equal treatment in access to statistical publications, and any prior access is strictly controlled and limited. When the embargo is lifted, all these publications will be available on the Insee.fr website. If you are not the intended recipient of this message, you must not copy it or forward it or divulge its contents or use any part of it.”*

3.5 Communication of the Authority

The President of the Official Statistics Authority, accompanied by members of the ASP and the Rapporteur, presented the 2014 annual report of the Authority to the Vice-President of the Council of State, the First President of the Court of Auditors, the Minister for Finance and Public Accounts, the Department Head of the General Inspectorate for Finances (IGF), the Head of the General Inspectorate for Social Affairs (IGAS), the economic advisor to the President of the Republic and the advisor to the Prime Minister.

Discussions covered the following topics in particular:

- creation of the Ministerial Statistical Office for internal security at the Ministry for the Interior
- clear visibility of the quality labelling of administrative data used for statistical purposes
- access to individual data for researchers
- dissemination of data associated with Open Data
- amendment to Regulation 223/2009, especially concerning statistical coordination

The 2014 report was widely disseminated (see Annexe 1 for the list of recipients).

All the annual reports of the Authority since its creation are accessible in French and in English on the website www.autorite-statistique-publique.fr

Minutes of all the decisions of the Authority sessions are also accessible on its website.

4. Follow-up of recommendations in the 2014 Annual Report of the Authority

In its 2014 annual report, the Authority made two recommendations on:

- the fact that statistical coordination should be more operational
- vigilance in the Official Statistical Service when using new sources of data for official statistics

The ASP also reiterated two other recommendations from its previous report on:

- applying new company categories (small, medium or large) across the entire statistical system on enterprises
- minimum standards to allow more effective comparisons between the statistical data produced by local authorities

As every year, the ASP analyses the extent to which, and the way in which the official statistical system has taken the above-mentioned recommendations into consideration.

4.1 More operational coordination of the official statistical system

Extracts from the recommendation in the ASP 2014 Annual Report:

Official statistics are experiencing severe budgetary constraints, which will become even tighter in future, raising questions about opportunities and trade-offs.

The ruling on the organisation of the Head Office of INSEE made on 30 July 2012 created a new structure, the Statistical Programmes Committee (CPS). Chaired by the Director General of INSEE, the committee brings together all producers of statistics in the Official Statistical Service. It liaises with existing coordination and programming bodies. In particular, it must ensure that common positions are defined and adopted by members on sharing the work of producing official statistics and determining priorities for statistical operations.

The ASP lauded the creation of the CPS in its last report.

Given that budgetary constraints are increasing over the years, it recommends that this body reinforce its role by developing its ability to arbitrate over the programming of all the work of the Official Statistical Service.

Response

The Statistical Programmes Committee met three times in 2015.

It was involved in reflection on the consequences of the revision of Regulation 223/2009 on the legal framework that applies in France, resulting from both European and national provisions.

Revised regulation 223/2009 reinforces the coordination role of INSEE within the Official Statistical Service, thereby creating a positive dynamic in statistical production coordination.

The Committee was also informed of the observations made in the peer review and the improvement measures that were decided upon.

The Statistical Programmes Committee adopted a coordinated response to the medium-term opinions of the CNIS. This response will be presented to the executive committee of the CNIS in March 2016.

The Committee provided a forum for exchanges on implementation of territorial reform. Studies were also carried out into the possibilities for boosting the image of the Official Statistical Service, taking account of the different communication media – and websites in particular – of the various players in the Official Statistical Service (INSEE, Ministerial Statistical Offices).

The three-year provisional work programme for the INSEE survey interviewer network, which is also mobilised for surveys under shared management with MSOs, was drawn up within this framework.

4.2 Vigilance when using new sources of data for official statistics

Extracts from the recommendation in the ASP 2014 Annual Report:

With the emergence of Big Data, new sources of data, either public or private, represent potential for official statistics. However, at international level, this gives rise to considerable debate about the opportunities and the risks that these data sources can present.

In 2014, on the question of Big Data, INSEE decided to set up a working group responsible for initiatives at INSEE and in some of the Ministerial Statistical Offices.

At the end of 2014, concerning the use of new sources of private data, the Director General of INSEE and the President of the CNIS decided to create a working group under their joint supervision, to study the legal framework necessary to authorise the use of raw private data in the production of official statistics.

The ASP will follow the progress of this work with interest. The Authority asks that as far as possible the working groups should include concerns regarding conditions of access to this data from the technical, financial and legal standpoints, and in particular concerns over private data regarding the durability of the data production.

Response

In the current context, all Europe's statistical institutes are wondering what the impact of Big Data will be. Work has been conducted since 2013 on this new IT technique that enables massive volumes of data to be processed more easily and is taking concrete shape, as new sources of data now seem to be accessible to statistical processing. Quite naturally, the statistical institutes are wondering whether this data could give rise to new statistics or make it possible to improve current statistics, reduce their cost or enhance their quality. This broad approach is being conducted in the international bodies of the United Nations and Eurostat, through technical exchanges in the form of working groups. In January 2016, Eurostat launched an "ESSnet" (network of European NSIs collaborating on a given subject to provide useful results for the whole of the European statistical system) on Big Data, covering different sources. The potential sources include, among others,

“scanner data” from billing in large-scale retail stores, a source that has been known and investigated for a long time in many countries, including in France for several years now, and mobile telephone data, which has been the subject of studies for over ten years in Estonia. More recent studies have also been conducted on job offer websites, and on data from “Google Trends” or smart meters. In certain cases, the work of the NSIs is based on initial studies carried out by researchers.

Since 2014, meanwhile, INSEE has been playing a coordinating role on the subject of Big Data, contributing to reflection on the potential of such data for official statistics, in particular in terms of the statistical skills that are necessary. INSEE is taking part in a Eurostat “Big Data for Official Statistics” Task Force and in technical work being conducted by UNECE on these subjects (“Sandbox” group further to the development of a platform for testing tools and methods on Big Data-type datasets). At the same time, INSEE has made several investments in statistical techniques that are adapted to processing this kind of data, including a study into the use of Google Trends data to improve economic forecasting. The Institute has also explored statistical learning algorithms and studied the implementation of econometric methods using Big Data technologies (parallel processing), “text mining”¹⁰ and “webmining”¹¹ methods, etc.

Within the Official Statistical Service more generally, a working group on “new data sources” has been set up as part of the medium-term work on “INSEE 2025”. This working group brought together people from INSEE and the MSOs and examined issues for official statistics relating to the use of new data sources, along with the opportunities they offer and questions they raise in terms not only of access, but also of the specific skills to be developed in the Official Statistical Service. Exchanges have taken place both within the Official Statistical Service and with many other players involved in such issues (data producers such as mobile telephone operators, along with research centres working on these questions) to identify the most promising ways forward, possibilities for collaboration and also the specific technologies and skills required to explore these avenues.

Finally, INSEE has launched a consultation under the aegis of the CNIS to establish a legal framework for the use of such data. It was launched in late 2014 and is scheduled to end in early 2016. The purpose of this CNIS-INSEE group is to conduct a consultation with those companies that are most closely concerned by the reuse of private data by official statistics without causing any prejudice to the economic value of that data, while ensuring respect for business secrets and the privacy of individuals and complying with the various principles of professional ethics and quality. The group’s remit consists in drawing up a white paper of proposals to establish a legal framework for this reuse of data in order to fill a legal vacuum, as there is currently no sound framework allowing the use of private data.

At the same time, the Draft Law on Digital Technologies has been published. One of the articles aims to amend the law of 1951 to authorise use of private data and regulate that use. In its current version, the text states that the purpose is to allow this use, although subject to an opinion from the CNIS. It also makes this conditional upon presenting a feasibility study as the basis for a dialogue on the useful and reasonable nature of use of the source. This exercise must be performed for each source. The article provides a general framework, as did the law of 1951 which provides a general framework for conducting surveys and using administrative data. Each source will be the subject of a specific text and a specific discussion analysing the opportunity on a more technical level and looking into feasibility, costs and practical arrangements. This text also specifies that provision is made for a system of fines if the source cannot be obtained.

¹⁰ Text Mining comprises a set of methods, techniques and tools to exploit non-structured written text documents, such as Word-type files, e-mails and PowerPoint-type presentations

¹¹ Webmining comprises a set of techniques used to explore, process and analyse large volumes of information further to an internet activity.

