

Annual Report of the Official Statistics Authority 2016

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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 no. 51-711 of 7 June 1951 on obligations, coordination and confidentiality in statistical matters, as amended by Organic Law no. 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. In this way, it sheds light on the new needs for information. It organises the programme of official statistics projects and suggests new avenues to ensure that societal issues are dealt with as thoroughly as possible.

The CNIS is chaired by Ms Yannick Moreau.

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

On 31 December 2016, it comprises INSEE and 16 Ministerial Statistical Offices. It is coordinated by INSEE.

INSEE is headed by Mr 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.

It draws up an annual report on official statistical activity, which is submitted to the French Parliament and made public. This report covers 2016, the eighth year of existence of the Authority.

Decree no. 2009-250 of 3 March 2009 on the Official Statistics Authority

Composition of the Official Statistics Authority

(notice published in the Official Journal of 28 February 2016):

Mr Dominique Bureau, President, appointed by a decree of the Council of Ministers of 9 April 2015, who took over from Paul Champsaur.

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

Mr Denis Badré, appointed by the President of the Senate

Ms Patricia Blancard, 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 Éric Dubois, appointed by the First President of the Court of Auditors

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

Mrs Anne-Marie Brocas, appointed by the Head of the General Inspectorate of Social Affairs

Mr Bruno Durieux, appointed by the Minister for the Economy and Finance

Preface

Our country is fortunate to possess a very extensive statistical information system which is constantly being enhanced. In this respect, 2016 was notable for the first-ever publication of the sub-municipal results on disposable income and income poverty, in addition to numerous surveys and original publications on subjects that have a direct impact on our fellow citizens, as in previous years. Our statistical system has also been designed to ensure the coordination of statistical activities relating to tracking indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals approved by the UN General Assembly in September 2015. The adoption of the Law on the Digital Republic also opens up new opportunities since official statistics can, in this way, and for the needs of mandatory statistical surveys, receive information derived from certain databases belonging to persons governed by private law, transmitted in secure electronic form.

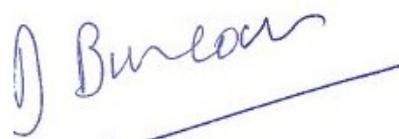
However, despite the substantial amount of information and the progress made, the public debate remains strained, particularly on the sensitive issues of employment, unemployment and job insecurity, as shown by the works of the Senate Commission of Inquiry on the unemployment figures. More generally, the public expects varied statistics covering all fields of the economy and society, reflecting the diversity of situations and allowing for international comparisons, etc.

Of course, there must be no confusing the dissatisfaction with certain public services or policies, or that felt in relation to the situations encountered in different fields, with the discontent concerning the production of the statistics themselves. In addition, there must be no hiding the fact that there is no such thing as a perfect indicator, as any statistical survey may suffer from problems, particularly in relation to sampling, whereas administrative statistics, which by their very nature are more exhaustive, must be reprocessed to conform to the phenomena that the statistician is seeking to measure and may be affected by changes of management methods. Meeting public expectations is therefore a permanent challenge, particularly in a budgetary context that requires a very clear prioritisation of the activities carried out. To rise to this challenge, efforts to maintain public confidence in the figures published by the Official Statistical Service (SSP) will need to be made.

In this respect, there are many positive elements in the satisfaction surveys carried out by INSEE in 2016: INSEE is associated with a high level of awareness and generally has a good reputation (80%); although public confidence in data published on the economic and social situation does not exceed 43%, this figure rises to 67% for data published by INSEE, with the main reason for this confidence being the trust in the organisation that produces them. However, the public's ability to identify with these statistics is variable. In addition, the primary reason for mistrust that emerges tends to concern the manner in which the figures are used.

Under these conditions, absolute compliance with the principles of the Statistics Code of Practice – the monitoring of which is central to the Authority's activities – remains essential in order to increase confidence in statistics. As such, the action plan on managing quality in statistical production processes, following the creation of the Quality Strategy Committee, is another of the important advances to be acknowledged in 2016.

The President of the Official Statistics Authority

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Bureau", with a horizontal line underneath it.

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1. Official statistics in France in 2016

1.1 Overview

2016 was a particularly eventful year for the Official Statistical Service (SSP), with significant developments in all areas, from the production of new statistics to the governance of the service.

Notable progress in production, dissemination, coordination and studies

Without aiming to be exhaustive, we would like to mention several notable advances achieved by the SSP in 2016: the dissemination of sub-municipal results for disposable income and income poverty; the implementation of a new methodology for calculating turnover indices; the provision of a micro-simulation model (INES) for researchers in the field of monetary redistribution, taxation and social protection; online collection experiments in household surveys and on "big data" in general; the launch of the new INSEE website; and the coordination of statistical activities relating to the tracking indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Finalisation and launch of the "INSEE 2025" Strategic Plan

2016 saw the finalisation of the "INSEE Horizon 2025" Action Plan and the launch of its implementation. The collective thinking carried out in this context led to the emergence of four main strategic directions: "Make the figures speak and anticipate the needs of all types of audience"; "Innovate and be in the front line on data sources"; "Contribute actively to European statistics, involving the entire official statistical system"; "Demonstrate collective flexibility and restraint". These directions were formalised by the definition of 16 operational objectives and several dozen key actions, which must be integrated into the implementation phase. This plan establishes the aims which must be prioritised, however, according to the resources that will be allocated to INSEE.

The Senate Commission of Inquiry on the unemployment figures.

The report entitled "Measuring, understanding and combating unemployment in France: what lessons can be learned from the European examples?" produced by the Commission of Inquiry chaired by Anne Emery-Dumas, with Philippe Dallier as Rapporteur, was another highlight of 2016. Although the subject of the report, concerning the assessment of labour market reforms, did not relate directly to statistics, measurement issues did emerge directly from it, with the underlying motivation for this work emphasising the persistent difficulties in monitoring trends accurately, even though employment remains a major concern for French people. The report rules out any suspicion of manipulation but makes recommendations for greater transparency and relevance, which are often consistent with the ASP's requests submitted during the quality labelling of statistics derived from administrative sources for employment and unemployment.

The implementation, within the SSP, of (EU) Regulation 2015/759 amending (EU) Regulation no. 223/2009 relating to the European statistics

(EU) Regulation 2015/759, amending (EC) Regulation no. 223/2009 relating to European statistics, was implemented throughout the entire SSP in 2016. It strengthens the professional independence of the statistical authorities. It clarifies the coordination functions of the National Statistical Institutes and their cooperation with the Central Banks.

To improve statistical coordination, INSEE wished to extend the implementation of the revised regulation on quality aspects to all Ministerial Statistical Offices (MSOs) and not just to those producing European statistics. A Strategic Quality Committee was created. The entire SSP must implement the Quality Management Action Plan, which consists of ensuring that all statistical production is covered by quality procedures between now and 2019, with Eurostat monitoring the annual progress of the plan.

An abundance of legislative issues at the national level, with major consequences for official statistics

First of all, the Health Law, adopted in January 2016, created the "National Healthcare Data System", by bringing together existing databases and information systems or those to be created using data from the medico-social sector and sickness insurance reimbursements.

Above all, the Law for a Digital Republic was definitively adopted in October 2016 and has entered its implementation phase with the publication of the first implementing decrees. Numerous articles of this law concern the Official Statistical Service (SSP). Firstly, its article relating to access to private data now provides a framework for the transmission of databases held by enterprises to the SSP for the purposes of statistical surveys, after a public feasibility study and an opinion of the CNIS. This article will allow the Consumer Price Index to be partly based on scanner data from mass retailers. A second article provides for the implementation of a non-significant statistical identifier of persons, common to the entire SSP (a hashed National Registration Number (NIR)) to facilitate matching in the official statistics. Another article introduces access to the Official Statistical Service databases completely free of charge. In this way, public access to data in the SIRENE National Enterprise and Establishment Register Database (in Open Data format) has been operational since 1st January 2017.

Two key conferences were held in 2016: the first organised by the CNIS on the challenges of international comparisons and the second organised by the CASD on access to secure data.

International comparisons are at the origin of numerous public and private decisions. The CNIS conference confirmed the corresponding challenges and allowed for the measurement of the contributions and limitations of statistics in this area, based on practical examples such as private debt, margin rates for France and Germany, working time and its measurement in the Employment Survey. The works presented showed that despite the progress made over time in the standardisation of data and international comparability, the relevance of the comparisons cannot always be guaranteed because it is sometimes difficult to compare the data. There may be multiple causes of these comparability problems: they may be of an institutional nature, due to differences in design, specific problems of access to sources (increasing recourse to administrative sources replacing surveys and increasing the diversity of sources), due to problems with production or collection methods. Each of these problems requires specific solutions.

Official statistics have an important role to play in training users on the subjects of concepts and definitions, and in alerting them to the precautions required to ensure the relevant use of these data. Consequently, the ASP shares the recommendations made by the CNIS Commissions following this conference, urging "*the continuation of the activities begun on improving the comparability of data. The efforts of official statistics can be supported by maintaining and developing the efforts of international bodies in studying the comparability of data, and by collaborations with researchers or with bodies using data in a 'reasoned' manner.*"

The Secure Remote Access Centre (CASD) organised a conference dedicated to the challenges of secure access to data for scientific research and data science. This conference examined issues including numerous questions about the use of personal, confidential or sensitive data with the emergence of "big data" technologies. In this way, the conference addressed the issue of improving the security of access to increasingly extensive, precise and qualitative data, which in return, extends the field of possibilities in data science, research, innovation and evaluation. Therefore, the manner in which researchers access data and the opportunities to mobilise additional sources for evaluations changed scale in 2016. Another contributing factor to this change was the provision of access to Banque de France data with the opening of its "open data room".

1.2 The main progress made by the Official Statistical Service (SSP)

- ***Progress made in analyses and experiments concerning "big data"***

In addition to the project on using mass retailers' scanner data to calculate the Consumer Price Index, which began in 2011, INSEE has been forging links over the last two years with numerous operators in the big data sector, including by participating in European and academic initiatives in this field. The Institute has also been involved in numerous projects investigating the use of new data or new methods, including: the use of internet search terms (*Google Trends*) for short-term economic forecasting – "nowcasting" – and estimating the population present at different times of the day, on the basis of mobile telephone data. More generally, INSEE is investing in big data mining and analysis methods, which may also be useful in the more traditional segments of statistical production, such as bulk administrative data, or improving the existing analysis methods.

In the framework of the INSEE 2025 medium-term analysis, INSEE has decided to create a dedicated Research and Development unit. This body will ensure that the Official Statistical Service will devote resources specifically to innovation, in terms of specific investments as well as for external monitoring activities.

- ***A new strategic plan to develop online collection in household surveys***

Several years ago, INSEE launched an experimental online household survey plan, by administering shorter surveys online while also conducting certain surveys on a face-to-face basis. Certain surveys already use the online mode as standard. This is the case for annual census surveys for which a 39% response rate was attained in 2016. In addition, the Muse project on experimental online employment surveys entered its operational phase in 2016, with two quantitative testing operations on 40,000 households.

The new strategic plan aims to develop online collections in household surveys within a five-year period. The aim is to define the best possible use (usually non-exclusive) of the internet for each survey. This involves integrating the multi-modal approach into all household surveys by adapting their protocol, while striving to improve quality (response rate for groups reluctant to participate in face-to-face surveys), efficiency, responsiveness and the Institute's image.

- ***Sub-municipal results on disposable income and income poverty***

In 2015, INSEE had published its first data localised at the municipal level on income for the year 2012, in the context of the FILOSOFI (Localised and Social File) scheme. In May 2016, the FILOSOFI results for 2012 were published at the sub-municipal level. The data are available for IRIS municipalities (zones with approximately 2,000 inhabitants) and Priority Neighbourhoods (QPV). An INSEE Première¹ publication accompanied this dissemination of data and a study in the INSEE Références publication "Revenus et patrimoine" (Income and Wealth), released in late June 2016, promoted this information, placing the emphasis on the vulnerability of populations living in QPVs and on explanations for the higher levels of poverty in urban centres.

- ***A new methodology for calculating turnover indices***

INSEE now uses a new methodology to calculate turnover indices, with the renewal of production methods being designed to take better account of business creations and closures. The indices are no longer calculated on the basis of a sample but according to all monthly VAT returns.

¹ <https://www.insee.fr/fr/statistiques/2121538>

- ***Provision of the INES micro-simulation method to researchers***

The source code for the INES² micro-simulation model has been made available to researchers with access to the tax and social income survey data on which the model is based. This model allows for the application of socio-fiscal legislation to a representative sample of households in Metropolitan France. Allowing researchers access to individual data should inform the economic and social debate in the fields of monetary redistribution, taxation and social protection.

- ***Launch of the new INSEE website***

The new INSEE website went online on 21 November 2016. Significant changes have been made to the ergonomics and design of the website. The proposed information is now compiled in a new "Statistics" section. The website is based on a faceted search engine, which provides guidance for users seeking information. It features a "responsive design" which automatically adapts to the screens of the available devices – computers, smartphones and tablets – allowing users to access content without encountering resolution problems.

2 INES is the acronym for "INSEE-DARES" - the two bodies responsible for the joint development of the model.

1.3 Governance of the Official Statistical Service (SSP)

- *Two laws adopted in 2016 – the Health Law and the Law for a Digital Republic – concern the SSP*

The Health Law of January 2016

The aim of the law 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. In this way, the law has created a “National Healthcare Data System” by bringing together existing databases and information systems (SNIIRAM, PMSI and INSERM CapiDC causes of death) or those to be created 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 with six outcomes: 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 fields 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, which include replacing the need for a Decree by the Council of State, which is required for matching data using the National Registration Number (NIR), by an authorisation from the CNIL. In the framework of the implementation of Article 193 of the Law, the DREES has been given responsibility for coordinating the access strategy for health data and the National Healthcare Data System (SNDS). The latter seeks to match data originating from hospitals, local sickness insurance funds, medical causes of death, departmental centres for disabled people and from a representative sample of data from supplementary bodies, in a single database and under the technical responsibility of the CNAMTS (National Insurance Fund for Employees) which is in charge of the processing. A security policy has been developed specifically for the SNDS to take account of the sensitive nature of the data concerned and prevent re-identification risks. The aim is to promote extensive access to data (by public and private stakeholders, under certain conditions) while protecting the privacy of citizens.

The Law for a Digital Republic of October 2016

The law contains the following provisions concerning the Official Statistical Service

Availability free of charge and licences.

Article 1 extends the right of access to administrative documents – established by the CADA (Commission for Access to Administrative Documents) Law of July 1978, but previously reserved for private individuals – to public administrations. It establishes the provision, free of charge, of exchanges of public information within the State and between the State and its public institutions, from 1 January 2017.

According to Article 12, fees cannot be charged for the reuse of public information produced by the Official Statistical Service mentioned in Article 1 of Law no. 51-711 of 7 June 1951 on obligations, coordination and confidentiality in statistical matters. This article does not concern customised activities, however. Orders taking account of this amendment were published in the Official Journal.

Article 9 more strictly regulates the types of licences usable by administrations in order to regulate the reuses of public data free of charge.

The dissemination of the SIRENE Register of Enterprises and Establishments is particularly concerned by these articles of the law. Since January 2017, it has been available as Open Data, which means that it can be accessed in an open file format without restrictions and free of charge.³ SIRENE data can also be reused at no charge.

Dissemination obligations

Article 2 ratifies a CADA case law which rules that "source codes" are administrative documents in the same way as "files, reports, studies, proceedings, minutes, statistics, instructions, circulars, memoranda and ministerial responses, correspondence, notices, forecasts, and decisions".

Article 3 allows anyone to apply to exercise the right to access administrative documents via the online publication of the said documents and no longer exclusively by consulting them *in situ*, copying or emailing them.

Article 4 creates a right to access the rules defining the algorithmic processing and the main specifications for its implementation for the benefit of the user subject to an individual decision made on the basis of this algorithmic processing.

According to Article 6, administrations are required to publish the following elements online, subject to secrets protected by the law and provided that they are available in electronic format:

- the documents they transmit;
- the documents included in the "register of their main documents" (in the words of the CADA law);
- the regularly updated databases that they produce or receive;
- the regularly updated data whose publication is of economic, social or environmental interest.

Article 13 "recalls" the existence of a register provided for by Article L322-6 of the CRPA, made available to users by the administrations that produce or keep public information, and adds that an update of this register is published each year.

Article 6 of the law above all concerns the register of enterprises (SIRENE) and the register of natural persons (BRPP). The database access procedure is routed through a front office provided by Etalab. Every evening, INSEE sends Etalab an update of the SIRENE database which records 10,000 events per day. For the BRPP, the CNIL must be contacted in advance to arrange for access in Open Data mode. However, outwork requiring specific work by INSEE agents, continues to be invoiced.

Quality obligations

Article 14 creates a new public service mission under the authority of the State, consisting of the provision and publication of reference data with a view to facilitating their reuse. These reference data, which are already produced by government authorities for a given purpose (tax collection, official statistics, etc.) are particularly important for the economy and society. Their publication must conform to procedures (to be defined but subject to a quality objective) which are not left to the discretion of the administrations that produce them.

³ The data from 9 million enterprises and 10 million establishments in the SIRENE database are now freely downloadable at no charge, via a combined dissemination system on the data.gouv.fr public data platform and on the INSEE sirene.fr website. The sirene.fr website allows users to create lists based on criteria for up to 100,000 establishments, with links to data.gouv.fr for downloads of the entire database, and provides very detailed documentation.

SIRENE and the Official Geographical Code are among the first sources to be integrated into this public service.

Open data: sectoral provisions

Articles 17 to 24 (except for 19) present practical measures liable to extend the scope of data open to the public in different sectoral fields.

Improvement of uses of data for statistical or public research purposes.

Article 19 amends Law no. 51-711 of 7 June 1951 (addition of article 3 bis) in order to allow the Official Statistical Service to receive electronic transmissions of information derived from certain databases of legal entities governed by private law which are approached for surveys, for the sole purpose of performing mandatory statistical surveys. Non-transmission is punishable by fines, at the recommendation of the Disputes Board.⁴ This article will allow the production of the Consumer Price Index, and potentially of other productions in the future, to be based on mass retailers' scanner data. An Order for "scanner data" will appear after the Decree signed by the Prime Minister.

Article 34 simplifies the formalities prior to certain processing operations for the purposes of official statistics and scientific or historical research. The article allows the current authorisation policy – requiring a Council of State Decree in response to a request for access to data including the NIR – to be replaced by a system of declaration to the CNIL (French Data Protection Authority) for official statistical work or authorisation by the CNIL for scientific or historical research projects. A Council of State Decree published in the *Journal Officiel* on 30 December 2016 establishes the framework for these new procedures by defining the encryption and matching requirements for the databases concerned (pseudonymisation by hashing). An Order concerning the hashing operation is currently being drafted.

Article 36 improves access to data covered by professional secrecy and held by general government for scientific research purposes, by deciding on a new extension of the powers of the Committee on Statistical Confidentiality. This particularly concerns the databases of public interest maintained by administrations other than the SSP. The conditions, to be specified in Council of State decree, are being considered by a CNIS working party.