The CNIS-INSEE working group looked into three particular cases which are in somewhat different states of progress. First of all, the use of scanner data is a longstanding subject of study and this data is already used in four countries. Since 2009, INSEE has been in discussions with the profession regarding feasibility and the practical arrangements. This issue is now coming close to a situation in which a production system can be introduced. On telephone data, discussions with professionals commenced in 2014. This is a complex issue, however, and these are long-term discussions. Finally, the use of bank cards is a more recent subject, the appraisal of which only began with this working group.

Retail scanner data has been the focus of discussions resulting in an agreement on the principle of data transmission, an agreement on the general interest of such transmission, and a request for this transmission to be framed in such a way that the obligation covers all the store chains. This data transmission must serve exclusively for the price index, and the technical terms have been the focus of extensive experimentation with the profession since 2009.

Telephone data was the subject of discussions in September and October 2015. Potentially, this data could be used to produce statistics on tourism, mobility and presence within a given territory. The discussions with the operators concerned the production of statistics on the population present in a given territory. At this stage, INSEE is continuing to discuss technical feasibility issues and trying to assess the costs.

Finally, concerning bank cards, the appraisal commenced at the end of 2015. The working group contacted the bank operators and bank card groups to appraise the possibility of producing statistics to track consumption of services.

4.3 Applying new company categories (small, medium or large) across the entire statistical system on enterprises

Extracts from the recommendation in the ASP 2014 Annual Report:

In its 2012 report, ASP praised the progress made by INSEE in implementing RESANE, and in particular the setting up of the statistical directory of companies (SIRUS). With this directory all available company information can be centralised, based on “enterprise” units, which differ from legal units. It will also be possible to calculate the enterprise categories (small, medium or large)¹² to which the legal units in the directory belong. In addition, the annual statistics structure is now based on tax and social sources and less complex surveys. This was the first phase of the RESANE project, which has now been completed.

After first looking at the structuring of companies into groups to form “enterprises” by profiling groups of companies, the aim of the second phase of RESANE is to replace results calculated for legal units by results based on the new definition of enterprises, in the sense of the Law on the Modernisation of the Economy (LME).

The ASP asks that particular attention be paid to ensure that these new categories of enterprises should be used across the entire statistical system related to companies (other structural or outlook surveys, demographics, foreign trade, national accounting, etc.).

Response

The category of enterprise (small, medium or large) is now calculated in the SIRUS statistical directory for each legal unit. This calculation is based on the following characteristics which are

¹² In accordance with the decree below (issued pursuant to the Law on Modernisation of the Economy): <http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichTexte.do?cidTexte=JORFTEXT000019961059>

now final for the 2013 period: the definition of the contours of the group, turnover, workforce and balance sheet total. The data for 2014 is currently undergoing validation.

The category of each enterprise can be consulted on the Insee.fr website by entering its “SIREN” number. It is also present in the Sirène files that are distributed commercially.

The categories of enterprises and new enterprises within the meaning of the Law on Modernisation of the Economy (LME) have been the focus of in-depth analyses published in the *INSEE Référence* on “Enterprises in France” published in October 2015. Two reports and five themed information sheets were devoted to the subject. The two reports were as follows:

- “A clearer vision of the productive system with the economic definition of enterprises”;
- “New data from group profiling: an increased share for industry, higher company performances but a reduction in the capacity to finance investment and worse debt.”

Five themed information sheets on the structure of the production system have been prepared on categories of enterprises, intermediate-sized enterprises in France, small and medium-sized enterprises in France, very small enterprises in France and regional data on categories of enterprises.

The statistical data on foreign trade produced by the Ministerial Statistical Office for Customs is also disseminated per category of enterprise and new enterprise within the meaning of the Law on Modernisation of the Economy, as well as per legal unit.

In addition, the ESANE (Elaboration of Annual Business Statistics) campaign carried out in 2015 and relating to data for the 2014 period, took account of the data of 43 profiled groups corresponding to some one hundred enterprises (manually-profiled groups). The provisional results of this campaign were sent to Eurostat in October 2015 and the final results will be published in the course of H1 2016.

Finally, a project is underway at INSEE to create enterprises for each group that is not profiled manually. Almost 90,000 new enterprises will therefore replace the 300,000 legal units that belong to groups and do not comply with the definition of an enterprise within the meaning of the LME.

These new units will be taken into account for the first time in the ESANE system for the 2016 fiscal period, collected in 2017. The first results will therefore be available in 2018.

4.4 Minimum standards to allow more effective comparisons between the statistical data produced by local authorities

Extracts from the recommendation in the ASP 2014 Annual Report:

“It appears that the statistical data produced by local authorities is increasingly difficult to compare in time and space.

If the statistical production of local authorities were subject to minimum standards, it would in no way reduce their freedom, but would make it possible to have a better understanding of their operations.

This is a major project for which the Official Statistics Authority is in search of interested partners and with which it might be possible to make proposals to the government.”

An initial response has been provided on the production of accounting reports providing a better insight into the expenditure incurred at the different territorial levels, in that the DGFIP is producing consolidated data grouping together the accounts of local authorities and their satellites whenever possible, and the data for municipalities and groupings with their own taxation powers for each inter-municipal level. The corresponding accounts may be consulted on the collectivites-locales.gouv.fr website. The accounting balances are also available at the most detailed classification level on the data.gouv.fr website.

It must be noted, however, that in this domain which is of great interest and in which the availability of good-quality statistical information is of crucial importance to inform stakeholders and provide an objective insight into the issues, further efforts are required. The Authority therefore reasserts this recommendation most insistently.

5. Annexes

Annexe 1

Recipients of the report

“This report is submitted to Parliament and made public” (Article 2 of the Decree of 3 March on the Official Statistics Authority)

As each year since 2009, this report shall be submitted:

- *to Parliament:* to the Presidents of the National Assembly, the Senate and their commissions

- *to the representatives of the Nation*
 - President of the Republic
 - President of the Economic, Social and Environmental Council
 - Prime Minister
 - Minister for Finance and Public Accounts
 - Minister for the Economy, Industry and Digital Technologies
 - Ministries responsible for the Ministerial Statistical Offices

- *to the major French State bodies*
 - Vice-President of the Council of State
 - First President of the Court of Auditors
 - Head of the General Inspectorate of Finances
 - Head of the General Inspectorate of Social Affairs

- *to the representatives of French official statistics*
 - President of the CNIS
 - INSEE Director General, heads of the Ministerial Statistical Offices (MSO), INSEE Regional Directors
 - Banque de France and other producers
 - Members of the INSEE board

- *to the representatives of European official statistics*
 - President of the ESGAB (European Statistical Governance Advisory Board).
 - Members of the ESGAB
 - Eurostat
 - European Statistical Advisory Committee (ESAC)

Annexe 2

Recommendations of the Peer Review 2014

on compliance with the Code of Practice and the coordination role of the Official Statistical System

France

Strengthening the institutional environment

1. Appropriate legal and/or institutional measures should be taken to explicitly empower the National Institute for Statistics and Economic Studies and the Ministerial Statistical Departments to undertake their mandates in respect of the development, production and dissemination of statistics in a professionally independent manner. (European Statistics Code of Practice, indicator 1.1).
2. The Director General of the National Institute for Statistics and Economic Studies and, where appropriate, the Directors of the Ministerial Statistical Departments should be assigned the sole responsibility for deciding on statistical methods, standards and procedures, and on the timing and content of statistical releases. (European Statistics Code of Practice, indicator 1.4).
3. Greater transparency should apply in the processes governing the appointment and removal of the Director General of the National Institute for Statistics and Economic Studies and that the reasons for terminating an incumbency should be specified in law. (European Statistics Code of Practice, indicator 1.8).
4. Appropriate legal and/or other mechanisms should be put in place to ensure that the National Institute for Statistics and Economic Studies and the Ministerial Statistical Departments are consulted so that the needs of official statistics are taken into account when administrative data systems are being developed or reviewed. (European Statistics Code of Practice, indicators 2 and 8.7).
5. Necessary legal measures should be taken to enable the National Institute for Statistics and Economic Studies and the Ministerial Statistical Departments to use data held by private entities. (European Statistics Code of Practice, indicator 2.2).
6. The current French statistical legislation covering the guarantee of statistical confidentiality, which envisages the automatic disclosure of confidential data for criminal prosecution and heritage (national archive) purposes, should be reviewed to align it with the corresponding European Union legislative provisions. (European Statistics Code of Practice, indicator 5.1).
7. The arrangements for pre-release and embargoed access to statistical releases throughout the French Statistical System should be reviewed to align them more closely and uniformly with the European Statistics Code of Practice. (European Statistics Code of Practice, indicator 6.7).