- ***The implementation, within the SSP, of (EU) Regulation 2015/759 amending (EU) Regulation no. 223/2009 relating to the European statistics is well underway***

The Regulation of 29 April 2015 seeks to restore and maintain trust in the European statistics by the following means:

Guaranteeing the professional independence of the statistical authorities;

With regard to professional independence in France, the implementation of this regulation previously required the ASP's involvement in appointments to posts at "Director of Central Government (DAC)" level. To this end, the Authority's Rules of Procedure have been modified in order to clarify its organisational procedures (see Annexe 2). In addition, the Decree of 3 March 2009 relating to the ASP should be revised to introduce an article stating that the ASP shall issue an opinion concerning the appointments of the Director General of INSEE and of the Heads of the Ministerial Statistical Offices who are Directors of Central Administration. These corresponding opinions should concern both the context of the appointment, including that for the termination of the duties, and the professional competencies of the people being considered for the post.

At the same time, a new article could specify the mission to the ASP in order to ensure that the Official

⁴ The fines will be higher than the amounts currently in force for surveys (€25,000 for a first fine and €50,000 for repeat offences).

Statistical Service's publications are clearly distinguished from any ministerial communications and disseminated separately, and that the dissemination procedures conform to the principles of neutrality and equity of treatment of the users.

Clarifying the coordination functions of the National Statistical Institutes and their cooperation with the Central Banks:

INSEE has sent the European Commission an updated list of ONAS (Other National Authorities), i.e. statistical authorities other than INSEE that contribute to the European regulations and must be guarantors, with INSEE, of the data transmitted to Eurostat. In France, virtually all ONAs are Ministerial Statistical Offices (MSOs).⁵ There are two exceptions to this principle: the main exception is the INSERM CepiDC, which is responsible for transmitting statistics on causes of death to Eurostat, and the second is the CASD, responsible for researchers' access to individual data, which is considered to be an ONA in view of the establishment of a European network of access to individual data for research purposes. Finally, for institutional reasons, i.e. the independence of the European Central Bank and the European System of Central Banks (ESCB), the Banque de France's General Directorate of Statistics is no longer included on the list.

Furthermore and still in application of the regulations, the Director-General of INSEE must have access to information in order to ensure the quality of the European statistics produced by the Official Statistical Service (SSP). Due to improved statistical coordination, the Institute has sought to extend the implementation of the regulation on quality issues to all MSOs and not just to those producing European statistics. Within the Institute, provisions have thus been made to define a governance system in order to implement a continuous improvement process for quality and strengthen the quality policy. The Institute proposes guidelines for MSOs to help them guarantee the quality of their key statistics⁶. These guidelines are provided in the form of recommendations and are consistent with the monitoring of the implementation of the recommendations derived from the 2014 Peer Review. They will be finalised in 2017 and submitted to the ASP.

Guaranteeing free and immediate access to administrative files and consultation concerning their design

The provisions of the Digital Law shall allow free and immediate access to administrative data used to produce European statistics.

Commitment to quality

Article 11 of revised Regulation 223/2009 stipulates that each Member State shall send the Commission a report on the implementation of the European Statistics Code of Practice on a biannual basis. In response, France shall transmit elements of the ASP Annual Report as of April 2017.

- ***The scope of certain MSOs is changing***

The statistical office of the Ministry for National Education has been extended to the entire Department for Evaluation, Forward Studies and Performance (DEPP)

Pursuant to article 1, paragraph 3 of Decree no. 2009-250 of 3 March 2009 relating to the ASP, the Authority has issued an opinion in favour of recognising the extension of the scope of the DEPP MSO to the entire Department, by means of an Order of the Ministry for the Economy and Finance (see chapter 3.2 for further details).

⁵ Offices not concerned by European statistics such as the Cultural, Sports and Youth, Defence, Civil Service and DGFip (Directorate-General of Public Finance) MSOs are not considered to be ONAs.

⁶ Key statistics can be defined as statistics whose dissemination is expected by users and for which any production failure is highly detrimental to the producing service, and which require a quality procedure incorporating a risk analysis to be applied to their production process in order to guarantee their quality.

L'organisation de la DGAFP (Direction générale de l'administration et de la fonction publique), service statistique ministériel du Ministère de la fonction publique, est revue début 2016

Following the positive opinion issued by the ASP on 12 February 2016, the SIRH (HR Management Information System)/Interministerial HR functional area for State information systems has been incorporated into the scope of the Civil Service MSO.

The statistical office of the Ministry for the Environment, Energy and the Sea (SOeS) has taken over the European activities of the Fisheries MSO

Since the withdrawal of MSO status by the ASP in 2014, the European activities of the Fisheries MSO relating to fishery resources, and the production of economic data in the fisheries and aquaculture sector have been integrated into the different departments of the SOeS.

- ***NSEE is responsible for coordinating statistical activities relating to the tracking indicators for sustainable development goals***

In September 2015, the United Nations General Assembly approved a "2030 Agenda" setting 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets for the 2015-2030 period. In March 2016, the United Nations Statistical Office adopted a set of 241 indicators (229 without duplicates), as a starting point, to ensure the tracking of the Sustainable Development Programme goals and targets for this 2030 Agenda. At the international level, the policy reporting will be carried out on an annual basis by the UN Secretary-General. A report will be drafted at the global level. The indicators will be calculated by the UN agencies based on data supplied by the countries. At the European level, the Commission has launched deliberations to determine how European policies contribute to these SDGs.

In France, the Commissioner-General for Sustainable Development and the Interministerial Delegate for Sustainable Development are responsible for managing the National Sustainable Development Strategy which will be using these SDGs. Together with the General Commissariat's efforts to produce a national report on the SDGs in the first year, INSEE carried out a preliminary survey in 2016 to identify the producers of the corresponding indicators and provide an initial overview of the availability of indicators in France in an exact or estimated version, in order to guarantee the statistical value.

This preliminary survey shows that among the 229 indicators without duplicates, 198 are of a statistical nature and 31 are more closely related to the implementation of public policies; the producing departments have been identified for 84% of the 198 statistical indicators. The SOeS, INSEE and the DREES are the biggest providers of indicators. They are responsible for 53% of the indicators. Furthermore, 65% of the indicators already exist in an exact or estimated version.⁷ (see Annexe 7)

1.4 Surveys and publications

- ***Original surveys and publications by MSOs on topical subjects***

In 2016, the DREES conducted a survey of elderly dependent persons living in institutions and their carers. This was the third round of the survey scheme on elderly people (CARE) launched in 2014. The aim of this scheme was to monitor changes in dependency, estimate excess costs linked with dependency and measure the involvement of the family circle with the elderly person. Previously, in 2014, INSEE had conducted the Everyday Life and Health filter survey of 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, had achieved its objectives. In 2016, the DREES collected new or redesigned surveys in the health sector: the National Perinatal Survey, which questioned all women

⁷ The scope of these results must be treated with caution because work is continuing at the international level to refine the definition of the indicators.

who gave birth during the week of 14 to 20 March 2016, and a completely new survey of delays in access to care, administered to a sample of people participating in the INSERM "CONSTANCES" cohort; a short questionnaire is completed by the people concerned whenever an appointment with the doctor is arranged. In 2016, the DREES also began preparing the survey of corporate top-up social protection, for which collections will begin in early 2017. This survey will allow for the assessment of the implementation of the National Interprofessional Agreement of 2013 which, as of 1st January 2016, requires enterprises to offer all of their employees collective coverage.

In 2016, the DREES published the following results for the very first time: in collaboration with INSEE, the results of the national survey of young people's resources: resources and access to autonomy of young adults aged 18 to 24 (article in France Portait Social 2016 and Dossier de la DREES no. 8), and those of the Everyday Life and Health survey which, according to gender and age categories, provide a breakdown of elderly people in each Department based on their degree of dependency or health, and the proportion of elderly people benefiting from assistance and /or adaptations in their daily lives. For the first time, the DREES also published two completely new books: an Overview of supplementary health insurance, encompassing data and analyses of operators in the sector, beneficiaries and coverage, and another Overview entitled "Portrait des professionnels de santé".

For the first time in 2016, the DEPP conducted a survey aiming to determine the knowledge and competencies of disabled children on the basis of a panel of disabled children. The DEPP also developed indices of social segregation in secondary schools, in conjunction with INSEE, which firstly allow for a diagnosis of the status of social integration and secondly for the analysis of how it changes over time, while also allowing for the measurement of the role of public and private education in this segregation (and its development).

With international comparisons playing an increasingly important role in the public debate and in assisting the management process, the DEPP published a new book on European educational statistics ("L'Europe de l'Éducation en chiffres"). This publication seeks to meet this need for expertise by offering decision-makers and the educational community a wide variety of contextualised international indicators and analyses, and the opportunity to compare the multiple factors that contribute to academic success, for each European country.

For the first time in 2016, the SOeS implemented the collection provided for by Article 179 of the Energy Transition Law for Green Growth and its implementing provisions, relating to the provision of energy data for legal persons governed by public law. In December 2016, this collection led to the dissemination, on the SOeS website, of data for the 2008-2015 period relating to electricity and gas consumption per sector, at the level of the municipality or IRIS (areas of around 2,000 inhabitants), and to deliveries of petroleum products per Department. Data relating to heating and refrigeration supplied by networks will be published online in early 2017.

The SOeS also produced an advance estimate of the Carbon Footprint, a change implemented in the framework of the Eva SAS Law.

Numerous SOeS publications appeared in 2016, including on pesticides in rivers, the effects of climate change, 25 years of domestic passenger transport, renewable energy sources in France in 2015, the regional land use atlas and national indicators for the ecological transition towards sustainable development 2015-2020.

At the DARES, the collection of the Psychosocial Risks at Work round of the Working Conditions survey ended in 2016. This survey conforms to the recommendations of the Appraisal Board on monitoring psychosocial risks at work. This survey is the second round of the series launched in 2013.

The collection of the OFER survey of job offers and recruitments was also completed in 2016. This survey, whose first and only edition took place in 2005, will allow for the analysis of recruitment methods, with a

particular emphasis on internet use, any recruitment difficulties and the reasons expressed by employers for choosing between fixed-term employment contracts (CDD) and open-ended contracts (CDI).

The Nominative Social Declaration (DSN) continues to be rolled out, with significant consequences for employment-related information systems. The Monthly Workforce Movement Declaration (DMMO) was one of the first declarations to be replaced by the DSN, in 2013. This replacement created a major break in series: in particular, there is a higher rate of declarations of short-term contracts in the DSN than in the DMMO; conversely, the ends of contracts are insufficiently declared. The upheaval caused by the arrival of this new source led to the temporary stoppage of the publication of quarterly data on workforce movements, starting with those for Q2 2015. Publications based on the DSN are planned for 2017 and work will be carried out on the reconstitution of long series.

A project carried out jointly by the DARES and Pôle Emploi led to the publication in 2015 of identical temporary employment trend figures, which helps clarify the public debate. The monthly surveys of temporary employment assignments are being gradually replaced by the DSN since 2016⁸. Temporary employment estimates are one of the components of the quarterly payroll employment estimates; in the framework of these estimates, productions by the ACOSS, INSEE, the DARES and Pôle Emploi should be combined in the publication of Q1 2017 (see chapter 3.3 for further details).

The enhancement of surveys of employees and structures for integration through economic activity, and of the REPONSE and Working Conditions surveys, has continued. Several surveys have been developed with a specific system allowing for assessments of the impacts of systems, notably by creating a control population. Certain assessments were successfully completed in 2016 or are currently being finalised: assessment of the Youth Guarantee and of the Professional Security Contract. The subsidised contracts panel ("Future Jobs" and CUI (Single Integration Contract)) do not yet allow for the assessment of returns to work but have allowed for different studies of the implementation of these subsidised contracts (including their training content).

In the agricultural sector, two new surveys of fruit cultivation and animal husbandry practices were carried out in the field in 2016. These surveys will meet the need for the tracking and calculation of indicators for the assessment of progress in ministerial action plans ("Ecophyto" relating to reducing the use of plant protection products, and "Ecoantibio" seeking to reduce the use of antibiotics).

The Defence MSO implemented a quarterly Gross Salary Index – Index-Based Scale (ITB-GI) relating to soldiers in 2016. This index is published in the *EcoDef Conjoncture* collection. In addition, the content and editorial charter of the Defence Statistical Yearbook were revised for the 2016 edition. This publication seeks to compile the main economic, statistical and budgetary information relating to Defence.

In June 2016, the Justice MSO published the first edition of the annual "Statistical References for Justice" publication, accompanied by the online publication of numerous tables and series. This publication replaces the "Statistical Yearbook".

The MSO for the Civil Service published results for 2014 and 2015 on agents in situations of mobility, results for 2014 on the in-service and statutory training of Ministry agents, and results for 2015 on the new civil service apprentices. Two original projects were produced in the context of the report on the state of France: one on mobility and reorganisations in the civil service from 2011 to 2014, and the other on changes in types of employer after 50 years old in the civil service or between the public and private sectors (carried out by INSEE).

For the first time in 2017, as part of the policy of opening up access to data, as promoted by the Digital Technology Law, the Civil Service MSO will be carrying out the online publication of the previous year's data for a large portion of the fiscal field.

⁸ This change is carried out with a "double command" which secures this transition.

Since mid-2016, a news feed has been listing the Ministerial Statistical Offices' main publications. This list can be found at the following address: <https://www.insee.fr/fr/information/2107724?debut=0>

- ***Developments at INSEE as well***

The Associations survey, conducted in late 2014, led to the publication of new and expected results (*Insee Première* and *Insee Résultats*). This was indeed the first survey of associations to be carried out by the Official Statistical Service, following one of the main recommendations of the CNIS "Knowledge of Associations" report of December 2010.

The waiting times for the provision of quarterly information on tourist numbers were reduced (publication at T + 40 days) and reports on winter and summer seasons were established, with coordinated operations involving certain regions in certain cases.

Group profiling activities, in order to implement the economic definition of business as defined by the 2008 Law on Modernisation of the Economy, are continuing: the results of the profiling of over 40 major groups are now incorporated into the ESANE⁹ system; methodological activities on the automatic consolidation of small and medium-sized groups were carried out in 2016.

At the same time, two *Insée Références* studies on "Enterprises in France" showed the importance and benefit of taking account of the organisation of enterprises into groups in the analysis of SME growth and the breakdown of jobs between industry and services.

The collection of two aperiodic surveys was launched in 2016: the Family Budget Survey (Metropolitan France and historic French Overseas Departments), and the French round of the European Adult Education Survey (AES) was carried out in partnership with the DARES.

In 2016, the release of the *Insée Références* publication "France, Social Portrait" shed light on the situation of young people in France today. The autonomy acquisition process that concerns young people consists of several stages and dimensions. Five of these dimensions were reviewed. Firstly, access to residential autonomy for young people, then their choices of pathways and success in higher education, followed by their job-market integration. The issue of delinquency was also examined from both sides (victims and perpetrators).

⁹ The ESANE system allows for the production of structural corporate statistics.

1.5 The Authority's opinion on the production of official statistics

Firstly, the ASP observes that the SSP improved in numerous areas in 2016: in terms of production, dissemination, studies and the coordination of activities. The observation of societal issues which help to inform the public debate was also clearly apparent in the SSP's surveys and publications in 2016.

Projects seeking to improve productivity and increase efficiency are also being carried out – consolidation of certain services in the framework of territorial reform, online population surveys, and work on the housing directory – but these margins for manoeuvre seem destined to reach their limits quite quickly, particularly since there is still a need for more reliable population census data and better local finance statistics.

Consequently, the ASP observes that the SSP is subject to increased uncertainty at the budgetary level, to strong pressures to possess sufficient competencies corresponding to its activities, and to an increasingly demanding environment at the national, European and international levels. Human resources are a source of concern for INSEE as its workforce has dropped by 25% since the 2000s; it has also had fewer investigators to perform household surveys and price surveys since the establishment of their new status in 2013¹⁰, while the growing importance of European surveys in the survey programme, the commitments to increase the frequency of certain surveys such as the Household Wealth Survey, and the extension of certain surveys to panels in response to users' demands are contributing to the increased demands placed on the SSP. For the programming of household surveys from 2019 onwards, the Institute will need to ensure the proper coordination of continuous perennial surveys (Employment, Rents and Charges, etc.), annual perennial surveys, periodic surveys and surveys specific to the French Overseas Departments (DOM).

These requirements for quality and the production of new data, combined with the limitations of exclusive recourse to administrative data, are counterbalancing the impacts of the efforts to improve productivity. These concerns are now also affecting certain Ministerial Statistical Offices, such as the SOeS, which claim that they have insufficient human resources to carry out their activities properly.

The ASP will continue to make sure that the SSP keeps producing high-quality information in response to the key issues affecting official statistics. It will ensure that the SSP continues to innovate in efforts to provide an optimal response to these challenges.

In such a context, the ASP strongly encourages the prioritisation of surveys and household surveys in particular. The Authority advises the SSP to optimise the gains in productivity that can be envisaged through the use of the internet, and develops methodological innovations allowing for adjustments to the frequency and size of the samples for certain surveys. The Authority welcomes the launch of the "INSEE 2025" Strategic Plan which seeks to address the major imbalances between the different parts of INSEE, and take into account the increasing scarcity of human and budgetary resources while maintaining the quality of statistical production.

10 Investigators have been incorporated into the INSEE employment ceiling since their change of status in 2013.

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

2.1 The European and international context

- *Three framework regulation proposals have been adopted by the European Statistical System Committee (ESSC)*

These three framework regulations are designed to formalise, consolidate and harmonise the existing regulations. For the most part, they do not create new obligations.

The draft regulation on European business statistics (FRIBS – Framework Regulation Integrating Business Statistics)

The FRIBS framework regulation covers a large number of existing regulations. It incorporates short-term statistics, structural statistics, statistics on foreign subsidiaries and the Simstat project, which consists of measuring intra-Community trade flows of goods by asking enterprises to provide information about exports, with imports then being estimated using mirror flows between NSIs. This system will only work if a system allowing for the secure exchange of individual data can be devised, in the knowledge that the penalties for failing to maintain confidentiality vary widely from one country to another and have not been harmonised, and that the identifier of the trade partners and the country of origin of the exported goods are requested in order to distinguish between imports corresponding to products manufactured in the European Union and imports of extra-Community products unloaded in a European port and reforwarded to another EU country.

At present, this information is included in the draft regulation, but certain Member States are strongly opposed to the collection of these data. French Customs do not envisage modifying their system for the moment.

The draft regulation on social statistics (IESS – Integrated European Social Statistics)

The IESS framework regulation established a common framework for statistics relating to people and households for which data are collected by samples. It aims to rationalise and modernise social statistics by harmonising processes previously governed by different regulations. This regulation offers the opportunity to revise all of these old regulations in terms of the fields of investigation, frequency and quality constraints. Different fields are covered: labour market, income, living conditions, health, education, training and new technologies.

The text should not pose any great problems in France. However, the production requirements at a detailed geographical level are proving to be costly. In addition, France has been given a temporary dispensation regarding the publication periods for income inequality indicators. Indeed, INSEE favours using administrative and fiscal data to produce reliable indicators, and these sources become available at quite a late stage. Efforts must be made to devise a solution before the end of the derogation period.

The draft regulation on agricultural statistics (IFSS – Integrated Farm Statistics)

The aim of the IFS framework regulation is to develop a new simplified and integrated regulatory framework for agricultural statistics. This involves reorganising, simplifying and improving the flexibility of the raw data collection process in the agricultural sector, by incorporating the new demands resulting from the changes in the Common Agricultural Policy, the new agro-environmental requirements, and societal and economic expectations. This revision is also intended to reduce the burden and cost of producing these statistics, for respondents as well as for statisticians, while improving quality and speeding up the provision of the data.

The draft IFS framework regulation will abrogate the current regulations on the structural statistics for agricultural holdings (Regulation 1166/2008 covering these surveys up to the 2016 survey), and those concerning permanent crops (Regulation 1337/2011). A modular approach has been adopted for this regulation, with basic variables to be collected in an exhaustive manner through a census in 2020, and then on the basis of a sample for intermediate surveys in 2023 and 2026. Miscellaneous modules will then be used for collecting raw data (orchards, vineyards, equipment, livestock rearing buildings, irrigation, labour, rural development, and tillage) still on the basis of samples.

This framework regulation should not pose particular problems in France.

- ***Important work is being carried out on the new international classification of criminal offences – ICCS***

INSEE, the Justice MSO, the Internal Security (SIMMS) MSO and the French National Supervisory Body on Crime and Punishment (ONDRP) have been working towards the implementation of the new International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes ICCS¹¹ adopted by the UN, in France. In the medium term, this classification must set the benchmark for the production of national statistics in the fields of insecurity, delinquency and the criminal justice system's response.

11 ICCS: International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes

2.2 The compliance of the Official Statistical Service with the European Statistics Code of Practice¹²

The Authority's main mission is to monitor the SSP's scrupulous implementation of the European Statistics Code of Practice. The annual report provides an opportunity for the systematic analysis of compliance with its principles.

Principle 1: Professional independence

The Authority did not observe any breaches of the principle of professional independence within the SSP in 2015.

Principle 3: Adequacy of resources

In 2016, INSEE's budget once again reflected the downward trend in public spending. As a result, the credits excluding spending on staff that were adopted in the Initial Budget Law were down by €3.5 M. 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. The overall effort is 5% for INSEE, in line with the average effort required of the ministries for the economy and finance. With regard to staff resources, the efforts required of the programme are continuing with an employment plan consisting of -80 full-time equivalent posts (including investigators). A decrease in credits of around 2% for spending on staff was recorded.

The main aim for INSEE is to launch the action plan relating to the INSEE 2025 strategic project and to implement the changes following the introduction of the territorial reform, which significantly modifies INSEE's regional organisational structure.

Principle 4: Commitment to quality

Following the Peer Review initiated by Eurostat in 2014, INSEE has defined an action plan for the 2015 to 2019 period. Guided by the peer recommendations¹³ and strengthened in its coordination role by the revision of European Regulation 223/2009, INSEE aims to establish the systematic implementation of quality procedures within the SSP. To this end, by 2019, the Institute will be using quality procedures to regulate all statistical processes under the SSP's responsibility.

A governance body was defined in 2015 with the establishment of the Strategic Quality Committee (CoSaQ). This committee is responsible for implementing the quality strategy of the Institute and the SSP (in the spirit of the revised Regulation 223/2009). Reports on the quality action plans for processes that it has selected and analyses of what can be learned from them with a view to gradually improving the quality assurance framework are also presented to this committee. It must be given the resources to operate as a management tool that will allow for the monitoring of the quality strategy, the identification of processes that can be used to roll out and monitor its quality procedures, and the provision of decision-making support to prioritise the procedures to be used.

To define this management tool, INSEE proposes to adopt a method consisting of the process-based analysis and modelling of INSEE's operations, and to carry out "process mapping" for this purpose, initially with regard to INSEE's production. By 2019, INSEE could commit to producing at least one quality procedure per statistical production macro-process, by targeting, as a priority, the processes with the greatest exposure to production risks (e.g. risk of interruption/modification to supply by suppliers; fragility/complexity of

¹² Seuls sont mentionnés dans ce rapport les principes du Code de bonnes pratiques de la statistique européenne qui suscitent une attention particulière sur l'année 2015.

¹³ See the peer recommendations in Annexe 4

processing operations; risk of breach of confidentiality during dissemination; application obsolescence risk). To carry out these procedures, the Institute is developing and ensuring the dissemination of a common quality assurance framework embracing the tools and media shared by the agents. It is promoting the professionalisation of metadata use.

Certain quality procedures carried out by INSEE were completed in 2016. A self-assessment focused on the data-validation phase prior to dissemination in the Annual Business Statistics Program (ESANE). In the context of the Demographic Files on Dwellings and Individuals, work was carried out on describing the target system and the associated quality criteria. Similarly, a table of quality indicators was developed for the interface providing direct access to the SIRENE application (SIRENE API). Other procedures relating to SIRENE were carried out, including with regard to the Single Electoral List. These procedures cover quite a broad spectrum in terms of statistical production, in line with the commitment made following the Peer Review.

At the same time, INSEE met with all Ministerial Statistical Offices (MSOs) in 2016. On the basis of these bilateral meetings, the Institute is establishing an individual diagnosis of the MSOs' level of maturity in terms of quality and is helping them to identify their key statistics. Key statistics can be defined as statistics whose dissemination is expected by users and for which any production failure is highly detrimental to the producing service, and which require a quality procedure incorporating a risk analysis to be applied to their production process in order to guarantee their quality. They include European statistics. The action plan following on from the peer review proposes to implement quality procedures for the SSP's entire statistical production. For MSOs, this could involve implementing at least one procedure per major family of key statistics between now and 2019, starting with processes or phases of processes with the greatest exposure to quality risks (supplier failure, fragile methodology, inadequate documentation, potential breach of confidentiality, etc.), as a priority.

Because the MSOs' situations vary considerably in terms of quality, INSEE will be defining customised action plans for each of them for 2019, which will be adapted to their starting points and key statistics. Quality procedures have already been instigated with certain MSOs. A procedure covering the entire Census of Government Employees (RAE) process has been carried out with the Defence MSO. Another procedure is in progress on the production of monthly delinquency statistics recorded in association with the Internal Security (SSMSI) MSO.

Principle 6: Impartiality and objectivity

- **Embargo breaches**

As every year, the Authority examines embargo breaches. The main event, which was investigated specifically by the Authority (see chapter 2.3), mainly concerned a breach of embargo in June 2016 on the "Conjoncture in France" report published by INSEE. On 15 June, the Secretary of State to the Ministry for Finance and Public Accounts with responsibility for the Budget had announced to the Senate Finance Commission that "*INSEE was going to revise its growth forecast to 1.6% in 2016*" – a figure contained in the Conjoncture in France report that was supposed to be released at 6 p.m. on the following day and for this reason had been embargoed. INSEE therefore brought forward the lifting of the embargo to 1 p.m. on 16 June.

- ***Announcement of dissemination calendars***

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

The majority of the Ministerial Statistical Offices have published their provisional dissemination calendars on their websites, in response to the ASP's recommendation. In 2016, three new Ministerial Statistical Offices (MSOs) published their dissemination calendars online: the Defence MSO, the Directorate-General of Public Finance (DGFIP) MSO and the Justice MSO.

The calendar of the MSO for Defence states the months for the publication of the "ECODEF" documents of a statistical nature. These publications concern the remuneration of military personnel, the numbers of civilian and military personnel, exports of war materials and flows generated by enterprises in the Defence Technological and Industrial Base (DTIB), the information system for defence suppliers and the Defence Statistical Yearbook. The dissemination calendar for the Defence MSO is available at the following address: <http://www.defense.gouv.fr/sga/le-sga-en-action/economie-et-statistiques/qualite-statistique/calendrier>

The dissemination calendar for the Directorate-General of Public Finance (DGFIP) MSO, published once a year, states the month in which the tables of data produced by the Office will be published online. The dissemination calendar for the Defence MSO is available at the following address: <https://www.impots.gouv.fr/portail/calendrier-previsionnel-de-publication-des-statistiques>

The dissemination calendar for the Justice MSO is announced one year in advance for short-term forecasting publications, the reference publication on judicial statistics, the key figures for justice and the annual sentencing results. The calendar is supplemented and updated on a monthly basis by adding the publication dates for the *Infostats Justice* for the coming month. The dissemination calendar for the Defence MSO is available at the following address: <http://www.justice.gouv.fr/budget-et-statistiques-10054/calendrier-de-diffusion-12823/calendrier-de-diffusion-des-donnees-statistiques-28828.html>

Principle 7: Sound methodology

Following the 2014 Peer Review's recommendations on the initiative of Eurostat, the Institute undertook to publish "*exhaustive methodological documentation in a dedicated section of the INSEE website (associated tools and methods: sampling, secrecy, seasonal correction methods, quality assurance framework, quality report templates, etc.)*" in H1 2017.

This reference documentation already includes 14 statistical methodology sheets that will be published on the INSEE website in the statistical Tools and Methods section. These methodological sheets will cover the following fields: sampling techniques, survey data processing methods, methods for addressing confidentiality in statistical tables and methods for correcting seasonality and business days.

Principle 8: Appropriate statistical procedures

INSEE plans to publish a new section on its revision policy for statistics on its website (on each "Sources and Methods" page). This action must be completed by the end of 2017. Information about revisions is already published on the INSEE website alongside each of the statistics in question (National Accounts, short-term economic indicators, etc.).

Principle 9: Non-excessive burden for respondents

The profiling operation carried out by INSEE should lead to an easing of the burden, once the survey can be carried out at the level of a profiled unit and no longer at the level of its constituent legal units. The generalisation of questioning, in statistical surveys, about the time spent on responding to surveys of enterprises has led to the centralisation of this information in the SIRUS directory. This already allows for the regular and objectivised monitoring of the statistical burden on enterprises, and will also be taken into account for smoothing out this load using sample coordination methods.

At the DREES, the CARE surveys of dependent elderly people will be 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 DREES survey on delays in access to care (data collection in 2016) uses INSERM's CONSTANCES cohort. It uses the infrastructure of the cohort and especially the data collected for this study. In 2016, the annual statistics for health institutions continued to broaden the scope of their collection by using data from the Technical Hospitalisation Information Agency's Programme de Médicalisation des

Systèmes d'Information (software used by medical institutions). This enhancement, which previously concerned medicine, surgery, obstetrics and odontology, followed by the home hospitalisation sector, now covers the aftercare and rehabilitation sector. As a consequence, the response burden for hospitals and clinics has been eased.

The SSP will complete the computerisation of the branch surveys administered to the agrifood industries, in association with the approved professional bodies, while ensuring the reduction of the statistical burden through simplified questioning and frequencies. The aim is to offer all agrifood enterprises surveyed in the framework of a branch survey the opportunity to respond by internet between now and the end of 2017. Initial analyses will be carried out on the possibilities of reducing the statistical burden for the performance of the 2020 agricultural census (multi-modal collection; greater use of administrative data for the pre-completion of certain questions).

In 2016, the online collection and computerisation of information about tourism surveys reduced the burden by improving the coordination with management software.

Principle 10: Cost effectiveness

Growth of online data collection

The computerisation of collection of information from enterprises continues to be stepped up and is being gradually unified thanks to the transition from different surveys to a single collection platform (COLTRANE).

A new strategic plan will be implemented by INSEE to develop online collection in household surveys. Its aim is to develop the multi-modal approach to household surveys by integrating surveys into the protocol according to procedures which are adapted to each of them. This online survey development programme is especially designed to increase the response rate for hard-to-reach people, while also providing a response to the significant demand for surveys, emanating from the SSP in particular.

At the DARES, online collection is continuing to be developed. Since 2016, all enterprises surveyed in the framework of the DARES' quarterly ACEMO surveys have been given the opportunity to respond online via INSEE's COLTRANE website. At present, 15% of them respond online. For the first time, the REPOSE survey of professional relationships and business negotiations will be using the online mode to survey employees.

The DREES is in the process of completing the computerisation of all its surveys of establishments and services, (hospitals and clinics, retirement homes, establishments caring for disabled persons, schools) and departmental councils. In 2016, it carried out the first ever online collection of its survey of nursing homes for the elderly. In 2017 and 2018, the computerisation process will end with the online collection of establishments providing support for people (adults and then children) with social difficulties.

Since January 2016, online responses have become the main collection method for SOeS surveys on the environmental practices of households and road freight transport (RFT).

In 2016, the DEPP used exclusively digital tools to exploit the data from an assessment administered to 160,000 first-year pupils in more than 4,000 secondary schools in 2015. This is the first time in Europe that such a survey has been carried out using digital tools. Similarly, the survey carried out by the DEPP in 2016 with a view to determining the knowledge and competencies of a panel of disabled children was based entirely on digital tools.

Enhanced use of administrative sources

In January 2016, the Law on the Modernisation of the French Health System was adopted. In particular, it creates a National Healthcare Data System (SNDS) which will consolidate data from the *Système national d'information inter-régimes d'assurance maladie* (relating to non-hospital care) and from the *Programme de médicalisation des systèmes d'information* (relating to hospital data), along with data from the Epidemiology Centre on medical causes of death, medico-social data on disabilities and a representative sample of reimbursement data from supplementary insurance bodies. The SNDS will constitute a major source of data for official statistics and for research and analysis activities.

The DREES is actively contributing to developing the statistical use of the new inter-system pension databases, created in the framework of the *GIP Union Retraite* (directory of affiliates of systems, *Echange inter-régimes de retraite – EIRR, Répertoire de gestion des carrières unique – RGCU*).

In 2016, the exploitation of administrative VAT files led to the provision of new series of turnover indices taking into account the corporate demographics and the exhaustiveness of monthly VAT returns.

Since 2016, the Civil Service MSO has been using the database of individual recruitments on subsidised contract agreements and the management files for apprenticeship contracts ([Ari@ne](#)) obtained from the DARES subject to the CNIS issuing a favourable opinion.

The audit procedure carried out by the INSEE General Inspectorate

In 2016, the INSEE General Inspectorate conducted assessment and audit missions designed to optimise the resources, improve processes and provide decision-making support. They include:

- a report on the consequences for INSEE of the Law for a Digital Republic;
- an audit of the efficiency of the observation scheme for tourism statistics;
- a report on the Information and Everyday Life (IVQ) survey and the OECD PIAAC programme (and INSEE's participation in the measurement of literacy and numeracy skills);
- a report on the assessment and organisation of the statistical function in the Ministry for National Education, Higher Education and Research, jointly produced with the General Inspectorate for the Administration of National Education and Research;
- a new report on low-performance applications.

A new audit of the cost of INSEE's major operations was also launched in 2016.

Launch of the "INSEE Horizon 2025" Action Plan

2016 marked the finalisation and launch of the "INSEE Horizon 2025" Action Plan. The plan contains 72 actions, each contributing to the following aims: keeping in touch with production system trends and the new territorial dynamics, being in the vanguard of new survey techniques, making a firm commitment to carry out international comparisons, improving risk prevention and management, moving towards more interactive and educational communication and simplifying operations to facilitate collaboration. The action plan will be reflected in INSEE's work programmes and will take into account the circumstances that will influence INSEE's access to the resources required for the development of its production and research activities. The implementation of the plan will be assessed and revised over time in order to remain adapted to an inevitably changing context.

Principle 11: Relevance

Two mechanisms ensure the relevance of French official statistics:

- the National Council for Statistical Information (CNIS) organises the dialogue between users and producers of official statistics.
- a permanent opinion survey scheme which monitors user satisfaction retroactively.

The CNIS

The CNIS coordinates the joint actions of users and producers of official statistics. It reveals new information needs and examines the expediency of each new project, be it a survey, census, panel or a use of administrative files. In this way, the debate that it stimulates helps to adapt the work programmes to the stated needs. These studies fulfil the principle of relevance (see Annexe 9 for the detailed review of the CNIS' activities in 2015).

Satisfaction surveys

Satisfaction surveys aim to assess the quality of the provision of information in relation to the public's expectations: relevance of information, ease of access, choice of media, etc. They focus on specific topics for which modifications are desirable. They provide results that are compared with other information gathered elsewhere, and can be used to formulate a corrective action plan.

In 2016, INSEE carried out eight satisfaction surveys on specific topics, INSEE's image and on the data it produces.

Two readership surveys focused on the French Economic Tables (*Tableaux de l'économie française* – TEF) and the Conjoncture in France (*Note de conjoncture*) report. The readers of each publication are satisfied, or very satisfied: they meet their expectations and the contents are deemed to be of high quality, or even the benchmark for the subject. In the TEF, the figures and definitions are widely consulted and the comments are considered to be interesting and easy to understand. Respondents to the survey consult the "Labour-Employment" and "Population" topics most frequently. Even when they do not read them in full, readers of the Conjoncture in France report often consult the overviews of the "France" sheets and they value the files. The requests for improvement submitted by readers of the TEF – mainly students or secondary school pupils – include even more educational content. Readers of the Conjoncture in France report would appreciate a summarised version of the files, more sectoral analyses, international comparisons and more graphics.

For the first time, INSEE carried out a satisfaction survey on the overall quality of its statistical production and on the quality of five of its flagship productions: unemployment rate, quarterly GDP, legal populations of municipalities, business creations and the consumer price index.

INSEE's statistics are deemed to be relevant, accurate and reliable by the majority of respondents. The punctuality and accessibility of its statistical productions are considered to be somewhat less satisfactory: the proposal "the statistics are available in time to meet your needs" obtained the lowest level of agreement (26% responded "completely" and 47% "moderately"). The respondents consider that the flagship indicators meet the criteria of the Code of Practice. N.B. Few of the respondents visiting the website on a regular basis declared that they are familiar with the consumer price index and use it. The term "inflation" might have been better understood.

INSEE carried out three satisfaction surveys on the SIRENE register in 2016: one on the SIRENE pages of the insee.fr website, another on the service rendered by the SIRENE management websites and lastly on the participants in the first year-end "hackathon" organised by INSEE on the SIRENE file, with a view to its free online publication on 1st January 2017.

Finally, as for every year since 2009, two surveys were carried out in relation to INSEE's image: firstly as it is perceived by the general public and secondly by online visitors to the insee.fr website.

In 2016, the Image survey was administered to the general public in two stages (May and November). The questions concerned knowledge and opinion of INSEE, the credibility of three indicators (unemployment rate, growth rate, consumer price index) and trust in the public figures. The Institute still has a good reputation among the general public (88% in November). The credibility of the indicators that it produces rose slightly in 2016 for the unemployment rate and the growth rate but in general, there is still a high level of mistrust of economic statistics in French opinion (56% in November). Users of the insee.fr website have the same good, or indeed very good, opinion of INSEE as in 2015: 95% of them consider the Institute to be useful and 91% think that INSEE carries out its mission well. On the question of

independence from political power, INSEE is improving: 65% of respondents believe that the information is independent from political power, compared to 60% in 2015. With regard to indicators, the results have deteriorated for the unemployment rate, the growth rate and purchasing power.

The results of INSEE's image surveys and indicators are available at the following address: <http://www.insee.fr/fr/Insee-statistique-publique/default.asp?page=connaitre/enquetes/enquetes-satisfaction.htm>. The main results of the other surveys carried out in 2016 will be published online on a gradual basis.

Principle 15: Accessibility and clarity

The new insee.fr website

The new insee.fr website was launched in November 2016. The design choices were based on the results of numerous tests conducted with users. The main innovations concern a reduction in the number of sections, themed multi-criteria browsing, geography, products, collections and sources, a configurable search engine and renewed and harmonised editorial clarity.