Embedding quality management throughout the statistical system

8. The National Institute for Statistics and Economic Studies should develop further its vision, and related integrated and systematic implementation strategy and framework, for embedding quality management throughout the national statistical system. (European Statistics Code of Practice, indicator 4).
9. The National Institute for Statistics and Economic Studies should develop further its system to report product quality to users on a regular basis based on the European standard quality criteria. (European Statistics Code of Practice, indicator 4.3).
10. The National Institute for Statistics and Economic Studies should continue to develop its metadata system on the basis of European standards. (European Statistics Code of Practice, indicator 15.1).
11. The National Institute for Statistics and Economic Studies should develop and publish comprehensive documentation and methodological guidelines for the French Statistical System based on European and other international standards, guidelines and good practices while taking into account the existing common statistical culture that prevails throughout the System. (European Statistics Code of Practice, indicator 7.1).
12. The National Institute for Statistics and Economic Studies should build on its existing practices and put in place a systematic programme, and corresponding organisational arrangements, to undertake regular reviews of all statistical surveys and outputs. (European Statistics Code of Practice, indicator 4.3).
13. The National Institute for Statistics and Economic Studies should put in place mechanisms to align and integrate the quality management related tasks undertaken by the General Inspectorate, the Directorate for Methodology and Statistical Coordination and International Relations and other departments and committees within the Institute as well as by the Official Statistics Quality Label Committee. (European Statistics Code of Practice, indicators 4.1 and 4.4).

Further enhancing the service to users

14. The user-oriented quality reports and metadata files for all official statistics should be published on the websites of the National Institute for Statistics and Economic Studies and the Ministerial Statistical Departments as a matter of course. (European Statistics Code of Practice, indicators 15.1 and 15.5).
15. A Revisions policy for official statistics should be prepared and published on the National Institute for Statistics and Economic Studies' website. (European Statistics Code of Practice, indicators 6.6 and 8.6).
16. The National Institute for Statistics and Economic Studies should endeavour to streamline the procedures for approving access to microdata through the Secure Remote Access Centre for researchers so that access can be approved faster than the current 3 to 6 months. (European Statistics Code of Practice, indicator 15.4).
17. The National Institute for Statistics and Economic Studies should provide clarification through its website of the different types of microdata and access available through the facilities at the Secure Remote Access Centre, the Centre Quetelet or directly through the National Institute for Statistics and Economic Studies' website. (European Statistics Code of Practice, indicators 15.2 and 15.4).
18. The National Institute for Statistics and Economic Studies and the National Statistical Advisory Committee (CNIS) should establish procedures to consult regularly and raise statistical awareness among potential users of official statistics. (European Statistics Code of Practice, indicators 11.1 and 11.3).

Annexe 3

Opinion n° 2015-01 of 18 March 2015 of the Official Statistics Authority on quality labelling of the monthly sickness insurance expenditure statistics produced by the National Sickness Insurance Fund for Employed Persons (CNAMTS)

NOR: FCPO1508846V

With regard to the letter of 9 December 2013 from the Director General of the CNAMTS;
With regard to the request from the President of the Official Statistics Authority (ASP) dated 17 December 2013;
With regard to the opinion of the Quality Label Committee dated 10 February 2015;
With regard to the minutes of the meeting of the Official Statistics Authority of 18 March 2015, as approved,

The Official Statistics Authority hereby serves notice, by a majority of its members, of the quality labelling of the monthly sickness expenditure statistics produced by the CNAMTS. These statistics derived from accounting information are the monthly series based on the date of reimbursement and the monthly series based on the date of care.

This opinion is subject to the following recommendations:

1. Publish an annual publication calendar for the quality-labelled statistics, which may be subject to sliding revisions, although always maintaining the publication date of the month immediately following the revision date unchanged.
2. Present the monthly series by value with raw data for the date of reimbursement series.
3. Present the monthly series by value with restated data for the date of care series, meaning completed and corrected for the effects of seasonal variations and business days.
4. Identify the quality-labelled series separately from the other series.
5. Provide users with explanatory notes on all the aspects of data production and processing, in particular on the definition of the scope in terms of the regimes that are covered, the scope of the different series and the inclusion or otherwise of payments made by the sickness insurance fund to health establishments, the geographic scope, the various treatment agreements and the concepts used.
6. Produce a list annually of the main events that have an impact on benefits or prices and therefore on reimbursements.
7. Produce detailed, accessible methodological documentation on the different types of processing for the date of care series, notably on the question of completeness, the volume-price share and corrections for seasonal variations and business days.
8. Pursue work with a view to obtaining quality labelling at a later date for other annual series.
9. Publish the monthly news release of the CNAMTS on trends in monthly sickness insurance expenditure after the statistical validation of these data pursuant to principle 6 point 7 of the European Statistics Code of Practice.

Quality labelling is granted for a five-year period, with a review clause in 2016, by which date the recommendations above must have been implemented on the website of the CNAMTS. The present opinion shall be transmitted for information to the Director General of the CNAMTS.
It shall be mentioned in the Official Journal of the French Republic.

Annexe 4

Dissemination rules for the main indicators

Dissemination rules for the main outlook indicators published on www.Insee.fr

The dissemination rules are a way of guaranteeing all users equal access to independent information produced to the highest statistical standards.

The dissemination framework is based on two essential rules:

- announcing the dates and times of publication of macroeconomic information in advance,
- treating all users equally. All preferential access to information prior to publication (ie. under embargo) granted to an external user is limited, controlled and divulged.

The legal framework for dissemination is defined by a set of international standards and codes adopted by France.

Among the international standards, the [SDDS](#) (Special Data Dissemination Standard) of the International Monetary Fund is among the most widely used. France (like all the industrialised countries) adhered to this standard in 1996 and has been one of the first countries to commit to the new SDDS+ standard since 2014. In particular, it requires that countries supply a description of the conditions in which the data was constructed and disseminated and prepare a publication schedule for the coming four months. The SDDS standard also fixes data dissemination deadlines. The data dissemination schedule and monitoring of compliance with this standard are accessible (in English) on the [IMF website](#).

The European Statistics Code of Practice establishes principles of professional independence, impartiality and objectivity ([principle 1](#) and [principle 6](#)).

Finally, European Regulations or gentlemen's agreements, especially on short-term statistics, set dates for mandatory transmission of most data to Eurostat with a view to publishing the corresponding European information.

Practical dissemination rules

Publication on the website

The dates and times of publication of the main economic indicators and outlook reports and reviews are announced in the [four-month calendar](#) disseminated online at the end of each month (on the 25th). The dates for the first month in the schedule are firm, while the dates in the following three months may be modified in the schedule sent the following month.

The dates and times of issue of non-main indicators and publications (other than outlook) are announced in the [monthly agenda](#) that is updated every Friday.

In order to guarantee perfectly equal treatment in access to information for all the audiences of INSEE, outlook indicators and publications are disseminated on our website at the exact time when the embargo is lifted. This measure guarantees that the information is made available to all users at the same time.

Preferential access

However, press agencies and the press have access to information under embargo in certain cases, the purpose being to allow them to prepare their articles and guarantee good-quality information. Likewise, the cabinets of the ministries overseeing INSEE receive information under embargo. The outlook indicators published at 7.30 am are disclosed to them the day before at 9.00pm. The other outlook indicators are supplied to them on the day before publication at 6.00pm. If the embargo is breached, it is lifted promptly in order to restore equal access to information.

Dissemination time summary table

Publications	Dissemination to press agencies	Dissemination to the press	Embargo lifted
Informations Rapides: main indicators (1)	7.00 am	7.30 am	7.30 am (D0)
Informations Rapides: other main indicators (2)	8.15 am	8.45 am	8.45 am (D0)
Informations Rapides: non-main indicators (3)	11.30 am	12.00	12.00 (D0)
Note de Conjoncture	9.30 am	9.30 am	10.00 pm (D0)
INSEE Focus*	8.45 am	8.45 am	8.45 am
INSEE Première	8.00 am	8.00 am	0.00 (D+1)
INSEE Analyses	8.00 am	8.00 am	0.00 (D+1)
INSEE Références	9.30 am	9.30 am	0.00 (D+1)
Economie et Statistique	8.00/10.00 am (**)	8.00/10.00 am (**)	0.00 (D+2)

(1): Unemployment within the meaning of the ILO, payroll employment, quarterly national accounts (first results) and the national accounts of general government(first results)

(2): [List of main outlook indicators](#)

(3): [List of non-main outlook indicators](#)

(*): As INSEE Focus is a short, online-only publication, it is disseminated to the press without an embargo

(**): Dissemination of a news release at 8.00 am (summary of the publication) then of the publication itself from 10 am on request.