The development of a system dedicated to statistical metadata conforming to European standards and formats

The Statistical Metadata Standard (RmèS) project carried out by INSEE ultimately aims to provide a single management system for all metadata associated with the life cycle of a statistical operation, with different outputs for different usages. In practice, certain metadata should be initialised at the design stage, used for collection and then published in a quality report.

Clarification of micro-data access procedures

INSEE has published a document on its website presenting the three types of micro-data files that can be accessed via procedures and distribution channels that depend on the level of detail of the data and the type of requesters. This document can be found at the following address: <https://www.insee.fr/fr/information/1300614>

Continuation of educational actions on the INSEE website

In 2016, updated its educational publication on the measurement of unemployment, as part of the "INSEE in Brief" collection. In this same collection, 2016 also saw the publication of a booklet dedicated to the measurement of immigration entitled "Pour comprendre la mesure des populations étrangère et immigrée" (Understanding the Measurement of Foreign and Immigrant Populations).

In addition, INSEE produced an animated video entitled "Un jour comme les autres" (A Day Like Any Other). This short 90-second film illustrates several demographic data (total population, number of marriages and births, sizes of households, etc.) and behaviours (time spent in transport, watching television, etc.). It was inspired by "On a Normal Day" produced by the Dutch CBS.

In addition, INSEE helped to populate the Facebook page created by the European Statistical System in the framework of Digicom. This page seeks to promote the innovative products devised by the NSIs and Eurostat to the users of European public statistics. In particular, two editions of INSEE in Brief – on growth and unemployment – were translated into English for this operation. The inflation simulator, in English, is another of the products proposed by the Institute.

Finally, INSEE produced a video presentation and a tutorial to facilitate the use of its new insee.fr website, launched online in November.

New data sources are being 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 is a facility which allows researchers to work remotely, in a secure manner, on highly detailed individual data that are usually confidential.

In this context, the CASD regularly enters into agreements with the owners of data to establish secure provision procedures which mainly concern the authorisation procedures, the criteria for restricting the release of results and the precise list of data and documentation that have been made available. The CASD signed this type of agreement with the DARES in January 2016, allowing several research projects to access these data. The CASD also signed agreements with the SOeS, the DEG and ARGIRC-ARRCO in 2016. In 2016, in the framework of the agreement entered into with the CASD, the DEPP supplied the centre with exhaustive annual data files on apprentices being trained in Apprentice Training Centres (CFA) between 2006 and 2015. In 2016, via the CASD, the MSO of the Directorate-General of Public Finance supplied a file comprising the 2083-PRO returns relating to tax optimisation operations in French Overseas Departments. These tax data are used to assess the effects of these specific support schemes, at the request of the European Commission.

The CASD also carried out trusted third-party operations for National Registration Number-matching activities for the CARE (Capabilities, Aid and Resources of the elderly) survey by the DREES and the RPS survey (psychosocial risks) by the DARES. In 2015, the CASD won a tender for the provision of access to all PMSI data (comprehensive detailed data concerning all hospital stays in France). This access was implemented in 2016. The contract was extended for one year from the end of 2016 pending the publication of the Health Data Security Standard provided for by the Health Law of 26 January 2016.

In 2016, the CASD provided secure access for over 100 users to more than 130 data sources originating from the Ministry for Agriculture (SSP), INSEE, the Ministry for the Economy and Finance (DGFIP), the Ministry for Justice, the Ministry for National Education (DEPP), the Banque Publique d'Investissement, the Ministry for Labour (DARES), the Central Agency for Social Security Bodies (ACOSS), the General Commission for Sustainable Development (CGDD) and the SOeS, the ATIH (hospital stays-PMSI), the DEG and ARGIRC-ARRCO.

2.3 The Authority's opinion on compliance by the Official Statistical Service with the European Statistics Code of Practice

In general, the Official Statistics Authority (ASP) commends the actions carried out or undertaken by the SSP to consolidate the institutional environment, integrate quality into statistical activities and improve the service rendered to users. Nevertheless, it makes certain comments regarding some of the Principles of the Code.

Principle 2: Adequacy of resources

The ASP observes that budgetary constraints for INSEE and a growing number of MSOs are getting tighter each year. Personnel resources are a cause of concern for INSEE, now shared by the Ministerial Statistical Offices.

The Authority also notes that the number of INSEE investigators available for collections from households and price surveys constitutes a growing source of disagreement over the SSP's resource allocations, particularly since the investigators have been integrated into the INSEE employment ceiling since their change of status in 2013. There is considerable tension over the household survey programme up to 2019 and beyond for the years 2020-2022. In terms of the survey results, the Authority observes that the household survey response rates continued to pick up in 2016, but remain below the rates recorded prior to the introduction of this new status.

There is some margin for manoeuvre: by consolidating certain services through territorial reform, and implementing productivity projects for the population census and the housing directory, for example. But in all probability, the limits of this margin for manoeuvre will soon become apparent.

In such a context, the ASP can only strongly encourage the SSP to make choices according to its priorities. It will also attentively monitor the changes in the household survey response rates.

Principle 4: Commitment to quality

The Authority points out that numerous actions have been carried out to integrate quality management into the SSP's statistical activities, pursuant to the recommendations of the 2014 Peer Review. It approves the provisions made to establish a quality framework in order to support the SSP in the development of continuous quality improvement procedures and to strengthen its quality policy. The Authority will remain attentive to the implementation of quality guidelines that allow MSOs to integrate quality into their ways of working.

Principle 6: Impartiality and objectivity

Relating to the breach of embargo on the June 2016 Conjoncture in France report

The Conjoncture in France report is one of INSEE's flagship products. Its publication is always eagerly anticipated and receives widespread media coverage. The report is based on INSEE's statistical production (National Accounts, business tendency surveys, consumer price index, employment, unemployment, etc.) and aims to produce an analysis of the situation and the short-term prospects for the French economy. The Authority considers that this publication is therefore a logical extension of INSEE's statistical production.

The Conjoncture in France report is subject to a precise dissemination framework (pre-announced calendar and embargo rules), which is made known to the public and seeks to uphold the principles of neutrality and fair treatment of users recommended by the European Statistics Code of Practice, especially principles 1 and

6 which establish professional independence, impartiality and objectivity as fundamental principles of the organisation of the statistical system.

Consequently, the Authority regrets this failure to conform to the dissemination rules that apply to the Conjoncture in France report, which led to a breach of the embargo by the Secretary of State to the Minister for Finance and Public Accounts. Indeed, the Conjoncture in France report must scrupulously adhere to the established principles and standards, in order to ensure the credibility of the information produced by INSEE as perceived by the users of official statistics, with the independence and transparency of our National Statistical Institute laying the foundations for the trust on which official statistics are based.

Following this breach of embargo, the ASP's Decree will be amended to strengthen the Authority's powers, particularly in relation to the mission that consists of ensuring that the SSP's publications are clearly distinguished from any ministerial communications disseminated separately.

Concerning the announcement of dissemination calendars

The Authority welcomes the online publication, by the majority of MSOs, of their provisional dissemination calendars. It notes that three MSOs do not possess dissemination calendars but are envisaging their implementation: the Department for Local Studies and Statistics (DESL) at the Ministry for the Interior, the Observation and Statistics Section (MEOS) at the Ministry for the City, Youth and Sports, and the Department for Studies, Forward Studies and Statistics (DEPS) at the Ministry for Culture and Communication.

It will be attentively monitoring the road maps to be defined in 2017 following the bilateral meetings held with INSEE in 2016, which will stipulate the commitments on this subject.

In addition, in its 2014 report, the Authority had asked for differences in punctuality to be monitored between the announced date of a publication and its actual date. It duly notes that this recommendation has been taken into account.

The exercise of monitoring the punctuality of the MSO's publications covers all publications that were disseminated in 2016 and announced in a calendar. In this respect, the Authority notes that none of the publications were delayed due an intervention by a competent ministry that called the independence of the services into question. It observes that 60 to 80% of the publications are released on time (or ahead of schedule) in relation to the last dissemination date announced. The Authority notes that the delays are mainly attributed to the underestimation of proofreading or production times, technical problems and/or the revision of publications. It will be checking on the results of the monitoring of this exercise on a regular basis.

With regard to the MSOs, the Authority will be making sure that all of the services concerned clarify the application of their embargo rules (in terms of their scope and their dissemination) in 2017 in order to ensure closer compliance with the European Code.

Principle 11: Relevance

The Official Statistics Authority approves the CNIS' policies and priorities. In particular, it welcomes the efficiency and responsiveness of the working parties established by the CNIS on topical subjects: the diversity of forms of employment, the measurement of concealed work and its impacts on public finance, the use of information from enterprises by the Official Statistical Service, and the observation family break-ups. It also welcomes the CNIS' organisation of the colloquium on the key issues of international comparisons, in which official statistics have an important role to play, in addition to the conference on statistics relating to insecurity.

As for satisfaction surveys, the ASP recommends that the results of all such surveys carried out in a given year be displayed on the insee.fr website and kept for at least two consecutive years.

Principle 15: Accessibility and clarity

The Authority is pleased to note that INSEE is continuing to carry out educational actions that will bring it closer to the general public. In particular, it points to the efforts made by the SSP to forge closer links with targeted groups such as young people.

It commends the development of a dedicated statistical metadata system that conforms to European formats and statistics, which should help to improve the accessibility and clarity of the statistics produced by the SSP.

In a context in which huge volumes of data are increasingly accessible to all, and in which the credibility of statistics and confidence in them are never guaranteed,¹⁴ the ASP strongly encourages the SSP to continue its commitment to developing educational publications and to modernising its communications tools, especially with a view to reaching a younger audience.

¹⁴ See the article in the *Le Monde* newspaper of 24 January 2017 on "Statistiques : la grande défiance" (Statistics: the great mistrust) and the results of the satisfaction surveys carried out by INSEE.

3. Activities of the Official Statistics Authority in 2016

3.1 Sessions of the Authority

The Official Statistics Authority met four times in 2016 with the agendas described below.

23 March 2016

- Follow-up to the ASP's recommendations on the quality labelling of monthly job-seekers' statistics (DEFM): interview with Mr Stéphane Ducatez, Director of Statistics at Pôle Emploi, accompanied by Mr Cyril Nouveau, his Assistant Director, interview with Ms Selma Mahfouz, Director of Coordination, Research, Studies and Statistics (DARES), accompanied by Mr Pierre Biscourp, Assistant Director for Employment and the Labour Market at the DARES;
- Follow-up by the ASP of the appointment of the new Director of the DARES;
- Presentation of the Digital Technology Law/access to data by Ms Françoise Dupont, co-rapporteur of the Group on Private Data Use chaired by Mr Michel Bon, Ms Pauline Givord, Head of the Applied Econometric and Assessment Methods Division at INSEE, Mr Michel Isnard, Head of the Legal Affairs and Disputes Unit at INSEE;
- Presentation of the Authority's 2015 Annual Report, by Ms Claudine Gasnier, ASP Rapporteur.

22 June 2016

- Follow-up of the DGFIP Ministerial Statistical Office (MSO) in the framework of the review clause issued by the ASP on 18 June 2014: hearing of Mr Audran Le Baron, Head of the Fiscal Management Department at the DGFIP accompanied by Mr Brice Le Petit, Head of the DGFIP MSO;
- Presentation of the Health Law by Mr Franck Von Lennep, Director of the DREES, and Mr Jean-Louis Lhéritier, Head of Department, Assistant Director of the DREES;
- Revision of the ASP Rules of Procedure;
- Review of the breach of embargo on the June 2016 Conjoncture in France report

12 October 2016

- Renewal of the quality labelling of the quarterly salaried workforce statistics produced by the ACOSS: Hearing of Mr Alain Gubian, Financial Director, Director of Statistics, Studies and Forward Planning at the ACOSS, accompanied by Ms Sabine Meunier, Assistant-Director in charge of the Department of Statistical Studies and the Coordination Network at the ACOSS;
- Follow-up of the ASP recommendations on the quality labelling of the monthly statistics for health insurance expenditure produced by the CNAMTS: Hearing of Mr Claude Gissot, Director of Strategy, Studies and Statistics at the CNAMTS;
- Examination of the extension of the scope of the DEPP MSO to the entire directorate; hearing of Ms Fabienne Rosenwald, Director of the DEPP;
- Information review of the implementation of revised Regulation 223/2009 by Mr Jean-Luc Tavernier, Director-General of INSEE.

14 December 2016

- Hearing of Ms Yannick Moreau, President of the National Council for Statistical Information (CNIS)
- Hearing of Mr Jean-Luc Tavernier, Director-General of INSEE.

The subjects covered during these sessions were subject to the recommendations set out below, in the concluding paragraph (3-4).

In addition, in 2016, the President of the ASP issued an opinion in favour of renewing the appointment of Mr Stefan Lolliver as Inspector-General of INSEE in his capacity of President of the Advisory Board of the National Observatory for Delinquency and the Criminal Response (ONDRP).

An application to the President of the ASP was also submitted by the French national ombudsman following a complaint from an enterprise about the burden imposed by statistical surveys. The case was examined in collaboration with INSEE's Business Statistics Directorate.

Pursuant to Articles 3 and 4 of Decree no. 2009-250 relating to the Official Statistics Authority, the ASP issued opinions in favour of the following projects:

– the draft Order amending the list of Ministerial Statistical Offices, which seeks to withdraw MSO status from the Office for Statistics on Fishing and Aquaculture of the Directorate for Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture (DPMA), attached to the Ministry for Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy (Opinion no. 2016-01 of 20 January 2016);

– the draft amendment of the organisational Order of the Directorate-General for Administration and Civil Service (DGAFP) and amendment of the scope of the Ministerial Statistical Office (Opinion no. 2016-02 of 12 February 2016)

– the recognition, by an Order of the Minister for the Economy and Finance for the Ministerial Statistical Office, on the extension of the scope of the DEPP MSO to the entire department (Opinion no. 2016-03 of 12 October 2016).

Lists of the resolutions decided upon in the sessions and the different opinions issued by the ASP are available on the Official Statistics Authority's website at the following address: <http://www.autorite-statistique-publique.fr/asp/>

3.2 Hearings of producers of official statistics

In 2016, the Authority conducted a hearing of the Office of Fiscal Studies (MSO of the DGFIP), in the framework of a review scheduled in 2011. It also held a hearing of the Department for Evaluation, Forward Studies and Performance (DEPP) of the Ministry for National Education, Higher Education and Research, on the scope of the extension of the National Education MSO to the entire DEPP.

- ***The Office of Fiscal Studies (GF3C Office, Directorate-General of Public Finance MSO)***

In September 2011, the ASP had recognised that the DGFIP Office possessed Ministerial Statistical Office status, with certain conditions attached to its opinion. At the time, the Authority had placed the emphasis on the question of access to fiscal data and on the public having a proper understanding of taxation. It observed that progress had been made in 2014, at the time of an initial review meeting, particularly with regard to the provision of fiscal data for researchers. Nevertheless, the Authority had asked to conduct another hearing of the MSO in order to observe the other improvements that had been announced, especially with regard to the online publication of more numerous and more recent data for the general public. This was the reason for the review in 2016.

The Office comprises 40 agents, 5 of whom are INSEE agents. It has three business sections divided per major tax category (individual, professional, local taxation) and two more overarching sections for dissemination and forecasting, in addition to an IT unit. It is responsible for the acquisition of administrative data with direct links to tax management, on behalf of the DGFIP and the Official Statistical Service. It also disseminates these raw or slightly reworked data to different bodies (Official Statistical Service, researchers, Parliament, inspection bodies, etc.) and contributes to supporting the dissemination of fiscal information via estimates, forecasts, and by monitoring the implementation of budgetary revenue and expenditure.

Data acquisition constitutes a very substantial proportion of the Office's work, even if it is less visible than its other missions. It is the core activity carried out by the business sections whose work is based on the Office's ability to mobilise high-quality administrative data on fiscal matters that are sufficiently detailed to be processed, and which also conform to the current legislative and regulatory context in fiscal matters.

The Office uses statistical tools to ensure that the databases are complete and easy to mobilise. It is required to use high volumes of data, including exhaustive income tax data and must therefore use statistical methods to produce small samples (50,000 households or larger samples (500,000) for its own account or for other government bodies. Finally, it uses these statistical methods for quite traditional modelling and standardisation activities, etc.

The department contributes to the Official Statistics Service via numerous agreements. Agreements on organising exchanges of data have also been entered into with statistical offices such as INSEE, the DREES, the SOeS, the Ministry for Higher Education and Research, etc. New agreements are signed each year, according to the requests received by the Office and its ability to acquire new data liable to be mobilised for its partners' activities.

In the future, the Office wishes to continue contributing to the Official Statistics Service by producing a diverse range of indicators. New files will be made available to INSEE (property transfers, duty on transfer for valuable consideration, bank accounts) in order to enhance this collaboration. Projects are also underway with INSEE and other MSOs. Activities are being carried out on the research and development tax credit to duplicate the experiment conducted recently for the Tax Credit for Encouraging Competitiveness and Jobs (CICE). The Office and INSEE are examining how the data for pre-completed income tax returns can be used to develop an advanced poverty indicator.

In terms of dissemination, the office is striving to enhance the range of data provided to researchers at the CASD level. The previous hearing had been held several weeks before the publication of the statutory texts regulating the opening up of fiscal data to researchers. Two years later, researchers and the tax authorities are well on the way to adopting the procedure. The Office has received 250 applications from research projects requesting fiscal data. The preferred means of dissemination to the general public remains the www.impots.gouv.fr website. For the first time in 2016, the Office published a dissemination calendar and will be striving to announce the availability of data on an ad-hoc basis. Finally, the Office will be enhancing the dissemination portal for local tax data with the REI, the exhaustive file of elements of tax assessment bases and of the rates of this local taxation.

- ***The Department for Evaluation, Forward Studies and Performance (DEPP) of the Ministry for National Education, Higher Education and Research***

An assignment on the assessment and organisation of the statistical function in the Ministry for National Education, Higher Education and Research (MENESR) was jointly carried out by the IGAENR and the INSEE General Inspectorate in 2016. One of the recommendations made in the assignment report was for the DEPP as a whole to constitute the National Education MSO, following the example of the DARES and the DREES. INSEE, in agreement with this proposal, asked the ASP to issue an opinion, pursuant to article 1 paragraph 3 of Decree no. 2009-250 of 3 March 2009 relating to the ASP, on the project to extend the scope of the MSO to DEPP as a whole.

The DEPP is responsible for reporting on the French school system. Its mission is to design, operate and disseminate the Ministry's information system. Its role is to inform the public debate on education and training. The DEPP comprises support functions and two major Under-Directorates: the Under-Directorate of Statistical Summaries and the Under-Directorate of Assessment and Performance of the School System. Within the DEPP, the MSO consists of the Under-Directorate of Statistical Summaries and the Office of Student Statistics which belongs to the other Under-Directorate. However, the support functions, the Student Assessment Office, the Office for Research on Schools and Priority Education, and the Office for the Assessment of Educational Actions and Experiments, do not come under the authority of the MSO.

In 1973, the Ministerial Statistical Office had been asked to examine the use of psychometric statistics for measuring pupils' competencies. At the time, this new subject had led to the creation of a specific office. As this subject became increasingly important with the international PISA surveys, this office was organised into an Under-Directorate without any thought being given to the overall organisational structure.

The Student Assessment Office established the monitoring of pupils' competencies through the use of psychometric techniques, as for a statistical survey, with a sample, a protocol, tests and the dissemination of data. This Office monitors the International PISA evaluations and makes a very significant contribution to improving the methodology used for this exercise. INSEE and the DARES would like to develop this subject and extend it to adult competencies, with Eurostat also recently expressing the same interest.

The Office for the Assessment of Schools reports on schools *via* surveys or by using statistical data from other DEPP structures. It describes schools statistically and produces value-added indicators for secondary schools on the basis of success rates, for example.

The Office for the Assessment of Educational Actions is the most recent addition to this profile. It is currently led by a statistician. This Office is asked to carry out the statistical monitoring of schemes and implements survey protocols that use the competencies of pupils and evaluate them before and after a particular process. This Office also monitors the international survey of teachers. Its aim is to establish a genuine statistical monitoring system for teachers' practices.

These three offices, although situated outside the Ministerial Statistical Office, share a statistical remit. This consists of reporting, as objectively as possible and at the highest level of quality, on pupils in schools or on educational actions. They also operate in the same manner as the other offices. For the competencies of

pupils, an AFNOR standard has even been established to describe the process in terms of samples and dissemination so that this process can be validated and its quality revealed.

There are numerous difficulties associated with the current operations. Firstly, they are a source of problems within the MSO. It is difficult for the current head of the MSO to exert authority over an office situated outside the scope of his or her responsibilities. This also proves to be a difficult exercise when the surveys from these offices are presented for quality labelling. Eurostat recently expressed an interest in extending the scope to the monitoring of pupils' competencies. It will therefore become difficult for the Assistant-Director to present French educational statistics in the current manner. The current Head of the MSO has launched a quality procedure which has been extended to the entire DEPP. All agents are involved in this process and are puzzled by this dichotomy.

The change to MSO status would support the Department's project to develop this quality approach which has been taken very seriously with the recruitment of a Qualitician, for the first time in official statistics. This development would help to consolidate this approach.

This would allow the DEPP to announce that all of its statistical productions share the same level of quality. This change would also provide recognition for the work carried out by agents in this field. From a more political standpoint, it seems important to announce that some of the published data relate to official statistics, especially in light of the increasing importance of educational issues. The transition to MSO status would also provide an opportunity to assert the DEPP's independence. For the moment, there are no problems in publishing the assessments of the competencies of pupils which remain outside the MSO, and it is important to keep this barometer. Finally, this transition would also benefit official statistics as a whole, because INSEE produces very few statistics on education, which are mainly produced by the DEPP and the SIES. The scope of the activities of official statistics should therefore be extended to subjects that it has not yet covered, such as the competencies of young people and adults.

The Ministry is attached to the DEPP's image and considers it to be an MSO as a whole.

3.3 Quality labelling of statistical uses derived from administrative sources

- ***Renewal of the quality labelling of the quarterly employment statistics produced by the ACOSS:***

The quarterly employment statistics were awarded a quality label on 29 September 2011. This quality labelling marked the start of a major rationalisation process. At this time, Pôle Emploi, the ACOSS and INSEE were publishing figures derived from the same source. From now on, Pôle Emploi no longer publishes figures for the salaried workforce. Work has also been carried out to allow for the convergence of the INSEE and ACOSS figures. In addition, the establishment of new sources and the ramping up of the Nominative Social Declaration (DSN) have made it possible to aim for the complete convergence of the INSEE and ACOSS methodologies for the salaried workforce in 2017. This is why the renewal of quality labelling has only been proposed for two years. In 2018, it would be beneficial to have a completely rationalised view of this source.

Several recommendations had nevertheless been made at the time of the quality labelling in 2011. Even though the DSN is generating changes, the ASP must make sure that these recommendations have been put into practice.

The statistical data produced by the ACOSS and Social Security Contribution Collection Offices (URSSAF) are above all derived from management tools and primarily based on the contributors' returns via the contribution forms completed on a monthly or quarterly basis until recently via the monthly Nominative Social Declaration. Administrative data provide a great deal of information about the public sphere, the private sphere, self-employed workers and private employers. URSSAF offices possess local management networks and information is centralised in one decision-making centre for statistical purposes only.

From the start, the priority has been given to indicators describing the determinants of collection turnover (subscriptions and contributions), i.e. the taxable bases and their breakdown into salaried workforce and average wage per capita. Since 2004, the ACOSS has been producing this information for the private sector at both local and national levels. In 2011, the series for the salaried workforce in the private sector on a quarterly basis was proposed for quality labelling. In 2013, the same request was made for the private sector payroll and declarations prior to recruitment. Each series was approved for five years.

Recommendations were made on these different occasions, especially with regard to the dissemination conditions and transparency concerning discrepancies. The difficulty stems primarily from the fact that employment figures from two different bodies are released on the same day and the comments generally focus on discrepancies. On this subject, ACOSS has conformed to the ASP's recommendations. The ACOSS figures have always been published on the same day as INSEE's statistics. Previously, it was customary to hold a press conference prior to dissemination. This practice has been stopped. The dissemination calendar has also been posted more clearly.

Three problems have arisen with regard to transparency. The problem has been resolved for the transparency of prior publications. For each publication, the ACOSS systematically publishes the figures and their revisions, as INSEE has been doing for a long time. The ACOSS has also made progress on more methodological aspects, even though it has not yet seen the process through to its conclusion. All of the changes have been duly reported.

A meeting is always held at INSEE to discuss any discrepancies between the INSEE and ACOSS figures. A report is drafted to describe the discrepancies. A transparency procedure involving both organisations does indeed exist, but it does not lead to the production of any external publications. Discrepancies between the

two series for private employees mainly relate to temporary employment, in view of the differences in sources on this subject.

After the quality labelling process in 2011, the debate concerning the number of employment publications was rekindled by the offices at Bercy. In fact, at this time, the URSSAF offices had taken over the collection of UNEDIC contributions, which led to the disappearance of this independent source of data. Therefore, there was now only a single declaration of contributions. As a result, the Pôle Emploi, ACOSS and INSEE publications were now based on the same source. Working groups were established to consider the appropriateness of this situation. The Pôle Emploi publication was stopped and work on convergence was carried out with INSEE, while taking account of the introduction of the Nominative Social Declaration and its consequences for the statistical system.

The ACOSS has carried out a lot of work on this convergence since 2012. The ACOSS now publishes "Acosse Stat" with statistics on payroll and its breakdown according to the salaried workforce and the average wage per capita. An important semantic change was made in 2015, with employment becoming the salaried workforce. The employment figures published by INSEE aim to correct for multiple activities whereas one person employed by two establishments counts twice for the ACOSS. From now on, the publication covers the salaried workforce compatible with the renewed official definition as given by the legislation governing the DSN, i.e. one definition per establishment.

For 2017, the project designed in 2012 will lead to a single publication bearing the triple hallmark of INSEE/DARES/ACOSS covering the broader field of salaried employment at a whole. The private sector, excluding temporary employment, should be obtained from the change data produced by ACOSS. The temporary employment field should come from data derived from the monthly surveys of Pôle Emploi's missions, and then eventually from the DSN. INSEE should add the public and agricultural components. The ACOSS should, however, retain its publication, but the quarterly changes to this publication and to the joint publication will be strictly identical in the common field.

Work carried out in the framework of convergence examined seasonal adjustment. A new method and a new tool will be used as of the publication covering the data for Q1 2017. The partners of the publication also agreed on a definition of the public and private fields to avoid any double counting. The reliability of the legal form associated with each establishment was improved.

Alongside the quarterly employment estimates resulting from the convergence of INSEE, the ACOSS and the DARES, the ACOSS will continue to publish the salaried workforce figures. This publication will only cover the private sector, including temporary employment, excluding the Agricultural Social Insurance Fund (MSA) and excluding people employed by private employers. Considering the quality of the currently available data, Mayotte is not included in any of these publications for the moment. In terms of design, while INSEE is working on employment figures corrected for multiple activities, the ACOSS is targeting contract-holding employees. In publications released as of Q1 2017, the ACOSS will be publishing the number of employees holding an active contract. The data on temporary employment will be published by the DARES. Work on this subject is in progress.

The major change relates to the roll-out of the DSN. Requests to reduce the amount of information to be provided have been made with a view to simplifying the declarations. Consequently, the law had provided for the removal of the aggregated workforce information included on the summary forms at the end of 2016. Numerous requests were submitted by the ACOSS, INSEE and the DARES in an effort to get the Directorate of Social Security to reconsider its position. Last week, the decision was made to keep this data item for one more year. This period will allow for the monitoring of the ramping up of the DSN in small enterprises. It is now important to ensure the reconciliation of the data with the historic series per establishment. The ACOSS wishes to keep the maximum amount of knowledge about the salaried workforce series for each establishment, if necessary by backcasting. This resource has proven to be useful not just for the ACOSS but also for INSEE.

The local level is more complex than the national level because enterprises may declare their employees in an establishment that is not necessarily the one in which they are employed. However, the DSN must be completed at the level of the enterprise of employment. The ACOSS needs time to understand the impacts of these movements at the local level. This is why the ACOSS is not calling for the immediate quality labelling of local data, and is postponing this request until the end of the ramping up process for the DNS.

Different activities still need to be carried out between now and Q1 2017. As of the publication of the data for Q3 2016 in December, it is planned to announce all of the methodological changes that will concern the joint publication and the ACOSS publication.

- ***Monitoring of the ASP recommendations on the quality labelling of the monthly job-seekers' statistics (DEFM)***

Reminder of the context

On 26 March 2014, the Authority issued an opinion in favour of the quality labelling of the statistics for job-seekers registered with Pôle Emploi, jointly published by the DARES and Pôle Emploi. The establishment of this quality labelling was backed by the activities of the three General Inspectorates: IGF, IGAS and the INSEE General Inspectorate. This quality labelling scheme was approved for a five-year period with a review clause for 2016 and six recommendations accompanying the labelling.

Due to the importance assumed by the monthly job-seekers' statistics in the public debate, an advisory group of the CNIS was established to study the practical procedures for the implementation of the ASP's recommendations. In addition to the changes requested by the ASP, Pôle Emploi and the DARES wanted to take advantage of the analyses that arose from the ASP recommendations in order to change the format of the monthly publication and make it easier to read. All of these activities were presented to the public at a press conference in 2016 when the format of the monthly publication was modified.

Implementation of the recommendations requested by the Authority

- *First recommendation: "Publish annually revised series on an accrual basis (series "with hindsight") derived from the historic statistical file for job-seekers"*

The monthly labour market statistics (STMT) are produced, without hindsight, for the occurrences during the previous month. In these administrative statistics, when the data are published, certain information has not necessarily been confirmed. There may be a difference between the published statistic and the statistic obtained with hindsight and after Pôle Emploi has recorded the administrative documents. The most relevant indicator adopted consists of the publication of data with six months of hindsight, which appears to be the best compromise between the completeness of data and the date of availability of the information. The historic statistical file on job-seekers' pathways compiles all of the monthly information and allows for the reconstitution of job-seekers' employment pathways over a ten-year period. With regard to the implementation of the recommendation, a methodological report was published on the DARES and Pôle Emploi websites. It explains both concepts and presents the statistical series with six months of hindsight and the series published in the statistics. This series will be updated annually in September.

- *Second recommendation: "Publish the backcasted series on a case-by-case basis, taking account of incidents and changes of procedure"*

A document identifying all incidents since 2011 will be populated over time with the incidents and changes of procedure recorded in order to give an accurate interpretation of the job-seekers' statistics. Estimates of impacts and counterfactual series are added when possible. The main incidents recorded are the problem with

the August 2013 reminders (the "SFR bug"), the reform of the rules for managing the administrative deregistrations of January 2013, the particularities of the updating period (May 2015) and the operations to improve the reliability of the list of job-seekers, when Pôle Emploi has had access to more comprehensive and timely data on job-seekers in training or on subsidised contracts. Anyone consulting the publication is informed of the existence of this document and can access it quickly online.

- *Third recommendation: "Add a comment to the monthly publication of job-seekers' statistics focusing on the trend over recent months"*

The process adopted in response to this recommendation consists of calculating a statistical trend indicator, now mentioned in the comment on changes. The following criteria are used to choose this indicator: it must be possible to calculate the indicator every month; it must be relatively easy to explain and interpret; it must allow for a certain amount of smoothing and a persistent orientation; it must be able to detect reversals rapidly.

Consequently, a balance needs to be struck between the desire to carry out smoothing and the ability to detect reversals. Work on assessing the last two criteria has been carried out by comparing the underlying trend of the series, which are calculated retroactively by moving averages with calculations of trend indicators that can be determined in real time. For workforce series, the variation over three months has been adopted, with a rolling quarterly average for flow series. In the new publication, this trend indicator supplements the monthly information for workforce series and replaces the monthly information for flow series.

- *Fourth and fifth recommendations: "Attract the readers' attention to the low significance of the month-to-month variations below a certain threshold" and "Publish regular series of indicators aiming to assess the statistical variability of job-seekers' statistics in stocks and flows"*

There is a certain volatility associated with the administrative data due to job-market variations, variability due to management procedures and inaccuracies in the estimation of seasonality. This volatility interferes with the interpretation of the short-term economic situation, which leads to a preference for trend analyses. Thresholds have been determined beyond which the variations in the numbers of job-seekers are of a similar magnitude to the underlying trend. Beyond these thresholds, on the basis of previous changes, there is estimated to be a 95% chance of the trend variation mirroring the variation observed in the data. These thresholds will be re-estimated once a year when the job-seekers' statistics are published in January. They allow for the assessment of the volatility of the series and in this way indicate the extent to which the observed variations provide information about the underlying trend. The thresholds are mentioned in the documentation. For category A job-seekers, for example, the variation over one month is only significant if it exceeds 27,000, whereas the significance threshold is 35,000 for variations over three months.

The information for the trend at three months is reliably significant more often than that for the trend at one month. In many cases, the change over one month is not significant, in contrast to that over three months.¹⁵

- *Sixth recommendation: "Carry out a preventive analysis of production and publication process risks and provide a crisis management procedure"*

The document, drafted jointly by the DARES and Pôle Emploi, helps to improve the management of the production of this statistic by the DARES and Pôle Emploi. It also allows for the formalisation of the communication procedure between Pôle Emploi and the DARES in the case of unusual events. The document maps the risks that are liable to have an impact in terms of delays to publications, either due to a lack of information, or in the case of events likely to affect an indicator and lead to an incorrect interpretation of the situation or of the published monthly change, or any other incident that may lead to the publication of erroneous data or information that should not be published. Solutions have been implemented to prevent production risks and others are envisaged. They are divided into five categories: operational data reporting;

¹⁵ For further details, see the proceedings of the seminar of 3 November 2015 on statistical methodology: <http://www.insee.fr/fr/insee-statistique-publique/default.asp?page=connaissance/colloques/sms/sms.htm>

file creation or transmission risks; human risks in processing; statistical risks in file exploitation (erroneous indicators, atypical change); protection and confidentiality of data to protect them from IT risks, and the response to be adopted in the event of a leak or breach of embargo.

The process consists of establishing monitoring bodies at Pôle Emploi that will be shared by Pôle Emploi and the DARES, before creating a crisis unit consisting of the directorates of Pôle Emploi and the DARES to allow for regular communication during the production and interventions on D-1 in the case of serious events leading to the cancellation of publication or the production of partial publications.

Revision of the publication

The revision pays very close attention to the ASP's recommendations. This revision has concentrated on the main indicators. Data on Active Solidarity Income (RSA) and job vacancies are now disseminated via other media. The regional publications have also been streamlined. The publication has been made easier to read. The previous forewords have been shortened and graphs have been introduced along with a longer history section. Aids to interpretation have also been added: trend indicators and supplements are incorporated into the publication or its annexes, in addition to cross-references to publications or additional data.

- ***Follow-up of the ASP recommendations on the quality labelling of the monthly statistics for health insurance expenditure produced by the CNAMTS:***

Recommendations had been attached to the quality labelling of the monthly statistics for health insurance expenditure in 2015. The hearing therefore set out to make sure that these recommendations had been implemented.

The website (ameli.fr) of the National Insurance Fund for Employees (CNAMTS) and its statistics section satisfy a certain number of these recommendations. The quality-labelled statistical series are identified as such. They are incorporated into a set of statistics that includes data on monthly expenditure and the detailed series. The CNAMTS changed the form of the series to the treatment date as a result of work carried out with the Quality Label Committee prior to quality labelling. The amounts series illustrates the changes in the production of treatments every month. It is accompanied by the revision rate. Indeed, every month, the amounts still to be reimbursed but which have not yet been transmitted to the Fund, are estimated. The reimbursement date series tracks the disbursements, i.e. the expenditure for which the different treatment providers are reimbursed according to the *PCAP brut* (gross figures for the period corresponding to the previous year). The classification proves to be much more precise for these series than for the treatment date series. An explanation for this difference is proposed in the methodology.

For each series, a link is provided to the scope and the presentation of the data, the statistical methodology, the event log and the publication calendar. A revision of the methods has been undertaken with the INSEE Department of Methodology, particularly on the question of the corrections of business days and seasonal variations. All of the methods are examined by the Court of Auditors on an annual basis in the framework of the certification of the accounts of the sickness insurance branch. Each Social Security Budget Proposal (PLFSS) generates a certain number of changes in the services or reimbursement procedures that may lead to changes in the series. The publication calendar was respected, except for one month. Finally, the website includes the previous complete series.

The President of the Quality Label Committee states that the Committee has examined the website to check that the recommendations have been implemented which, in general, is the case. However, suggestions on how to present the information to make it easier to read would be welcomed. Overall, the methodology is considered to be satisfactory. On the other hand, the Quality Label Committee has requested a change to the methodology on corrections of seasonal variations; on this point, however, the Quality Label Committee notes that a project is already in progress.

3.4 Key issues of the data revolution for the official statistics quality framework

The Official Statistics Authority is anxious to contribute to the creation of a statistical service that is constantly evolving in response to its changing needs and data. That is why key digital technology-related issues informed the Authority's work programme in 2016: during the ASP's session on 23 March, INSEE gave presentations on the uses of big data for official statistics, projects for the use of private data and the Draft Law for a Digital Republic. Big data in relation to health was also the subject of a presentation by the Director of the DREES during the ASP session on 22 June 2016.¹⁶

Digital transformation, concerning the internet-based emergence of new information channels facilitating contact between the different stakeholders, and innovative "data-science"¹⁷-based processing tools, are revolutionising the operations of enterprises and markets. This proliferation of new data is creating opportunities for official statistics but it also imposes constraints linked to the satisfaction of information-hungry audiences. Consequently, these new data are forcing a rethink of the role of official statistics vis-à-vis new producers whose statistics do not necessarily offer the desired guarantees in terms of reliability and quality.

The value of these new opportunities can only be determined by testing them. INSEE is currently conducting numerous projects in this regard. They show the benefits of involving the users and producers concerned at a very early stage, as is the case for "scanner data".

The development of *big data* requires a rethink of the SSP's strategic management and statistical coordination. The 2015 ESGAB Report suggests that the Code of Practice (CBP) should also change in order to cover the problems posed by the proliferation of new sources and the diversity of the formats and flows to be managed. It consequently recommends that *"The next revision of the Code of Practice should address the ethical concerns associated with the use of "big data". The Code should include at least a Principle and appropriate indicators to address the relationship between NSIs and private data providers, setting out clearly the appropriate characteristics of big data providers, and the assurance of data quality"*. In this regard, different issues identified¹⁸ in relation to the "CBP" had been listed (see the recommendations of the ESGAB report in Annexe 10).