Annexe 5

2015 review by the National Council for Statistical information (CNIS) of the official statistics programme

This review is based on the general directions set by the CNIS for 2015 on the one hand, and also on the key expectations expressed in statistical matters in the CNIS mid-term review for 2014-2018.

Increasingly considerable changes in society are creating changing situations, the measurement of which is a genuine difficulty and challenge for official statistics. Changes in family life, the variety of different forms of employment, transformations in the economic organisation of businesses and the transition in society towards increasing consideration of sustainable development, etc., are just some of these changes. In all these aspects and many others, the official statistics work presented to the commissions or working groups can inform public debate and provide keys to a better understanding. Improving our diagnostic, whether in economic or social matters, is of fundamental importance in such times of uncertainty.

The demand from society as relayed via the CNIS expresses this expectation of a better understanding and ownership of data. The CNIS contributes to ensuring that the useful role of official statistical data is more widely known.

After addressing the broader issues contained in the general directions for 2015, this review analyses four areas covering the discussions of the CNIS commissions and working groups in 2015:

The social domain;

The economic and financial domain;

Sustainable development;

Local territories.

I. General review

The CNIS is contributing to facilitating access to official statistical data by adapting that access to different audiences.

There has been clear progress in access for researchers, for example through access to fiscal data, although the Council has expressed a demand that the conditions of access for other users should be specified (spring meeting of the Territories Commission on housing). The report by the working group on “Access to Banking and Financial Sector Data” provides a good interim review as a basis for progress on this question. The Law on Health provides a framework for access to health data. The point remaining to be examined is access to the data held by welfare protection bodies. For further information, see the INSEE website on [statistical confidentiality and data protection](#) and also the calendar, scope and procedures for referrals to the [Statistical Confidentiality Committee](#) on the CNIS website.

In addition to this, Article 12 of the draft Digital Law will **allow official statistics access to private information** held by legal entities under private law for the purposes of producing statistics. This legal framework is indispensable, as the Law of 1951 did not make provision for the use of private data. The transmission of such data will be subject to an opinion of the CNIS.

It is within this context that INSEE has issued a consultation under the aegis of the CNIS to enhance the legal framework provided for the use of this data. The group is chaired by Michel Bon and its purpose is to conduct a consultation with those enterprises that are most closely concerned by the use of private data by official statistics, without prejudice to the economic value of such data, while respecting business secrecy and the privacy of individuals, as well as the various principles of professional ethics and quality. As new computer technologies make it easier to process large quantities of data, new data sources would now appear to be accessible for statistical processing. **Quite naturally, the statistical institutes are wondering whether this data can give rise to new statistics or might make it possible to improve current statistics, reduce**

their cost or increase their quality. These potential sources include store scanner data, a source that is known and has been examined since 2009, mobile telephone data since 2014, which has been the subject of study in Estonia for ten years now, and, very recently, the use of bank cards. Scanner data must be used only for the consumer price index, while mobile telephone data could be used to produce statistics on tourism, mobility or presence in a given territory. Bearing in mind that the operators have developed a market for the dissemination of this data for payment, complementary approaches must be found. The appraisal is just beginning for bank cards, and one prospect could be for tracking consumption of services.

In all the above cases, **consideration must be given to the requirements in terms of confidentiality and respect for secrets that are protected by law.** In this respect, work on data confidentiality, anonymisation techniques and the enforcement of the various business secrets is of fundamental importance.

These issues lead official statistics to define different levels of products for dissemination by theme (key figures, pre-formatted comparative tables and access to individual data files at various levels of aggregation, files that raise questions of re-identification). **For access to individual data files and the possibility of matching files with each other, the draft Digital Law sets out the conditions required for encryption of the National Registration Number (NIR)** in order to ensure that it is not possible to reconstitute the identifier of persons listed in the National Directory for the Identification of Natural Persons (RNIPP).

The Council will be keeping a regular watch on the reflection and action of official statistics in this area.

Linked with this first direction, **against a background of highly diverse data coming from information systems that are not fully integrated,** another expectation – in the medium term - was **to give citizens the ability to understand and use the data from official statistics.**

There are a large number of sources and data that are available on any given theme, and it is becoming difficult for users to find their way. Several draft opinions from the Commissions recommend that the Official Statistical Service should prepare a file presenting all the available information (housing) or should schedule, within two to three years, a new review of the data and studies that are available in order to improve legibility and provide support for users.

This context of large quantities of information to inform debate, plus the question of Open Data, **gives rise to another demand, which is for certification of the official figure,** meaning the figure that is acknowledged as being of sufficient quality, in order to distinguish it from those figures for which there is not sufficient transparency as to the way in which they are calculated in order to assess their quality.

In this context of “burgeoning data”, a lot of progress has been made in providing support to users by putting **new pedagogical tools** on line. In 2015, there was the online publication of a video entitled “Understanding Statistics” providing information on the way in which data is collected, analysis conducted and results disseminated. The Ministerial Statistical Office for National Education explains the meaning of high school performance indicators in a video. The [INSEE en Bref](#) collection offers a simple presentation of statistics: in May 2016, the INSEE en Bref on unemployment will be updated.

Interest in European comparisons remains strong. **A review of the international aspect of the subjects being addressed is conducted,** to the extent possible, **at each CNIS commission meeting.** As we will see later, a large number of opinions issued by the commissions refer to European projects and to the importance of taking part in them for official statistics. The drive by France to set up the EuroGroups Register (EGR) is a notable example of this. **The national statistical system, as a partner of European statistics, also has a role to play in informing international comparisons.**

The Council is playing a part in this process of analysing gaps to make a distinction between those arising from differences between systems, classifications and scopes, and those showing actual differences in performance. In January 2015, OECD Chief Statistician and Director of Statistics Martine Durand referred, at the Plenary Meeting of the Council, **to the growing use of international comparisons which are central to political processes of strategy benchmarking. While emphasising the marked progress made in terms**

of best practices, thanks to the guides and work on coherence, Martine Durand stated that **difficulties remain in providing relevant, good-quality comparisons**. As an example, she indicated that France does not include the future cost of pensions for its civil servants in general government debt (as it is optional to do so), which lowers the general government debt-to-GDP ratio and modifies the ranking of the different countries on this criterion.

To pursue the effort of the CNIS in this direction, a seminar will be organised in May 2016 on “Statistics: Scope and Limits of International Comparisons”. Held with the support of various partners, the subjects in the morning will be on national education data (including school drop-out rates), and in the afternoon on a variety of economic subjects, such as the France-Germany margin rate, and comparison of wages, government and private debt.

Another expectation, which appeared when the Stiglitz, Zen and Fitoussi Report was submitted, **was to have access to indicators as a complement to Gross Domestic Product in order to assess the impact of measures that are taken**. This expectation gave rise to the Law of 13 April 2015, further to a proposal by Member of Parliament Eva Sas, in which the government undertakes to submit *"annually to Parliament [...] a report presenting the trends, in past years, of new wealth indicators, as well as a qualitative or quantitative assessment of the reforms undertaken"*.

These indicators have been largely inspired by the previous work (public consultation and workshops) undertaken jointly by the Economic, Social and Environmental Council and France Stratégie, in collaboration with the CNIS. The government selected two indicators out of ten on the sole theme of inequalities and poverty. In addition, there is a clear determination to have data on recent periods: **eight indicators relate to data for the previous year (n-1) and only two to data for year n-2**. This indicator chart is consistent with international, European and national strategies and will be attached each year in the annexes to the Draft Budget Law.

Another strong demand among users, as relayed by the members of the Executive Committee and the commission chairs, is **for early indicators to reduce the dissemination timescales for certain statistical results** (such as disposable income and the poverty rate which are disseminated two years after the year to which the measurements relate). INSEE has just **announced that it was shortening the publication lead times** for the initial estimates of quarterly GDP, unemployment and inflation. Early indicators on poverty will also be supplied thanks to micro-simulation.

One final expectation among users concerns **improving knowledge of territorial expenditure**. Progress is being made very slowly on this issue. Since summer 2014, the General Directorate for Public Finances has been sending INSEE information on State expenditure for each region. After being at a standstill, the prospect of collaborative work on State expenditure between the INSEE Regional Directorates and those of the DGFIP would seem a possibility for 2016, although this remains to be confirmed. It is only by such collaborative work between the regional stakeholders that the existence of differences in performance between regions can be checked. Knowledge of local expenditure has not progressed at all and proposals for progress have not yet been prepared. A new interim review of this question may be proposed in a CNIS commission in 2016.