In practice, the issues specific to the ASP can be taken into account by the following means:

- monitoring of these new data sources by official statistics, forming the subject of a systematic review of the annual hearings of the President of the CNIS and the Director-General of INSEE (see point 7 of article 1 of Decree 2009-250 establishing the Authority's mission), and covered by a dedicated chapter of the authority's Annual Report;

- taking account of the questions of methodology, secure access to data, statistical reliability and the continuity of data which are likely to be encountered, a systematic hearing of the heads of operational projects is desirable. This will take place sufficiently in advance in order to ensure that the projects are implemented under satisfactory conditions in relation to the principles of the Code of Practice and to assess any trade-offs that may be carried out.

1- Contextual elements

16 For further details about these different presentations, see the list of resolutions decided upon in ASP sessions on the following website: <http://www.autorite-statistique-publique.fr/asp/relevés.html>

17 For a general description of the revolutionary nature of these data in terms of their volumes, instruments required to process them and their potential applications, read "Analyse des Big data. Quels usages, quels défis?", Hamel and Marguerit, France Stratégie, 2013; and the "Big data et statistique publique" newsletter produced by INSEE, no. 1, 2015.

18 They were mainly derived from the presentations to the Authority by INSEE and the DREES, and from the Bean report on British statistics which, in addition to the specificities of the National Statistics Office, puts into perspective a profound transformation of statistical production activities, whose value added is likely to shift from the collection of data towards its understanding, with the need for economic statistics increasing as a consequence.

The "digital" economy is characterised by the production of an abundance of economic data, originating from the internet or different collectors and stored in varied forms. Their exploitation arouses considerable interest because they offer numerous opportunities for official statistics: reduction of publication periods, observations at detailed levels, enhancement of existing indicators, etc. These potentials are being examined by cooperation projects conducted by statistical institutes at the European and international levels.

The CNIS-INSEE group (2015), had previously identified three particularly promising sectors: the use of "scanner data" for the production of price indices (project launched in 2015, after an experimental phase in 2011) with the aim of entering production by 2019; telephony data to measure the population present and bank-card data for consumption.

Supplementary sources of information can also be envisaged: requests from internet users to enhance or develop alternative, Google Trends¹⁹-type methods for the short-term forecasting of consumption (INSEE has analysed their potentials, with relatively inconclusive results as the situation stands); data from booking systems, use of websites to enhance cultural statistics, for example, etc.

A cautious approach which tends to put the impact of these big data for statistics into perspective, appears to clash with a more enthusiastic vision that considers big data to be a vehicle for more radical economic transformations. Beyond big data, it is the very measurement of the impact of the digital revolution that is at stake. Information technologies have indeed led to the emergence of innovative ways to exchange and provide services, which traditional statistical methods struggle to detect. They do, however, tend to blur the boundaries between work and domestic production and the location of value added becomes difficult to determine.

2- Challenges for the implementation of the CBP

In its 2015 Annual Report, the ESGAB, considered that the use of these new data sources would inevitably require a rethink of quality assurance methods and of the frameworks for the management and monitoring, harmonisation and comparability of European statistics.

While the majority of the principles of the Code of Practice (CBP) appear to be concerned by this revision, the ESGAB singles out the following particularly sensitive principles:

- Quality commitment (principle 4)
- Statistical confidentiality (principle 5)
- Sound methodology (principle 7)
- Appropriate statistical procedures (principle 8)
- Accuracy and reliability (principle 12)
- Consistency and comparability (principle 14)
- Accessibility and clarity (principle 15)

For the ESGAB, three priorities seem to emerge:

- a legal framework guaranteeing access to private data is required, with transfer procedures that protect privacy and commercial secrecy. In this regard, article 19 of the "Digital Technology" Law establishes the strict principles of purpose, confidentiality and security of transmissions to allow official statistics to access private databases;
- the commitment to the quality of data requires safeguards in terms of representativeness, hence the obligation to develop genuine partnerships with private suppliers of data;
- the continuity of data is also a fundamental question. Indeed, it is essential for official statistics to have statistical indicators that are stable over time. However, different experiments (exploitation of internet data, Google Trends for "nowcasting", and the use of mobile telephony data) emphasise the stability problems posed by the reprocessing operations that are carried out (sampling, standardisation, etc.) and by

19 See the Conjoncture in France file of March 2015

the constant modification of term suggestion algorithms. In this field, the feedback available to the Applied Econometric Methods Division and more generally to the Methodology, Statistical Coordination and International Relations Directorate at INSEE are essential.

The ASP must make sure that projects on the use of private data for public statistics conform to the principles of the CBP. It must also attend to the development of a vision shared by INSEE-CNIS-ASP as a whole regarding the potential of big data for official statistics. In this context, it is necessary to re-examine how the official statistics system is organised and its role in relation to private initiatives which are liable to generate statistical production on a new scale. In the first place, this work requires the identification of fields that appear to offer the most attractive opportunities, by taking into account the availability of new data-processing tools, the constraints in terms of reducing the statistical burden (on the SSP or on the respondents), as well as the opportunities for enhancing the current statistical production.

3- A source of transformation for the organisation of official statistics?

The SSP requires access to competencies capable of processing big data. This requires the recruitment or training of scientists specialising in this type of data, active learning, and the development of a culture that rewards innovation. In this respect, collaborations with suitable partners and academics as well as with the public and private sectors, needs to be encouraged. In addition to competencies, the Bean report – concerning the United Kingdom but making a point that is valid in general – mentions the need for a major overhaul of methodologies and the ability to "measure the economy".

The report of the General Administrator of Data²⁰ also emphasises that the SSP is at the forefront of the use of new data sources, especially through the growing use of administrative files (EPURE, DADS, ESANE, tax returns, SNDS, etc.), the development of matches with other databases and the opening up of data to researchers (CASD).

With regard to the more institutional aspects, administrations that incorporate statistical offices are also affected by the digital revolution, as producers and users of data,²¹ with the MSOs often seen as the driving forces for digital technologies in the Ministries. With regard to the supervision of statistics, it is important to make sure that this does not lead to any dilution of the missions, and especially to tensions regarding compliance with the principles of independence, confidentiality and access to statistics. Therefore, this implies that Authority should also pay attention to the conditions under which these new tasks are carried out to ensure compliance with the Code of Practice.

20 SGMAP, 2015

21 Cf. "L'action publique dans 10 ans", France Stratégie 2015; and the CAE report on "l'Administration numérique", no. 34, 2016.

3.5 The recommendations of the Official Statistics Authority,

Following the hearings of official statistics producers in 2016 and those conducted as part of the quality labelling operations concerning statistics from administrative sources, the Authority issued a certain number of recommendations.

On the Ministerial Statistical Office of the Directorate General for Public Finances (DGFIP):

Following the hearing of the head of the Fiscal Management Department and the Head of the Ministerial Statistics Office of the DGFIP, and in reference to the recommendations made by the Authority at its meeting of 18 June 2014, the Official Statistics Authority noted that Bureau GFC3 of the DGFIP has now implemented the instruments and action frameworks (programmes of work, publication calendar, reduction of production times, etc.) associated with the status of Ministerial Statistical Office. It observes that this MSO finds itself in the front line as regards the project to extend access to, and guarantee the quality of administrative data relating to taxation so that they can be made suitable for statistical uses.

The Authority has noted the progress made in making the individual data base managed by the DGFIP available to researchers. It invites the MSO to continue in this direction. In view of the importance of the debate on taxation and the public's expectations in this respect, it recommends that this Office construct a coherent and effective overall project concerning dissemination of, and access to tax data for the public, in order to make those data more transparent and facilitate understanding of them.

On the extension of the scope of the National Education MSO to the whole of the DEPP

Following the hearing of the Director of the DEPP, the ASP noted that the extension of the scope of the MSO to the whole of the DEPP was associated with an ambitious project to develop education statistics and the quality procedure. This extension would give coherence to the conduct of the department's work and would be of a nature to reinforce the place held by statistical activities within the Ministry for National Education.

Under the terms of Article 1 paragraph 3 of Decree no. 2009-250 of 3 March 2009 on the ASP, the Authority therefore issued a unanimous opinion in favour of the plan to extend the scope of the MSO to the whole of the DEPP.

On the renewal of the quality labelling of the quarterly employment statistics produced by the ACOSS

Following the hearing of the ACOSS representatives, the Official Statistical Authority lauds the process of rationalisation and convergence that has been undertaken, in conjunction with INSEE in particular, following the quality labelling of the quarterly employment statistics (renamed the quarterly payroll employment series, to be more precise).

The Authority unanimously approved the renewal of the quality labelling of the ACOSS quarterly payroll employment series. This opinion was coupled with a recommendation on the finalisation of the related methodological documentation to guarantee public access to the series. In particular, it is necessary to:

- document the methodological changes relating to the taking into account of temporary employment, which is the main source of discrepancies between INSEE's employment series and the salaried workforce series of the ACOSS, in the publication of the salaried workforce series;
- document breaks or changes in the series induced by the changeover to the Nominative Social Declaration (DSN), the change in scope following the redefinition of the competitive sector and that induced by the new seasonal adjustment method.

The quality labelling of the quarterly payroll employment series was renewed for a period of two years, in view of the methodological changes currently underway as a result of the switchover to the source to the Nominative Social Declaration (DSN), which has gradually replaced the Contributions Summary Form (BRC) since 2015, and the methodological convergence between the statistics produced on this subject by the ACOSS and INSEE that is currently being carried out. The review clause providing for an examination of the stabilised system has therefore been scheduled for 2018, the date by which the above recommendations must be implemented.

The ASP is also asking the ACOSS to examine the quality labelling of local payroll employment series by 2018. As part of the process of co-producing quarterly employment estimates, the joint publication will cover the levels of and changes in employment not only at national level, but also at the levels of the regions and departments.

In addition, the ASP proposes that the ACOSS should examine at the same time in 2018 the renewal of the quality labelling of the payroll employment and hiring declaration series, which were granted the quality label at national level in 2013, thereby aiming to appraise a comprehensive and consistent statistical system.

On the follow-up of the ASP's recommendations on the quality labelling of the monthly jobseeker (DEFM) statistics

The Authority applauds the quality of the work conducted by Pôle Emploi and the DARES to take account of all the recommendations relating to this quality labelling. Each of the recommendations has been the subject of in-depth methodological work of a nature to improve the quality of these statistics. The publication of DEFM figures has also been overhauled, taking on board the conclusions of the consultation group set up within the framework of the CNIS.

Given the importance of statistics in this field, the Authority recommends that Pôle Emploi and the DARES continue the work underway on:

- the presentation of the results. Priority should be given to trends rather than changes from month to month, as the latter are too volatile. This is presented very precisely, including for "stocks", in the documentation provided to the Authority. That being the case, this should no longer be just a "warning", but be integrated into the design and presentation of the publication itself,
- the analyse of the differences between the changes in the INSEE survey data ("unemployment within the meaning of the ILO from the Employment survey") and in the data of administrative origin. So that the diversity of sources is not a factor of uncertainty for the public, it is therefore important to develop all work of a nature to enable the understanding of these discrepancies, and to enable the public to use them in a complementary way.
- governance, in particular in terms of the sharing of roles and responsibilities, crisis management procedure, the traceability of changes in management rules or production processes, quality procedures in collection, anticipation of the impacts of changes in procedure.

Given the acute importance of the issues associated with DEFM statistics in the public debate and with the need to continue progressing in the directions mentioned above, the Authority proposes a re-examination of the two organisations in 2017. The question of the scope of the quality labelling (national series, regional series, etc.), as well as the examination of the possibilities for completing the statistical information on what happens to the unemployed will also be looked at on this occasion.

On the follow-up of the ASP's recommendations on quality labelling of the CNAMTS monthly sickness insurance expenditure statistics

The Authority noted that the CNAMTS had implemented the recommendations on the quality labelling of the monthly sickness insurance expenditure statistics (Recommendations 1 to 7 and 9 of Opinion no. 2015-01 of 18 March 2015)²².

It invites the CNAMTS to continue improving and reinforcing its quality procedure across all its statistics, in accordance with Recommendation no. 8 of this Opinion. In this respect, it notes the CNAMTS's undertaking to:

- begin the quality labelling process for drug expenditure data immediately,
- clarify the programme envisaged for the quality labelling of other series and the timetable for it, in order to set up an operational project. This information will be sent to the Authority within three months by the end of January 2017.

22 [Opinion of 18 March 2015](#)

3.6 Communication of the Authority

In 2016, the President, accompanied by the Rapporteur of the ASP, presented the 2015 Annual Report to the Principle Private Secretary to the Minister of Finances and Public Accounts, as well as to a number of advisors, notably the economic advisor to the Office of the Minister for the Economy, Industry and Digital Technologies, the advisor on economic, financial and budgetary issues to the Minister of Defence, the advisor on construction, urban planning and sustainable homes to the Minister of Housing and Sustainable Homes.

Discussion covered the following topics in particular:

- evaluation of public policies
- the dissemination lead times for the statistics and publications of the Official Statistical Service (SSP)
- access to individual data for researchers
- the involvement of the SSP in Big Data
- the consequences of the revision of Regulation 223/2009, especially concerning the institutional environment

The 2015 report was widely disseminated (see Annex 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 Authority's website <http://www.autorite-statistique-publique.fr/asp/>

Records of all decisions taken at the Authority's sessions are also accessible on its website.

4. 1. Follow-up of recommendations in the 2015 Annual Report of the Authority

In its 2015 annual report, the Authority made six recommendations to:

- the Ministerial Statistical Office for Culture and Communication (DEPS);
- the Ministerial Statistical Office for Defence (OED);
- the Ministerial Statistical Office for Higher Education and Research (SIES);
- the CNAMTS relating to the quality labelling of the monthly sickness insurance statistics;
- INSEE, concerning the actions taken following the recommendations of the peer review;
- INSEE concerning the dissemination rules for the main indicators.

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 The Ministerial Statistical Offices for Culture and Communication and for Defence

Extracts from the recommendations in the ASP 2015 annual report:

Following the hearings of two "small Ministerial Statistical Offices (MSOs)" in order to assess, given their positioning, statistical activities and resources, whether the Offices were structurally adequate to respect the general principles of independence and professionalism that underpin the European Statistics Code of Practice, the Authority asked the two offices to present a service project on statistical production, overseen jointly by the Secretary Generals of each of the two ministries and the Director General of INSEE, at its session in March 2016.

Response

The two Ministerial Statistical Offices for Defence and Culture drew up their statistical service projects in 2016. INSEE examined the two projects and issued a favourable opinion for both of them. They were presented to the ASP at its session of 22 March 2017. The follow-up to this recommendation will be presented in the ASP report on the year 2017.

4.2 The Ministerial Statistical Office for Higher Education and Research

Extracts from the recommendation in the ASP 2015 annual report:

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 insights 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.

Response

In order to advance the prospects of quality labelling of the survey on the integration of university graduates, a quality initiative has been launched with the university observatories, which have all signed a charter guaranteeing the criteria for the homogeneity of the data collection. The year 2016 was devoted to conducting a relatively detailed review, including hearing a representative sample of 12 observatories.

On this basis, a working group of experts will be set up in 2017 to work on data checking and correction for non-response issues. It will involve the current members of the survey Steering Committee and will seek methodological support from INSEE.

In addition, a new experimental system for measuring the professional integration of people with PhDs was conducted in a partnership with the CPU (Conference of University Presidents) and the CDEFI (Conference of Directors of French Engineering Schools) concerning 2012 graduates. In terms of coverage, almost 5,000 people with PhDs were surveyed, representing about a third of those who gained their diploma in 2012. With about 2,800 PhD holders responding, the response rate should come close to 55%. The survey, as it was designed, has the advantage of being comprehensive across the scope of PhD holders: in particular, it can provide information on what becomes of PhD holders who return to their studies and on international movements. In addition, the size of the sample should enable analyses at a detailed discipline level and studies on specific categories of PhD holders. A review will be done of the survey in 2017, enabling the outlines of the long-term system to be prepared. Finally, to improve the coordination of the survey mechanisms managed by the Ministry with those of the engineering and business schools, an initial series of methodological exchanges were organised between the persons responsible for the SIES survey and those of the CGE (Conference of Grandes Ecoles) at the ENSAI, which is conducting this survey.

In the employment field, major advances have been made concerning the data produced and/or disseminated by the SIES. First of all, at the end of 2015 a new advanced dashboard was launched on scientific employment in research organisations, enabling the rapid collection of gendered data on inflows/outflows, by disciplinary field, as well as on the status of the jobs. In October 2016, a rapid publication by the SIES (Flash note) presented the data collected in 2015. The data has also been included in the social review of the MENESR as well as the comparative situation report on sex equality (publications to come in 2017). Furthermore, the head of the MSO became managing editor of the publication of the biennial report on scientific employment, the last edition of which came out in September 2016. This report was considerably enriched compared to the previous edition, and benefited from methodological improvements (comparability of data). A collaboration was initiated with the State pensions department, which is now a contributor to this report (analysis of retirement ages in research organisations).

4.3 Quality labelling of the monthly sickness insurance expenditure statistics of the CNAMTS

Extracts from the recommendation in the ASP 2015 annual report:

Quality labelling is granted for a five-year period, with a review clause in 2016, by which date the nine recommendations must have been implemented on the website of the CNAMTS.

Response

The follow-up of this recommendation was the subject of a hearing before the members of the ASP in 2016 (see Chapter 3.5).

4.4 The actions taken by INSEE after the peer review recommendations

Extracts from the recommendation in the ASP 2015 annual report:

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 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 is excellent in general, 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".

Response

The follow-up of this recommendation was the subject of a special hearing of the Director General of INSEE at the ASP session on 12 October 2016 (see the main conclusions of this hearing, in chapter 1.3 "the implementation within the SSP of Regulation (EU) 2015/759 amending Regulation (EC) no. 223/2009 on European statistics is progressing well").

4.5 Dissemination rules for the main indicators

Extracts from the recommendation in the ASP 2015 annual report:

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 9 pm, 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.

Response

The transmission of the data to the recipients of dissemination under embargo is systematically accompanied by a warning. This warning is as follows: "This message and all the attachments are drawn up exclusively for the recipients and the information they contain is strictly confidential. Any use not compliant with their intended purpose, any dissemination or any publication, total or partial, is prohibited. The Official Statistics

Authority ensures equality of treatment in access to statistical publications, and any prior access granted is strictly limited and controlled. Once the embargo is lifted, all these publications are available on the website insee.fr. If you are not the intended recipient of this message, you must not copy or forward it, or disclose or use in it full or in part".

In addition, the rules on early dissemination of short-term indicators and publications were subjected to further restrictions in March 2016. In particular the dissemination times were brought forward (6 pm instead of 10 pm) for the dissemination of Conjoncture in France and for the Insee Première, Insee Analyses, Insee Références, Économie et Statistique publications, notably to take account of the fact that the morning newspapers in pdf format are placed online the evening before (see Annex 8).

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*

- 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: Deliberation of 22 June 2016 laying down the Internal Regulations of the Official Statistics Authority

The Official Statistics Authority,

Having regard to Law no. 51-711 of 7 June 1951, as amended, on obligations, coordination and confidentiality regarding statistics, Article 1 in particular;

Having regard to Decree no. 2006-672 of 8 June 2006 on the creation, composition and functioning of advisory administrative committees;

Having regard to Decree no. 2009-250 of 3 March 2009 on the Official Statistics Authority;

Having regard to Decree no. 2016-663 of 24 May 2016 creating a hearing committee for the appointment of directors of central government bodies;

After deliberation,

Decides:

The Internal Regulations of the Official Statistics Authority are worded as follows.