II. Themed review of commission and working group proceedings

1. Progress and expectations in the social domain

(“Employment, Qualification and Earned Income”, “Demographics and Social Issues”, “Public Services and Services for the Public” Commissions and the National Population Census Evaluation Commission)

- In employment, the **2014 review** emphasised the contribution of the concept of the “halo” around unemployment, with the European definition, thanks to the modification of the Labour Force Survey, but **pointed to the recurring difficulty for users in distinguishing clearly between the administrative statistics from Pôle Emploi relating to jobseekers at the end of the month and the unemployment rate in the Labour Force Survey**.

The consultation group set up within the framework of the CNIS to reply to the recommendations issued by the Official Statistics Authority on the monthly publication submitted its conclusions to the “Employment, Qualification and Earned Income” commission in spring 2015. In late November 2015, the

template for the publication was presented to the group. In response to the proposal from Pôle Emploi and the DARES to refocus the publication on the main indicators, the members of the group requested that references by links to websites should be added systematically for those indicators that no longer appear in the publication.

On the whole, users found that the proposals contributed to better legibility and understanding of the indicators. The publication presents data from graphs over a period of some ten years, thereby making it easier to see the trends in the labour market; the graph colour code refers to the categories, etc. However, **certain users would like to have a diagram (or a link to a diagram) on the first page to visualise the difference between jobseekers at the end of the month and unemployment within the meaning of the International Labour Office (ILO) in order to clear up any ambiguity.**

- **The working group on the diversity of forms of employment, chaired by Bernard Gazier, developed its activities in 2015.** This group is part of the CNIS 2014-2018 medium-term review of the way in which today's statistical system can show levels and trends in the development of so-called "particular" forms of employment (with particular attention being given to emerging employment forms) and identify any gaps there might be, as well as examining whether these forms are specific to France or not. The group's report containing recommendations will be submitted in spring 2016. **A number of issues would already appear to have been identified, relating to gaps that have been detected, problems of integration of the existing information systems, changes to certain classifications, the identification of the various dimensions to be shown, such as social acceptability, flexicurity, etc., and the introduction of the Nominative Social Declaration (DSN).**

- **Another working group on measuring concealed work and its impact on government finances** was launched in 2015. It is part of the medium-term demand of the CNIS **for better knowledge of changes in employment. The request consisted in defining the scale of temporary secondment of foreign workers in France and of concealed work. This group chaired by Alain Gubian** held its first meeting in November. Its purpose is to improve measurement of concealed work, to recommend the most relevant estimation method(s) and to assess its impact on government finances, notably in terms of the contributions evaded, as well as providing an initial approximate estimation of undue benefit payments.

- **Some users emphasise the importance of examining changes in employment terms** linked notably to regulations and to organisational changes (fragmentation of work, work at night and on Sundays) in order to determine whether the data produced by the statistical system shows these changes. This medium-term request will also benefit from the insights provided by the work of the previous two working groups.

- **Finally, it should be noted that the existing studies into professional integration in priority districts** (based on the Generation surveys of the CEREQ or processing of exhaustive data on subsidised contracts) show that young people residing in Sensitive Urban Areas (ZUS) have more difficulty than other young people residing in non-ZUS urban units in finding their place in the labour market. This "district effect" remains all other things being equal. **Centred as it is on a single year, however, this information provides no insight into trajectories, nor any assessment of the effectiveness of policies for urban areas.** The CNIS wishes to conduct a review of this subject in a few years' time, based on data from the City Policy Panel, which will make it possible to monitor the trajectories of inhabitants of these districts (and to detect any residential mobility) over several years in order to measure the effects of policies in these districts. It would also be highly preferable that **the age limit defining "young people"** for professional integration purposes **should be harmonised between the different sources.**

- **the CNIS is generally investing heavily in the area of employment and must prioritise its own action.** It is to this effect that it has decided, further to a request from the Trades Union Discrimination Observatory, to appoint an Assignment Officer to carry out exploratory studies into the existing data on discrimination against employees who are trades union members, elected officials or representatives. This person will also have the task of proposing the most efficient ways of organising reflection on the subject of discrimination in employment.

- **several expectations remain in the domain of housing, both nationally and for local territories. There are divergences in the results**, which may come from differences in definitions (case of social housing, see territorial aspects on page 13), survey scopes or methods. The sources come from official statistics and from bodies outside its scope. As we saw previously, there are many sources and users need the sort of overview that could be provided by a summary file organising that mass of data. **The question of calibration of private sources is raised**: the rent data and calculation method of the Paris Conurbation Local Observatory (OLAP) were calibrated in spring 2013 for five years, subject to the OLAP implementing a number of recommendations. This method is recognised as being of good quality and has spread to the other local observatories within the framework of rent regulation pursuant to the Law on “Access to Housing and Renovated Urbanism” (ALUR). **The CNIS proposes to review this calibration experiment in the near future. Another expectation is to improve knowledge of real estate loans** in collaboration with the Banque de France. At the same time, the official statistics system has improved its methods in the construction sector, with the national survey of housing energy performance providing added value when it comes to knowledge of this subject.

- **Measurement of migratory flows** is a central concern among statisticians, in particular on account of the absence of any data source on people leaving national territory. **INSEE has proposed an innovative study this year on “migratory flows between France and abroad by origin (immigrants, persons born in France, French people born abroad)”**. The interest of this study resides in extending the scope of the approach. It does imply a certain margin of uncertainty, however, linked to the hypothesis on the mortality of persons born in France and dying abroad, which is assumed to be identical to that of persons residing in France. This work will continue. This study has provided **an opportunity to publish a two-page pedagogical document explaining the differences between the French, foreign and immigrant populations**, setting out the main trends since 2006. To provide an insight into these questions, **the current legal framework and available data offer the possibility of working on a large number of issues**. However, **it is important that collaboration should be developed between official statistics and the world of research** in order to cast light on certain issues, such as interrelations between migrants, host country and country of origin, the characteristics of intra-European temporary migrants, the characteristics of refugees and first-time arrivals, etc. **This collaboration requires access to data to be provided to researchers, a priority that the CNIS has set itself.**

- **The “Improving observation of family break-ups and their consequences on family living conditions” working group set up at the request of the High Council for Families and chaired by Claude Thélot**, held some ten meetings in 2015. The group has a broad remit covering all separations (giving priority to separations of couples with children) and their human, judicial, social and economic consequences. **At this stage, the group has proposed a classification of family situations covering the main events**. Further to the report by Mr Frécon, Senator and President of the National Population Census Evaluation Commission and of Ms Cases, director of the INED at the time, **INSEE is working on improving knowledge of family ties between all the members of the household, two by two, which was one of the two key recommendations of the Frécon Report**. The working group of Mr Thélot proposes to contribute to this and has issued proposals to modify the analysis of household/family ties in the housing sheet of the population census. These recommendations could be tested or even used before the publication of the report by the group. In terms of the current situation, the group considers that there is a lot of potential information from various sources that should be exploited but is not used to date. This point may raise questions of resources and also of governance and will need to be studied with official statistics. The report will be presented to the Demographics and Social Issues Commission in spring 2016.

- **There is an increasing amount of information on the personnel of the National Education system**, their careers, working conditions or pay. What is now needed is better knowledge of lifelong learning for teachers and of the careers of higher education teaching staff. **The main difficulty is that this information comes from many different information systems that are not integrated**. A project has been launched to integrate the National Education human resources information system (SIRHEN), but the roll-out schedule

has not been defined as a lot of coordination needs to be carried out within the Ministry. The CNIS has planned to conduct a review as its implementation has a great impact on official statistics.

- The MSO for Internal Security was created in summer 2014 at the Ministry for the Interior, further to a favourable opinion from the Official Statistics Authority, and has presented a review of its activities (assignments, studies and dissemination). **It was an opportunity to review the existing data in security matters** (data from the statistical office of the Ministry for Justice, from the National Observatory for Delinquency and the Criminal Response, and data from the “Living Environment and security” (CVS) survey conducted by INSEE). The importance of promoting these statistics and establishing stable observation tools was stressed. **For the CVS survey, which is the only survey that provides an insight into the feeling of insecurity that is experienced and expressed, an ad hoc meeting has been requested to discuss the purposes of the survey, its periodicity and any adjustments that might be considered.** The CNIS stressed, as the Official Statistics Authority had done, that the Decree of 1st October 2015 redefining the remit of the National Observatory for Delinquency and the Criminal Response (ONDRP) contains ambiguities as to the sharing of missions between the ONDRP and the “Internal Security” Ministerial Statistical Office (SSMSI).