Art. 1 – The Official Statistics Authority shall meet at least three times a year, convened by its President or at the request of at least four of its members. The invitation to attend shall be sent to the members of the Authority at least eight days in advance, except in urgent circumstances. The latter shall contain the agenda, decided by the President, and be accompanied by the documents necessary to the deliberations. These documents may, in exceptional cases, be sent separately by post or by electronic mail. The Official Statistics Authority shall elect from its members a Vice-President at the first session following the appointment of the President. Should the President be unable to fulfil his/her duties, he/she will be replaced by the Vice-President, in accordance with Article 6 of the Decree. The Authority shall receive the President of the National Council for Statistical Information (CNIS) and the Director General of National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies (INSEE) at least once a year to hear the opinions of the National Council for Statistical Information (CNIS) and on the implementation of the annual or medium-term statistical programmes.

Art. 2. – The Official Statistics Authority may validly deliberate only if at least five of its members are present.

Art. 3. – Any member of the Authority may request that one or more items be added to the agenda. He/she shall inform the President at least eight days before the session and provide the items of information necessary for the members of the Authority. The President shall inform each session of the opinions he/he has rendered in his/her official capacity since the previous session.

Art. 4. – Proxy voting is not allowed. Voting after the deliberations at the sessions shall take place by a show of hands. However, voting by secret ballot may be organised at the request of the President or a majority of the members. For votes by a show of hands, in the event of a tie, the President of the Authority shall have the casting vote. The Authority's meetings shall not be held in public. The Authority shall deliberate behind closed doors, its Rapporteur and the secretary(ies) for the session attending but not taking part in the meeting. When a member of the Authority considers that he/she should withdraw on the occasion of a deliberation, he/she shall inform the President. This will then be recorded in the minutes of the deliberations mentioned in Article 9.

Art. 5. – The draft opinions of the Authority given under Article 1 of the Decree of 3 March 2009, 1° to 4°, as well as the draft observations provided for in 5° shall be sent by the President to the members of the Authority at least eight days before the session at which they are to be examined, except in cases of exceptional urgency. For the draft observations, the party concerned shall be invited to present its/his/her opinion in writing or during the session at which the draft observation is examined. The opinions or

observations adopted by the Authority shall be signed by the President. A chronological register will kept of these opinions and observations. The Authority may decide to make the opinions or observations it has adopted public.

Art. 6. – Draft opinions or observations may be the subject of a consultation carried out by post or electronic mail, when: – necessary for reasons of urgency; – their nature allows it and these arrangements are conducive to improving the operation of and the services rendered by the Authority, subject to the objection of four or more of its members. In the case of a consultation by post or electronic mail, a minimum of eight days shall be left to the members of the Official Statistics Authority to express their opinions on these drafts. The secretariat shall collect the members' responses received by the deadline set and the President shall inform all the members of the Authority of the outcome of the consultation without delay. A reminder of the of the corresponding decisions shall be presented at the following session.

Art. 7. – Article 6 may, in particular, apply to opinions issued under section 1° of Article 1 of Decree no. 2009-250 to guarantee that the heads of the National Statistical Institute as defined by the European regulations and, where applicable, those of the other statistics authorities are appointed on the basis of their professional competence only, according to transparent recruitment and appointment procedures; and that the reasons for terminating their incumbency or assignment to another position do not compromise the professional independence (point I-8 of the European Statistics Code of Practice, and Article 5 (a) of European Regulation (EC) no. 223/2009). In this respect, in particular the Authority issues an opinion at the time of the appointment of the Director General of INSEE, the head of the National Statistical Institute, and the heads of of the Ministerial Statistical Offices who are directors of central government bodies. The corresponding opinions concern at once the context of the appointment and professional competence in the field of statistics of the person or persons being considered. They are issued exclusively on the basis of the criteria relating to professional independence, within the meaning of the first principle of the European Statistics Code of Good Practice, mentioned in European Regulation (EC) no. 223/2009. They are given to the hearing committee concerned by the appointment of the director of the central government body concerned.

Art. 8. – Every year the Official Statistics Authority shall draw up a report on the implementation of the programme of work of the previous year of the official statistics producing organisations as provided for by Article 2 of the above-mentioned Decree of 3 March 2009. This report shall be prepared taking account of the European recommendations on good statistical practices by a rapporteur assisted by a secretariat. The report covering a period of one year shall be presented by the President at one of the Authority's meetings held during the following year. After examination and adoption by the Authority, this report shall be disclosed without delay by the President to the Presidents of the parliamentary assemblies. It shall be made public by any suitable means at the latest eight days after such disclosure.

Art. 9. – It shall further be the responsibility of the Rapporteur of the Authority to draw up the draft minutes of the deliberations of each meeting, which shall be submitted to the President of the Authority before being approved by the members of the Authority at a subsequent session. The Rapporteur shall also be responsible for keeping these minutes of the deliberations approved by the members of the Authority and, where appropriate, sending copies of them to the Institutions with a legal right to receive them. The minutes of the deliberations drawn up after the session of the Authority shall mention the number of members present enabling a quorum to be reached

Art. 10. – *a)* The referrals provided for in Article 3 of the above-mentioned Decree of 3 March 2009 may emanate from the President of the National Assembly, the President of the Senate, the President of the Economic, Social and Environmental Council, the Prime Minister, the Minister in charge of the economy, the President of the CNIS, the Director General of INSEE or any one of the members of the Authority. They shall be sent directly by these persons to the President of the Authority
b) A natural or legal person may appeal to the Authority for it to exercise its power of self-referral. In this case, the Authority shall examine the request and decide at its discretion whether or not to grant it. The persons making the appeal to the Authority shall be informed of the outcome of their request;

c) All matters referred to the Authority shall be examined at the Authority's meeting following their referral, subject to a minimum of eight day's notice and a maximum period of three months passing between the date of referral and that of the meeting. The conclusions of this examination shall be sent by the President of the Authority to the originator of the referral.

Art. 11. – Where the Authority decides to implement the provisions of Article 1 (6°) of the Decree of 3 March 2009, without using the provisions of Article 4 of the same Decree, it shall appoint a Rapporteur who will be in charge of relations with the General Inspectorate(s) concerned. This Rapporteur shall detail the commission entrusted to them, monitor the performance of their mission and check that the report submitted answers the questions asked by the Authority. Where the Authority decides to implement the provisions of Article 4 of the Decree of 3 March 2009, possibly with the assistance of one or more General Inspectorates in application of the provisions of Article 1 (6°) of the same Decree, it shall appoint one or more Rapporteurs who will be in charge of carrying out the investigations provided for by Article 4. This Rapporteur or Rapporteurs shall report on his/her/their work to the Authority.

Art. 12. – The inability of a member to carry out his/her duties or a case of serious misconduct as mentioned in Article 5 of the above-mentioned Decree of 3 March 2009 shall be officially placed on record by the Official Statistics Authority at an extraordinary meeting. This official placing on record shall only be valid if at least five members of the Authority note the inability to perform the duties or the serious misconduct. This situation shall then be made public and the authority that appointed the member in question shall be informed without delay by the President of the Official Statistics Authority. It is invited to remove the member whose inability to carry out his/her duties or serious misconduct has been placed on record to appoint another member in replacement of that person for the remainder of the term of office.

Art. 13. – The communication of the Official Statistics Authority is placed under the authority of its President. The latter may ask a member to represent the Authority at meetings or public events. The members of the Authority shall be informed of any communication action or public expression undertaken by the Authority. The regulations pertaining to the Authority and the method of referring matters to it are described on a website.

Art. 14. – These Internal Regulations shall come into force as of the date of their approval by the members of Authority passed by a majority of the members present. Any amendment of these Internal Regulations must be adopted by a majority of the members present, at the proposal of the President of the Authority. These Internal Regulations will be published in the *Official Journal* of the French Republic.

Annexe 3: Biography of the new members joining the ASP in 2016

Patricia BLANCARD

Member of the Economic, Social and Environmental Council

Computer science graduate of EHEI, Paris, holder of a DESS (postgraduate certificate) in information technology applied to life sciences, a Masters in experimental psychology and a diploma in HR.

Former National Secretary of the FGMM-CFDT trade union (from October 2003 to June 2009), in charge in particular of professional qualification and training, after holding a position as a project manager with Digital Equipment, then as industrial intelligence manager, before becoming capabilities manager at Compaq France in 2000.

Since June 2009, Deputy Secretary General of CFDT Cadres (managers' union) in charge in particular of employment, vocational training, research and European international affairs with Eurocadres (Treasurer then Vice-President since 2013).

Anne-Marie BROCAS

Inspector General of Social Affairs

Graduate of IEP Paris (Institute of Political Studies) and holder of a Bachelor's degree in economics, former student of the ENA (National School of Administration).

After a career devoted to social policy in the social ministries and the Ministry for Finance, she was Secretary General of the COR (Pensions Advisory Council) from 2000 to 2006 then Director of Research Evaluation and Statistical Studies for the Ministries of Health and Solidarity from 2006 to 2012.

She is currently President of the HCAAM (High Council for the Future of Health Insurance).

Éric DUBOIS

Senior Counsellor to the Court of Auditors, Graduate of the École Polytechnique and the ENSAE.

He spent most of his career working in the economic field as head of the Forecasting Department, in the Directorate General of the Treasury at the Ministry for the Economy and Finance, as the head of the Social Security at the Ministry for Social Affairs, at INSEE and the CAE (Council for Economic Analysis), before being appointed Senior Counsellor to the Court of Auditors in 2015. From 2006 to 2009, he was head of the economics department, then from 2009 to 2015, Director of Economic Studies and Reports at INSEE.

He is currently a member of the HCPF (High Council of Public Finance).

**Annexe 4: 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). 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 5: Opinion of 12 October 2016 of the Official Statistics Authority (ASP) on the inclusion of the Evaluation, Forecasting and Performance Department (DEPP) in its entirety in the list of Ministerial Statistical Offices within the meaning of the Law of 1951

Having regard to the IGAENR/IG INSEE report of May 2016 on the organisation of the statistical function of the Ministry for National Education, Higher Education and Research;

Having regard to the Note of the Director of the DEPP dated 30 September 2016;

Having regard to the Note dated 15 September 2016 of the Director of the Directorate for Methodology and Statistical Coordination and International Relations at INSEE;

Having regard to the minutes of the meeting of the Official Statistics Authority of 18 March 2015, as approved;

The Official Statistics Authority issues an opinion favourable to the recognition by an Order of the Minister of the Economy and Finance of the Ministerial Statistical Office and of the extension of the scope of the MSO from the DEPP to the whole of the Directorate.

This opinion will be sent, firstly, to the Minister for the Economy and Finance, and, secondly, to the Minister for National Education, Higher Education and Research. It will be sent for information purposes to the Director General of INSEE. It will be published in the Official Journal of the French Republic.

Annexe 6: Opinion of 12 October 2016 of the Official Statistics Authority on the renewal of the quality labelling of the ACOSS quarterly payroll employment series.

Having regard to the letter from the Director General of the ACOSS dated 19 September 2016;
Having regard to the opinion of the Quality Labelling Committee dated 30 September 2016.
Having regard to opinion no. 2011-02 of 29 September 2011 on the Official Statistics Authority;
Having regard to the minutes of the session of the Official Statistics Authority of 12 October 2016;

The Official Statistics Authority unanimously gives notice of the renewal of the quality labelling of the ACOSS quarterly payroll employment series.

This opinion is coupled with a recommendation on the finalisation of the related methodological documentation, guaranteeing public accessibility to the series.

In particular, it is necessary to:

- document methodological changes relating to the taking into account of temporary employment, which is the main source of discrepancies between INSEE's employment series and the payroll employment series of the ACOSS, in the publication of the payroll employment series;
- document breaks or changes in series induced by the changeover to the Nominative Social Declaration (DSN), the change in scope following redefinition of the competitive sector and that induced by the new seasonal adjustment method.

The quality labelling of the quarterly payroll employment series is renewed for a period of two years, in view of the methodological changes currently taking place as a result of the switchover of source to the Nominative Social Declaration (DSN), which has gradually replaced the Contributions Summary Form (BRC) since 2015, and the methodological convergence between the statistics produced on this subject by the ACOSS and INSEE that is currently being carried out.

The review clause providing for an examination of the stabilised system is therefore scheduled for 2018, the date when the earlier recommendations are supposed to have been implemented.

This opinion will be sent for information purposes to the Director General of INSEE.
It will be published in the *Official Journal* of the French Republic.

Annexe 7: SDG indicators

Table 1: Number of indicators (statistical and non- statistical) by SDG

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Number of indicators		
	Statistical	Non-statistical	Total
ODD 1 No poverty	11	1	12
ODD 2 No hunger	14	0	14
ODD 3 Good health	25	1	26
ODD 4 Quality education	11	0	11
ODD 5 Gender equality	10	4	14
ODD 6 Clean water and sanitation	11	0	11
ODD 7 Clean energy	6	0	6
ODD 8 Good jobs and economic growth	17	0	17
ODD 9 Innovation and infrastructure	12	0	12
ODD 10 Reduced inequalities	9	2	11
ODD 11 Sustainable cities and communities	12	0	12
ODD 12 Responsible consumption	7	3	10
ODD 13 Protect the planet	0	4	4
ODD 14 Life below water	7	3	10
ODD 15 Life on land	9	3	12
ODD 16 Peace and justice	20	2	22
ODD 17 Partnerships for the goals	17	8	25
Total	198	31	229

Scope: 229 SDG monitoring indicators (excluding duplicates)

Source: UN – United Nations Statistical Commission – March 2016

Table 2: Number of statistical indicators and SDGs concerned by producer service

Producer service	Statistical indicators			Number of SDGs concerned
	Number	Cumulated	Cumulated frequency (in %)	
SoeS	54	54	27%	13
Insee	30	84	42%	9
Drees	21	105	53%	3
MAE	12	117	59%	10
SSM Intérieur (SSMSI)	12	129	65%	4
SSM Agriculture (SSP)	11	140	71%	3
SSM Education (Depp)	9	149	75%	1
Banque de France	5	154	78%	4
SSM Travail et Emploi (Dares)	4	158	80%	1
SSM Enseignement supérieur (SIES)	3	161	81%	2
SSM Justice (SDSE)	2	163	82%	1
SSM Culture (Deps)	1	164	83%	1
SSM Collectivités territoriales (DESL)	1	165	83%	1
SSM Douanes (DSEE)	1	166	84%	1
Unidentified producer	32	198	100%	13
Total	198			

Scope: 198 statistical monitoring indicators (excluding duplicates)

Source: INSEE – Census of SDG monitoring indicators – June 2016

Annexe 8: Dissemination rules for the short-term indicators and releases

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 (i.e. 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, news 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 9.00 pm. The other outlook indicators are supplied to them on the day before publication at 6.00 pm.

If the embargo is breached, it is lifted promptly in order to restore equal access to information.

Dissemination time summary table

Publications	Dissemination to news agencies	Dissemination to the press	Embargo lifted
Informations Rapides: main indicators (1)	7.00 am	7.30 am	7.30 am
Informations Rapides: main indicators (2)	8.15 am	8.45 am	8.45 am
Informations Rapides: non-main indicators	11.30 am	12.00	12.00
Note de conjoncture	9.30 am	9.30 am	6.00 pm
Insee Focus*	8.45 am	8.45 am	8.45 am
Insee Première	8.00 am	8.00 am	6.00 pm
Insee Analyses	8.00 am	8.00 am/6.00 pm	6.00 pm
Insee Références	9.30 am	9.30 am	6.00 pm
Économie et Statistique	8.00/10.00 am (*)	8.00/10.00 am (**)	6.00 pm (D+1)

(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): Other main indicators disseminated in the "Informations Rapides" collection

(*): 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 9: 2016 review by the National Council for Statistical Information (CNIS) of the official statistics programme

In a context where increasingly considerable changes in society are creating changing situations, the measurement of which is a genuine difficulty and challenge for official statistics, figures are essential to allow objective debate and must be as relevant and precise as possible for the successful operation of French democracy.

Changes in family life, the variety of different forms of employment, transformations in the economic organisation of businesses and the integration of digital technology into the economy are just some of these changes. In all these aspects and many others, the official statistics work presented to the commissions or working groups of the CNIS inform public debate and provide keys to a better understanding. Improving diagnosis, whether in economic or social matters, is of fundamental importance and all the more so in 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 making the data relevant and ensuring that official statistical data is more widely known.

This CNIS review of the year 2016 focuses first of all on the general directions and secondly, on the progress made and expectations in the four areas covering the discussions of the CNIS commissions and working groups, namely:

The social domain;

The economic and financial domain;

Sustainable development;

Local territories.

I. Review of general directions and related communication

- *Figures are more and more often an issue in public debate and the CNIS wishes to facilitate access to official statistics.*

The year 2016 was marked by the discussion and then the adoption of the Digital Republic Law of 7 October 2016, which contains several significant advances concerning the open access to public data.

Among the provisions concerning official statistics, Article 36 prolongs the recent legislative provisions that the CNIS had encouraged and which have over the last few years opened up access by researchers to categories of data covered by legal professional secrecy provisions, such as the data held by the Official Statistical Service, tax data and health data. It will make it possible, in particular, to secure and therefore facilitate researchers' access to the data of the social security bodies. A mission, in the form of a CNIS working group, was entrusted by the Secretary of State for Digital Affairs to two economics professors (Pierre-Yves Geoffard and Antoine Bozio) to prepare the implementation of Article 36 of the Digital Law. The working group will report at the beginning of 2017. The recommendations contained in this report should aim to achieve better coordination between the different routes of access and to improve the information available on the use of these data.

In addition to this, Article 19 of the Digital Law will allow official statistics access to private information held by legal entities under private law for the purposes of producing statistics. This legislative provision follows on from the consultation launched by INSEE under the auspices of the CNIS in 2015, chaired by Michel Bon. The first implementation of this provision will take place in 2017, involving INSEE and the mass retail sector ("Scanner data" survey), in order to complete the collection of data for the consumer price index by means of surveys. The project is intended to considerably improve the accuracy and quality of the index.

At the meeting of its executive committee on 8 December, the CNIS issued an opinion favourable to this important operation, whose implementation it will follow with interest. The private data that are the subject

of this transmission cannot be disclosed. However, the Council recommended that the dissemination of statistics (and not raw data) be able to take place at the most detailed level compatible with the obligation of confidentiality.

For its part, The Law on the Modernisation of the Healthcare System of March 2016 has laid down a framework for access to health data, which will now be considerably easier.