2. Progress and expectations in the economic and financial domain (“Enterprises and Market Strategies” and “Financial System and Financing of the Economy” Commissions)

- **The key progress underway in economic analysis resides in defining the enterprise on an economic basis rather than along legal lines.** This new definition provided by the Law on Modernisation of the Economy of 2008 now takes account of the organisation of companies in groups, groups legal entities (subsidiaries) together by erasing legal boundaries, and bases itself on the productive organisation and consolidation of activities on French territory. In addition to consolidated accounts that eliminate the double counts in aggregates, group profiling offers a more effective approach to the division into broad sectors, as well as more coherent economic indicators per sector: **the production system is revealed to be much more concentrated, while the composition of the sectors of activity is transformed – in particular, many service-sector legal units are now associated with profiled enterprises in the commerce or industrial sectors – and the consolidation of accounts distinctly modifies balance sheet structures and ratios (added value, debt, cash flow) at sector level. This represents a major step forward for economic analysis** as against the previous diagnoses that were essentially on a legal unit basis.

This profiling work is now an obligation in all the European Union Member States. **The CNIS stresses the interest of profiling as it allows a worldwide perspective on business statistics, and recommends that consistency should be maintained in this work with the European EGR (EuroGroup Register) project.** This having been stated, users have pointed out that the coexistence, over a period of several years, of this new definition of the enterprise and the former one based on legal units, will require pedagogical support if people are to genuinely take ownership of the data.

- **The increase in demand for data on the wood sector** goes hand in hand with the changes underway in the building professions and the development of wood construction. The statistics come from many sources (INSEE, statistical office of the Ministry for Agriculture, professional organisations), sometimes with differing methodologies and scopes. **The existing statistics are not designed to conduct detailed study of the different components of the sector, insofar as the French classification of activities (NAF) which is used to elaborate the statistics does not allow the detail of all the activities of enterprises with a number of activities to be covered** (the NAF puts companies of which part of the activity is wooden frame and joinery manufacture together with those who install joinery in different materials). The sector has signed a strategic contract that requires a very detailed overall economic table to be completed, and which cannot be filled out only with official statistical data. Access to data for analysis purposes is being fostered, including for technical institutes, in particular via the Secure Remote Access Centre (CASD).

- In October 2015 for the first time, who-to-who financial accounts were published, going back to the 2012 accounts. **The interest of who-to-who accounts is that they provide information on financing flows**

between the broad sectors in the national accounts: households, non-financial corporations, monetary financial institutions (MFI), general government and the rest of the world. Drawn up on the basis of balance sheet data and counterparty declarations (bank declarations per counterparty sector, databases on the issue and holding of securities, etc.), these accounts make it possible to draw up the financial national accounts produced quarterly by the Banque de France on the basis of the European System of Accounts (ESA 2010).

- The new data on securitisation presented to the commission should be promoted more widely.
- The report of the **working group on access to banking and financial sector data is a step that has been well documented.** The Banque de France plans to propose additional elements to continue moving forward on this subject.

*Since the 2000s, increasing numbers of investors have been becoming interested not only in the financial characteristics of the assets in which they invest their capital, but are also in taking account of non-financial criteria, such as environmental, social and governance (ESG) dimensions. By choosing to finance only the most virtuous companies in the area of sustainable development, they are thus moving towards a socially responsible investment (SRI) approach. As a financing mechanism for the ecological transition and a factor accelerating changes in production modes, the CNIS has asked for an exchange between the data users and producers to see **how official statistics could contribute to measuring socially responsible investment.***

3. Progress and expectations on the environment and sustainable development

(“Environment and Sustainable Development” Commission)

- **On emerging subjects with many dimensions, such as socially-responsible investment, official statistics has already looked into whether it could make use of companies’ mandatory annual reports on social responsibility** (reports provided for in Articles 225 and 226 of the Grenelle 2 Law, the scope of application of which is set out in the Decree of 24 April 2012) to produce statistics and, in time, analyse the knock-on effects on the “non-cost” competitiveness of businesses. **On account of difficulties relating to the absence of centralisation and standardisation in these reports and differences in scope, many users have asked that official statisticians examine the possibility of elaborating a database for the purposes of statistical processing** – based on quantitative information – and that provision should be made for access to this database for the stakeholders in question, subject to the current legal framework.

As national and international regulations are developed on socially-responsible investment and low-carbon funds, the CNIS has recommended that official statistics should provide its expertise in national and international classifications, notably on the use of funds in order to pinpoint the most virtuous sectors.

- On the dimensions of sustainable development, a lot of data exists on **mobility. Air quality** will be the subject of an annual report with a regional comparison. For **waste**, there is a lack of information on production in the tertiary and hospital sectors. The **measurement of energy consumption** suffers from a lack of consistency between the national methods and those used on the regional level. To observe the **sustainable “city”**, an agreement first has to be found on the concept. **The city is a difficult concept to apprehend, however, due to the differences in the scope of observation from one country to another and from one database to another, although progress has been made in the harmonisation efforts undertaken at national and European levels** and work is continuing in that direction. Ultimately, **to measure and observe the city, we must free ourselves from these issues of scope and use geographical information tools to provide indicators** that enable the implementation of public policies.

- A review is conducted regularly of sustainable development indicators: indicators as a complement to GDP (see point 4 in the general review above) and indicators for the different international strategies and indicators. Although there are a large number of indicators, there is a certain continuity in the approach, given that most of the indicators as a complement to GDP are indicators from the National Sustainable Development Strategy 2010-2013. They are also compatible with the international theoretical framework. In addition to ensuring their visibility on dissemination websites to allow their use, the CNIS stresses the importance of the pedagogical and communication efforts that need to be continued to facilitate ownership of

them, as well the need to maintain an *effective fit with the international framework, such as that provided by the UN's new Sustainable Development Goals*.

4. Progress and expectations in territorial aspects

("Territories" Commission)

- **Within the framework of follow-up of the CNIS report of 2008 on statistics in the Overseas Departments and Communities**, and further to the review of the statistical offering and INSEE strategy in the Overseas Departments, **constant attention was paid in 2015 to the existing official statistics for the Overseas Departments**. INSEE is making every effort to ensure that its overseas statistics are promoted in the upgrades it is planning for its website, and to provide a coherent response to the various requests it receives. **However, the need for more information on health and the environment in these departments remains.**

- **The subject** of divergences in the data available on housing has already been mentioned on page 8. **Other difficulties exist, such as the absence of a definition of social housing**. On social housing, in addition to the "National Social Housing Application Registration" portal which manages applications, there are surveys to monitor social housing stocks. However, **as mentioned in the report on the organisation of the statistical service in the area of housing**¹³ in its recommendation 9: "the various stakeholders in social housing [...] should rationalise the three systems for monitoring social housing stocks which do not seem to be coordinated with each other." **In addition to this, there is no knowledge of private social housing stocks or of the various benefits or subsidies granted within that framework**. Finally, the CNIS has asked for the conditions of access to fiscal data to be specified for the different types of users.

- More generally, **INSEE** has resumed its contacts with the Assembly of French departments (ADF), as the Departmental Councils are among the priority players in INSEE's regional action strategy. One of the objectives of this was to resume work on departmental indicators prepared in collaboration with the ADF and the Department for Research, Studies, Evaluation and Statistics (DREES).

- Finally, concerning territorial expenditure (see point 5 above in the general review), as little progress has been made on the subject, it is proposed to conduct a further review in a commission meeting in 2016.

- The fourth report of the Territories Observatory (issued every three years) was published by the new General Commission for the Equality of Territories (CGET) which covers all the issues of local territory and city policy within a single entity. The CGET works on all different scale levels, from the local district in city policies to intermunicipal territories, in collaboration with a variety of partners, including INSEE. This report is of major interest in that it has a threefold ambition:

- analyse the key disparities between territories and understand the processes by which they are created;
- measure the development trajectories of local territories using indicators other than mere economic development indicators and taking account of quality of life;
- rolling out pedagogical efforts among national or local government stakeholders by providing them with indicators and analysis grids that are easy to take ownership of and use.

- Within the framework of monitoring of the medium-term opinions referring to **the wish for harmonised data on a detailed scale for cross-border spaces**, the CNIS has noted that there have been many cooperation initiatives between statisticians, despite the difficulties linked to differences between the standards used in different countries (concepts, classifications and zoning systems).

However, progress remains to be made on certain themes and geographical scales to obtain more statistical data. It is also necessary to be able to calculate useful indicators to measure progress in cross-border

¹³ Report by the INSEE General Directorate and the General Council for the Environment and Sustainable Development - June 2014

integration as targeted by the INTERREG programmes which are contributing to financing such observation. There are two possible avenues of improvement: one of them, which is the one being taken by Eurostat, is to work with gridded data that does away with administrative zoning systems. The other possibility is to take part in European projects, such as the EuroGroup registry (EGR) and those conducted by the DG REGIO or the ESPON programme.

Annexe 6

European Statistics Code of Good Practice adopted by the European Statistical System Committee on 28 September 2011

FOR THE NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY
STATISTICAL AUTHORITIES
Adopted by the European Statistical System Committee
28 September 2011

Preamble

The vision of the European Statistical System¹⁴

“The European Statistical System will be a world leader in statistical information services and the most important information provider for the European Union and its Member States. Based on scientific principles and methods, the European Statistical System will offer and continuously improve a programme of harmonised European statistics that constitutes an essential basis for democratic processes and progress in society.”

The mission of the European Statistical System

“We provide the European Union, the world and the public with independent high quality information on the economy and society on European, national and regional levels and make the information available to everyone for decision-making purposes, research and debate.”

To realize this mission and vision, the members of the European Statistical System strive for joint cooperation and continuous interaction with users according to the Principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice and general quality management principles including commitment of leadership, partnership, staff satisfaction and continuous improvement, in addition to integration and harmonization.

The European Statistics Code of Practice

The European Statistics Code of Practice is based on 15 Principles covering the institutional environment, the statistical production processes and the output of statistics. A set of indicators of good practice for each of the Principles provides a reference for reviewing the implementation of the Code. The quality criteria for European Statistics are defined in “European Statistical Law”.¹⁵

Statistical authorities,¹⁶ comprising the Commission (Eurostat), National Statistical Institutes and other national authorities responsible for the development, production and dissemination of European Statistics,¹⁷ together with governments, ministries and the European Council, commit themselves to adhere to the Code.

The Principles of the Code of Practice together with the general quality management principles represent a common quality framework in the European Statistical System.

¹⁴ Regulation (EC) n° 223/2009, Article 4.

¹⁵ Regulation (EC) n° 223/2009, Article 12.

¹⁶ Regulation (EC) n° 223/2009, Articles 4 and 5.

¹⁷ Regulation (EC) n° 223/2009, Article 1. In the Code of Practice, “other national authorities responsible for the development, production and dissemination of European Statistics” are referred to as “other statistical authorities.”

European Statistics Code of Good Practice

Institutional Environment

Institutional and organisational factors have a significant influence on the effectiveness and credibility of a statistical authority developing, producing and disseminating European Statistics. The relevant issues are professional independence, mandate for data collection, adequacy of resources, quality commitment, statistical confidentiality, impartiality and objectivity.

Principle 1: Professional independence. Professional independence of statistical authorities from other policy, regulatory or administrative departments and bodies, as well as from private sector operators, ensures the credibility of European Statistics.

Indicator 1.1. The independence of the National Statistical Institutes and Eurostat from political and other external interference in developing, producing and disseminating statistics is specified in law and assured for other statistical authorities.

Indicator 1.2. The heads of the National Statistical Institutes and of Eurostat and, where appropriate, the heads of other statistical authorities have sufficiently high hierarchical standing to ensure senior level access to policy authorities and administrative public bodies. They are of the highest professional calibre.

Indicator 1.3. The heads of the National Statistical Institutes and of Eurostat and, where appropriate, the heads of other statistical authorities have responsibility for ensuring that statistics are developed, produced and disseminated in an independent manner.

Indicator 1.4. The heads of the National Statistical Institutes and of Eurostat and, where appropriate, the heads of other statistical authorities have the sole responsibility for deciding on statistical methods, standards and procedures, and on the content and timing of statistical releases.

Indicator 1.5. The statistical work programmes are published and periodic reports describe progress made.

Indicator 1.6. Statistical releases are clearly distinguished and issued separately from political/policy statements.

Indicator 1.7. The National Statistical Institute and Eurostat and, where appropriate, other statistical authorities, comment publicly on statistical issues, including criticisms and misuses of statistics as far as considered suitable.

Indicator 1.8. The appointment of the heads of the National Statistical Institutes and Eurostat and, where appropriate, of other statistical authorities, is based on professional competence only. The reasons on the basis of which the incumbency can be terminated are specified in the legal framework. These cannot include reasons compromising professional or scientific independence.

Principle 2: Mandate for data collection. Statistical authorities have a clear legal mandate to collect information for European statistical purposes. Administrations, enterprises and households, and the public at large may be compelled by law to allow access to or deliver data for European statistical purposes at the request of statistical authorities.

Indicator 2.1. The mandate of the statistical authorities to collect information for the development, production and dissemination of European Statistics is specified in law.

Indicator 2.2. The statistical authorities are allowed by law to use administrative data for statistical purposes.

Indicator 2.3. On the basis of a legal act, the statistical authorities may compel response to statistical surveys.

Principle 3: Adequacy of resources. The resources available to statistical authorities are sufficient to meet European Statistics requirements.

Indicator 3.1. Staff, financial, and computing resources, adequate both in magnitude and in quality, are available to meet current statistical needs.

Indicator 3.2. The scope, detail and cost of statistics are commensurate with needs.

Indicator 3.3. Procedures exist to assess and justify demands for new statistics against their cost.

Indicator 3.4. Procedures exist to assess the continuing need for all statistics, to see if any can be discontinued or curtailed to free up resources.

Principle 4: Commitment to quality. Statistical authorities are committed to quality. They systematically and regularly identify strengths and weaknesses to continuously improve process and product quality.

Indicator 4.1. Quality policy is defined and made available to the public. An organizational structure and tools are in place to deal with quality management.

Indicator 4.2. Procedures are in place to plan and monitor the quality of the statistical production process.

Indicator 4.3. Product quality is regularly monitored, assessed with regard to possible trade-offs, and reported according to the quality criteria for European Statistics.

Indicator 4.4. There is a regular and thorough review of the key statistical outputs using also external experts where appropriate.

Principle 5: Statistical confidentiality. The privacy of data providers (households, enterprises, administrations and other respondents), the confidentiality of the information they provide and its use only for statistical purposes are absolutely guaranteed.

Indicator 5.1. Statistical confidentiality is guaranteed in law.

Indicator 5.2. Staff sign legal confidentiality commitments on appointment.

Indicator 5.3. Penalties are prescribed for any wilful breaches of statistical confidentiality.

Indicator 5.4. Guidelines and instructions are provided to staff on the protection of statistical confidentiality in the production and dissemination processes. The confidentiality policy is made known to the public.

Indicator 5.5. Physical, technological and organisational provisions are in place to protect the security and integrity of statistical databases.

Indicator 5.6. Strict protocols apply to external users accessing statistical microdata for research purposes.

Principle 6: Impartiality and objectivity. Statistical authorities develop, produce and disseminate European Statistics respecting scientific independence and in an objective, professional and transparent manner in which all users are treated equitably.

Indicator 6.1. Statistics are compiled on an objective basis determined by statistical considerations.

Indicator 6.2. Choices of sources and statistical methods as well as decisions about the dissemination of statistics are informed by statistical considerations.

Indicator 6.3. Errors discovered in published statistics are corrected at the earliest possible date and publicised.

Indicator 6.4. Information on the methods and procedures used is publicly available.

Indicator 6.5. Statistical release dates and times are pre-announced.

Indicator 6.6. Advance notice is given on major revisions or changes in methodologies.

Indicator 6.7. All users have equal access to statistical releases at the same time. Any privileged pre-release access to any outside user is limited, controlled and publicised. In the event that leaks occur, pre-release arrangements are revised so as to ensure impartiality.

Indicator 6.8. Statistical releases and statements made in press conferences are objective and non-partisan.

Statistical processes

European and other international standards, guidelines and good practices are fully observed in the processes used by the statistical authorities to organise, collect, process and disseminate European Statistics. The credibility of the statistics is enhanced by a reputation for good management and efficiency. The relevant aspects are sound methodology, appropriate statistical procedures, non-excessive burden on respondents and cost effectiveness.

Principle 7: Sound methodology. Sound methodology underpins quality statistics. This requires adequate tools, procedures and expertise.

Indicator 7.1. The overall methodological framework used for European Statistics follows European and other international standards, guidelines, and good practices.

Indicator 7.2. Procedures are in place to ensure that standard concepts, definitions and classifications are consistently applied throughout the statistical authority.

Indicator 7.3. The business register and the frame for population surveys are regularly evaluated and adjusted if necessary in order to ensure high quality.

Indicator 7.4. Detailed concordance exists between national classifications systems and the corresponding European systems.

Indicator 7.5. Graduates in the relevant academic disciplines are recruited.

Indicator 7.6. Statistical authorities implement a policy of continuous vocational training for their staff.

Indicator 7.7. Co-operation with the scientific community is organised to improve methodology, the effectiveness of the methods implemented and to promote better tools when feasible.

Principle 8: Appropriate statistical procedures. Appropriate statistical procedures, implemented from data collection to data validation, underpin quality statistics.

Indicator 8.1. When European Statistics are based on administrative data, the definitions and concepts used for administrative purposes are a good approximation to those required for statistical purposes.

Indicator 8.2. In the case of statistical surveys, questionnaires are systematically tested prior to the data collection.

Indicator 8.3. Survey designs, sample selections and estimation methods are well based and regularly reviewed and revised as required.

Indicator 8.4. Data collection, data entry, and coding are routinely monitored and revised as required.

Indicator 8.5. Appropriate editing and imputation methods are used and regularly reviewed, revised or updated as required.

Indicator 8.6. Revisions follow standard, well-established and transparent procedures.

Indicator 8.7. Statistical authorities are involved in the design of administrative data in order to make administrative data more suitable for statistical purposes.

Indicator 8.8. Agreements are made with owners of administrative data which set out their shared commitment to the use of these data for statistical purposes.

Indicator 8.9. Statistical authorities co-operate with owners of administrative data in assuring data quality.

Principle 9: Non-excessive burden on respondents. The reporting burden is proportionate to the needs of the users and is not excessive for respondents. The statistical authorities monitor the response burden and set targets for its reduction over time.

Indicator 9.1. The range and detail of European Statistics demands is limited to what is absolutely necessary.

Indicator 9.2. The reporting burden is spread as widely as possible over survey populations.

Indicator 9.3. The information sought from businesses is, as far as possible, readily available from their accounts and electronic means are used where possible to facilitate its return.

Indicator 9.4. Administrative sources are used whenever possible to avoid duplicating requests for information.

Indicator 9.5. Data sharing within statistical authorities is generalised in order to avoid multiplication of surveys.

Indicator 9.6. Statistical authorities promote measures that enable the linking of data sources in order to reduce reporting burden.

Principle 10: Cost effectiveness. Resources are used effectively.

Indicator 10.1. Internal and independent external measures monitor the statistical authority's use of resources.

Indicator 10.2. The productivity potential of information and communications technology is being optimised for data collection, processing and dissemination.

Indicator 10.3. Proactive efforts are made to improve the statistical potential of administrative data and to limit recourse to direct surveys.

Indicator 10.4. Statistical authorities promote and implement standardized solutions that increase effectiveness and efficiency.

Statistical output

Available statistics meet users' needs. Statistics comply with the European quality standards and serve the needs of European institutions, governments, research institutions, business concerns and the public generally. The important issues concern the extent to which the statistics are relevant, accurate and reliable, timely, coherent, comparable across regions and countries, and readily accessible by users.

Principle 11: Relevance. European Statistics meet the needs of users.

Indicator 11.1. Processes are in place to consult users, monitor the relevance and utility of existing statistics in meeting their needs, and consider their emerging needs and priorities.

Indicator 11.2. Priority needs are being met and reflected in the work programme.

Indicator 11.3. User satisfaction is monitored on a regular basis and is systematically followed up.

Principle 12: Accuracy and reliability. European Statistics accurately and reliably portray reality.

Indicator 12.1. Source data, intermediate results and statistical outputs are regularly assessed and validated.

Indicator 12.2. Sampling errors and non-sampling errors are measured and systematically documented according to the European standards.

Indicator 12.3. Revisions are regularly analysed in order to improve statistical processes.

Principle 13: Timeliness and punctuality. European Statistics are released in a timely and punctual manner.

Indicator 13.1. Timeliness meets European and other international release standards.

Indicator 13.2. A standard daily time for the release of statistics is made public.

Indicator 13.3. The periodicity of statistics takes into account user requirements as much as possible.

Indicator 13.4. Divergence from the dissemination time schedule is publicised in advance, explained and a new release date set.

Indicator 13.5. Preliminary results of acceptable aggregate accuracy can be released when considered useful.

Principle 14: Coherence and comparability. European Statistics are consistent internally, over time and comparable between regions and countries; it is possible to combine and make joint use of related data from different sources.

Indicator 14.1. Statistics are internally coherent and consistent (i.e. arithmetic and accounting identities observed).

Indicator 14.2. Statistics are comparable over a reasonable period of time.

Indicator 14.3. Statistics are compiled on the basis of common standards with respect to scope, definitions, units and classifications in the different surveys and sources.

Indicator 14.4. Statistics from the different sources and of different periodicity are compared and reconciled.

Indicator 14.5. Cross-national comparability of the data is ensured within the European Statistical System through periodical exchanges between the European Statistical System and other statistical systems. Methodological studies are carried out in close co-operation between the Member States and Eurostat.

Principle 15: Accessibility and clarity. European Statistics are presented in a clear and understandable form, released in a suitable and convenient manner, available and accessible on an impartial basis with supporting metadata and guidance.

Indicator 15.1. Statistics and the corresponding metadata are presented, and archived, in a form that facilitates proper interpretation and meaningful comparisons.

Indicator 15.2. Dissemination services use modern information and communication technology and, if appropriate, traditional hard copy.

Indicator 15.3. Custom-designed analyses are provided when feasible and the public is informed.

Indicator 15.4. Access to microdata is allowed for research purposes and is subject to specific rules or protocols.

Indicator 15.5. Metadata are documented according to standardised metadata systems.

Indicator 15.6. Users are kept informed about the methodology of statistical processes including the use of administrative data.

Indicator 15.7. Users are kept informed about the quality of statistical outputs with respect to the quality criteria for European Statistics.

Annexe 7

The Ministerial Statistical Offices on 31 December 2015

DREES	Ministry for Social Affairs, Health and Women's Rights, Department for Research, Studies, Evaluation and Statistics
SSP	Ministry for Agriculture, Agribusiness and Forests Department for Statistics and Forward Studies
SOeS	Ministry for Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy General Commission for Sustainable Development Department for Observation and Statistics
DEPP	Ministry for National Education Department for Evaluation, Forward Studies and Performance
SIES	Ministry for Higher Education and Research Directorate General for Higher Education and Professional Integration Directorate General for Research and Innovation Under-Directorate for Information Systems and Statistical Studies
DARES	Ministry for Labour, Employment, Professional Training and Social Dialogue Department for the Coordination of Research, Studies and Statistics
Justice	Ministry for Justice Under-Directorate for Statistics and Studies
Local Authorities	Ministry for the Interior Ministry for State Reform, Decentralisation and the Civil Service Directorate General for Local Authorities Department for Local Studies and Statistics
Public Finances	Ministry for Finances and Public Accounts Directorate General for Public Finances Fiscal Management Directorate Under-Directorate for Property, Taxation of Assets and Statistics Office of Fiscal Statistical Studies
Customs	Ministry for Finances and Public Accounts Directorate General for Customs and Indirect Taxation Department for Statistics and Economic Studies
Civil Service	Ministry for Decentralisation and the Civil Service Directorate General for the Administration and Civil Service Department of Studies and Statistics
Immigration	- Ministry for Foreign Affairs and International Development -

Integration	Ministry for the Interior Directorate General for Foreigners in France Department of Statistics, Studies and Documentation
Sport and Youth	Ministry for the City, Youth and Sport Directorate for Youth, Popular Education and Associations Studies, Observation and Statistics Unit
Defence	Ministry for Defence Financial Affairs Directorate Economic Observatory for Defence
Culture	Ministry for Culture and Communication Cultural Policy Coordination and Innovation Department Department for Studies, Forward Studies and Statistics
Fishing ¹⁸	Ministry for Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy Directorate for Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Office for Statistics on Fishing and Aquaculture
Internal Security	Ministry for the Interior Ministerial Statistical Office for Internal security under the Central Director of the Judicial Police

¹⁸ The ruling withdrawing MSO status from the Office for Statistics on Fishing and Aquaculture was published on 1st February 2016.

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