Alongside these legislative changes, the Banque de France has also embarked upon a process of opening up access to its data, within the limits of the legal rules applicable to them. The "open data room" inaugurated in November 2016 at the Bank now enables users to use anonymised data on the banking and financial sector. *The CNIS welcomes this move towards greater openness which is directly in line with the report of its working group in 2015 entitled "Access to Banking and Financial Sector Data".*

- ***Informing international comparisons***

Interest in European and international comparisons remains strong. Following its Plenary Meeting in 2015 on this topic, the CNIS organised a seminar on 26 May 2016 "International statistical comparison, issues and limits", which was attended by almost 150 people. Based on concrete examples, the seminar confirmed that there is an undeniable interest in international comparisons and that significant progress has been made over time in terms of standardisation of data and international comparability. And yet the relevance of such comparisons is not always guaranteed as data is not always truly comparable. Above all, many users are unaware of these difficulties. There are multiple reasons for a lack of comparability: they may be due to the institutional framework, to differences in the nature of basic sources, to different methods of constructing statistics, or even to residual discrepancies between concepts. Each of these problems requires a specific solution.

In view of this interesting seminar, the Council wishes to place the emphasis on two orientations:

- *To continue and develop the work undertaken to improve the comparability of the data; statisticians must give a high level of priority to comparability issues. The continuation and development of the commitment of international organisations to the study of data comparability, collaboration with researchers and with organisations that make reasoned use of statistics can support the efforts of official statistics bodies.*
- *Official statistics also has an important role to play in disseminating more international comparisons and informing users on their scope and warning them, where appropriate, of the limits of their relevance and what precautions need to be taken, whilst taking care not to discredit the tools.*

- ***In a context where very diverse data come from information systems that are not totally integrated, another expectation is that citizens be enabled to comprehend and use official statistics.***

The commissions' work very often aims to describe the statistical information system existing in a given area and in their opinions they propose avenues for progress (for example on pensions, continuing education in 2016, but also emerging subjects such as part as crowd-funding in 2016). It is in this spirit that each working group report is the subject of a press release.

The development of Open Data creates a need for official statistics to distinguish official statistics from ordinary data which do not meet the same quality criteria, in particular those of the Code of Good Practice. It is important in this context to communicate clearly on the different dimensions of the quality of official statistics.

The official statistics producers are making considerable efforts to develop publications or educational aids, to adapt their communication to the new online media and social media and to meet users' need for new methods of accessing information.

In April, for example, INSEE completed its educational collection entitled INSEE en Bref with a brochure on "Measuring the foreign and immigrant population", a field in which much erroneous information is in circulation. In addition, extracts from these educational documents are republished on the INSEE Twitter account in order to reach a different audience.

At the end of the year, the new INSEE website went online after several years in development. Access to data and publications has been entirely overhauled, the search engine modernised in order to make searching easier for users. It will be accessible from any type of device, including smartphones.

An animated video entitled "a day like any other" has also been produced by INSEE. The main demographic statistics (births, deaths, immigration) and some survey results illustrate day-to-day events.

The Ministerial Statistical Offices are also adapting their websites (the DARES in particular) and several of the Official Statistical Service's publications have been modernised to turn them into first-rate educational materials. For instance, the annual publication entitled "The State of Higher Education and Research in France" now has an interactive digital version offering numerous data visualisation possibilities.

The Council encourages the Official Statistical Service commitment to the modernisation of the dissemination and communication tools aimed at younger audiences, who do not consult traditional media such as the press and do not spontaneously visit websites.

- ***Following on from the Stiglitz, Sen and Fitoussi report and the proposal made by member of parliament Eva Sas, which gave rise to the law of 13 April 2015, the Government now issues an annual report on new wealth indicators.***

These indicators have been largely inspired by the previous work (public consultation and workshops) undertaken jointly by the Economic, Social and Environmental Council (CESE) and France Stratégie, in collaboration with the CNIS.

This dashboard of indicators is consistent with international strategies, which include the UN's "Sustainable Development Goals", which have replaced the "Millennium Development Goals". In 2015 the General Assembly of the UN adopted 17 goals and 169 targets to be reached by 2030, which cover a very wide range of areas. In September 2016, it discussed the 230 indicators that will enable the achievement of these goals to be monitored. These indicators are the result of a process of negotiation between States and, prepared by a group of expert statisticians, they are expected to allow progress over time in the measurement and provision of indicators on sustainable development that are comparable between countries. At national level, INSEE will coordinate the advances on the statistical production for these indicators, which also implies the close involvement of other components of the Official Statistical Service. Currently, for France, 34% of these indicators are already available, and this proportion rises to 65% if a proxy is accepted.

Concerning the constant demand from users, relayed by the members of the executive committee and the heads of the commissions, to reduce dissemination timescales for certain statistical results, the year 2016 saw a considerable amount of progress. Already, since the spring, INSEE has been publishing the first estimates of quarterly GDP, unemployment and inflation two weeks earlier than before, as announced. In addition, early annual indicators on poverty have just been issued, for the second time, at the end of 2016, thanks to micro-simulation.

- ***An important issue in public debate concerns the improvement of 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. The prospect of collaborative work on State expenditure between the INSEE Regional Directorates and those of the DGFIPP had been outlined, but is currently being hampered by difficulties in circulating these data within INSEE and all more so in disseminating them. A new interim review of this question may be proposed in a CNIS commission in 2017.

- ***Progress in the measurement of the digital economy***

Following the 2016 plenary meeting which presented the early reflections on the links between the digital economy and statistical measurement, the Council added this general direction to the previous set of medium-term general directions for the period 2014-2018. It has noted the considerable changes in the way the economy operates due to the growing digitisation of business activities and the emergence of new products, services, activities and markets, which are generating some profound changes in the job market,

and in other aspects of the way our society operates. It therefore wishes to get a clearer idea of the scope of this "digitisation of the economy" and has prepared a seminar on this topic, which should take place in 2017. This concern is shared by the statistics producers in France, but also abroad. In the United Kingdom Sir Charles Bean's independent audit report on the production and governance of official statistics devoted a chapter to the changes in the economy due to the development of the internet and how the Office for National Statistics (ONS) should take account of it. INSEE has also devoted a special report in its annual economic publication "L'économie française" to the place of the internet in the statistical measurement of the economy. The DARES is also working on the impact of the internet on how the job market operates.

This work will provide the input for the forthcoming seminar, which will probably be scheduled for autumn 2017. The seminar will involve both producers and users and examples of international good practice will be sought.

Generally, the Council considers that the development of digital technology's role in the economy should be the subject of specific active monitoring on the part of statistics producers to ensure this aspect is adequately taken into account in the figures.

II. Themed review

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)

The working group on the diversity of forms of employment chaired by Bernard Gazier proposed a clarification and a classification grid for forms of employment, the diversity of which is constantly increasing (greater flexibility, activities in the collaborative economy, in particular). The mapping of forms of employment rests on the one hand on the worker's degree of autonomy and, on the other hand, on the presence or otherwise of third party interventions. People's situations with regard to employment conditions, in particular in the cases of part-time working, the holding of multiple jobs and the more or less "forced" nature of these situations, was also examined. These observations and analyses have given rise to recommendations, which may be implemented in the short term or which will have to tie in with the implementation in course of 2017 of the Nominative Social Declaration (DSN). For the longer term, the report suggests adapting certain surveys better to the diversity of forms of employment. In addition to the roadmap which is proposed by the Official Statistical Service to start the implementation of the recommendations, the "employment" commission has in particular committed the Official Statistical Service to carrying out active monitoring of the collaborative economy and its impact on the employment market.

The report on "Family breakdown and its consequences: 30 recommendations to improve knowledge of the phenomenon" produced by the working group chaired by Mr Claude Thélot was published in 2016. This subject involves two important issues, important both because of the number of households concerned and because of the human, legal, social and economic repercussions. As the report emphasises, the Council adheres to the idea that it is important to combine production, studies and dissemination to a greater extent in order to adequately measure and understand the impacts of family breakdown. The Official Statistical Service has already begun to implement a first batch of recommendations. The CNIS will monitor the progress made. The HSF (family advisory service) has a decisive role in revealing demand and the priorities in terms of studies and the assessment of public policies.

The work of the "Public Services and Services for the Public" Commission covered the introduction of the new legislative framework resulting from the Law on the Modernisation of the Healthcare System of March 2016, and the observation system.

The Demographics Commission reviewed the results and issues of the "Trajectories and Origins" survey, in preparation for the organisation of the first repeat edition of this survey in 2019. In a context where questions relating to immigration and ethnic statistics are highly sensitive, the contribution this type of survey can make was considered undeniably useful in enabling an objective debate at national level, but also for international comparisons, analyses and research on trajectories.

Finally, following the overview of the statistical information system put together in 2015, the CNIS organised a meeting on "insecurity" statistics, on 5 September 2016, chaired by Mr Jean-Marie Delarue, a former Vice-President of the CNIS.

From an institutional point of view, the creation of the SSMSI (Ministerial Statistical Office for Internal Security) within the Ministry for the Interior, after that of the ONDRP (National Observatory for Delinquency and the Criminal Response) is a development that is highly conducive to the quality of statistical information in this area. Nevertheless, this field presents several difficulties for official statistics and research, of a conceptual and methodological nature especially. As far as methodology is concerned, it is indispensable to complete the administrative data, which reflect the activity of the police from the point of view of the victims through victim surveys such as the "Living Environment and Security" (CVS) survey. As for the definition to be given to the notion of security, it is important to preserve a multi-dimensional approach.

In a context where users have repeatedly expressed doubts about the CVS, survey the CNIS meeting offered an opportunity to widen the reflection to good practices in other countries and to the methods and approaches chosen for other sensitive subjects, thanks to contributions from a Dutch expert statistician and experts in other fields.

The discussion confirmed that there is a strong demand from users to increase and intensify consultation on this survey, in particular concerning its results, in order to help clarify the purposes of the survey and the possible changes that may be made to it, on the one hand and to work on the many methodological issues, on the other. The departments that are co-owners of this survey must follow up on these proposals in the coming months, as the opportunity given recently to the survey only covers one year.

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

The "Enterprises and Market Strategies" Commission dealt with the major business statistics project which remains the switch from the "legal unit" to the "enterprise in the economic sense" (also known as "profiling") to better deal with groups, in particular in their international dimension (EGR European register; OFATS and IFATS surveys). The effort to lighten the statistical burden on enterprises continues with the generalisation of internet responses to surveys, the growing use of administrative data and the move from exhaustive surveys to sample surveys.

As for the "Financial System" Commission, it examined two emerging subjects from the point of view of statistical observation.

The data available reflecting the activity of the French banks in countries that are so-called offshore financial centres or "tax havens" come in particular from the country-by-country reporting that the banks are obliged to produce. The Council noted some progress in the availability of information from the Banque de France.

Crowd-funding consists of putting into contact via an internet platform lenders, donors or investors and borrowers wishing to finance a project, for which a regulatory framework is gradually being introduced, this being a very recent market. The statistical measurement is based on several forms of reporting, and it is still liable to change, which makes it delicate at the current time. The "platforms", private operators in this market, are also by nature collectors of information. Private or public information gathering initiatives and studies in this field must be encouraged and shared.

The Council considers that such emerging subjects, where the economic stakes are high, must be actively monitored by official statistics in order to get a better grasp of what they involve and to integrate them into statistical measurements.

3. Progress and expectations on the environment and sustainable development ("Environment and Sustainable Development" Commission)

The work of the "Environment and Sustainable Development" Commission concerned the data and statistics relating to water resources, distribution and quality, within the framework of both the CNIS's medium-term general directions and the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The commission was informed of the efforts made by the State and its public establishments to make this information available, with a concern to provide educational support for users and for the relevance of the information systems, but notes nevertheless that

there remains strong demand for the enrichment of the "SISPEA" database with variables taken from official statistics relating in particular to the characteristics of dwellings, as well as with data on the economic conditions of the management of sanitation services.

4. Progress and expectations in territorial aspects *("Territories" Commission)*

Following the territorial reform and the entry into force of the new administrative divisions on 1 January 2016, an information bulletin presented the impact of the new territorial organisation on official statistics, especially the impact of the merging of municipalities, metropolitan districts and the new regions on local observation in terms of zoning. More generally, European statistics will be working on new territorial divisions in the years to come, on the basis of gridded data.

In spring 2016, INSEE disseminated the first data on household disposable income and poverty on the "infra-municipal" scale (IRIS) and on the neighbourhoods identified as priority areas by urban policy, in the new division, which replaces the old ZUS. These data are based on the FILOSOFI system which combines tax base data and exhaustive data on social benefits. This is an important advance in the knowledge of territorial inequality and economic precariousness at a fine geographical level.

The measurement of the occupancy of space has already attracted a great deal of interest among users. The different geographical sources, whether they are on a large scale (small area examined in a great amount of detail) or on a small scale (large area observed in less detail) enable the user to determine the most appropriate source to measure the areas occupied according to their use and the changes in those areas.

Noting the wide variety in the approaches taken by producers of data, the CNIS has reiterated its wish to develop coordination between producers in order to increase consistency of sources, while noting the progress made or expected in terms of complementarity between sources and the way concepts have been brought closer together since the previous examination in 2012.

Annexe 10 : The recommendations of the ESGAB report 2016²³

The ESGAB 2016 annual report concentrates on two main topics; the challenge facing the European Statistical System (ESS) in terms of the use of new sources of data (Big Data in particular) and that relating to the coordination of all the national authorities responsible for the production of European statistics.

Its recommendations are:

1- The next revision of the Code of Practice should include a reference to multiple data sources and the implications for data quality and the cost of statistical production.

2- To ensure adherence to Principle 14 of the Code (Coherence and Comparability), Eurostat should assess the impact that the use of multiple data sources has on data comparability, particularly the impact of modelling techniques and estimates on both the production of statistics and dissemination in the form of new information services and “on demand” analysis.

3- The next revision of the Code of Practice should address the ethical concerns associated with the use of “big data”. The Code should include at least a Principle and appropriate indicators to address the relationship between NSIs and private data providers, setting out clearly the appropriate characteristics of big data providers, and the assurance of data quality.

4- Future peer reviews should ensure that assessments of compliance with the Code of Practice are accompanied by an assessment of the extent to which National Statistical Institutes foster trust in the European statistics they produce.

5- In order to further increase trust in official statistics, National Statistical Institutes and Eurostat should actively engage with civil society to promote the value of official statistics as a public good and an indispensable policy tool. They should also consider appropriate demonstration of the Code of Practice Indicator 1.7, which requires statistical authorities to comment publicly on criticisms and misuses of statistics, defending them where necessary.

6- Member States’ governments should establish Commitments on Confidence in Statistics to ensure trust in European statistics and implementation of the Code. The annual reporting on the Code of Practice and Commitments on Confidence should be coordinated to avoid unnecessary reporting burden on Eurostat and the Member States.

7- ESS members should step up their efforts to revise the respective statistical legislation so that transparent appointment and dismissal procedures for Heads of National Statistical Institutes and Other National Authorities are specified in law.

8- The forthcoming recruitment procedure for the new Director-General of Eurostat should be based on an open call for candidates. The selection criteria, explicitly stated in the vacancy notice, should include very good knowledge and experience in the fields relevant to Eurostat’s mission. The Commission should ensure that candidates’ professional competences in the field of statistics are assessed independently.

9- ESS members should create information and communication campaigns to make the value of official statistics as a public good more apparent.

10- Comparable information on the cost of producing European statistics is essential in an environment where resources are increasingly constrained. ESS countries should ensure that they contribute to the projects underway to develop and improve data on the costs of statistical production at a national level and for

²³European Statistical Governance Advisory Board, equivalent to the ASP, but at European level

specific European statistical products, and that they facilitate this information-gathering from their internal cost accounting systems.

11- Member States in the process of aligning their legislation to amended Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 should include precise and specific provisions addressing the requirements under Article 17a(2) relating to the use of administrative records for European statistics, in order to facilitate and improve the further use of those records for producing European statistics.

12- Member States should produce situation reports on compliance with Article 17a(2) of amended Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 concerning the extent to which NSIs are consulted and involved in the design, development and discontinuation of administrative records used for the production of European statistics.

13- There are still a number of Member States without either a coordinating mechanism provided by legislation or the coordinating responsibility of the NSI clearly established in their legal framework. In such cases the national statistical legislation should be updated in this respect, including precise provisions on this issue.

14- Eurostat should consider the introduction of specific ESS training and awareness-raising events focusing on the legal and practical obligations of Other National Authorities with regard to European statistics and their coordination within the national statistical system.

15- The next peer review exercise should include clear guidance on how to involve and support Other National Authorities in the process.

16- In order to further improve the quality of European statistics produced by Other National Authorities and compliance with the Code of Practice, Other National Authorities should be integrated into a comprehensive national quality audit system facilitated by the NSI and including training on quality management, quality assurance, quality reporting and systematic quality audits.

Annexe 11 : 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 System²⁴

"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 fifteen principles covering the institutional environment, statistical processes and statistical outputs. For each of these principles, different indicators of good practice constitute reference criteria allowing the application of the Code to be assessed. The quality criteria for European statistics are defined in the "European Statistical Law"²⁵.

Statistical authorities²⁶, comprising the Commission (Eurostat), National Statistical Institutes and other national authorities responsible for the development, production and dissemination of European Statistics²⁷, together with governments, ministries and the European Council, commit themselves to adhere to the Code. The principles of the Code of Practice along with the general principles of quality management therefore represent a joint quality framework in the European Statistical System.

24 Regulation (EC) no. 223/2009, Article 4.

25 Regulation (EC) no. 223/2009, Article 12.

26 Regulation (EC) no. 223/2009, Articles 4 and 5.

27 Regulation (EC) no. 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"

The European Statistics Code of Practice

Institutional Environment

Institutional and organisational factors have a significant influence on the effectiveness and creditability of a Statistics 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 Statistics 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 Statistics 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 12 :The Ministerial Statistical Offices on 31 December 2016

DREES	Ministry for Social Affairs and Health Department of Research, Studies, Evaluation and Statistics
SSP	Ministry for Agriculture, Agrifood and Forests Secretariat General Department of Statistics and Forward Studies
SOeS	Ministry for the Environment, Energy and Marine Affairs General Commission on Sustainable Development Department of Observation and Statistics
DEPP	Ministry for National Education Department of Evaluation, Forward Studies and Performance
SIES	Ministry for National Education, 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, Vocational Training and Social Dialogue Department for the Coordination of Research, Studies and Statistics
Justice	Ministry for Justice Secretariat-General Under-Directorate for Information Systems and Statistical Studies
Local authorities	Ministry for the Interior Ministry for Town and Country Planning, Rural Affairs and Local Government Directorate General for Local Authorities Department for Local Studies and Statistics
Public Finances	Ministry for the Economy and Finance Directorate General for Public Finances Fiscal Management Department Under-Directorate for Property, Taxation of Assets and Statistics Office of Fiscal Statistical Studies
Customs	Ministry for the Economy and Finance Directorate General for Customs and Indirect Taxation Department for Statistics and Economic Studies
Civil Service	Ministry for the Civil Service Directorate General for the Administration and Civil Service Department of Studies, Statistics and Information Systems
Immigration - Integration	Ministry for Foreign Affairs and International Development and Ministry for the Interior Directorate General for Foreigners in France Department of Statistics, Studies and Documentation
Youth and Sport	Ministry for Urban Affairs, Youth and Sport Department with national competence named "National Institute of Youth and Popular Education" Studies, Observation and Statistics Unit

Defence	Ministry for Defence Directorate of Financial Affairs Economic Observatory of Defence
Culture	Ministry for Culture and Communication Cultural Policy Coordination and Innovation Department Department of Studies, Forward Studies and Statistics
Internal Security (SSMSI)	Ministry for the Interior Ministerial Statistical Office for Internal Security under the Central Director of the Judicial Police

Publication issued free of charge

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ISBN: