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Annual report
of the Official Statistics Authority
2017

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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 legal obligation, coordination and confidentiality in the field of statistics, 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 Mr Patrice Duran.

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

On 31 December 2017, 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 2017, the ninth year of existence of the Authority.

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

Composition of the Official Statistics Authority

(notice published in the Official Journal of 28 September 2017)

Mr Dominique Bureau, President, appointed by a decree of the Council of Ministers of 9 April 2015, who took over from Mr 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 Blanchard, appointed by the President of the Economic, Social and Environmental Council

Mr Jean Gaeremynek, 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

Mr François Auvigne, appointed by the Department Head of the General Inspectorate of Finances

Ms 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

Against a background of proliferation of data, often of poor quality, some simply invented to put across opinions or create an emotion, official statistics are a common good, playing a decisive role in informing public debate and collective choices. Quite rightly, the European vision also emphasises the role of statistics as an indispensable foundation of democracy and progress in our societies.

To play this role to the full, the scope covered by statistics must correspond to users' needs. It is also necessary to raise levels of confidence in official statistics. More or less all sectors are concerned, from the description of the employment market to information on local public expenditure, but also diagnoses of the situation of households and inequalities of those of the situation of businesses, which require constant improvement and efforts to educate.

The credibility of official statistics rests on their professional independence, defined in these terms by Regulation (EU) 2015/759: "statistics must be developed, produced and disseminated in an independent manner, particularly as regards the selection of techniques, definitions, methodologies and sources to be used, and the timing and content of all forms of dissemination, and [...] the performance of those tasks is free from any pressures from political or interest groups or from Union or national authorities". The Official Statistics Authority contributes to this by systematically checking that all the principles of the resulting Code of Practice are implemented and by ensuring that any deviations are discovered and corrected without delay. It is the purpose of this annual report to give an overall appreciation in this area, which appears to be very favourable.

Professional independence is constructed in particular by the commitment of all those responsible for official statistics to maintaining a shared culture of scientific rigour and objectivity and by developing the "professional" potential of statistician-economists, who constitute the recognised strength of our statistical organisation. The work done on quality is also essential.

The publication in 2017 of the guidelines on quality and the drawing up of the Ministerial Statistical Office Charter bear witness to the priority given to these issues. The latter sets out from an operational point of view the departments' rights and duties arising from their belonging to official statistics and reminds them of the conditions of use of the different sources on which they draw. These new frameworks are a major step towards reinforcing INSEE's responsibility for coordination, as required by Regulation (EC) 223/2009 amended, but in fact also an integral part of our national regulations since the beginning.

Trust will be gained first and foremost by demonstrating in concrete terms the official statistical system's ability to produce what the public expects of it, in terms of content and quality. In this respect, the publication, in the "INSEE References" collection of an overview of the very diverse interactions that exist between the environment, economic behaviours and individual or collective practices illustrates the strides made since the Stiglitz-Sen report to cover all the areas of sustainable growth.

The new developments necessary to describe the very rapid transformations happening in the economy and in society also concern the more classic themes. Thus, the original publication that no doubt had the biggest impact in 2017 was in the annual edition of "France Portrait Social" dedicated to "median-income households". Thanks to the matching of numerous surveys and administrative databases, the diversity of this group of households and the need to take a specific interest in them were brought into sharp focus.

Clearly, the mobilisation of new big data sources is crucial in this perspective. The theoretical debates on the threats and opportunities of big data for statistics now seem to outdated. An institutional framework is methodically being built to integrate these new data. The creation of the "SSP-Lab" (Official Statistical Service Lab) within INSEE will facilitate experimentation. Beyond that, as with the "mass retail scanner data" project, it is genuine projects that will need to be constructed, from design through to production.

This report, which finds official statistics anything but stagnating, suggests that the consolidation of

professional independence, the reinforcement of quality and the new developments go hand in hand. But this ambition will only be able to be satisfactorily fulfilled if the official statistical service (INSEE and the MSOs) has the right resources, and above all the visibility to conduct the projects necessary to the accomplishment of its mission.

The President of the Official Statistics Authority

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized initial 'J' followed by the name 'Bureau'. A horizontal line is drawn underneath the signature.

Sommaire

1. Official statistics in France in 2017.....	8
1.1 Overview.....	9
1.2 The main progress made by the Official Statistical Service (SSP).....	13
1.3 Governance of the Official Statistical Service (SSP).....	15
1.4 Surveys and publications.....	18
1.5 The Authority's opinion on the production of official statistics.....	22
2. The European and international context and compliance with the European Statistics Code of Practice.....	23
2.1 The European and international context.....	24
2.2 The compliance of the Official Statistical Service with the European Statistics Code of Practice.....	27
2.3 The Authority's opinion on compliance by the Official Statistical Service with the European Statistics Code of Practice.....	37
3. Activity of the Official Statistics Authority in 2017.....	40
3.1 Sessions of the Authority.....	41
3.2 Hearings of producers of official statistics.....	43
3.3 Quality labelling of statistical uses derived from administrative sources.....	49
3.4 New sources of big data for official statistics.....	53
3.5 The challenges of maintaining trust in statistics.....	56
3.6 Recommendations of the Official Statistics Authority (ASP).....	58
3.7 Communication of the Authority.....	61
4. Follow-up of recommendations in the 2016 Annual Report of the Authority.....	62
4.1 The Ministerial Statistical Office of the Directorate General for Public Finances (DGFIP):.....	63
4.2 Monthly job-seekers' statistics (DEFM).....	64
4.3 Labelling of statistical series produced by the CNAMTS.....	66
5. Annexes.....	68
Annexe 1 : Recipients of the report.....	69
Annexe 2 : Biography of the new members joining the ASP in 2017.....	70
Annexe 3 : Framework document establishing the dissemination rules and preferential access limitations for the statistical indicators of the Official Statistical Service (SSP).....	71
Annexe 4 : Quality guidelines for Ministerial Statistical Offices.....	74
Annexe 5 : Opinion of 14 November 2017 of the Official Statistics Authority relating to the quality labelling of data derived from the national database on causes of death produced by the Epidemiology Centre on Medical Causes of Death (CépiDC).....	75
Annexe 6 : Opinion of 14 November 2017 of the Official Statistics Authority on the renewal of the quality labelling of the statistics derived from the State Pensions Department's pension database..	76
Annexe 7 : The recommendations of the ESGAB 2017 report.....	77
Annexe 8 : 2017 review of the official statistics programme by the National Council for Statistical Information (CNIS).....	78
Annexe 9 : Principles of the European Statistics Code of Good Practice adopted by the European Statistical System Committee on 28 September 2011.....	84
Annexe 10 : The Ministerial Statistical Offices on 31 December 2017.....	87

1. Official statistics in France in 2017

1.1 Overview

To appreciate how the Official Statistical Service (SSP) provides everyone with quality information prepared entirely independently on the economy and society, three aspects have to be considered, and obviously first of all that of the statistical results. The statistics available must correspond to users' needs, in terms of the scope covered but also relevance, accuracy, reliability, coherence and comparability. At the other extreme, it is necessary to examine how the SSP anticipates changes in needs and the conditions of statistical output, especially in view of digital technology. Finally, the ways the collection, processing and dissemination of statistics are organised are decisive factors in the accomplishment of its mission.

Notable progress in statistical output and numerous new publications

Without aiming to be exhaustive, it is worth emphasising certain areas where the SSP has progressed in 2017:

- the convergence of quarterly salaried employment statistics with the Central Agency for Social Security Organisations (ACOSS) and the Directorate for the Coordination of Research, Studies and Statistics (DARES), accompanied by an extension of the scope covered, which now includes all salaried workers;

- the redesign of the DARES/Pôle Emploi publication on job-seekers to place the emphasis on the trend variations in these statistics;

- the attribution of a single national pupil identification number (INE) which will allow pupils to be tracked throughout their educational career;

- the recasting of the monthly turnover indices, which now cover all the market sectors of the French economy.

It is also worth noting, within the official statistical service, the great wealth of new publications on themes connected to the major issues facing society, for example, the arrival in the "INSEE References" collection of a newcomer on the "The economic players and the environment", which provides a very wide range of information on public and private practices.

Mobilisation in three areas driven by the CNIS

Among the highlights of 2017 were three actions launched by the National Council for Statistical Information (CNIS) to follow on from the orientations of the medium-term programme of 2014-2018.

In connection with the UN's "sustainable development goals" (SDGs), a working group was created in 2017 with the task of adapting the sustainable development goal indicators to France. The first deliverables of this report will be available at the end of May 2018, with the political report which will be delivered to the UN in the summer.

The meeting on the measurement of discrimination in employment organised in 2017 provided an opportunity to review the measurement tools and statistics available to report on discrimination and the risk of discrimination in the employment field. The CNIS will continue its reflections on the best definitions, sources, methods to be used or needing to be developed, which should allow areas for improvement to be identified on the issues that have been dealt with little or not at all which are emerging from the public debate (impact of discrimination on psycho-social risks and sick leave for example). This meeting is an illustration of how the CNIS can contribute to public education and the making available of the concepts and uses of official statistical data.

Finally, the working group set up in 2016 at the request of the Secretary of State for Digital Affairs delivered its report in March 2017. Its recommendations are in line with the implementation of Article 36 of the Law for a Digital Republic, which aims to facilitate users' access to different types of administrative data: to increase awareness of the law governing access to administrative data, to foster consultation between

producers and users, to promote a viable economic model for access to administrative data and to improve the archiving practices of government entities.

This work is part of a wider body of work being done by the SSP on digital issues, which was marked in 2017 by: the dissemination of the SIRENE register, which became Open Data; the definition of the conditions of the electronic transmission of data for official statistical purposes; and the implementation of the "mass retailers' scanner data" project (cf. below 1.3).

Stronger coordination of the SSP

As part of the application of European Regulation 223/2009 as amended, which reinforces the statistical coordination role of the head of the NSI with the official statistical service, INSEE has introduced some quality guidelines in conjunction with the Ministerial Statistical Offices (MSOs) with a view to guaranteeing the quality of their key statistics.¹

These guidelines, which were sent to all the MSOs in 2017, must be followed by all these departments and each of them has signed a formal commitment to do so with INSEE. They therefore constitute a reference document for the official statistical service in terms of quality.

In addition, and to respond more specifically to a recommendation of the 2014 peer review in 2014 on the harmonisation of the embargo rules within the French official statistical service, a framework document on the embargo rules concerning statistical indicators, mainly short-term and/or European, has been drawn up by INSEE and the MSOs. The Director General of INSEE has asked all the departments to standardise their practices regarding the transmission to the government of these statistical data before publication and to bring them into line with INSEE's practice (at the earliest at 18:00 for statistics published the next morning). This framework document important step in clarifying the dissemination rules within the French official statistical service.

More generally, a new *Ministerial Statistical Office Charter* (MSO Charter) has been drawn up, which has endeavoured in particular to set out the conditions for the implementation of the European Statistics Code of Practice insofar as it concerns them.

Implementation of the "INSEE Horizon 2025" strategic plan

In 2017 INSEE began to implement the actions in its "INSEE Horizon 2025" strategic plan. The Institute organised a seminar on the plan in 2017 to carry out an interim review of the action plan and explore the cross-cutting issues raised by its implementation within the official statistical service.

The actions in the project show how the gains in productivity likely to be generated by innovation in the conducting of statistical processes or by flexibility in the redeployment of internal resources can usefully be mobilised to improve official statistical outputs and increase awareness of them. The implementation of these actions will help to guide budgetary choices concerning INSEE in coming years.

The creation within INSEE of a unit dedicated to innovation and research

Following on from the orientation in the *INSEE Horizon 2025* plan to "Innovate and be in the front line for data sources", INSEE plans to set up a structure called "SSP-Lab" to develop R&D in statistical output.

It has become clear that the development and the attractiveness of the *data sciences*, in particular for the generations still in training, have made it necessary to improve the visibility of the investments made by official statistics in this field. One of the important issues is also the dissemination of a culture of innovation and knowledge.

In view of this situation, INSEE decided in 2017 to create a structure dedicated to innovation and research called "SSP-Lab", which will benefit the entire official statistical service, in order to improve the visibility of the investments made by official statistics in the *data sciences* field, given the very strong dynamics driving

1 For more detail, see Annex 4.

these themes. The aim is to promote and support innovation in the production of official statistics.

This unit dedicated to Research and Development is intended to guarantee that the Official Statistical Service (SSP) devotes specifically dedicated resources to innovation (combining skills, setting up multi-disciplinary teams, etc.). It is also intended that it will join innovation networks. In particular it will be expected to lead joint projects across the entire SSP as well as with our European partners.

Much of the work done within the SSP provides concrete illustrations of the experiments that this innovation and research unit could carry out..

BOX

The creation of a structure dedicated to innovation and research

In 2017, INSEE decided to create structure dedicated to innovation and research called SSP-Lab to develop R&D in statistical output following a report on the launch of the SSP-Lab.

This report is part of the INSEE 2025 action plan and corresponds to the orientation "Innovate and be in the front line for data sources". It follows on from the reports of two INSEE 2025 working groups (New Data Sources and Professional Excellence) which both highlighted the interest for INSEE of setting up its own unit for producing innovations and liaising with researchers. The launch committee began its work at the end of 2016 and was made up of representatives of the SSP and the Group of National Economics and Statistics Schools (GENES). In particular it carried out a consultation of the MSOs and INSEE departments, as well as an analysis of the experiences of a few other national statistics institutes, including CBS (Netherlands) and Statistics Canada.

The committee strongly based its recommendations on the analysis of five years of operation of INSEE's Directorate for Methodology and Statistical Coordination and International Relations (DMCSI) and more particularly the Applied Econometric and Assessment Methods Division, which is considered, in many respects, as the prototype of the innovation unit on which the unit recommends capitalising. The many examples of work done by the division also provide concrete illustrations of the experiments that an innovation unit could carry out (for example, identification and correction of anomalies in the Nominative Social Declaration using machine learning methods, exploitation of mobile telephone data to measure spatial segregation, etc.). It seemed to the launch committee that the very strong dynamics driving the data sciences field and the attractiveness of these themes for the generations currently in training make it necessary to improve the visibility of the investments being made by official statistics in these areas. The creation of SSP-Lab for INSEE and the MSOs would contribute directly to achieving this.

The launch committee therefore recommended the creation of an SSP-Lab to benefit the entire SSP, whose objective would be to promote and support innovation in the field of official statistical output. Its central focus would be the data sciences. Its role would be one of leadership, watch and the making of innovative investments on subjects defined in interaction with the operational units of INSEE, the MSOs and INSEE, the MSOs and the General Secretariat in charge of IT (SGI). The aim of the SSP-Lab would not be to concentrate all innovation within the SSP, but to be an expert resource and partner catalysing innovation. It would produce innovative prototypes using new sources, new methods, new tools, even new angles of study, upstream of production projects, in particular with a view to envisaging all the possible applications of an innovation.

One of the important roles of the SSP-Lab will be the dissemination of a culture of innovation and knowledge. It will make use of the classic tools of dissemination and promotion (organising seminars, drawing up methodological documents and scientific articles, organising training sessions, setting up communication operations in conjunction with the departments concerned within the SSP).

The aim of the SSP-Lab is to decompartmentalise working methods and to join innovation networks. In particular it will be expected to lead joint projects across the entire SSP as well as with our European partners. The challenge is to pool investments and stimulate innovation by exchanging good practices and sharing feedback. To benefit from the expertise that exists on subjects as yet less developed within the SSP, joining academic networks, whether private or part of public authorities, will be a necessity.

The SSP-Lab will be given the means, in particular, to host researchers and PhD students with a view to irrigating official statistical outputs with research.

The launch committee has recommended creating an SSP-Lab unit at the DMCSI, given its cross-disciplinary positioning and its role of statistical coordination both internally within the SSP and with our European peers, as well as a high level of expertise in statistical methodology. The data sciences are at the intersection of statistics and computer technologies, which will require the recruitment of complementary profiles to the team.

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

- ***Co-production of quarterly employment estimates to rationalise their production and make the variations easier to read***

Since the June 2017 publication of the results for the first quarter of 2017, the quarterly employment estimate at 70 days has been produced in partnership with the ACOSS and the DARES, and published under their triple stamp.

The co-production of these statistics has been accompanied by an extension of the scope covered, which now comprehensively covers all salaried workers (excluding Mayotte).

As they are currently, levels of employment continue to be based on the annual employment estimates produced by INSEE. These annual reference levels are then subject to the application of the quarterly variation rates prepared by INSEE for agriculture, the public sector and private individual employers, by the DARES for temporary workers and by the ACOSS for the private sector excluding temporary work.

The synthesis of all this information provided by the three partners is carried out by INSEE.

- ***Renovation of the DARES-Pôle Emploi publication on job-seekers registered with Pôle Emploi at the end of the month (DEFM)***

The joint DARES-Pôle Emploi publication on job-seekers registered with Pôle Emploi at the end of the month will now be quarterly and it will present the average number of job-seekers registered over the past quarter plus the flows of those registering and de-registering.

Its first edition will concern the figures for the 1st quarter of 2018 and will be released on 25 April 2018. It will come out three weeks before the INSEE's unemployment publication within the meaning of the ILO.

This recasting of the publication is intended to put the spotlight on trend variations rather than month-to-month variations, which are very volatile and often difficult to interpret. Nevertheless, the monthly DEFM series currently published will continue to be posted online every month.

These changes were the subject of consultation with the CNIS and this new form of publication is a continuation of the changes implemented in 2016 following the ASP's recommendations.

- ***The single national pupil identification number (INE) applicable to all schools as of the 2017-2018 school year***

All pupils in schools under the authority of the Education Ministry are now using the single national pupil identification number (INE), which prior to the 2017-2018 academic year varied from one education authority to another.

This number will enable pupils to be tracked throughout their educational career, wherever they are registered in a school and will provide a better overview of the educational path they have followed.

This identification number is entirely under the responsibility of the Education Ministry statistical

office (DEPP), with all the guarantees of confidentiality that its status entails. After being rolled out in all secondary schools under the authority of the Ministry *for* Secondary Education, it will be extended in 2018 to apprenticeships and agricultural education as well as to all students entering higher education.

- ***New indicators in trade and services***

New activity indicators for trade and services came out in March 2017.

In addition to the monthly turnover indices published for each main sector of activity for industry, construction, trade and services, INSEE has produced a new monthly index of sales volumes in the trade sector and a new monthly production index in the service sector, with a view to the coming changes in the European Regulation on Short term statistics.

This will meet the demand from users interested in short-term developments in different sectors.

1.3 Governance of the Official Statistical Service (SSP)

- ***Significant progress within the SSP following on from the Law for a Digital Republic of 7 October 2016***

At national level, the year 2017 was marked by the consequences of the Law for a Digital Republic.

The dissemination of the SIRENE register as Open Data

Since 5 January 2017, the SIRENE register has been published as Open Data through two channels: firstly, the database containing the entire stock of the establishments for the month (some 10 million establishments) is placed online on Data.gouv.fr² and completed every day with the file with the daily updates to the register, and secondly through a service managed by INSEE allowing the constitution of lists of establishments, which is accessible free on Sirène.fr.

The Decree applying Article 3bis of the Law of 7 June 1951

Following the Law for a Digital Republic and after favourable opinions were given by the CNIS and the ASP, the Decree making it compulsory for private organisations to transmit data electronically for official statistical purposes was signed on 31 March 2017.

INSEE's access to mass retailers' scanner data

In application, an Order issued on 13 April 2017 sets out the conditions of transmission to INSEE of the scanner data of mass retail chains. INSEE will therefore be able to use these data to calculate the consumer price index. These data will partly replace the price surveys currently carried out on the ground by investigators in hypermarkets and supermarkets. These data will improve the quality of the index due to the number of prices known, which is much higher than those collected by the investigators today and thanks to the precise knowledge of the products consumed in these shops.

At the current time, due to a lack of information on detailed consumption by sales outlet and product, the consumer price index relies on quota methods, which will no longer be necessary with the use of scanner data. But these also raise numerous statistical questions: due to their volume, they must be handled using big data architectures; operations previously carried out by the investigators (product classification, replacement, etc.) must now be defined automatically. The methodological studies carried out over the last few years have allowed answers to be found to these new questions.

The integration of scanner data into the standard production of the price index is scheduled for 2020. It will be preceded by a rehearsal in 2019 that will enable the consumer price indices produced using scanner data to be compared to indices published according to the current methodology.

Agreements are signed by INSEE and the retailer chains in order to ensure the sustainability of the scanner data transfers for their use for official statistics.

A new procedure for accessing production and research files

Production and research files are individual household survey data files prepared for the purpose of scientific research, which contain, after applying anonymisation process, a very high level of detail. They are made available to researchers by the official statistical service using the Quêtelet network.

2 Data.gouv.fr is the government's open data portal managed by the Etalab inter-ministerial department.

The obligation under the new digital law to place non-confidential databases online means that there is an indirect risk of re-identification due to the mass and wide dissemination that would result, without any real possibility of restricting the audience or uses.

New procedures, falling within the scope of the Law of 1951, therefore had to be defined. These were approved in October 2017 by the Committee on Statistical Confidentiality and *Archives de France*. These new procedures facilitate the job of researchers' as far as possible, in particular by avoiding long delays to obtain files.

A procedure for encrypting the NIR (*register identification number or social security number*) currently being revised

The Law for a Digital Republic also opens the door to a specific, simpler procedure for the matching of individual data for statistical purposes by the official statistical service. This presupposes the introduction of an irreversible procedure for encrypting the NIR obtained by hashing with a secret key. Practical methods for implementing the "hashed NIR" and matching have been proposed by INSEE, based on a very secure management protocol. This protocol has received a favourable response from the data protection agency, the CNIL.

- ***A new charter of rights and duties for the Ministerial Statistical Offices***

Over the last few years, the official statistical service's environment has changed considerably. Notable additions have been made to the reference laws, both French and European: European Regulation 223/2009 amended reinforces the role of statistical coordination of the head of the NSI with the official statistical service, and the Law for a Digital Republic has amended Law no. 51-711 of 7 June 1951 on legal obligation, coordination and confidentiality in the field of statistics (addition of Article 3bis).

The coordination of the official statistical service has also been considerably reinforced, with the introduction at INSEE of the Statistical programme committee since 2013, a body dedicated to this coordination. It was also necessary to update the 2010 MSO Charter to take account of these changes and to make it public.

The new new charter of rights and duties of the MSOs formalises the framework within which the official statistical service operates.

It clarifies the references common to all the ministerial statistical offices associated with their belonging to the official statistical service. In particular it sets out their missions, three of which are unavoidable: the production of official statistics, the making available of the statistical information produced and assistance of the administrative departments of their supervisory ministry.

It also sets out their duties and conditions of operation whilst emphasising recent advances. Concerning the duties, it specifies that professional independence must be recognised by the host administrative department. It also contains a reminder of the national and European laws and regulations governing the activities of the ministerial statistical offices. Finally, it explains the Official Statistics Authority's (ASP) role of evaluation as regards the official statistical service.

The new charter has been sent by Director General of INSEE to the heads of the MSOs and to their department heads or managers, as applicable. It is accessible on the INSEE website.³

- ***Changes to the organisation of the MSOs***

3 The new MSO charter is accessible on the INSEE website at this address: <https://www.insee.fr/fr/information/1302192>

The Statistical Office of the Ministry for Justice widens its prerogatives

The Ministry for Justice has undertaken a reform of the organisation and missions of its general secretariat. To this effect, the Decree on the organisation of the Ministry was amended on 25 April 2017.

This reform of the general secretariat of the Ministry for Justice provided the opportunity to officialise the taking over by the Ministry for Justice's Ministerial Statistical Office of the output of public statistics concerning the prison service. The transfer of this activity, which until recently was dealt with by the prisons department (DAP), will be completed during 2018; dedicated staff have been recruited for this purpose and the conditions of access to DAP data are currently being defined.

On 21 March 2017 the ASP issued a favourable opinion on the draft decree amending the organisation of the Ministry for Justice MSO. In addition, in order to ensure that the actual implementation of the reorganisation consolidates the Justice MSO, the Authority has proposed to conduct a hearing with the MSO in 2019, in particular concerning the extension of its scope to the prison service, the insertion of the MSO and its access to the data.

The Statistical Office of the Ministry for Ecological and Solidarity Transition is changing name

Decree no. 2017-950 of 10 May 2017 amends Decree no. 2008-680 of 9 July 2008 organising the central administration of the Ministry for Ecology, Energy, Sustainable Development and Spatial Planning.

In Article 3 it records the change in the Ministerial Statistical Office's name from Observation and Statistics Department (SOeS) to "Data and Statistical Studies Department" (SDES).⁴

A new director is appointed to head the Directorate for Research, Studies, Evaluation and Statistics (DREES)

Following the Decree of 11 October 2017, Mr Jean-Marc Aubert was appointed Director of Research, Studies, Evaluation and Statistics as of 1 November 2017.

The ASP issued a favourable opinion on this candidature on 18 September 2017, in accordance with Article 7 of its Internal Regulations: *"in particular the Authority issues an opinion at the time of appointing the Director General of INSEE and the heads of the MSOs who are directors of central government bodies. These opinions are issued exclusively on the basis of the criteria relating to professional independence, within the meaning of the 1st principle of the European Statistics Code of Good Practice, mentioned in European Regulation (EC) no. 223/2009 as amended"*.

- ***A new challenge for the official statistical service: the monitoring of the sustainable development goals in France***

At the end of a long cycle of international negotiations, in 2015 the United Nations General Assembly adopted 17 sustainable development goals (SDGs). These goals set for 2030 apply to all countries and cover three aspects of sustainable development: social, economic and environmental. Progress is measured every year by tracking these the 17 SDGs broken down into 169 targets, with which a list of 244 indicators is associated (232 of which apply only to one target), validated by the UN Statistical Commission in March 2017 and due to be revised in 2020 and 2025.

At international level, the tracking of the SDGs is organised on the basis of worldwide indicators calculated by the UN agencies using data transmitted by the different countries. An annual report on the SDGs is drawn

⁴ This Decree also allocated to this MSO responsibility for statistics in the field of fisheries and aquaculture. This mission was called into question later, under the conditions described below in § 2.2.

up by the Secretary General of the United Nations.

At European level, Eurostat will adapt its sustainable development indicators to the policies developed by the European Union. A statistical report will be drawn up by Eurostat once a year on the basis of 100 indicators including half of the world indicators.

In France, the governance of the implementation of the goals is organised by the Ministry for Ecological and Solidarity Transition and the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs. The evaluation will rely on a national adaptation of the world indicators. A consultation process has begun under the aegis of the National Council for Statistical Information (CNIS) in order to select from the list of UN indicators those that are the most relevant at national level and possibly to put forward indicators adapted to national policies. Ultimately, a dashboard of about a hundred indicators covering the 17 SDGs should be selected for the overall management of the SDGs in France.

In France it is INSEE that is coordinating the statistical work relating to these indicators, within the official statistical service. In March 2017, a first list of 109 indicators available at national level was made available on the INSEE, website in dashboard form.⁵ The dissemination of the latter will be adapted taking account of the recommendations of the CNIS working group, in keeping with the transmission of the indicator values to the UN agencies.

INSEE and the statistical office of the Ministry for Ecological and Solidarity Transition produce half of these indicators between them.

1.4 Surveys and publications

- ***Innovative surveys and publications from the SSP on themes connected to societal issues***

In 2017, for the first time (including in Europe), the Education Ministry MSO (DEPP) introduced an assessment of the knowledge and competencies in French and maths of all pupils at the beginning of the first year of secondary school. The operation was carried out with 850,000 pupils on an "online" platform, with a process that enables the assessment to be updated "live" according to the answers to the first questions.

A new edition has been published of the book entitled "*Géographie de l'École*" (Geography of school), which only comes out every 3 years. This book contributes to the public debate on the education system, and helps to steer and monitor public policy by providing decision-makers, the entire educational community, researchers and all those concerned by education-related issues with a wide variety of indicators on the educational system, detailed at local level. The book offers the possibility of confronting the many different dimensions involved in educational success, for each of the local areas, as the local areas are described according to a multitude of variables covering areas such as socio-economic environment, resources dedicated to education, activities, conditions of schooling, pupils' school careers and results.

The collection the SUMER survey data (Medical surveillance of workers' exposure to occupational risks) by the DARES ended in 2017. This survey will complete the result of the Working conditions and worker exposure survey.

The collection of the data for the European Adult Education Survey took place in 2017, with the survey being co-owned by the DARES. This survey aims to form a picture of individuals' training practices as well as the context in which this takes place and the constraints that affect their access to training.

The introduction of the innovative TRAJAM statistical system (trajectory of young people matched to active

⁵ This dashboard can be found on the INSEE website at this address: <https://www.insee.fr/fr/statistiques/2654964>

measurements of the employment market) has begun well. It will enable different indicators to be put together to track the integration of young people and to assess several state schemes targeting young people.

The enhancement of the Working Conditions surveys continued in 2017. Several surveys have been developed with a specific system allowing for assessments of the impact of systems, notably by creating a control population. Certain assessments were finalised in 2017: that of the Youth Guarantee (*Garantie Jeunes*) in particular. the subsidised contracts panel (Future Jobs (*Emplois d'avenir*) and CUIs (Single Integration Contracts) will allow returns to work to be assessed in 2018.

Finally, the roll-out of the Nominative Social Declaration built up to very rapid pace at the beginning of 2017. 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. Publication will begin again in 2018.

In 2017, in the health field, the DREES (Directorate for Research, Analysis, Evaluation and Statistics, Ministries for Health and Social Affairs) conducted two new or overhauled surveys:

- The survey on supplementary corporate social protection which will enable the assessment of the implementation of the national inter-professional agreement of 2013, which has obliged companies to offer group complementary health coverage to all their employees since 1 January 2016 and a brand new survey on delays in access to care conducted with a sample of people from the INSERM CONSTANCES cohort.

- In the social and medico-social field, several surveys were also conducted: another wave of the survey on Reasons for retirement, with questions for the first time on the perceived normativity of the pension system, and the survey of establishments and services providing support for adults with social difficulties.

New publications produced by the DREES in 2017 include the results of the National Perinatal Survey (DREES-INSERM) which questioned all women who gave birth during the week from 14 to 20 March 2016 and all maternity services, the results of the CARE survey of dependent elderly people living in their own homes, the report on the State of Health of the population in France (DREES-Santé Publique France (Public Health France), which included regional profiles for the first time, a study conducted with a panel of general practitioners on the exchanges between GPs and the hospital concerning the follow-up of cancer patients and another on the follow-up of patients suffering from several conditions. Finally, in 2017 the DREES published numerous new sets of results drawn from its survey of the Departments' welfare services, in connection with the creation of a new Annual Panorama on Welfare and Social Care in France.

In 2017, the Agriculture MSO finished collecting data for the European farm structure survey. This survey was conducted with over 50,000 farms in order to update the findings of the 2010 census. The first work has also begun on preparing the 2020 agricultural census.

As far as the measurement of land occupancy is concerned, the Teruti survey system has been completely overhauled in order to intensify observation in the areas most likely to see changes in land cover. Collection of the data under the new system began at the end of 2017 and should produce more accurate results at Departmental level by cumulating two consecutive years' data.

A new survey of plant protection practices in the wine-growing sector was conducted at the beginning of the year while some very detailed results on agricultural practices drawn from several different surveys were published. Concerning practices in livestock farming, very detailed results taken from the 2016 survey were published on cattle (housing conditions, effluent management, sanitary practices, animal care, etc.).

The Ecological and Solidarity Transition MSO brought out in conjunction with the Agriculture MSO and INSEE a brand new publication in the "INSEE References" collection: *The economic players and the environment*. This publication contains a set of analyses and indicators intended to provide a synthetic overview of the interactions that exist between the environment and the economy in France.

Furthermore plus, in order to improve the assistance with the management of the energy transition, the MSO set itself the target of completing its traditional Energy balance expressed in physical units with the

equivalent expressed in Euros. The first component of this work, devoted to electricity, was published in 2017 under the title "*Bilan physique et monétaire de l'électricité 2011-2015*" (Physical and monetary balance for electricity). This will be followed by other publications in 2018.

In 2017 the Youth and Sport MSO, in partnership with the Directorate for Sports, put out an invitation to tender for the production of a biannual review of sports practice. This system is intended to track changes over time in French people's sports practices with a sample group of people aged 15 and over in Metropolitan France and the overseas Departments and Regions, pending the new national survey on sports practices planned for 2019-2020.

Furthermore, a new collection from the Youth and Sport MSO entitles "*INJEP analyses and synthèses*" appeared in 2017, which is recasting of the MSO's "*Stat-Info*" bulletin as well as "*Youth: studies and synthèses*" collection in a single publication, divided into three sub-collections - "Official statistics", "Studies and research", "Experiments" -, which are more comprehensible and easier for all those concerned to use. In 2017 the Culture MSO published a regional culture atlas, a new collection intended to bring together in a single publication a vast set of culture-related data, available at national level and allowing for territorialised exploitation.

In 2017, the Directorate General for Local Authorities (DGCL) MSO at the Interior Ministry, completely overhauled the dissemination of local authorities' financial statistics.

They are now calculated using a method that tracks real financial flows and not the transactions corresponding to movements between lines in the budget without any effective cash movements. This provides a more "economic" vision of local authority accounts. They also include, for the first time, all the local authorities' budgets the main budgets, as usual, but also the so-called "subsidiary" budgets⁶. The expenditure recorded in these subsidiary budgets accounts for 9% of the expenditure in the main budgets. A specific publication detailed the weight of these subsidiary budgets, and also that of local authority syndicates.

In 2017 this MSO produced new publications on the disparities in municipalities' spending, on new municipalities, on local authority syndicates and on the socio-demographic description of local elected representatives in collaboration with another directorate of the Interior Ministry.

The Civil Service MSO published a study in 2017 on employment and status paths in the civil service of contract public employees hired in 2011, in its annual report on the state of the civil service in 2017.

In March 2017 the Defence MSO introduced a Gross Salary Index-Index-Based Scale (ITB-GI) for military personnel, similar to the one calculated for the State Civil Service, based on the results of the Census of Government Employees (RAE). This measures the change in the gross salaries of military personnel taking into account the impact of general measures and category-specific reforms. It is published once a quarter.

Based on the results of a survey conducted with staff of remembrance tourism sites (museums, memorial sites, etc.), in 2017 the MSO published a first measurement of visitor numbers at remembrance tourism sites in Metropolitan France. It completes an earlier analysis of the impact of the commemorations of the Great War in Verdun.

INSEE saw a large number of developments in 2017.

A publication appeared in the *INSEE References* collection on housing conditions in France drawing on the most recent Housing survey. This publication provides an overview of the housing situation in France, mainly covering the last 30 years, as well as special "insight" reports on the situation of tenants, access to home ownership, residential mobility and finally the determinants of dwelling occupancy status and residential mobility of immigrant households.

In *France Portrait Social*, a special report focused on households with a median standard of living. This

⁶ These are budgets created to track and manage very specific activities: sewerage and water distribution, public transport, creation of craft or business parks, etc.

"insight" report stood out from the usual studies that appear regularly on the poor, the wealthy and the development of the gap between these two categories of the population. The aim was to provide a detailed picture of the category of households which today have a median standard of living, to describe how they have changed over the last twenty years and to compare them to other categories of households

Another report in *France Portrait Social* covers the formation and breakdown of relationships and explains the specificities of cohabiting couples.

In *L'Économie Française*, an article on big data, official statistics and measuring the economy looks at the advantages in using big data for observation, with a summary of the monitoring work done on the subject.⁷

In the enterprises field, a new publication in the *INSEE Analyses* collection provided a first estimate of the share of tourist accommodation offered by private individuals via internet platforms, and other publications have appeared on groups based in France, on "renting or buying", on pharmacists' income, on florists, garden centres, pet shops.

⁷ For more detail, see Chapter 3.4 on new sources of big data for official statistics

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

The ASP notes that the progress made in 2017 by the entire official statistical service, whether in terms of statistical output or publications, show that the SSP is innovating, perfecting its methods and is able to be reactive in its responses to the requests made to it in relation to different societal issues.

Furthermore, the ASP approves INSEE's objectives associated with its strategic plan INSEE 2025 which is intended to respond to the widening of the types of public it must take into account with respect to the demand for statistical information, to invest in new sources of data and matchings, to better share methods, tools, experiences and data.

With regard to the budget, the Authority notes that, in 2017, compliance with constraints, at INSEE, was made possible by the continuation of territorial reform and merging of certain services at Regional level. For 2018, INSEE's budget is in line with the downward trajectory of staffing levels in the financial ministries. The efforts sought do not seem to be untenable given the measures taken to improve productivity. On the other hand, against a background of increased demand for diversified, quality statistical information, the Authority does not believe that the efforts currently being asked of INSEE in terms of annual staff reductions can be maintained for the duration of the five-year term of office if it is to maintain its ability to fulfil its mission of providing objective material to feed public debate and inform public and private choices.

In this context, the search for the most effective use of resources, the mobilisation of the possibilities for cost reductions offered by information technologies and the optimisation of statistical outputs are all imperatives. In this respect, productivity gains are ultimately expected thanks to structuring projects such as the "Scanner data" project with mass retailers for example, or the use of the internet for surveys.

Concerning the latter more generally, the Authority strongly encourages INSEE to continue exploring all the avenues to meet the requirement of efficiency: greater industrialisation of household and business surveys, backing new modules with existing surveys rather than conducting new editions of the survey, reduction in the length of interviews to save resources in terms of investigators, reduction in survey sample size, etc.

However, the Authority notes that since the adoption in 2013 of the new employment framework for INSEE investigators and their inclusion in the Institute's employment ceiling, the defining of the programme of surveys carried out with households is an exercise that has become more and more difficult. In fact, the survey programme has to try and respond to an ever greater social demand. In addition, the possibilities for limiting the use of direct surveys seem low: although administrative sources and new data can enrich the statistics to meet certain needs, they cannot help to limit the use of some direct surveys in the same way to improve the quality as is necessary in certain cases. In any case, the programme of surveys remains subject to many constraints imposed by European requirements. Outside of the regular surveys, INSEE can therefore only carry out one "aperiodic" survey per year and certain ministerial statistical offices seem to be under pressure in this area.

The Authority reiterates that official statistics must have sufficient resources at their disposal to be able to meet the public's expectations in terms of quality and to meet our European commitments regarding the provision of statistics. In addition, to manage long-term projects, the Authority considers that the SSP needs to have visibility over jobs over several years. The difficulties and challenges highlighted above plead in favour of concluding multi-annual agreements describing the objectives set and the resources granted in the medium term.

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

2.1 The European and international context

European Regulations, Vision 2020 and revision of the European Statistics Code of Practice

- ***The European Regulations under negotiation raise numerous issues for the SSP***

The Integrated European Social Statistics Regulation (IESS) is the most advanced, but also the one that has been the most controversial within the Council of the European Union. It groups together some of the sector-specific Regulations already in force that apply to most of INSEE's household surveys. Population censuses are excluded from this Regulation.

The main points in this Regulation that have been subject to debate concern:

- the inclusion of the Family Budget survey and the Time-use survey in this framework regulation, as until now these two themes have not been covered by a legal framework,
- the reduction in the time taken to make certain social statistics available, including the poverty rate, which raises difficulties in France insofar as INSEE prioritises administrative sources to produce reliable indicators, which sources become available relatively late,
- It also includes the production by Eurostat of a monthly unemployment rate which relies on the transmission by the Member States of data allowing a calculation within a short space of time (approximately 25 days after the reference month),
- The Regulation is also very demanding as regards the accuracy of certain statistics at regional level (statistical survey on resources and living conditions in particular).

The Regulation concerning European business statistics (FRIBS, Framework Regulation Integrating Business Statistics) brings together about ten current sector-specific Regulations covering different areas of business statistics. Negotiations on this framework Regulation could begin at the Council in the first half of 2018. The Regulation provides in particular, and for the first time, for a mandatory exchange of micro-data (enterprises and foreign trade) between national statistical institutes on the production of European statistics, which raises numerous questions relating to coordination, quality and the security of transfers, which have been debated at European level.

The Regulation concerning agricultural statistics (IFS, Integrated Farming Statistics) will repeal the current Regulations concerning farm structure statistics (Regulation 1166/2008) and those concerning permanent crops (Regulation 1337/2011). This Regulation establishes the legal foundation for the conducting of the next agricultural census in 2020. It could be adopted by spring 2018.

The Regulation on the nomenclature and territorial typologies (TERCET) is intended to complete the current Regulation on the common classification of territorial units for statistics (NUTS) with a typology of territorial units (urban vs. rural, coastal vs. inland, grid cells, etc.). This Regulation was adopted in December 2017.

- ***The European Regulation on the protection of personal data must be adapted into French law***

Europe adopted a Regulation on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data on 27 April 2016. This Regulation is intended to enable Europe to adapt to the new digital realities by proposing a reform of data protection. It has three goals: to reinforce

individuals' rights, to make processors of data accountable, to credibilise regulation.

This European Regulation on personal data comes into force on 25 May 2018. By then, France must take measures to adapt French law to the Regulation. This requires changes to Law no. 78-17 of 6 January 1978 on data processing, computer files and freedom, with a view to simplifying it. The bill was examined by the Law Commission and the Social Affairs Commission and was discussed by both commissions on 23 January 2018.

One of the major difficulties of the transposition of the Regulation into French law concerns the multiple uses of the national registration number (NIR) and the guarantees currently attached to these different usages.

Concerning official statistics, the issue is that the simplification sought in the text must not call into question the waiver clauses necessary for the official statistical service and for research particularly with regard to the matching possibilities. In this respect, all the specific provisions and exemptions that the official statistical service enjoys under the current data protection law have been retained in the bill. Most worthy of mention: waivers relating to the purpose of the processing, information on the implementation of the processing, communication of personal data. Likewise, the official statistical service would still have, as it has now, the possibility of processing "sensitive" data. Furthermore, the bill integrates the advances of the Law for a Digital Republic, concerning the possibility for the official statistical service of implementing a simplified individual data matching procedure, known as the encrypted NIR procedure.

As far as health data are concerned, the provisions of the 2016 Health Law concerning processing for study and research purposes are also integrated completely in a chapter dedicated to the amended 1978 bill.

The application of the European Regulation on data protection will constitute a radical change in culture, with the change from a system based on prior formalities to one based on the accountability of the parties involved, which **appears** as a simplification for the official statistical service. The bill nevertheless raises some questions, including the reference to a framework decree on processing involving the NIR, unencrypted NIR or NIR combined with sensitive data (excluding health or legal/criminal data, which are subject to specific rules). This framework decree will be complex to draw up and of crucial importance for the entire French official statistical service.

- ***The deployment of the "Vision 2020" projects is progressing***

"Vision 2020" is a strategic reflection project on the European Statistical System (ESS) up to 2020 which aims to establish the principles for a modernisation of the architecture and production of ESS statistics.

One of the foundations of this strategy is the idea of sharing and pooling to a greater extent, within the network of NSIs, common working methods, good practices and even tools/infrastructures for processing data. This vision was born of the need expressed by all the ESS partners to modernise their statistical output in order to remain competitive in an external environment that is becoming more and more competitive and in a budgetary context that is ever more strained for the NSIs. The implementation of this strategy rests on a set of "projects" concerning IT infrastructures, the nature and processing of data and the development of tools to be shared between the NSIs.

By the end of 2017, the French official statistical service was actively contributing to several of the Vision 2020 projects, in particular three of them concerning:

- the feeding of data into a European register of businesses and consolidation of flows between subsidiaries in European enterprises;
- the development of dissemination tools for European statistics and communication products;
- the pooling of joint, standardised IT services.

Concerning the secure exchange of individual data on foreign trade, Eurostat funds the Member States to secure their IT infrastructure. In France, this is the case for the Customs MSO, whose infrastructure is due to be certified by 2020.

The SSP also takes part in projects aimed at sharing good practices between NSIs on common issues encountered, in particular in the "Big Data" project (see Chapter 3.4).

- ***A new version of the European Statistics Code of Practice is adopted***

In the first half of 2017 Eurostat submitted a first proposal for the revision of the European Statistics Code of Practice, which has been examined by different European bodies. This proposed revision is in response to the request of the European authority, the ESGAB (European Statistical Governance Advisory Board) to better integrate coordination, in line with the changes in the legal environment induced by Regulation (EC) 223/2009 amended. It is also an opportunity to integrate the Quality Declaration approved by the ESSC in September 2016 and translating the commitment of its members to the continuous improvement of quality. This Declaration is intended to convince decision-makers of the quality of "official" statistics in an environment marked by increasing competition.

The European Statistical System Committee (ESSC) announced its decision on the project resulting from these consultations in November 2017 and approved a new revision of the Code, the last version of which dates from 2011.

The main change consists of introducing a new principle on coordination and cooperation, thereby clarifying the link between Regulation 223/2009 amended and the European Code. This principle deals with the coordination by the NSIs at national level, as well as cooperation at national level with the Central Banks and within the European Statistical System with regard to the production and dissemination of European statistics.

The revision of the Code is also intended to make it more generic, that is to day focused on a particular source of data: the wording of certain indicators is amended so that they can apply to any statistical operation relying on surveys and administrative sources, but also on data from big data sources. It also take accounts of the development of exchanges of micro-data between the national institutes (NSIs).

The next peer review, announced for 2021, is expected to rely on this revised version of the European Code.

2.2 The compliance of the Official Statistical Service with the European Statistics Code of Practice⁸

Vigilance in the implementation by the French official statistical service of the principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice is at the core of the Authority's mission. The Authority's annual report provides an opportunity for the systematic analysis of compliance with its principles.

Principle 1: Professional independence

The Authority's mission, as defined legally in Law no. 51-711, being to guarantee compliance with the principle of professional independence in the design, production and dissemination of official statistics, control in this area is the subject of particular attention. One of the means the authority has at its disposal in this regard lies in the fact that its opinion is sought on any bill relating to the missions of INSEE or the ministerial statistical offices (cf. Article 1-3° of Decree no. 2009-250 of 3 March 2009).

Going against Decree no. 2017-950 which, following a decision to abolish (in line with the Authority's recommendations in 2014) the specific "fisheries and aquaculture" MSO which at the time was part of the DPMA⁹, assigned the production of statistics in this field to the Ecological and Solidarity Transition (SDES) statistical office, the Ministerial Order of 13 December 2017 issued by the Minister of Agriculture and Food amending the organisation and attributions of the secretariat general of his ministry attributed statistical competence in this field to the statistical office of the Ministry for Agriculture (SSP).

This transfer, carried out without consulting the Authority raised at once: questions regarding its opportuneness, in particular with regard to the concern expressed by the Authority following the hearing of the head of the SDES office on 21 June 2017 not to delay in any way the work on bringing the surveys concerned up to the required level, which was actually not complete at the time; and a problem of principle, the regulations introduced in 2009 manifesting the importance to be given to the precise definition of the missions of the ministerial statistical offices in order to ensure their professional independence and the effectiveness of the entire official statistical service. In fact, the Decree on which the Ministry for Agriculture was relying to justify the procedure that followed appeared to be anterior.

Under these conditions, it was admitted that the regulatory definition of the missions of the SSP had to be established more precisely, on the basis of an analysis justifying the reasons for the transfer envisaged, the corresponding project being submitted to the Authority. In addition, it appeared that this change in the missions of the SSP was also an opportunity to update the conditions of its operation with regard to European Regulation 223/2009 amended.

Such a project amending Article 2 of Decree no. 2008-636 fixing the central organisation of the Ministry for Agriculture was submitted to the Authority in January 2018, with the clear aim of thereby laying the foundations of exemplary functioning with regard to the principle of professional independence.

From this point of view, the definition of the Ministerial Statistical Offices' Charter, which reiterates in particular the principles of the Code of Practice and the role of the Authority, should avoid a similar situation re-occurring. This experience leads us, however, to suggest progressively standardising the decrees establishing the missions of the ministerial statistical offices, integrating into them the most recent European and national regulations.

Principle 2: Mandate for data collection.

Decree no. 2017-463 of 31 March 2017 implementing Article 3 bis of the Law of 7 June 1951 on legal obligation, coordination and confidentiality in the field of statistics lays down the conditions under which the decision is taken by the Minister in charge of the economy rendering the transmission of data held in

8 This report only mentions the principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice that attracted particular attention during 2017.

9 Directorate for Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture

databases kept by legal entities under private laws mandatory in order to answer obligatory statistical surveys (cf. Article 19 of the Law for a Digital Republic).

Principle 3: Adequacy of resources

With regard to the budget, in 2017, compliance with constraints, at INSEE, was made possible by the continuation of territorial reform and merging of certain services at Regional level.

In 2018, INSEE's budget once again followed the downward trend of public spending. The employment plan (or the annual variation in employment) stands at – 82 FTEs (including investigators), or an effort ratio (net job cuts as a ratio of the arbitrated employment ceiling) of 1.5%, similar to all the Ministry' programmes.

INSEE's main objective is to continue implementing the action plan relating to the strategic INSEE 2025 project, to consolidate the changes connected to the organisation of INSEE in the regions following the territorial reform and to finalise the ramping up of the statistical centre in Metz.

Principle 4: Commitments to quality

Following the peer review driven by Eurostat in 2014, a quality action plan was defined for the French official statistical service for the years 2015 to 2019.

The quality action plan provides for the implementation of quality measures covering all of the SSP's statistical output until the end of 2019.

The range of quality initiatives was filled out in 2017: four initiatives¹⁰ were completed, eight are ongoing and should be completed by mid-2018, while five others are planned.

The content of the initiatives is diverse and adapted to the expectations of the owners: description of the target process, self-assessment, risk analysis enabling the ranking of the quality criteria, process review.

To prioritise these initiatives, INSEE and the MSOs are gradually equipping themselves with process mapping systems. INSEE has drawn up a list of twelve macro-processes, which was validated in October 2017 by INSEE's Strategic Quality Committee. The MSOs are drawing up and organising the lists of their key statistical processes.

Furthermore, quality guidelines have been defined by INSEE in collaboration with the ministerial statistical offices. These form a reference document for the SSP in terms of quality (see Annex 4).

The guidelines aim to identify the points on which the Director General of INSEE must have information to ensure the quality of the key statistics produced¹¹ within the MSOs, in line with the spirit of Regulation (EC) no. 223/2009 amended¹².

These guidelines are provided in the form of recommendations and are consistent with INSEE's response to the monitoring report on the implementation of the recommendations derived from the 2014 Peer Review. They enable a quality "roadmap" to be drawn up for each MSO. These "roadmaps" are individualised and they contain the quality commitments of each MSO for the end of 2019 in terms of governance, skills

10 Self-assessment of ESANE on the results validation phase, drawing up of quality criteria for the API SIRENE system, complete quality initiatives on the Census of Government Employees procedure with the Economic Observatory for Defence (OED) and on the process of producing monthly statistics on crime recorded with the Internal Security statistical office.

11 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.

12 Cf. Article 5 bis g) of Regulation no. 223/2009 revised

development, steering and implementation of quality initiatives, compliance with European and national recommendations (of the ASP in particular) and the taking into account of users' needs and levels of satisfaction.

Principle 6: Impartiality and objectivity

- **Embargo breaches**

As every year, the Authority examines embargo breaches. In 2017, the Authority did not observe any embargo breaches of government origin.

The 2014 peer review had highlighted that in certain ministerial statistical offices dissemination under embargo did not comply with Principle 6 of the European Statistics Code of Practice due to a lack of homogeneity in practices and dissemination waiting times that were too long.

It issued the following recommendation: "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 Code of Practice (indicator 6.7)". The Director General of INSEE, responsible for the coordination of the SSP, asked the heads of the MSOs to bring the principles of their embargo rules into line with INSEE's. For this purpose, a framework document, validated jointly by INSEE and the MSOs, was adapted for each Ministerial Statistical Office according to the characteristics of their publications (see the framework document in Annex 3). These rules are progressively being published on the INSEE and MSO websites. They are accompanied by a list of statistical indicators subject to embargo for each office.

- **Announcement of dissemination calendars**

The three ministerial statistical offices that had not yet posted their dissemination calendar online did so in 2017, thereby complying with the ASP's recommendation.

The dissemination calendar for the Youth and Sport MSO is therefore now available at the following address: <http://www.injep.fr/rubriques/statistiques-et-indicateurs>

The dissemination calendar for the Ministry for Culture and Communication MSO is available at the following address:

<http://www.culturecommunication.gouv.fr/Thematiques/Etudes-et-statistiques/Publications>

It includes the four periodic publications annually updated by the MSO: these are the Chiffres clés de la culture (Key Figures on Culture), the Atlas régional de la culture (Regional Culture Atlas), the Poids économique direct de la culture (Direct Economic Weight of Culture) and the Observatoire pour l'égalité entre femmes et hommes dans la culture (Gender Equality in Culture Observatory).

The dissemination calendar for the Local Authorities MSO is available at the following address:

<https://www.collectivites-locales.gouv.fr/etudes-et-statistiques-locales>

Following the ASP's 2016 recommendation, the MSOs are questioned by INSEE every year to assess the punctuality of the publications they announce in their dissemination calendar. This is to determine the rate of punctuality observed and the reasons for any discrepancies if the statistical offices have remained in charge of the production of the publications and the dissemination of their statistics.

The 2017 year concluded that the independence of the MSOs had been respected. Most of the MSOs had a punctuality rate of over 90%. Delays were mainly explained by a lack of human resources (especially for the

small MSOs), by delays in availability of incoming sources, by proofreading times being longer than expected or misjudged or by a temporary excess workload due to current events.

Principle 7: Sound methodology

In 2017, the governance and reflections around the multi-modal collection of information in household surveys developed strongly at INSEE, in particular on the manner of designing and developing multi-modal household surveys more effectively by aiming for greater industrialisation of these surveys.

Work is ongoing on the issue of the aggregation of multi-modal data, on the effects of the mode (selection and measurement) on two important surveys, the Employment survey and the annual census survey.

Following the 2014 Peer Review's recommendations on the initiative of Eurostat, the Institute undertook to publish at the end of 2017 "*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 ten statistical methodology sheets that have been published on the INSEE website in the statistical Tools and Methods section. These methodology sheets present the main methods and tools used by INSEE in the different phases of a survey process. They deal with issues concerning sampling techniques, methods of processing survey data and estimation.

Principle 9: Manageable burden for respondents

The DREES has sought to lighten its surveys by enriching them with administrative data. Thus the DREES survey on delays in access to care (data collection in 2017) uses INSERM's CONSTANCES cohort. It thus uses the infrastructure of the cohort and especially the data collected for this study.

On this scope of social and medico-social data, in 2017 the DREES embarked on a systematic approach to mapping all the surveys and information systems of the Ministry and its operators (CNSA, ANAP, etc.) and set out to create a network of "data contact people" in all the directorates, including those where statistics are not the core activity.

The purpose of this action is, on the one hand, to better articulate the different systems for acquiring data from local authorities and social and medico-social establishments and services, in order to reduce the reporting burden by reducing redundancy thanks to the exchanging of data upstream, and by better planning of collection timetables, and on the other hand, to identify all the administrative files available, with a view, in a second phase, to assessing their quality and envisaging how they can be used in the statistical observation system.

The Culture MSO uses local authority management accounts (DGFIP) to reduce the surveys it carries out with local authorities.

Principle 10: Cost effectiveness

Collection via the internet continues

The online response rate to the annual census survey continued to rise in 2017: 46% of households and 54% of individuals chose this method of response, +7 points compared to the 2016 survey.

INSEE is continuing its plan to experiment with conducting household surveys online. The aim is to offer this online method of response for all surveys within a few years. This involves integrating the multi-modal approach into all household surveys by adapting their protocol, while striving to improve the quality (response rate for groups reluctant to participate in face-to-face surveys), efficiency, responsiveness and the Institute's image. There are plans, for example, to put the Employment survey online by 2020-2021.

The computerisation of collections 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). 11 more surveys joined this collection platform in 2017, and it is gradually replacing the different existing systems.

At the DARES, since 2016, all enterprises surveyed in the framework of the quarterly ACEMO surveys have been given the opportunity to respond online via INSEE's COLTRANE website. 25% replied on the internet at the end of 2017. This rate is expected to grow as in 2018, companies were encouraged even more to respond online (paper questionnaire only sent out in a second phase). For the first time, the *Réponse* survey of professional relationships and business negotiations has used the online mode to survey employees. 61% of respondents used the online questionnaire.

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 process of computerising the surveys of establishments and services is coming to its end with the online collection of surveys of establishments providing support for people (adults and then children) with social difficulties. The computerisation of surveys with Departmental councils will be finalised in 2020: after the computerisation of the maternal and child protection component in 2017, those concerning the elderly and the disabled, child welfare and staff will be computerised in 2018, 2019 and 2020 respectively.

As part of the performance indicators of the LOLF (law on finance law procedures) in 2017 DEPP organised assessments implemented by means of a brand new system of entering data on tablets brought into each of the schools in the sample. These assessments concerned competencies 1 and 3 in the common base ("Mastery of French", "Main elements of mathematics and scientific and technological literacy") at the end of year 4.

The Youth and Sport MSO produces a performance indicator every year on the employment of holders of Ministry diplomas. This indicator is obtained using a survey conducted by regional directors for Youth, Sport and Social Cohesion managed at national level by the MSO in partnership with the Directorate for Sport. This survey, which began in 2017, now collects its data exclusively online based on an enhanced questionnaire that has been harmonised between the regions.

New administrative sources are being mobilised

On the Education ministry side, the back to school review was conducted for the first time in September 2017 via the DEPP's new secondary education information system, the Education Authority Consolidated Statistical Information System (SYSCA) which uses the new single pupil identification number (INE).

The Ministry in charge of Youth issues diplomas for youth leaders and workers working in group activity centres for children, as activity leaders (BAFA) or centre managers or assistant managers (BAFD). In 2017 the Youth and Sport MSO exploited these administrative data collected by the Ministry for the first time. This exploitation of the BAFA-BAFD databases has replaced the transmission of information that was the responsibility until now of local departments. These data are used to characterise the population of diploma holders and analyse any changes over the last few years.

On the Health side, the Law on the Modernisation of the Healthcare System has created in particular a National Healthcare Data System (SNDS) which consolidates data from the *Système national d'information inter-régimes d'assurance maladie* (non-hospital medicine) and from the *Programme de médicalisation des*

systèmes d'information (hospital data), along with data from the INSERM Epidemiology Centre on medical causes of death, and eventually medico-social data on disabilities and a representative sample of reimbursement data from supplementary insurance bodies. This SNDS constitutes a major source of data for official statistics and for research and analysis activities.

The DREES is also running the project to make reimbursement data from supplementary insurance bodies available in the national health data system (ADAM project). It has worked with INSEE on matching the permanent demographic sample (EDP) with the SNDS data. This "Health EDP" will make it possible, in particular, to study major social inequalities in the health field.

The DREES is also developing its samples of longitudinal individual data constructed from administrative data, in the fields of pensions, statutory minimum incomes, social care for the elderly and disabled. In the disability field, the inter-pension scheme sample (EIR) concerning the situation at 31 December 2016 has been extended to include the permanently disabled covered by the general scheme: this will mean that comprehensive individual data (covering all schemes) on beneficiaries of a disability pension is available for the first time. The EIR was also matched to tax data for the first time.

The first step in the PHEDRE system on the disability compensation benefit, which aims to improve long-term understanding of the implementation of the aid schemes provided under this benefit, consisted, in 2017, of transmitting individual administrative data from the Departmental disabled centres and Departmental councils (for the first time for this benefit).

In the field of the elderly, transmission of administrative data from the Departmental councils on the beneficiaries of and applicant for autonomy or housing benefits, was made mandatory four times a year in 2017. The collection of data on the situation in 2017 was prepared; these data will be collected in 2018 and will constitute the first step in the creation of a new panel allowing the longitudinal monitoring of the progression of loss of autonomy: the ÉNÉAS panel.

The DREES also launched a project in 2017 to match different panel data, in order to create a new panel allowing the analysis of issues cutting across several themes connected with social protection and care (ETAPS panel).

In terms of monitoring, the DREES is participating actively in developing the statistical use of the new inter-pension system 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). It has stressed the importance with the GIP of taking into account the expression of statistical needs in all projects, and has contributed to methodological work on the quality or sources - prior to their subsequent statistical use - in the context of its participation in the GIP Union Retraite's "statistics" working group. In the field of social and medico-social establishments, in 2017 the DREES took measures to find out more about and gain access to the data managed by the DGCS (Directorate General for Social Cohesion) or by the CNSA (National Solidarity Fund for Autonomy), with a view to their being assessed in 2018 or 2019.

Within the Agriculture MSO, the mobilisation of administrative data in addition to the surveys continued with the use for various operations of the aid files of the CAP, the vineyard register (CVI), the geographical parcel register (RPG), the BDNI (National identification database), the data on organic agriculture and the files of the MSA (agricultural social protection scheme). In particular, the BDNI data have replaced data from the cattle slaughter survey since the 2nd quarter of 2017, certain variables of minor significance now being estimated using a model.

The audits carried out by the INSEE General Inspectorate are being reinforced

In 2017, the INSEE General Inspectorate conducted audit and advice missions designed to optimise the resources, improve processes and provide decision-making support. These reports concerned a very wide

variety of subjects, covering not only the classic professional areas (enterprise surveys, household surveys, national accounts, studies and dissemination, regional actions) as well as IT, human resources management or initial training issues.

They included:

- an audit on IT project efficiency, carried out with the help of an external service provider;
- a report on the consequences of enterprise profiling on the national accounts;
- a report on the current status and perspectives for automatic codification at INSEE;
- concerning the organisation of dissemination, a report on the process leading from analyses to publications;
- on the question of activities in the regions, a report on the governance of regional actions;
- a report on employment statistics and the communication associated with them (assignment that was presented to the ASP at the time of its launch);
- finally, a report of a more forward-looking nature relating to the governance of the register of natural persons identification number (NIR).

INSEE has begun to implement the actions in its INSEE 2025 strategic plan.

In 2017, INSEE organised an internal seminar on the implementation of its strategic project and the related action plan, after their adoption in 2016 and their operational engagement. This seminar allowed an interim review of the action plan to be carried out and the cross-cutting issues raised by its implementation within the official statistical service to be explored.

It was an opportunity to put the European Vision 2020 into perspective with the actions in the INSEE 2025 project. Although these two exercises are different in nature, the two projects converge in their main orientations: to take into account the widening of the types of public with respect to the demand for statistical information, to invest in new sources of data and matchings, to better share methods, tools, experiences and data.

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 highlights the new needs, in a forward-looking approach. It also contributes to the preparation each year of a programme work and statistical surveys in line with the needs of the players involved to society in the social and economic fields. The CNIS's thus work meets the principle of relevance (*see Annex 8 for the detailed review of the CNIS' activities for 2017*).

Satisfaction surveys

Satisfaction surveys aim to assess the quality of the provision of information in relation to the public's expectations regarding relevance of information, ease of access, choice of media, etc. These surveys 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 2017, INSEE carried out or completed six satisfaction surveys on specific topics or on its image with the public and the credibility of the data it produces.

The French Economic Tables (TEF) readership survey launched in 2016 concluded in 2017. The readers interviewed were satisfied with the TEFs: the publication meets the expectations of 97% of them. Half of them give them a rating of 8/10 or more. Two out of three said they do not know of any equivalent publication. The figures and definitions are widely consulted and the comments are considered to be interesting and easy to understand. As is often the case, certain readers, mainly students and high school pupils, would like to see more pedagogy in the writing.

A survey of the users of the insee.fr website (six waves of surveys in two months) enabled INSEE to know more about their profile, their level of satisfaction and the subjects that interest them. 79% of respondents found what they were looking for, mainly data (49%), but also publications (27%) or an index (19%). These users use search engines, either external ones of the site's own, to find the information that interests them.

As part of the project to overhaul the SIRENE, the register of enterprises and establishments, and the SIRENE quality initiative, a satisfaction survey was conducted with the users of the register. They were satisfied overall with the quality of the data, but wished to have better quality addresses. The services provided suit them and the documentation is clear. Available as open data since the opening of the register, the tools provided on the Data.gouv website are little used. One year after the new website went live (November 2016), users' opinions were gathered via a specific end-of-year satisfaction survey. The results are in the course of being analysed.

Finally, as for every year since 2009, two surveys were carried out on INSEE's image: as perceived by the general public and by visitors to the insee.fr website.

In 2017, the Image survey with the general public was a complete survey. Conducted in October, it concerned knowledge and opinions of INSEE, the credibility of eight indicators (unemployment rate, growth rate, consumer price index (CPI), birth rate, rent reference index, population census data, purchasing power and government debt) and trust in the figures published.

Awareness of the Institute remained high in 2017: 83% of people interviewed said they knew INSEE and 62% "see what it does". The good opinion French people have of it was up three points (83%). Mistrust of economic statistics, however, still concerns a majority of the French public: 53% of respondents do not trust the "figures and data published on France's economic and social situation", although when these respondents are questioned on specific indicator, the mistrust is less pronounced, in particular for flagship indicators like the growth rate of the CPI, and this mistrust has fallen compared to 2016.

As in previous years internet users visiting the insee.fr website have a good opinion of the Institute. They consider it useful (94%), declare that it inspires confidence (91%) and 83% consider that it fulfils its mission well. The impression of independence from political power is at once the subject that receives the lowest approval level, 62 (down 3 points) and the largest number of "don't knows" (22%). Regarding the indicators, credibility has improved for the eight outputs tested, in particular the unemployment rate, the growth rate and the consumer price index.

In 2017, INSEE worked to publish on www.insee.fr the main results of the eight satisfaction surveys carried out in 2016. This posting online of these results followed on the recommendations of the 2014 peer review and the recommendations of the Official Statistics Authority (ASP). The results of the surveys can be found at this address:

<https://www.insee.fr/fr/information/2129030>

[In the future, the main results of the satisfaction surveys will be posted online as and when they are validated.](#)

Principle 15: Accessibility and clarity

Continuing the modernisation of the SSP's websites

At INSEE, the developments of the new website, launched at the end of 2016, continued in 2017: a new interface was introduced for the access to the time series, harmonised with the rest of the site and with more functionalities than the previous "Macro-economic database" (BDM); the displaying of local data in cartographic form has been modernised and improved considerably (statistiques-locales.insee.fr); access to structural business data has also been modernised and integrated into the new site.

The development of the site will continue with the introduction of the first interactive cubes, dynamic tables and data visualisation¹³ planned for 2018. The ergonomics and the search engine on the insee.fr website will be subject to continuous improvement.

With the Agriculture MSO, improving access to data and publications on agricultural statistics has remained an important objective. In this context, the redesign of the Disar website, which allows the production of multi-dimensional tables continued throughout the year, and the renovated site is due to be opened to the public in the 1st quarter of 2018. As an extension to this project, work has begun on redesigning the Agreste website.

The Ecological and Solidarity Transition MSO (SDES) website has also been overhauled. The new site will mainly focus on the publications and the sets of data with the setting up of a "data lake"¹⁴ which will facilitate users' access to the different MSO data.

Communication for educational purposes more and more systematic at INSEE

In line with the orientation of the INSEE Horizon 2025 strategic plan "*Make the figures speak and anticipate the needs of all types of public*", numerous communication actions, in particular via the media and social media, have been developed over the last few years, aimed more specifically at a young public.

This communication and educational work continued in 2017.

Following a consultation with the Education Ministry and its MSO, it was decided to develop the educational media for the pupils and teachers of junior high schools, with the aim of showing pupils the societal issues behind statistics and offering teachers a new approach to working on official data and validating the good acquisition of statistical concepts by their pupils.

INSEE is also trying to develop the "statapprendre" (statistics learning) site for economics teachers in senior high schools. A partnership with Eurostat in 2017 led INSEE to translate its educational collection "INSEE in brief" on the main statistical indicators to put it online on the European Statistical System's Facebook account.

Finally, the Institute and 11 other national institutes are joining forces with Eurostat in 2018 to organise the first European statistics competition for year 12 and 13 pupils, taking its inspiration from a competition run for several years by the Spanish National Statistical Institute and thanks to the tools the latter has made available to the other NSIs.

A new system dedicated to statistical metadata

The work on drawing up the Statistical Metadata Standard intensified in 2017, with a view to its deployment in 2018. The ending of the current documentation system in March 2018 makes it necessary to migrate what already exists, for the part that is destined to integrate the new metadata system (RMES). An operation to overhaul the documentation of the sources has been undertaken in collaboration with the producers. The standard is being initialised by migrating the current content of the Sources and Methods database that feeds the Insee.fr website (Sources and Methods page). Work has also begun in 2018 to help producers, at the same

13 *Data visualisation* is the study, science or art of visually representing data. This can take the form of graphs, pie charts, diagrams, maps, chronologies, computer graphics, etc.

14 A data lake is a method of storing data used by big data. Such data are kept in their original formats or transformed very little.

time, to progressively improve the content of the expected sections for the quality reports in European format (SIMS, Single Integrated Metadata Structure) and for the concepts.

Almost 200 data sources made available via the Secure Data Access Centre (CASD)

The Secure Data Access Centre (CASD) of the Group of National Schools of Economics and Statistics is a service that allows researchers to work remotely, in a secure manner, on highly detailed individual data subject to statistical confidentiality.

To make data available, the CASD regularly enters into agreements with the owners of data to establish the conditions 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. This is how, in 2017, the CASD came to sign agreements with the ANIL (National Association for Housing Information) and the ODR (Rural Development Observatory).

Since March 2016, the CASD has made the data from the PMSI (Information Systems Medicalisation Programme). These are the detailed data of all hospital stays in France collected by the ATIH (Technical Agency for Hospitalisation Information). The ATIH has renewed and extended its contract with the CASD by 3 years.

In November 2017 the CASD launched its new website, which is now much richer and has several entry points per profile. This website launch was accompanied by the introduction of a monthly newsletter containing all the latest news, new projects and new data sources. The list of projects and their wording is now online and provides a rapid overview of the type of work done on the CASD (<https://www.casd.eu/projets-de-recherche/>). To mention just a few examples: "Male-female differentials on the employment market"; "The impact of robotisation on the companies that use it: employment, salaries, productivity and company organisation"; "How French enterprises set up in border economies": "The new silk roads" or in the health field "Evaluation of the prevalence of thromboembolic pulmonary hypertension".

In 2017, the CASD provided secure access for over 1,500 users to more than 199 data sources (16% more than in 2016) 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 DGE, the ANIL, the ODR 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) welcomes 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 the particular comments below regarding some of the Principles of the Code.

Principle 1: Professional independence

As indicated above concerning the Decree defining the missions of the Agriculture Ministerial Statistical Office (MSO), it would be preferable to progressively standardise the decrees establishing the missions of the MSOs, integrating the most recent European and national regulations. In particular, Regulation 2015/759 has precisely defined the notion of professional independence and reinforced the coordination role played by INSEE in relation to the "other national statistical authorities", which, in France means the MSOs.

Principle 2: Adequacy of resources

The Authority notes that, in 2017, compliance with constraints, at INSEE, was made possible by the continuation of territorial reform and merging of certain services at Regional level. For 2018, INSEE's budget is in line with the downward trajectory of staffing levels in the financial ministries. The efforts sought do not seem to be untenable given the measures taken to improve productivity. On the other hand, against a background of increased demand for diversified, quality statistical information, the Authority does not believe that the efforts currently being asked of INSEE in terms of annual staff reductions can be maintained for the duration of the five-year term of office if it is to maintain its ability to fulfil its mission of providing objective material to feed public debate and inform public and private choices.

The Authority observes in particular that, that since the adoption in 2013 of the new employment framework for INSEE investigators and their inclusion in the Institute's employment ceiling, the defining of the programme of surveys carried out with households is an exercise that has become more and more difficult, on the one hand, because the survey programme has to try and respond to an ever greater social demand, and on the other because this exercise remains subject to many constraints imposed by European requirements and the number of investigators available to carry out these surveys has been subject to the same erosion as the general INSEE workforce.

The Authority also notes the deterioration in the collection rate continued in 2017 for many long-term surveys.

On the other hand, on the price survey side, it has observed with satisfaction that the non-collection rates have never been so low since 2013.

In any case, even if, eventually, productivity gains are expected on projects such as the "Scanner data" project with mass retailers or the use of the internet for surveys, the Authority strongly encourages INSEE to continue exploring all the avenues to that it has begun to explore to deal with these difficulties: greater industrialisation of household and business surveys, backing new modules with existing surveys rather than conducting new editions of the survey, reduction in the length of interviews to save resources in terms of investigators, reduction in survey sample size, etc.

Principle 4: Commitment to quality

The Authority applauds the drawing up of quality guidelines for the Ministerial Statistical Offices (MSOs)

and the definition of a Ministerial Statistical Offices' Charter, which formalise the framework in which the official statistical service operates, and the coordination of the SSP by the Director General of INSEE.

The Authority notes in particular that: these quality guidelines respond to the needs identified, in particular by the peer review, for reinforcement, legibility and strategic vision in this area; that the Charter usefully points out the purpose of official statistics; improves the legibility of the MSOs' missions and their links, emphasises the attention that needs to be paid to the status of the different data and the implications in terms of confidentiality and grants the place it deserves to compliance with the Code of Practice.

The emphasis placed in this respect on the issues in terms of access and satisfaction of users' needs by official statistics is welcome.

Principle 6: Impartiality and objectivity

Concerning the embargo rules

The ASP applauds the drawing up by the SSP of the framework document setting out the official statistical service's embargo rules concerning mainly short-term statistical indicators. It considers that this document is a great step forward towards the principle of impartiality and objectivity insofar as it makes it possible not only to identify all the statistical indicators subject to embargo, but also their privileged access circuits, in total transparency. The Authority notes with satisfaction that the rules have been transcribed to render them operational within the different ministerial statistical offices and that the majority of the MSOs have published these rules on their websites.

The Authority recommends to the MSOs that have not yet made their embargo rules public that they post them on their websites by the end of the first half of 2018 at the latest.

Concerning the announcement of dissemination calendars

The Authority welcomes the online publication, by all the MSOs, of their provisional dissemination calendars.

Principle 11: Relevance

The Authority subscribes entirely to the priorities and general orientations of the CNIS. Indeed it considers that these expectations echo the social and economic debate, in a context where societal development are accompanied by more and more changeable situations whose measurement constitutes a real difficulty and a real challenge for official statistics.

Concerning the satisfaction surveys, more particularly those concerning INSEE's image, the Authority will keep a close eye on the actions aimed at reinforcing users' trust in statistics.

Principle 15: Accessibility and clarity

The Authority approves INSEE's communication strategy largely based on educational actions to reach out to all types of public, and in particular young people.

3. Activity of the Official Statistics Authority in 2017

3.1 Sessions of the Authority

The Official Statistics Authority met four times in 2017 with the agendas described below.

22 March 2017

- Ministerial Statistical Office for Defence: Hearing of Mr Christophe MAURIET, Director of Financial Affairs at the Ministry for Defence, accompanied by Ms Line BONMARTEL-COULOUME, Subdirector in charge of economic, tax and international matters and Mr Christian CALZADA, Secretary General of the Economic Observatory for Defence (Defence MSO);
- Ministerial Statistical Office for Culture: Hearing of Ms Maryline LAPLACE, Head of the Cultural Policy and Innovation Coordination Department at the Ministry for Culture and Communication, accompanied by Mr Loup WOLFF, Head of the Department of Studies, Forward Studies and Statistics (Culture and Communication MSO);
- Presentation of the "Mass retailers' scanner data" project by Ms Chantal CASES, Director of Demographic and Social Statistics at INSEE, accompanied by Ms Marie LECLAIR, Head of the Consumer Prices Division at INSEE;
- Presentation of the Authority's 2016 Annual Report, by Ms Claudine Gasnier, ASP Rapporteur.

21 June 2017

- Department with national competence INJEP (National Institute of Youth and Popular Education): Hearing of Mr Jean-Benoît DUJOL, Interministerial Delegate for Youth and Director of Youth, Popular Education and Associations (DJEPVA) accompanied by Mr Thibaut DE SAINT POL, Director of the INJEP;
- The Data and Statistical Studies Department (SDES, formerly the SOeS): Hearing of Mr Sylvain MOREAU, head of the SDES MSO;
- Information on the engagement letter concerning official statistics on employment levels and variations by Mr Stéfán LOLLIVIER (mission of the INSEE General Inspectorate);

18 October 2017

- Renewal of the labelling of statistics from the pensions database of the State Pensions Department (SRE): Hearing of Mr Alain PIAU, Director of the State Pensions Department accompanied by Mr Philippe CHATAIGNON, Head of the Financial and Statistics Department of the SRE;
- Labelling of the medical causes of death series produced by the INSERM CépIDC: Hearing of Mr Grégoire REY, Director of the CépIDC;
- Presentation of the quality guidelines and the Charter of the Ministerial Statistical Offices (MSOs): coordination support of the Official Statistical Service (SSP) by Ms Sylvie LAGARDE, Director of the Methodology, Statistical Coordination and International Relations Directorate (DMCSI) accompanied by Ms Dominique BONNANS, Head of the Quality Unit within the DMCSI.

13 December 2017

- Hearing of Mr Patrice DURAN, 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 (3-6).

Pursuant to Articles 3 and 4 of Decree no. 2009-250 relating to the Official Statistics Authority, in 2017 the ASP issued the following opinions:

– a favourable opinion, subject to changes to the form, for the draft decree implementing Article 3bis of the Law of 7 June 1951 on legal obligation, coordination and confidentiality in the field of statistics (Opinion of 24 February 2017);

- a favourable opinion on the draft decree amending the organisation of the Ministry for Justice (Opinion of 21 March 2017) coupled with a requirement for a hearing of the Justice Ministerial Statistical Office in 2019,
- a favourable opinion on the planned amendment of the Decree and Order of 9 July 2008 amending the central administration of the Ministry for Ecology, Energy, Sustainable Development and Spatial Planning. (Opinion of 23 March 2017).
- an opinion on the appointment of the director of the Directorate for Research, Studies, Evaluation and Statistics (DREES), in accordance with the deliberation of 22 June 2016 fixing the internal regulations of the Authority (Opinion of 18 September 2017).

Lists of the decisions made 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 2017, the Authority conducted hearings with four ministerial statistical offices (MSOs): the Defence and Culture and Communication MSOs in connection with reviews decided by the ASP at its session of 17 June 2015, the Youth and Sport MSO integrated into the INJEP (National Institute of Youth and Popular Education) in connection with the review decided by the ASP at its session on 29 October 2014 and the MSO of the Ministry for Ecology, Energy, Sustainable Development and Spatial Planning in connection with the amendment of the Decree and Order of 9 July 2008 amending the central administration of its ministry, for which the ASP's opinion was sought on 23 March 2017.

- ***The Ministerial Statistical Office (MSO) of the Ministry for Defence***

A hearing was held with the MSO of the Ministry for Defence in 2015 as part of the examination of the ministerial statistical offices intended to ensure that the official statistical service does in fact cover all the scope that it has a duty to cover with a well-established statistical programme, a suitable critical mass and an appropriate positioning and governance.

At this earlier hearing, the Official Statistics Authority observed that the Defence MSO's position remained uncertain in spite of the commitment in principle by INSEE and the Ministry for Defence on the importance of this service. The Authority had doubts about the size of the MSO, whose statistical unit consists of only three officers, which it considered critical to assert its professional independence and develop genuine statistical output project. Given this situation, it had asked that a service project on statistical output be drawn up, setting objectives in this area and laying down the specific conditions to achieve them, and that this project be under the joint responsibility of the official statistical service and the Ministry concerned. The purpose of the review in 2017 was to check on the progress made in this work.

The Ministry for Defence attaches a great deal of importance to the existence of a statistical office. It considers that it is effectively indispensable to have a statistical office that meets all the criteria and presents all the guarantees of official statistics, given the weight of the Ministry for Defence in public finances and more generally in the economy, the size of the workforce concerned and its territorial impact.

Whereas there is a political consensus on the need to increase the effort, measured as a share of GDP, that the nation must devote to its defence, all that a statistical apparatus can bring is to reinforce the effectiveness of the entire economic function applied to the defence sector. From this point of view, the MSO is the guarantor of professional independence as regards statistical output, including in terms of quality. It has a mandate for data collection. It complies with the commitments on the statistical quality, impartiality and objectivity of the statistics produced. It has carried out a review of its processes with the management of INSEE, and the quality of its work is recognised. These elements reinforce the quality and robustness of the office's work. The Ministry as a whole considers that it has a statistical service whose expertise is useful to decision-making.

Three main areas are the subject of recurrent work: the Census of Government Employees which provides interministerial data (DGAFP) and data for the statistical yearbook, the Ministry's social review and the annual review of the High Committee for the Evaluation of the Military Condition (HCECM), the defence economy and in particular the work on the size of enterprises, and more particularly a study, whose importance is illustrated by the events of the last few years, of arms exports. On these three fundamental themes, the MSO named Economic Observatory for Defence (OED) carries out statistical evaluations that contribute in a very important way to the general work of the Ministry for Defence and the forecasting of economic information related to the defence sector.

Concerning the critical size and the resources mobilised by this office, the need to strengthen the resources was jointly acknowledged by the Ministry for Defence and the INSEE management. On this subject, the

workforce has been stagnant at seven people for two years. For the 2017 movement, there is one post to be filled and the Ministry for Defence wishes INSEE to contribute to doing so. Currently, the office has one INSEE administrator, three statisticians and three economists. As for the budgetary resources, an annual envelope of €300,000, corresponding to the needs expressed, is devoted to the work done by the statistical office. The Ministry for Defence therefore demonstrates in concrete terms the importance it gives to the office.

Concerning the office's work and activities, the OED published 12 *Ecodef* bulletins in 2016. Four times a year it organises the *Rencontres économiques de la Défense* (Defence economic encounters) with the Ministry's partners or external players to present the work done by the office. Six events have therefore been held since November 2015. The MSO has direct write access to the Ministry's website.

Three main, new priorities have been defined with the general directorate of INSEE. The first concerns the production of a survey of defence companies, which aims mainly to find out the proportion of these companies' turnover accounted for by their defence activities. This survey, which will be repeated every three years, is currently subject to a labelling procedure ready for deployment in the field at the end of the year.

The second main statistical operation is intended to answer a question put to the general directorate of INSEE by the High Committee for the Evaluation of the Military Condition (HCECM) to better document the trends in the purchasing power of military households. Until now, this subject was documented with the existing statistical apparatus, but the new tool deployed by INSEE, FILOSOFI, could be matched with the Ministry's sources to improve knowledge in this field. A draft agreement has been submitted to INSEE, which should resolve a certain number of technical and security issues.

Finally, the OED will endeavour to draw up a short-term dashboard for monitoring the economic activity of SME Defence suppliers. Every year the MSO contributes to the SME Defence Pact and it appears essential to examine within this framework whether the economic situation of the Ministry's suppliers is following satisfactory trends. This work is being done with the DGFIP (Directorate General for Public Finances and can track cyclical activity.

- ***The Ministerial Statistical Office (MSO) of the Ministry for Culture and Communication***

At the first hearing of the Culture and Communication MSO, the Official Statistics Authority expressed doubts about the definition of the MSO's statistical programme and considered that the purely statistical part should constitute the main part of its activity.

The cross-functional department based within the General Secretariat of the Culture Ministry hosts the Department of Studies, Forward Studies and Statistics, which constitutes the Ministerial Statistical Office, a study and research department that can analyse cultural facts and institutions, and a forward studies department that attempts to analyse possible future situations in order to help the Ministry to plan a strategy.

The MSO has progressed in the organisation of the internal coordination bodies at the ministry, which enable the department to draw up its work programme, with a two-tier system. The ministerial committee chaired by the general secretariat which is formed by the Ministry's three Directors General (Heritage, Artistic Creation, Cultural Industries), the General Delegate for the French language and the languages of France and the General Inspectorate or Cultural Affairs, is where all the main areas of work are decided. Alongside this, a Scientific Committee has been set up with personalities from academia and science to work on subjects of interest.

The other areas of progress over the last two years concern the work. The most important of the statistical outputs, the survey of French people's cultural practices, is an eagerly anticipated document. The last edition dates from 2008. The process has been relaunched for a new publication due in 2018. The publication relating to public spending on culture in the regions, also awaited with great interest in the context of the setting up of the new regional executives, involves a considerable amount of data processing for the MSO.

Finally, the Department is endeavouring to produce a regional culture atlas and to work on data relating to cultural amenities and employment in each of the new regions. In 2018, the Regional Directorates for Cultural Affairs (DRACs) will be celebrating their 40th anniversary and the Ministry's general secretariat has invited them to embark on a territorial future studies exercise for which the atlases will serve as the basis.

The projects in place provide the MSO with original data on the cultural field. The cultural practices survey is an important operation which is mobilising increased resources in 2017-2018. The MSO and INSEE are also collaborating on an experimental project to develop internet questionnaires to be combined with the field surveys.

In addition the statistical office is continuing its work on setting up agreements with partners for the use of administrative data, in particular historical data on artists and authors with the Maison des Artistes and the AGESEA (the artists' social security body). After a publication in 2016 on authors of books, the MSO is currently working on visual artists to produce precise professional monographs. This work also serves as a sampling frame for professional surveys. An agreement has also been entered into with Pôle Emploi to get a better picture of the professional pathways followed by "intermittent" workers covered by the system.

The regional atlas constitutes an aggregation of existing data, demographic data or data on enterprises, and local authority spending. This atlas is a new piece of statistical material that the MSO is making available to its readers through a publication, but also online to allow for future reuse. The office is also working on two survey schemes, one of which is evolving towards the MENESR (Ministry for Education, Higher Education and Research) on cultural higher education and students graduating after four years in cultural higher education institutions. Finally, the office is working on mapping cultural amenities, a substantial task of information gathering from different partners and expert treatment. This mapping is contributing to the INSEE database of amenities, but it is also an integral part of the culture atlas.

The MSO is also exploiting secondary sources, acting more as a collector than a producer. The "*Chiffres clés*" (Key Figures) publication is currently being updated. It is published annually and contains a large amount of information provided by partners. The MSO strives to gather the most reliable data, also by relying on the competence of its partners.

The publication entitled "*Poids économique direct de la culture*" (Direct Economic Weight of Culture) draws on the national accounts in the cultural branches.

"*L'observatoire femmes/hommes dans la culture*" (the Gender Equality in Culture Observatory), another annual publication, synthesises the data available on the proportion of men and women in the Ministry and in the establishments under its control, as well as outside the scope of the Ministry. Finally, the MSO produces statistics on market-sector cultural enterprises, based on the ESANE system and the ESAs (annual sector surveys), and publishes a snapshot of the associations involved in the cultural fields.

Among the new areas where statistics are being produced, the MSO is working on annual monitoring of cultural diversity. An agreement has been signed with GFK for the transmission of raw cash register data from the physical and digital worlds on the consumption of books, films and music. It is essential to exploit this type of data to observe cultural consumption behaviours. The first publications could arrive in the spring.

Concerning employment trend data, the Statistical Confidentiality Committee has authorised the Department to access the EPURE data to develop studies on employment conditions in the cultural fields. The MSO also has plans to develop its capacities for analysis on cultural tourism. Discussions have begun with Atout France for this purpose, in order to gather more precise information on the role of culture in tourism.

In addition, the MSO wishes to develop knowledge on international exchanges of art objects, collections and antiquities. Finally, it wishes to improve the measurement of sponsorship, corporate and private donations in the cultural field.

- **Department with national competence, INJEP (National Institute of Youth and Popular Education)**

The Youth and Sport MSO is part of the INJEP department with national competence which is attached to the Director of Youth, Popular Education and Associations (DJEPVA). At a previous hearing, the Official Statistics Authority (ASP) had expressed some concerns, wondering whether statistics would be able to find its place within the reorganised ministry, with the necessary guarantees of professionalism and independence.

The reorganisation of the Ministry led in December 2015 to the reorganisation of the DJEPVA and the re-creation of the INJEP, in the form of a department with national competence. The Ministerial Statistical Office, the MEOS (Studies, Observation and Statistics Unit) is one of the five units that make up this department.

The INJEP's status as a department with national competence places it in a singular position as regards the administration, research and civil society, as well as giving it scientific, partnership and financial autonomy. The reason for setting up this department was to reinforce the Ministry's scientific and future-oriented capacities in a logic of professionalisation by bringing together all the competencies in terms of data production, research, experimentation and assessment. As well as the MSO, the INJEP includes: an observation and assessment unit staffed by research officers who are sociologists and economists, a documentation centre and a team in charge of the promotion and dissemination of the work. In addition, it also has a unit that runs the youth experimentation fund, a scientific tool essential to the study of innovative schemes and to capitalise on the assessments and their results.

Since the reorganisation, the MSO has benefited from the support of and exchanges with all the department's other units, especially the promotion and dissemination unit. The Director of the INJEP is now the publications director for all MEOS publications and outputs, instead of the Director of the DJEPVA, which gives it more autonomy in the dissemination of its results. A considerable amount of work has been done with all the staff to put together a multi-annual study programme and a code of ethics designed with the INSEE quality unit, which contribute to the department's independence. The annual programme illustrates the great diversity of the activities conducted.

Over the last year, the MSO has demonstrated its usefulness in the new organisational context, for the youth side and the sport side. Concerning the Directorate for Sport, measures have been taken to strengthen the MEOS's resources for the production of data on sporting practices. The Budget Directorate has thus been asked for particular credits to finance a large survey on this subject.

Concerning the youth and associations aspects, the MEOS has been reinforced by an extra FTE, taking its staff from 7 to 8 people so that it can work on the issue of civic service, in particular.

The MSO was integrated into the INJEP department with national competence on 1st January 2016. This Ministerial Statistical Office is clearly identified in the organisation chart and it works in complementary relationships with the Institute's other units. This status as a department with national competence gives it both scientific autonomy in the conducting and dissemination of its production, financial autonomy in the management of the scientific budget as well as autonomy as a partner.

The scope covered by the MEOS includes cross-functional missions on the themes of youth, associations and sport (in particular sports practices, licensed sports, sport economics and the satellite accounts, organisations receiving groups of minors, international youth mobility, sport-related and youth leadership jobs and professions, and the diplomas issued by the ministries in charge of youth and sport).

The MEOS' s activities concern in particular the production of indicators and studies using administrative data, the production of surveys, regional organisation and methodological support for the two ministries.

In addition, the MSO's staff have been involved in drawing up the new department project.

The governance of the Institute is defined in a department project describing its mission. A detailed multi-annual work programme has been drawn up and will be reviewed on an annual basis. Finally, a scientific and steering council set up in April 2017 whose members include INSEE, numerous MSOs and other partners, is contributing to the reflection on the work programme, but also to ensuring compliance with the code of

ethics. The latter contains all the same principles as the Official Statistical Service to the European Statistics Code of Practice.

The programme for 2017-2018 features in particular recurrent operations, such as the annual census of sports licences and clubs, in particular in neighbourhoods covered by the government's cities policy, national statistics on organisations receiving groups of minors, an annual review of the economic weight of sport, as well as the production of key figures on youth and sport.

The INJEP has also decided to launch an inter-ministerial group to draw up a situation report on youth with the MSOs and INSEE. The Institute also produces a regional statistical overview in collaboration with the DREES. It is also going to embark on some work on the integration of graduates based on the Generation survey, the study on driving licence access based on the ENRJ survey on young people's resources, on extracurricular provision in schools, or on holders of the BAFA/BAFD youth workers' diplomas.

Concerning these perspectives, the MSO must also get involved in new subjects, such as the civic service scheme, associations and the repeating of the survey on sports practices, the only source available on this subject, but whose last edition dates back to 2010. It also wishes to strengthen its partnerships with the other MSOs, the INED or the CEREQ.

- **the MSO of the Ministry for Ecology, Energy, Sustainable Development and Spatial Planning (SDES, the Data and Statistical Studies Department, formerly the SOeS)**

This hearing had two objectives. It concerned the amendment of the Order connected with two changes in the department: the taking into account of fisheries and aquaculture statistics; and the taking over by the SDES of the general data administration activities within the ministries.

The SDES is the statistical office for the ministries in charge of housing, transport, energy and the environment. It is focused on the production of indicators and statistical studies. Assessment activities are carried out by another department within the CGDD (General Commission for Sustainable Development).

The SOeS drew its name from the fact that the statistical office of the Ministry for Equipment carried out production activities and surveys whereas the IFEN (French Environment Institute) carries out few surveys itself and works with databases coming from several ministerial departments.

Since mid-2016, the office has been in charge of fisheries statistics. It has also been assigned the task of setting up the general administration of data. It is this change that motivated its change of name, and the Official Statistics Authority (ASP) was consulted to give its opinion on this change.

The SDES is made up of four sub-departments (environment, energy, transport and housing, which all have similar activities: surveys, exploitation of administrative sources, sub-annual indicators and satellite accounts. In addition there is a cross-functional sub-department for general data administration, data exploitation and the running of the regional network, as well as unit for international aspects and quality.

During the last peer review in 2014, the SOeS was audited. This audit gave rise to a series of recommendations concerning the management of embargoes in particular. This recommendation was implemented in 2016.

The SDES covers a very wide panel of activities, but each sub-department includes the same jobs, but with different working methods and tools. Good practice groups have been set up to share common practices, in particular on the management of sub-annual indicators.

The SDES also participates in the implementation of the quality plan defined for the MSOs.

A large part of the data in the SDES scope is already open data data. The Ministry wanted to move towards making more data more widely available for re-use. The Minister wanted the CGDD to become the data administrator. The SDES therefore manages that. This mission covers at once opening up the data, organising

events, developing a "data culture" (in particular in the context of the merging of the DREALs (regional environment directorates) which worked on different systems) and aspects of data science. The Ministry has access to considerable quantities of data, which will eventually lead information systems to change quite substantially. On energy for example, the system makes available all the consumption data at IRIS ("statistical information island") level, and within two years it will do so at building level. These data will not replace the surveys on usage, but they will substantially change the survey system. Finally, the department is in the process of mapping the Ministry's information systems in order to improve knowledge of them and identify any duplications and bridges between the systems.

Following the ASP's opinion of 24 October 2014, the statistical office for fisheries and aquaculture of the DPMA (Directorate for Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture) lost its status as an MSO. The office was carrying out a range of tasks that went beyond statistical output. The DPMA was attached to the Ministry for Ecology and the statistical missions of the fisheries and aquaculture office were transferred to the SOeS.

Three operations were identified as official statistics operations, including two that were subject to a European Regulation: annual European reporting to Eurostat on the catches and landings of fishery products by French boats; the collection and making available of statistics and economic data on aquaculture; the production of economic statistics on the fishing fleet, for which the survey system had been labelled by the Quality Labelling Committee.

The first operation is connected to the resource and remains close to the subjects studied by the sub-department for environmental matters. The two others are closer to agricultural issues with questions on stock management, transfers between financial years as in business statistics. The ownership of these three activities is a matter of official statistics, but several options remained possible in terms of project management. It was agreed that the production of catch and landing data would continue to be done by the DPMA as part of its monthly outputs, but that the SDES would take over the two other operations under a project management arrangement.

On the resources side, the DPMA documents the work. Data can also be transmitted to Eurostat and the Commission on fishermen within the existing organisation. For aquaculture, on the other hand, when the SOeS took over the subject, the 2014 data had been collected, but had not been transmitted to Eurostat. The department finally transmitted them at the end of April 2017. The 2015 data are currently being collected and should be able to be transmitted by autumn 2017, with the 2016 being passed on at the end of 2017. The department has introduced collection via the internet and statistical adjustments.

For the future, the collection of economic fisheries activity data will need to be reviewed. The same applies to the conduct of the aquaculture survey. As fisheries and aquaculture are once again attached to the Ministry for Agriculture, the question also arose as to whether this Ministry's MSO was going to take over or whether these tasks would remain with the SDES. The Authority considered at the time that the SDES should in any case carry out the data collection for the 2016 aquaculture survey before any transfer was envisaged.

3.3 Quality labelling of statistical uses derived from administrative sources

In order to improve the information provided to users and increase the scope of statistics able to contribute to public debate, the ASP decided in 2011 to set up a labelling procedure for official statistics emanating from the exploitation of administrative sources and produced outside the Official Statistical Service (SSP). The aim of labelling is to guarantee compliance with the principle of professional independence in the design, production and publication of these statistics as well as with the principles of impartiality, relevance and quality of the data produced.

From 2011 to 2013, the preparation of labelling applications was subject to a simplified procedure at the initiative of the ASP. Only the labelling of the monthly statistics on job-seekers registered at Pôle Emploi rested on an examination carried out by the general inspectorates (IGF, IGAS, INSEE) which the Authority can call upon.

In 2013, statistical governance was completed by a Decree dated 10 January 2013 which organises the labelling of statistical processes carried out using administrative data as well as by an Order dated 2 May 2013 on the conditions of organisation of the official statistics Quality Labelling Committee. This Order set up a committee competent to issue opinions resulting from the examination, on behalf of the ASP and at its request, of the processes of exploitation and dissemination of administrative data. These opinions are transmitted to the President of the ASP, who can issue the processes examined with a public interest and statistical quality label, in reference to the principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice.

The Quality Labelling Committee which until then only examined survey data is now also able to examine data coming from administrative files. The ASP therefore bases the consideration for labelling of series of statistics produced by organisations that do not belong to the SSP on this examination by the Quality Labelling Committee.

- ***Labelling of data from the national causes of death database produced by the Centre for Epidemiology on the Medical Causes of Death (CépiDc)***

This application for labelling is part of the referencing of the CépiDc on the list of national authorities responsible for European statistics (medical causes of death) within the meaning of the provisions laid down by European Regulation 223/2009 amended by European Regulation 759/2015.

The CépiDc is a unit of the INSERM, a public scientific and technological establishment subject to research ethics. This unit depends solely on the INSERM. Its mission is to produce the national causes of death database, which involves transferring the information, medically encoding it, synchronising data, aligning the data with the mortality data from the INSEE civil status records. It also disseminates these statistics at national and international level (Eurostat and WHO). Its consultation site also provides precise information on the numbers of deaths for each cause. The CépiDc also includes a study and research centre, which works to improve statistical procedures and processing and to enrich these data by matching them against other databases. Finally, the department is WHO Collaborating Centre for international health classification.

The approach to death statistics has been covered by a legal framework since 1968. The General Local Authorities Code specifies that a coffin can only be closed on production of a certificate made out by a doctor detailing the cause(s) of death, for the purpose of transferring the information to the INSERM. This information is strictly confidential. Since the Law on the modernisation of the health system, these data can also be used for research, studies and assessments in the health field and to be counted in the National Health Data System (SNDS), as well as for the establishment of statistics by INSEE, in particular for the permanent demographic sample (EDP).

The data is produced as part of a collaboration with INSEE which has socio-demographic data from civil status records. These data are theoretically exhaustive for all deaths occurring in the country (Mayotte having been included in 2014), namely between 560,000 and 600,000 deaths a year. 12% of the data is now collected by electronic means. The causes of death are encoded according to the international classification of diseases.

When a doctor declares a death, he completes a nominative administrative section and a closed medical section, inaccessible to the town hall (registrar's office) and INSEE. The regional health agency opens this medical section and sends it, with a non-nominative civil status bulletin, to the CépiDc, which enters it into

the system, digitising and encoding it. The medical section is dematerialised electronically and sent directly to the INSERM, but the administrative section is still sent to the municipality where the death occurred, which constitutes an obstacle to the introduction of electronic certification. Today, a pilot study aims to dematerialise this section entirely, but it relies on infrastructures that do not depend on the INSERM, in particular the Ministry for Justice and the "exchange and confidence platform".

Instructions have been sent by the General Directorate for Health (DGS) to the regional health agencies (ARS) to encourage establishments to introduce electronic certification. A target of 40% by the end of 2019 has been set by the DGS. Complete dematerialisation is nevertheless hoped for from 2018 on following the pilot study conducted in six cities. Since the end of 2015, doctors have been paid per certificate, but this is still limited to evenings and weekends and difficult-to-access areas. The introduction of a link to the application of electronic certification might help to develop this scheme. The French medical board (*Conseil de l'Ordre*) has also asked that certification be made possible by mobile phone.

Doctors are asked to list the causes of death in reverse order of causality on the death certificate and to mention any morbidities that could have contributed to death. The processing aims to associate a code from the international classification with all the nosological entities mentioned by the doctor and to choose the initial cause in line with the WHO rules. Finally, the aim of synchronisation with INSEE data is to obtain any certificates that the INSERM has not received and to enrich these data with civil status data and to align the numbers as required by Eurostat. This alignment with the RNIPP (National Directory for the Identification of Natural Persons) will enhance the National Health Data System managed by the CNAM (National Health Insurance Administration (CNAM) via the social security number. The synchronisation is currently being redesigned so that the SNDS is "routinely" enriched.

Today the data production time stands at between 18 and 24 months. Encoding is an important step, but the transmission of the information already takes an average of 4 months. The target timeframe should be substantially reduced thanks to the generalisation of electronic certification to arrive at the consolidation of the information within 6 months and complete finalisation of production within 9 months, with these data being injected into the SNDS on a monthly basis.

The Quality Labelling Committee has examined this case relying on different experts, institutions and supervisory authorities (in particular SIES, DREES, INED and INSEE). The Committee recommends granting labelling for five years of the statistical data sent to Eurostat, that is to say the database of individual causes of death according to the international classification of diseases (ICD 10).

The Quality Labelling Committee has made a certain number of recommendations. With regard to the provisions of European Regulation 223/2009 as amended on professional independence, the Committee pointed out that it was necessary to comply with certain rules for the recruitment and appointment of the Director of the CépîDc, a point whose exact conditions remain to be formalised with INSEE.

A question arose regarding the increase in the number of unknown medical causes of death, in particular in the context of violent deaths requiring the intervention of a forensic scientist, which leads to failures of synchronisation. The Quality Labelling Committee therefore encourages the CépîDc to implement all possible procedures to contain the increase in the number of these unknown causes.

Concerning the changes envisaged, the dematerialisation of the transmission of the medical causes of death must be continued. However, the Quality Labelling Committee noted that the performance of automatic encoding remains mediocre. It would therefore appear to be necessary to develop automated transmission and to improve the automatic encoding methods in order to reduce the times involved and to be able to respond to Eurostat within the timeframe provided for in the Regulation.

Dissemination is currently carried out *via* Eurostat and the CépîDc website. The Quality Labelling Committee has suggested that the system be better described and documented, that the labelling scope be clearly identified, that the dissemination timetable be announced in advance and that the documentation be

improved on a certain number of points, which the CépiDc announced that it intended to do as part of its overhaul of its website.

- ***Renewal of the labelling of statistics from the pensions database of the State Pensions Department (SRE)***

The Official Statistics Authority (ASP) notified the labelling of statistics from the pensions database of the State Pensions Department (SRE) in its opinion of 7 November 2012, for a period of 5 years. They were therefore presented for renewal of the labelling in 2017

The State pensions department (SRE) is a central department with national competence that is part of the DGFIP (Directorate General for Public Finances). It runs the civilian and military pension schemes, namely 2.1 million affiliates for 2.4 million people with direct and derived rights. Each year, 70,000 people retire. As well as this management role, the SRE also collects future pension rights. The recently created Individual Pension Rights Account required reforms in all government departments to ensure regular declaration of rights information and its transfer into the account, and this will enrich statistical sources in the future.

As well as retirement pensions, the department also managed military disability pensions, the occupational accident system, as well as certain historical particularities (the system in Alsace-Moselle, etc.). Finally, the SRE manages the balancing of income and expenditure on the special pensions account which records contributions to the scheme and expenditure on pensions.

The head of the Finance and Statistics Office (BFiS) is at once the representative of the manager of the budget programme and in charge of statistics, which is what justifies his reporting directly to the Director of the SRE. This position does not raise any problems of independence with regard to the imperatives imposed by official statistics.

The BFiS has some twenty members of staff, half of whom are assigned to budget-related duties and half to statistical duties. On the statistics side, the department is supervised by INSEE personnel. The head of the Office is an "*hors classe*" (senior) administrator and his deputy is an "*hors classe*" attaché grade official. The two sections making up the statistics department are supervised by two principal attachés and the team is completed by a forecaster. This good level staffing of the department enables it to carry out a certain amount of work beyond the statistics that are the subject of the labelling.

The Office has the particularity of being both a producer of statistics and having a budgetary focus, with the tracking of the special pensions account (€58 billion). It therefore forecasts retirements and the spending associated with the management of the system. Due to their use for budgetary purposes, the statistical tools are therefore regularly checked and verified by the Court of Auditors. In fact an audit is currently ongoing based on a micro-simulation model used to measure State commitments. The quality of the budgetary forecasting provided by the Office constitutes a LOLF indicator, with a target maximum difference of 0.80% between the forecast and the actual figures. Last year, the difference between the expenditure forecast and the executed budget was 0.19%.

The BFiS has many contacts with external bodies. In the statistics field, it takes part in the work coordinated by the COR (Pensions Advisory Council), in particular the most recent exercise forecasting the situation of pension schemes in 2070. It also works with the DREES or the DGAFP (Directorate General for Administration and Civil Service) MSO for its annual report on the State civil service. It also collaborates with the Budget Directorate, the Court of Auditors, the ministries and both parliamentary assemblies as part of its budgetary activities. Finally, its work with the CNRACL, the local authority and hospital workers' pension scheme, gives rise in particular to joint publications.

The BFiS, due to its location, enjoys wide access to the administrative sources managed by the SRE. The data from the pension and disability applications are the only sources used to produce the data subject to

labelling, but the Office also has access to individual pension accounts which contain all the career information used to calculate pensions (indices, grades, etc.) for all employees who have at some time paid into the system. On the statistics front, the BFiS is currently working on setting up a database of non-retired affiliates. Until now it used the SIASP (public service employees information system) source, but the individual pension accounts have reached a level of quality such that they give a better picture of the affiliates to the system. Finally, as a retirement pension scheme, the Office also receives the DADS (Annual Declaration of Social Data) and will also receive the DSN (Nominative Social Declaration (DSN) once it is in place.

The scope of the data subject to labelling is the same as in 2012, namely the civilian and military pensions paid and managed by the SRE, for which the BFiS collects information on numbers, average age and average amount, as well as data relating to temporary disability allowances and military disability pensions paid to victims of war or terrorism. These data are broken down into the main dimensions; sex, civilian/military pension, direct/derived right, reason for departure, status category, existence of a pension discount/premium. They are published as a stock of pensions being paid on 31 December of the year and as pension flows (entries/exits during the year).

In terms of dissemination, "official statistics" is clearly mentioned in the *Abrégé statistique* (Statistics Overview). Statistical publications appear on the State pension website (over 800,000 visits since the beginning of 2017), giving them strong visibility. A provisional edition is published in February on the previous year's data and a final version taking into account all deaths appears in June. Since 2012, systematic documentation of the processing has been introduced and the data are organised to facilitate the dissemination and use of the annual series. Concerning internal governance, the Office has tried to work in a more proactive way with the teams in charge of the business information system and has been involved in all the application changes.

At the ASP's request, the Quality Labelling Committee has examined the application for renewal of the labelling with the assistance of the DREES which has competence as the Ministerial Statistical Office (MSO) in the social protection field. The application concerns only the statistical activity of the BFiS relating to pensions.

On completing its examination, the Committee recommended that the labelling be renewed for a period of 3 years, on the grounds that the labelling scope was not completely fixed and that certain other series could possibly be included in the scope. It considered that the addition of certain series on the stocks would be useful for the comparison with the flows.

The Quality Labelling Committee first of all checked the statistical conformity of the output. It noted that the BFiS met the independence rules completely, that it was able to choose its methods, had the necessary skills and communicated in advance on its timetable for dissemination. As regards opportuneness, it found that the data were essential to the knowledge of State civil servants' pensions and that labelling was a plus. Finally, it found that the proximity of the statistics with the business applications made it possible to retain control over changes in the information system and, where appropriate, to anticipate and deal with any breaks in the series.

The Quality Labelling Committee did however make some remarks concerning dissemination. It encourages the BFiS to make, on the *Abrégé statistique*, the same documentation effort as for the "*recueil*" (collection), as the language used was found to be very technical and sometimes difficult for the uninitiated to understand. It also considers that it is important that the series be easily accessible to complete the *Abrégé statistique*. It would also seem pertinent to publish more data on the stock of pensions to enable comparison with the flows. Finally, the internet dissemination media seem to be appropriate. However, it would be useful to facilitate the downloading of tables for users.

3.4 New sources of big data for official statistics

The challenges of digital technology feature programme of work of the Official Statistics Authority (ASP) . Indeed, the new data mean that the role of official statistics needs to be reconsidered. The Authority's 2016 report mentioned that it was monitoring the integration of new data sources by official statistics, which was to take the form of a specific chapter in its annual report.

At international level

The subjects dealt with at the March 2017 meeting of the UN Statistical Commission concerned the new challenges for statistics, such as the use of big data for which the Commission wishes to drive methodological work in order to identify the best practices: methodological manuals will soon be available on the use, by official statistics, of satellite data, mobile telephone data and data from social media.

A group will be set up to work on the fundamental principles of official statistics in order to analyse how the current changes in context can be taken into account as regards open data and big data.

At European level

1- The topic of new data sources is a core concern for the ESGAB, as is demonstrated by the recommendations of its 2016 and 2017 reports:

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

- 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 statistical modelling techniques and estimates on both the production of statistics and dissemination in the form of new information services and "on demand" analysis.

- 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.¹⁵

The ESGAB emphasises that access to private data has become a crucial issue for statisticians. Not only are these data at the heart of economic development today, generating new products and services, but they can also offer an opportunity to improve the coverage and timeliness of statistics at a low cost. The European Authority, however, recommends that when private data are provided to Eurostat and to the NSIs, these organisations must ensure that these data are solid, that access to them will be maintained over time and that the methods used are high quality (see Annex 7).

2- As part of the methodological reflections on the use of big data, the European Commission has launched an ESSnet Big Data project intended to reflect on the use of new data sources for the preparation of official statistics.

INSEE, with other NSIs, is contributing to the component of the ESSnet Big Data dedicated to the exploitation of mobile telephone data. The aim of this component is to pool experiences in terms of access to data and defining common concepts and processing methods. For the exploitation of these data, INSEE has

¹⁵ All these concerns have effectively been taken into account in the revision of the European Code.

set up an agreement with Eurostat and Orange's SENSE laboratory which possesses the CDR (Call Details Records)¹⁶ data for six months of 2017, whose use for research purposes has been authorised by the CNIL. Since 2015, this collaboration has given rise to exploratory work to assess the potential of these data by linking them to data produced by official statistics, but also to assess the technical difficulties involved in processing them;

As part of its reflection on the tension in the employment market according to job type, the DARES is participating in the *Webscraping job vacancies work package* under the ESSnet Big Data, which consists of retrieving data from job offer sites with the aim of compiling statistics on the vacancies available. This project has enabled several types of skills to be developed: *data scraping*, structuring information based on text data (title and description of the job offer in particular), identifying duplication of offers published on several sites, alignment of several data sources with potentially different variables and/or nomenclatures. Indeed, to study the job offers the DARES has both data from surveys, administrative data collected by Pôle Emploi and data *scraped* from several job offer websites.

3- Eurostat organised a Big Data Hackathon in March 2017 on the occasion of the New Techniques and Technologies for Statistics (NTTS 2017) conference.

The objective of this Hackathon was to propose, within two days and using the data made available, a prototype able to inform political decision-making in order to reduce the gap between the supply and demand for skills in the employment market at regional level, using sources mixing data from surveys (Employment survey in particular) and data less used classically for official statistics (in particular job offer websites, etc.). Computer tools and methods concerning both the processing and the analysis of the data (machine learning in particular) as well as their visualisation were mobilised during the Hackathon.¹⁷ This new mode of organising work increases agility and responsiveness: working in this format, several teams came together for a limited length of time with the aim of designing an innovative solution to a practical question.

At national level

As well as the prototype proposed by INSEE at the Hackathon organised by Eurostat, methodological investigations focused on Big Data are continuing within the SSP.

Experimental projects have been launched on methods of processing new data sources, for example the contribution of text analysis techniques for the macroeconomic outlook, the exploitation of machine learning methods for data processing and adjustment (data editing or correction on non-responses), the use of new visualisation tools capable of producing highly personalisable illustrations to make presentations of results more accessible and attractive, etc.

At the DEPP for example, standardised evaluations of pupils' competencies carried out by the Education Ministry MSO are currently in transition towards a totally digital format. The new technologies make it possible to construct innovative evaluation situations. Pupils interact with the system, to solve problems, conduct experiments, carry out simulations, etc. These new forms of evaluation generate very large sets of data, structured in complex ways. The use of big data-type solutions and methods is therefore necessary. The DEPP has conducted a first encouraging experiment analysing pupils' "traces" as part of a mathematics evaluation programme in 2016. On the basis of new and enriched data from May 2017, INSEE and the DEPP have embarked upon a collaboration concerning the analysis of these data, over the 2017-2018 school year.

For some of these experimental projects, the SSP relies on partners with expertise in the type of data (Orange - see above or the IGN for example).

Alongside these developments, the SSP, via the DREES, is also taking part in the setting up of a database

16 CDRS correspond to the sending or receiving of a phone call or text message. The operators are obliged to keep these data for six months for billing purposes.

17 The French team's project came second (out of 22 teams)

unique in the world: the National Health Data System (SNDS). This database has a considerable scope and wealth, which clearly put it in the "big data" class with the attendant challenges currently emerging in the public health field. Its very great time depth and the variety of the information it links (non-hospital consumption, hospital stays and medical causes of death) constitutes an opportunity to inform public decision-making: detailed decision of medical pathways, changes in practices, health surveillance, etc.

At INSEE, a report in the INSEE References 2017 publication on "big data, official statistics and measuring the economy" provided a useful interim review of the contribution of big data to three aspects of measuring the economy: anticipation of the short-term outlook, tracking of consumer prices and the explosion of the digital sector.

Regarding whether the analysis of search behaviour on the internet or in the online press can help to better anticipate the short-term outlook than survey data do, the authors of the article consider that their predictive performance is at best of the same order of magnitude as that of traditional sources, without offering the same guarantees of stability.

Concerning the tracking of prices, they observe that the contribution of big data here is much more tangible, whether it concerns collecting prices on the internet or the scanner data provided by mass retailers. Prices are the field where big data appear to be the most promising as the data available are in relatively structured forms, quite comparable to the administrative data handled by official statistics and the purpose of measurement is conceptually simple. Cheaper than traditional collection using investigators, scanner data will also eventually produce new statistics thanks to the detail and volume of the informations gathered.¹⁸

Finally, big data potentially represent a reservoir of data that is particularly relevant to the measurement of the digital economy. Experimental work has used *webscraping* for example to better identify enterprises belonging to the digital sector. The use of these data can also make it easier to track the development of the collaborative economy. These approaches are complementary to the mobilisation of the traditional sources. What the Web reveals about companies' activities can be cross-matched with the data in the registers or the accounting data already mobilised for official statistics. This information can also be compared to the results of direct surveys with these enterprises as well as households. In the enterprises field, the community survey on "ICT usage and e-commerce" has been providing information since 2002 on their usage of digital technologies, including more recently their own use of *big data*.

The creation by INSEE in 2017 of a structure dedicated to innovation and research known as "SSP-Lab" is part of the idea of making the most of these numerous experiments with a mode of operation for the development of innovative investments, in particular of big data.

¹⁸ It should be noted, however, that the calculation of the consumer price index based on scanner data, which was originally intended to happen in 2019 will finally only be effective in 2020. Indeed, the Order making the transmission of scanner by retailers was only signed on 13 April 2017, which did not leave enough time to keep to the original timetable set for the project. The initial timetable required that all the data for 2017 be available and that access to it be possible at the latest at the end of March 2018 to be able to keep to the timetable for putting scanner data into production in 2019. The Law for a Digital Republic helped to facilitate access to private data sources, but it has been up to the retailers to give their consent to the retrieval of their data since 1 January 2017.

3.5 The challenges of maintaining trust in statistics

Jean-Michel Charpin¹⁹ wrote in an article in 2010 that "*the legitimacy of statistics does not come only from science and political power; it also depends on their acceptance by public opinion and the confidence it places in them. Confidence cannot be decreed: it is built up and it must be deserved.*"

For a few years now, trust in statistics has been potentially threatened with the arrival of big data (which offers real opportunities for official statistics however).²⁰ The use of multiple data sources places a large quantity of detailed, up-to-date data at the disposal of political decision-makers, public authorities and citizens but its quality cannot be guaranteed. In its 2016 report, the ESGAB insisted on the challenges posed by the maintaining of trust in official statistics and implications for quality and comparability resulting from the use of big data sources.

Trust in statistics may also be jeopardised by the arrival of new players and media, which have become active and influential forgers of opinion on topics concerned by official statistics. The consequences for the credibility of statistics could be significant.

The ESGAB's 2017 report also addresses this question: "Increasingly, 'facts' are being created from a myriad of sources of unknown quality, or 'invented' or based purely on opinions, to respond to or to create emotions. The careful and orchestrated use of social media has made the dissemination of fake news even easier, often relaunched by mainstream media through their own websites

The avenues for maintaining, and even reinforcing, trust in statistics are known: they require good governance, prioritising work on quality, action on communication, education and "statistical literacy".

Governance, at European as well as national level, has given rise to considerable progress over the last decade or so: creation and implementation of the European Statistics Code of Practice, creation of control authorities (ESGAB, ASP), peer reviews, implementation of Regulation (EC) 223/2009, amended, on European Statistics, etc.

The European Code, in particular, sets out the key principles for good statistical governance within the ESS. This is an essential for reinforcing trust in official statistics because it lays down the professional standards and values necessary to the development, production and publication of statistics. In its 2017 report the ESGAB recommends that it "should be widely promoted as a mark of quality at national and European levels. The Code should be given prominence on the websites of Eurostat and NSIs"

Even if quality problems still regularly drive public debate, work on quality has also been greatly developed: in many countries, approaches have been implemented to promote quality management.

As part of the implementation of the European Code and peer reviews, the NSIs have increased their efforts to promote quality, the Code including in its part on statistical outputs, the criteria of relevance, accuracy and reliability, timeliness and punctuality, coherence and comparability, accessibility and clarity.

Within the French SSP, these promotion efforts have taken the form of the creation of a page dedicated to quality on the INSEE website, the development of quality action plans at INSEE as well as in all the ministerial statistical offices, the setting up of a strategic quality committee, implementation of processes quality approaches, risk analyses, etc.

To overcome the gap between the perception people have of a given situation and what the statistical indicators say, for example on changes in purchasing power, the growth of inequalities, the unemployment or crime statistics, work has been done on taking account of dispersion, distribution characteristics, individual

19 Former member of ESGAB and former Director General of INSEE

20 See previous chapter 3.4

trajectories, and measures have even been designed around subjective and emotional dimensions subjective of the individual (Stiglitz report on well-being, victim surveys, etc.).

It is probably with regard to the ways of communicating that the questioning and therefore mistrust are the greatest, at a time when, in the face of official statistics, private statistics are developing, which are fast, cheap and relayed by the new media, and especially social media.

The ESGAB recommendations bear witness to these concerns: "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 decision-making 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".

The ESGAB also recommends better promoting official statistics to the public at large as a public good and indispensable policy tool: "ESS members should create information and communication campaigns to make the value of official statistics as a public good more apparent".

Like most of the National Statistical Institutes, dissemination of its products has become the essential vector of its communication for INSEE. Actions are ongoing to go beyond the simple dissemination of products, as the classic vectors of opinion that were the conventional press organisations are no longer sufficient to cover the entire spectrum of users of official statistics. These actions include:

- Communication and statistical literacy campaigns in particular via the media and the social media have been developed over the last few years, aimed more particularly at a young audience.

- In 2017, educational media were developed for junior high school pupils and teachers following a consultation with the Ministry for Education and its MSO.

- A partnership with Eurostat in 2017 led INSEE to translate its "INSEE in Brief" collection to put it online on the European Statistical System's Facebook account.

- INSEE and other National Institutes are joining forces with Eurostat in 2018 to organise a European statistics competition intended to demonstrate to schoolchildren the societal importance of statistics and to offer teachers a new approach to official data and validating the good acquisition of statistical concepts by their pupils.

Furthermore, the new players and media, *fact checkers* and bloggers who speak out, especially on social media, to share and directly promote their ideas, are liable to affect INSEE's ability to communicate effectively, in particular in the event of a crisis. In order to adapt to this new environment, INSEE is engaged in reflections to identify, among these new players, the most influential ones who are likely to take an interest in the work of the SSP, to analyse their communication strategy, in particular via the social media, and to decide on the best way of interacting with these new players, especially in the event of flagrant misuse of INSEE's work, or outright controversy.

All these actions participate in the efforts to reinforce citizens' trust. It is becoming more and more necessary to have the keys to understanding figures to be able to guarantee an enlightened public debate, based on the mobilisation of official figures.

3.6 Recommendations of the Official Statistics Authority (ASP)

The authority issued a number of recommendations following each of the hearings of official statistics producers and those carried out as part of labelling operations concerning statistical exploitations of administrative data sources.

On the Ministry for Defence Ministerial Statistical Office (Economic Observatory for Defence (OED)):

Following the hearing of the representatives of the Ministry for Defence, and with reference to the recommendations made by the Authority at its session in June 2015, the Authority notes that improvements have been made since the last hearing to define the Defence MSO's statistical programme and to specify the conditions of performance of the different surveys envisaged. The work done shows what is at stake for official statistics and the complementary with the INSEE's work.

The Authority notes, however, the office's lack of attractiveness, its lack of sufficient means to implement such a programme and the uncertainties that remain in terms of governance, concerning particular its level of insertion or the data collection conditions. It invites the Ministry for Defence to define a plan to implement the change of scale necessary to the informing of public debate on the economic and social issues in the Defence field and the related activities.

On the Ministry for Culture and Communication Ministerial Statistical Office

Following the hearing of the representatives of the Ministry for Culture and Communication, and with reference to the recommendations made by the Authority at its session in June 2015, the Authority applauds the progress made by the Culture and Communication Ministerial Statistical Office both to come into line with the Code of Practice and to answer all the questions it raised at the last hearing, and thereby to meet the statistical needs in the field.

The Authority applauds the particular effort to define a detailed statistical programme in the area of cultural policies as well as to clarify its governance thanks to a two-tier coordination system (inter-ministerial committee and scientific committee) and the high degree of involvement of the general secretariat.

The Authority encourages the Culture Ministerial Statistical Office to continue in this direction, taking care in particular to guarantee access to its publications to all types of public in accordance with the general policy in place across the entire official statistical service.

On the INJEP department with national competence (National Institute of Youth and Popular Education)

Following the hearing of the representatives of the INJEP, the Official Statistics Authority notes that the Youth and Sport MSO has been integrated into the INJEP, a department with national competence created by a Decree dated 24 December 2015 and attached to the Director of Youth, Popular Education and Associations.

The Authority notes that the MSO is clearly identified within the INJEP, that its missions are exclusively of a statistical nature and organised with reference to the principles that apply to official statistics. It has taken official note of the instruments developed to put these principles into practice, in particular with the rigorous definition of its statistical programmes, the dissemination of a provisional timetable, the drawing up of a code of ethics and the setting up of a scientific and orientation council. However, it will continue to monitor its development to ensure in particular that this office has the necessary critical mass and a satisfactory administrative position.

The Authority further points out that in application of Indicator 1.8 of the European Statistics Code of Practice, the managers of statistical authorities must be appointed solely on the basis of their professional competence, which is not currently the case. In view of the particular organisation of this MSO, it will be systematically checked.

On the MSO of the Ministry for Ecology, Energy, Sustainable Development and Spatial Planning (SDES, the Data and Statistical Studies Department, formerly the SOeS)

Following the hearing of the head of the statistical office, the Official Statistics Authority observed that the takeover of the activities of the Fisheries MSO by the SDES (ex-SOeS) in accordance with a decision taken by the General Director General of INSEE following the inadequacies observed by the ASP at the hearing of this office on 29 October 2014, is now on the right track, but is not yet complete.

It observes that the time needed to bring this body up to the required level as well as the pre-litigation procedure brought by Eurostat for non-transmission in good time of data from the aquaculture survey, bear witness to the deviation that existed in the old Fisheries MSO, part of the DPMA at the time, with regard to the requirements and principles of official statistics. Any new organisation relating to these activities can only be envisaged if it constitutes progress in this respect and in any case will not be possible before the current bringing to standard is completely consolidated in order to ensure compliance with the Code of Practice on official statistics.

On the labelling of data from the national causes of death database produced by the Centre for Epidemiology on the Medical Causes of Death (CépiDc)

Following the hearing of the Director of the CépiDc, the Authority notifies, unanimously, the labelling of the data from the national causes of death database produced by the Centre for Epidemiology on the Medical Causes of Death (CépiDc) for a period of 5 years.

The Authority duly notes the commitments made by the CépiDc, for the parts that depend on it, to reduce the lead time before publication of these data online with the aim of bringing it down to 9 months, and to enrich the presentation and documentation of the results, in accordance with the recommendations made by the Quality Labelling Committee. In view of the specific nature of these data, these items and more generally, the educational quality of the presentation for their dissemination, condition their ability to contribute to the transparency of public health debates and choices, which is their aim.

The Authority asks for the formalisation, within six months, of the procedures applicable to the recruitment of the Director of the CépiDc, in order to ensure that the principles of Regulation (EC) 2003/2009 amended are implemented.

The Authority invites the CépiDc and INSEE to examine the governance to be set up to ensure the full integration of the latter into the coordination of the official statistical service, in particular in the field of quality.

The Authority emphasises the strategic nature of the dematerialisation of the transmission and the electronic certification of the medical causes of death, and consequently the unsatisfactory nature of the current situation in this area. It invites the CépiDc to continue and accelerate its work on this subject and to work with the other government departments concerned to find solutions so that that it can take maximum advantage of these possibilities.

On the renewal of the labelling of statistics from the pensions database of the State Pensions Department (SRE)

Following the hearing of the representatives of the SRE, the Authority renews, unanimously, the labelling of the statistics based on the SRE's pensions database, for a period of 5 years.

The Authority duly notes the commitments made by the SRE in accordance with the recommendations made by the Quality Labelling Committee to remedy, by the publication of the *Abrégé statistique 2017* (due in June 2018), the remaining inadequacies concerning the documentation of the labelled data, to improve the dissemination content and media as well as to extend the publication of the detailed characteristics of the stock of pensions as it is done with the new pensions.

The Authority invites the SRE to examine the conditions of making its databases available to researchers in the context of the implementation of the new digital law.

3.7 Communication of the Authority

In 2017, the President, accompanied by the Rapporteur of the ASP, presented the 2016 report of the Official Statistics Authority to Mr Emmanuel Moulin, principal private secretary of the Minister for the Economy and Finance, to Mr Jérôme Fournel, principal private secretary of the Minister for Public Action and Accounts, to Ms Anne de Bayser, Deputy General Secretary at the Élysée, to Mr Didier Migaud, First President of the Court of Auditors and to Ms Marie-Christine Lepetit, Head of the General Inspectorate of Finances.

Discussion covered the following topics in particular:

- the dissemination of embargoed indicators within the SSP;
- digital developments;
- measurement of unemployment;
- the comparability of data over time.

The 2016 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. Follow-up of recommendations in the 2016 Annual Report of the Authority

In its 2016 annual report, the Authority made a certain number of recommendations for implementation in 2017. It analyses to what extent and in what form these recommendations have been taken into consideration.

These recommendations were addressed to the following organisations:

- the Ministerial Statistical Office of the Directorate General for Public Finances (office GFC3),
- the DARES and Pôle Emploi concerning the monthly job-seekers statistics (DEFM),
- the CNAMTS, concerning the labelling of series other than monthly health spending.

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

Recommendation in the ASP 2016 annual report:

Following the hearing of the head of the Fiscal Management Department and the Head of the Ministerial Statistics Office of the DGFIP, and with reference to the recommendations made by the Authority at its meeting on 18 June 2014, the Official Statistics Authority notes that Office GFC3 of the DGFIP has now set up 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 moving in this direction. In view of the extent of the debate on taxation and the public's expectations in this respect, it recommends to this Office that it construct a coherent and effective overall project concerning dissemination and access to tax data by the public, in order to make those data more transparent and facilitate understanding of them.

Response

As regards the dissemination of tax data, the DGFIP MSO is more particularly in charge of the dissemination of the statistical elements it produces, as well as for the exchanges with the official statistical service and the research world. The overall strategy regarding the dissemination of data held by the DGFIP is a matter for the DGFIP's data administrator. The information in this response is therefore limited to the scope of intervention of the MSO.

Since the hearing of 18 June 2016, the MSO has considerably reinforced its methods of disseminating aggregated tax data and making available detailed tax databases.

Concerning the aggregated tax data that comply with statistical confidentiality requirements, dissemination to the general public takes place via the impots.gouv.fr website with the systematic inclusion of a link to the data.gouv.fr website in order to provide greater visibility to this information. Excel or Libre Office formats are preferred, as they enable the reuse of the data.

In view of the desire often expressed by users to have as much historical depth as possible, work has begun on backcasting the "*IRCOM – Impôt sur le revenu par commune*" (income tax by municipality) and "*REI – recensement des éléments d'imposition des collectivités locales*" (survey of local authority tax information) files. This work is proving to be particularly time-consuming given the need to constitute databases in a homogeneous format over time and to gather the documentation necessary to a good understanding of these data. These anonymised, aggregated data also being sought after by researchers, but in SAS format to facilitate statistical usages, an agreement with the Quetelet-PROGEDO Dissemination department is in the course of being drawn up to meet this specific demand.

For the detailed files, dissemination is subject to Article L 135 D of the Book of Tax Procedures (LPF) which specifies, in particular, the conditions of dissemination depending on the type of requester. For INSEE and the ministerial statistical offices, any data covered by tax secrecy can be transferred in application of the express exemption provided for by Article L. 135 D of the LPF, which permits the DGFIP to communicate to the agents concerned information useful to the establishment of statistics, within the limits and conditions provided for by the Law of 7 June 1951.

Article 7bis of this Law provides that: "At the request of the Minister in charge of the economy, after the National Council for Statistical Information (CNIS) has given its opinion, and subject to any legal provisions to the contrary, information relating to natural persons and that relating to legal persons, collected in the course of its mission, by a government entity, may be transferred, for the exclusive purpose of establishing statistics, to the National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies or to the ministerial statistical offices."

Concerning the flows of data to INSEE and in view of the frequency and large quantity of the tax data transferred, a global framework agreement on the exchange of data (currently at the signing stage) has been drawn up by the MSO, to replace around twenty existing protocols, some of them very old. The implementation of this agreement will enable better monitoring of the exchanges, as well as a rationalisation of the means used to transfer the files concerned. For the ministerial statistical offices, the quantity of bilateral agreements (or tripartite agreements when INSEE is involved) is also constantly increasing.

The making available of detailed files to the world of research takes place in accordance with Article R.135 D-1 of the Book of Tax Procedures through the intermediary of the Secure Remote Access Centre (CASD). At the initiative of the MSO, the process of filing a request with the Committee on Statistical Confidentiality has been simplified. Since June 2017, a researcher whose request was granted by the Committee on Statistical Confidentiality has been approved to work on all the years of a database. In addition, the default accreditation period has been extended to four years. Finally, the administrative documents behind a tax database (Cerfa tax return, practical brochure, form completion instructions, etc.) are systematically provided with the data in order to facilitate their comprehension and statistical usage. All these changes have helped to considerably lighten the administrative burden and improve support for researchers upstream of accessing the data.

4.2 Monthly job-seekers' statistics (DEFM)

Recommendation in the ASP 2016 annual report:

The Authority applauds the quality of the work done by Pôle Emploi and the DARES concerning the taking into account of all the recommendations relating to 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, furthermore, 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 to Pôle Emploi and the DARES that they continue the work undertaken relating to:

– the presentation of the results. Priority should be given to changes in trends, rather than changes from month to month, as these are too volatile. This is documented, including for "stocks", very precisely in the documentation brought to the Authority's attention. That being the case, this should no longer be a "warning", but be integrated into the design of the way the publication itself is presented,

– the analysis 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.

Response

Concerning the presentation of the results, following the ASP's recommendations in 2014 and 2016, the monthly publication of the DEFM figures was overhauled at the beginning of 2016. It now includes (in tables and in the body of the text) the number of DEFMs per category and the numbers of registrations and deregistrations from the lists: the changes in total numbers over 3 months, the changes between the average flows of the three months t , $t-1$, $t-2$ and those of the three months $t-3$, $t-4$, $t-5$ for registrations and deregistrations.

It has indeed become clear that these indicators, published every month, are less volatile than the series of total figures and "month-to-month" flows of SA-WDA DEFMs, that is to say that they are closer to the series trend, as it may be estimated *after the fact*. These indicators have been chosen as a compromise between simplicity, volatility and the ability to detect changes in the trend quickly enough. Furthermore, to characterise the volatility of the series, at the ASP's request, the thresholds are now published from which the number of DEFMs in category A (or ABC) changes "significantly" (i.e. in 95 cases out of 100) in the same direction as that of the trend in the number of DEFMs in category A (or ABC). In other words, if the variation in the number of DEFM in a given month is lower, as an absolute value, than this threshold, it is not possible to consider it, with a sufficient degree of certainty, as reflecting a change in the underlying trend.

The DARES and Pôle Emploi therefore now publish these trend indicators every month (they are presented in the text before the month-to-month changes), which emphasise the need for a trend-based rather than a month-to-month interpretation and serve as a reminder of the value of significance thresholds and of the way of interpreting them. The publication also refers to a document to assist with interpretation, which specifies in particular the size of the possible gaps between the change observed in a given month and the underlying trend.

However, for a year and a half, it seems that these changes have not been enough to reduce the attention paid to monthly changes. The monthly DEFM statistics are still the subject of a high degree of attention, due to the fact that they become available quickly, to the point where they are eclipsing the ILO measurement of unemployment.

As a result, from the 1st quarter of 2018, the DARES and Pôle Emploi will present the job-seekers statistics in a renovated format. The publication will be quarterly and will present the average over the previous quarter of the number of DEFMs registered and of the flows of new registrations and deregistrations, bearing in mind that the monthly series currently published will continue to be posted online every month.

The analysis of the gaps 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 as well as the relating to governance between the DARES and Pôle Emploi will be presented by the ASP at the session on 28 March 2018.

4.3 Labelling of statistical series produced by the CNAMTS

Recommendation in the ASP 2016 annual report:

The Authority has noted that the CNAMTS has implemented the recommendations that were linked to 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).²¹

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:

*- immediately begin the quality labelling process for drug expenditure data,
- 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.*

Response

In response to the recommendations made by the ASP, the strategy that the CNAMTS (since 1st January 2018) proposes to put in place regarding labelling is based on two 2 aims:

- To progressively cover all the scopes covered by the statistics produced by the Directorate of Strategy, Studies and Statistics
- To link in with point 1 the strategy of producing data as open data enabling the different users either to go into more depth with the open data or to be able to check the data produced as open data against existing quality statistics.

In addition, the CNAMTS must link these priorities up with the DREES in order to ensure it meets a social demand corresponding to the main areas of doubts expressed by the interlocutors of the CNAMTS and the Ministry. In addition, the exchanges with the INDS (National Health Data Institute) whose missions include supporting the development of the data will also make it possible to ensure that these priorities also correspond to the development of the use of statistics and open data.

Furthermore, several points have led to the labelling programme initially envisaged being delayed. The upgrade from the SNIIRAM to the SNDS (National Health Data System) has kept the teams extremely busy ensuring continuity of service between the two systems. In the next two years, the integration of the RSI (self-employed workers social security scheme) into the general system will have consequences on the data currently provided across the scope of the general system.

The labelling programme updated to take account of these factors was sent to the ASP at the beginning of 2018.

21 [Opinion of 18 March 2015](#)

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 2009 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
 - Prime Minister
 - Minister for the Economy and Finance
 - Minister for Public Action and Accounts
 - President of the Economic, Social and Environmental Council
- 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 : Biography of the new members joining the ASP in 2017

François AUVIGNE

Inspectorate General of Finances

Graduate of the Paris Institute of Political Sciences, Masters in Law

Chevalier in the French Legion of Honour

Former Director General of Customs and Indirect Taxation from May 1999 to October 2000

Former Deputy Chief of Staff of the Minister for the Economy, Finance and Industry and Chief of Staff of the Secretary of State for the Budget from October 2000 to May 2002.

Since May 2012, he has been in the service of the General Inspectorate of Finances.

Annexe 3 : Framework document establishing the dissemination rules and preferential access limitations for the statistical indicators of the Official Statistical Service (SSP)

Pursuant to the principles of impartiality and objectivity set out in the European Statistics Code of Practice,²² the French Official Statistical Service has undertaken to announce the publication dates and times of the most important statistics in advance, and to give all users access to publications of statistical indicators at the same time and under the same conditions. Any privileged pre-release access to any outside user shall be limited, controlled and publicised. It shall be tolerated rather than becoming a standard practice.

The dissemination rules concern the essential statistical indicators for the economic, social or environmental analysis of an activity sector and for decision making, and /or which are of interest to political decision-makers and the press; they must form part of an initial dissemination. These rules do not apply to studies or summary reports.

In this context, preferential access prior to the dissemination of the statistical indicators may be granted in a limited manner provided that it is carried out in a properly democratic manner. That is why only the following users can be granted access to the statistical information before it is made public:

- political decision-makers, to enable them to prepare the wording of their announcements; specifically, this means the cabinet offices in charge of Ministerial Statistical Offices (MSOs) and the cabinet offices of the Prime Minister, the Presidency and the Directors-General in charge of the sectoral policies concerned by the publications.
Statistical indicators cannot be transmitted in advance to the other government departments;
- press agency journalists to enable them to prepare their press releases and report on the information in the most reliable manner possible.

These beneficiaries of preferential status are required to conform to a strict embargo: they must not disseminate the information before it has been made public.

With the exception of the main economic indicators (PIE) of the Official Statistical Service (SSP) (cf. Annex), the statistical indicators subject to this rule (i.e. the main social and environmental indicators and the SSP's non-main economic indicators) are published at 12 p.m. at the latest and may be transmitted:

- to the supervisory offices and the relevant Director-General for the MSOs – at 6 p.m. on the day before their publication, at the earliest;
- to press agencies – on the publication date, no earlier than 30 minutes before the online publication;
- to journalists of the audio-visual, written and online press, and to all other users – on the actual date and at the designated time of publication.

The SSP's main economic indicators are published at 8.45 a.m., apart from the indicators relating to registered jobseekers and offers collected by Pôle Emploi, which are published at 6 p.m. They may be transmitted:

- to the supervisory offices, the relevant Director-General for the MSOs and, if necessary, to the Prime Minister's and President's offices – at 6 p.m. on the day before their publication, at the earliest;
- to press agencies – on the publication date, no earlier than 30 minutes before the online publication;
- to journalists of the audio-visual, written and online press, and to all other users – on the actual date and at the designated time of publication.

Four of these indicators are considered "sensitive"; (cf. Annex); they are published at 7.30 a.m. and transmitted:

- to the supervisory offices and the relevant Director-General for the MSOs and, if necessary, to the Prime Minister's and President's offices – at 9 p.m. on the day before their publication, at the earliest;
- to press agencies – on the publication date, no earlier than 30 minutes before the online publication;
- to journalists of the audio-visual, written and online press, and to all other users – on the actual date and at the designated time of publication.

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

Most heads of MSOs also act as publication directors. When this is not the case, publication directors may have preferential access to the statistical indicators prior to their dissemination, to enable them to validate the publications under their responsibility. They are then required to conform to a strict embargo and to refrain from divulging the results prior to their publication.

22 The European Statistics Code of Practice is available at the following address: <https://www.INSEE.fr/fr/information/2499297>

List of the main economic indicators (PIE)

"Sensitive" PIEs

Name of the indicator	Frequency	Source	Time embargo is lifted
Unemployment within the meaning of the ILO and labour market indicators (results of the Employment Survey)	Quarterly	INSEE	7.30 a.m.
Payroll employment	Quarterly	INSEE	7.30 a.m.
Quarterly national accounts (first estimate)	Quarterly	INSEE	7.30 a.m.
National accounts of general government (first results)	Annual	INSEE	7.30 a.m.

Other main economic indicators

Name of the indicator	Frequency	Source	Time embargo is lifted
Index of industrial production	Monthly	INSEE	8.45 a.m.
Monthly business tendency survey in industry	Monthly	INSEE	8.45 a.m.
Quarterly business tendency survey in industry	Quarterly	INSEE	8.45 a.m.
Monthly business tendency survey in the building industry	Monthly	INSEE	8.45 a.m.
Bimonthly business tendency survey in the wholesale trade	Bimonthly	INSEE	8.45 a.m.
Monthly business tendency survey in the retail trade and in motor trade and repair	Monthly	INSEE	8.45 a.m.
Monthly business tendency survey in services	Monthly	INSEE	8.45 a.m.
Survey of investments in industry	Quarterly	INSEE	8.45 a.m.
Business creations	Monthly	INSEE	8.45 a.m.
Business climate and economic turnaround indicators	Monthly	INSEE	8.45 a.m.
Flash payroll employment estimate	Quarterly	INSEE	8.45 a.m.
Household consumer expenditure on goods	Monthly	INSEE	8.45 a.m.
Monthly economic outlook survey of households	Monthly	INSEE	8.45 a.m.
Consumer Price Index (provisional results)	Monthly	INSEE	8.45 a.m.
Consumer Price Index (final results)	Monthly	INSEE	8.45 a.m.
Producer and import price indices in industry	Monthly	INSEE	8.45 a.m.
Rent reference index	Quarterly	INSEE	8.45 a.m.
Index of old housing prices	Quarterly	INSEE	8.45 a.m.
Quarterly national accounts (second estimate)	Quarterly	INSEE	8.45 a.m.
Quarterly national accounts (detailed results)	Quarterly	INSEE	8.45 a.m.
Quarterly Maastricht debt of general government	Quarterly	INSEE	8.45 a.m.
Annual national accounts (first results)	Annual	INSEE	8.45 a.m.
Housing construction	Monthly	SDES	8.45 a.m.

Sales of new housing	Quarterly	SDES	8.45 a.m.
Foreign trade by value	Monthly	Customs	8.45 a.m.
New vehicle registrations	Monthly	SDES	8.45 a.m.
Registered jobseekers and offers collected by Pôle Emploi	Monthly	DARES	6.00 pm
Labour activity and employment conditions (Working hours, wages and salaries)	Quarterly	DARES	8.45 a.m.

Annexe 4 : Quality guidelines for Ministerial Statistical Offices

This memorandum aims to identify the points for which the Director-General (DG) of INSEE requires information to ascertain the quality of the key statistics produced by the Ministerial Statistical Offices (MSO), in line with the amended European regulation (EC) no. 223/2009.

The proposed guidelines are provided in the form of recommendations rather than an audit. These recommendations are consistent with INSEE's response to the implementation of the recommendations derived from the 2014 Peer Review.

A working group consisting of representatives of MSOs and the INSEE Quality unit carried out the operational implementation of these guidelines in 2016.

The Director-General of INSEE must have access to information in order to ascertain the quality of the key statistics produced by the MSOs. To this end, the heads of MSOs must, with the support of the INSEE Quality unit:

Direction n°1 : Establish a Quality governance system in the MSO

- definition of a strategy made known to the Strategic Quality Committee (CoSaQ);
- designation of a place for decision-making, management and monitoring of this strategy.

Direction n°2 : Develop competencies in Quality-related approaches within the MSO

- appointment of a Quality advisor who has undergone relevant training;
- awareness training for the Office's staff and their involvement in the Quality strategy.

Direction n°3 : Rolling out Quality procedures within the MSO

- identification of key processes;
- planning of Quality procedures applied to these processes (performance of self-assessments with reference to the European Statistics Code of Practice (CoP) and based on the quality assurance framework for the Official Statistics Service (SSP); implementation of continuous Quality improvement plans.

Direction n°4 : Comply with the European commitments of the MSOs and the responses to the ASP's recommendations for key statistics

- production and publication of Quality reports relating to key statistics;
- definition and updating of publication schedules; monitoring of publication divergences;
- compliance with the embargo rules of the Official Statistical Service (SSP)
- support for the dissemination of European statistics on national websites; link to the equivalent Eurostat statistics;
- maintenance of statistical confidentiality (protection of respondents).

Direction n°5 : Ensure the regular consideration of the needs of decision-makers and other users

- performance of satisfaction surveys and publication of results on the internet;
- feedback from user committees and programme committees.

Annexe 5 : Opinion of 14 November 2017 of the Official Statistics Authority relating to the quality labelling of data derived from the national database on causes of death produced by the Epidemiology Centre on Medical Causes of Death (CépiDC)

NOR:ECOO1732071V

Having regard to the letter dated 6 July 2016, sent by the Director-General of INSEE to the Chief Executive Officer of INSERM, which defines the specific nature of this quality labelling, in line with the referencing of the INSERM Epidemiology Centre on Medical Causes of Death (CépiDC – Centre d'épidémiologie sur les causes médicales de décès) as an “Other National Authority” (ONA), as defined by European Regulation EC 223/2009 for these statistics;

Having regard to the Memo dated 29 September 2017 of the Official Statistics Quality Labelling Committee;

Having regard to the letter by the Chief Executive Officer of INSERM, dated 10 October 2017, relating to the commitment concerning the schedule for the dissemination of data on medical causes of death;

Having regard to the minutes of the meeting of the Official Statistics Authority of 18 October 2017, as approved,

the Official Statistics Authority unanimously approves the quality labelling of data derived from the national database on causes of death produced by the Epidemiology Centre on Medical Causes of Death (CépiDC), for a period of five years.

The Authority duly notes the CépiDC's undertaking, on matters for which it is responsible, to reduce the publication period for these data in line with the reduction target of 9 months, and to enhance the presentation and documentation of the results, pursuant to the recommendations of the Quality Labelling Committee. In view of the specificity of its data, these elements, and more generally the educational quality of their presentation for dissemination, influence their ability to contribute to the transparency of the debates and the public health choices, which is their purpose.

The Authority requests the formalisation, within a period of six months, of the recruitment procedures for the director of the CépiDC, in order to ensure the application of the principles of revised regulation EC 2003/2009.

The Authority invites the CépiDC and INSEE to examine the governance system to be implemented in order to ensure its complete integration into the official statistical service, particularly with regard to Quality.

The Authority emphasises the strategic nature of the computerisation of transmission and the electronic certification of medical causes of death and, as a consequence, the unsatisfactory nature of the situation in this regard. It invites the CépiDC to continue its activities in this area and to speed up its efforts. It also invites the CépiDC, in association with the other government departments concerned, to seek out solutions that will enable it to take full advantage of these opportunities.

This opinion will be sent to the Chief Executive Officer of INSERM and the Director of CépiDC. It will be published in the Official Journal of the French Republic.

Annexe 6 : Opinion of 14 November 2017 of the Official Statistics Authority on the renewal of the quality labelling of the statistics derived from the State Pensions Department's pension database.

NOR: ECOO1732070V

Having regard to the Official Statistics Authority Opinion no. 2012-02, dated 7 November 2012,

Having regard to the letter of 27 March 2017 by the Director of the State Pensions Department (SRE),

Having regard to the Note of the Official Statistics Quality Labelling Committee dated 22 September 2017.

Having regard to the minutes of the meeting of the Official Statistics Authority of 18 October 2017, as approved,

The Authority unanimously approves the renewal of the quality labelling of the statistics derived from the SRE pension database, for a period of 5 years.

The Authority duly notes the commitments made by the SRE pursuant to the Quality Labelling Committee's recommendation to remedy the remaining deficiencies in the documentation of quality-labelled data before the publication of the *Abrégé statistique* 2017 (to be published in June 2018), to improve the content and the dissemination media, and to extend the publication of detailed characteristics to the existing pension stock, as is the case for new pensions.

The Authority invites the SRE to examine the conditions for enabling researchers to access its databases in the context of the implementation of the Digital Technology Law.

This Opinion will be sent to the Director of the State Pensions Department. It will be published in the Official Journal of the French Republic.

Annexe 7 : The recommendations of the ESGAB 2017 report

The ESGAB 2017 report emphasises the importance of the role of good governance in maintaining and improving confidence in official statistics, access to administrative and private data, and the practical challenges of coordinating national statistics systems. It also examines the manner in which Eurostat and the NSIs implement improvement measures in response to the recommendations made in the previous ESGAB reports and in the latest peer review reports.

The ESGAB 2017 report makes the following recommendations:

- 1- Eurostat, the NSIs and the other national authorities responsible for the production and dissemination of European statistics must attach greater importance to displaying the European Code of Practice as a quality label on their websites, if the Code is not already clearly mentioned on their main web pages.
- 2- Eurostat, the NSIs and the other national authorities must refer to the Code of Practice in press releases on the published statistics, whenever they do not already do so.
- 3- The transposition of the European rules of procedure on the general protection of data in the national legislation should take account of the specific requirements of statistical activities and must not prevent the NSIs or the other national authorities from accessing administrative data for statistical purposes at the required level of detail.
- 4- When private-sector organisations supply data to Eurostat, the NSIs or other national authorities, these organisations must make sure that the data are robust and that access can be maintained over time. They must also be sure of the quality of the methods used.
- 5- Eurostat and the NSIs should clearly inform the public of their data confidentiality and security policies.
- 6- Producers of European statistics working for other national authorities should be clearly identified and differentiated within the organisation, stating their specific tasks, and in practice should have a clear and functionally independent status guaranteed by the legislation.
- 7- Pursuant to the Code of Practice, the heads of NSIs should make sure that the other national authorities issue statistical publications in an impartial manner, enabling them to be clearly differentiated from political declarations.
- 8- The Member States should also envisage extending the NSIs' coordination role to national statistics, in addition to European statistics, in order to bolster the credibility of official statistics in general.
- 9- Considering the fact that a revised Code of practice should take account of the emergence of new sources of data, the amended regulation (EC) no. 223/2009 and the result of the second peer review, the implementation of the revised Code should be reviewed by a third peer assessment exercise between now and 2020.
- 10- Eurostat should work with the NSIs to develop a more harmonised approach to calculating the costs of European statistics according to the main categories of statistics.
- 11- The ESGAB strongly stresses that the Member States should make and publish commitments concerning confidence in statistics, in response to some of the improvement measures required to ensure compliance with the Code of Practice, especially those which remain open, as further progress is dependent on authorities outside the NSI.

Annexe 8 : 2017 review of the official statistics programme by the National Council for Statistical Information (CNIS)

This review is based on the general orientations set by the CNIS for 2017 on the one hand, and also on the key expectations expressed in statistical matters in the CNIS mid-term review for 2014-2018.

Increasingly considerable changes in society are creating changing situations, the measurement of which is a genuine difficulty and challenge for official statistics. The official statistics work presented to the commissions or working groups can inform public debate and provide keys to a better understanding. Improving diagnosis, whether in economic or social matters, is of fundamental importance in such times of uncertainty.

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

1 - General review

The CNIS contributes to facilitating access to official statistical data.

The year 2017 was marked by the implementation of the Digital Republic Law no. 2016-1321 of 7 October 2016.

The CNIS' activities in 2017 focused primarily on Article 36 relating to the secure access procedure for cross-cutting public databases, which supplements the existing legislative provisions for research activities or studies characterised as being of public interest.

The preparations for the implementation of Article 36 were described in a report by a CNIS working group, written by two professors of economics (Pierre-Yves Geoffard, President of the "Public Services and Services for the Public" Commission and Antoine Bozio.

This report was submitted in March 2017.

Its recommendations, aiming to improve the exploitation of administrative data for scientific research purposes, are divided into four major topics:

- ensuring greater familiarity with the law,
- promoting consultation between producers and users,
- developing a viable economic model,
- improving the archiving practices of administrations.

The first recommendation consists in developing a *vade mecum* for administrations and researchers, setting out the state of the applicable law and presenting the different access procedures and the legal remedies available to researchers wishing to challenge a decision to refuse access. It could be implemented in 2018, in the framework of an essential collaboration with the Ministry for Research and Higher Education.

At the same time, the Banque de France, which has embarked upon a process of opening up access to its data, within the limits of the legal rules applicable to them, via its "open data room", inaugurated in November 2016, has – pursuant to the CNIS working group's recommendations on the banking professions – provided a detailed analysis of the different business lines (Analyses et Synthèses no. 80: the situation of the major French banking groups at the end of 2016). The 2016 review by the Banking Inclusion Observatory, based on data collected by the Banque de France from credit institutions, has also been published and includes a measurement of the number of people in situations of financial fragility, their characteristics and the distribution of the specific offerings proposed to them.

Informing international comparisons

Following the colloquium held in 2016 on the key issues of international statistical comparisons, a joint CEPII-CNIS publication on the second topic of the colloquium – comparisons between France and Germany – was drafted and disseminated in July 2017 as part of the journal *Panorama du Cepii*. Studies of comparisons between France and Germany often consider the data for these neighbouring economies to be comparable. However, this apparent proximity conceals many divergences in the statistical field of a methodological, institutional or cultural nature. The accurate interpretation of these results requires better knowledge of these differences. Four specific examples of statistical measurement have raised awareness of this issue: the margin rate of non-financial corporations; public and private debt; public spending and public deficits; working hours.

In addition, this orientation, which aims to improve the relevance of international comparisons by making data more comparable, is one of the priority focuses of the INSEE 2025 Strategic Plan. The comparability of data is indeed a key analysis issue, particularly in terms of benchmarking. Several INSEE 2025 actions make reference to it, including by developing international comparisons in publications.

Enabling citizens to understand and use data from official statistics

In a context where very diverse data originate from information systems that are not totally integrated, another expectation is that citizens be enabled to comprehend and use official statistics. The mapping of information systems in an identical subject, as mentioned by certain commissions, would provide clarifications and an opportunity to assess the differences and similarities between data.

In fact, the CNIS meeting on the measurement of discriminations in employment, held on 22 June 2017 and attended by a hundred or so participants, was an opportunity to take stock of the measurement tools and statistics available for reporting on discriminations and risks of discrimination in the employment field. In addition to the report on the meeting, a very comprehensive working document on the subject was written by the CNIS SG and disseminated online. Lastly, an article summarising the salient points of the different contributions will soon be published as part of the CNIS Les Chroniques collection of recapitulative publications, and will supplement the information made available on this subject.

Following on from the modifications made in 2015 after the conclusions of a CNIS consultation group formed for this purpose under the chairmanship of Jacques Freyssinet, new changes to the monthly DEFM publications were submitted to the reconvened consultation group.

An agreement emerged on the interruption of the commented publication of the monthly figures, on which the observers' attention was largely focused, in a context of series volatility, and on publishing the series on a quarterly basis, with the average over the quarter remaining the chosen figure.

This change can indeed be considered a clarification. However, the CNIS consultation group has mentioned the possibility of an associated communication problem, because these data will be published around three weeks before the quarterly ILO unemployment figures and the Employment Survey figures. They will be followed by the "Grenelle meetings" during which numerous statistics, including these two data items, will be commented upon. Consequently, in the space of three weeks, there is a danger of confusion between two different types of information. The working group considered that coordination is required in this matter.

The CNIS noted the Official Statistical Service's following actions in response to this medium-term orientation with interest:

- facilitating users' access to data and analyses, such as enhancements of the INSEE website, the development of the MSOs' websites and, at the same time, open data-type access, access to maps and to display tools,
- raising young people's awareness of statistical issues, e.g. by organising European statistics competitions.
- providing interactive publications, such as "The life of women and men in Europe – a statistical portrait" published by INSEE in collaboration with Eurostat, the Statistical Office of the European Union, and the other national statistical institutes of the EU Member States and EFTA countries.

Obtaining indicators in addition to gross domestic product.

This expectation has been fuelled this year, in the framework of the UN's "Sustainable Development Goals", by the creation of a CNIS working group responsible for the French version of the indicators for Sustainable Development Goals.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), approved in 2015, have been applicable since 1st January 2016. These 17 goals, of a universal nature, cover all aspects of sustainable development, from social, economic and environmental aspects to partnerships and governance. These goals are included in the United Nations 2030 Agenda. The UN monitors them via 244 to 249 indicators calculated by the UN agencies based on data provided by the different countries. A high-level political forum is held in July of every year and France has decided to present a report on a third of these indicators at this event. This exercise acts as a deadline for the group's activities.

France must meet two requirements. It must transmit the UN the data required for calculating the international indicators and report on the progress of French policies that contribute to the attainment of these goals.

The data therefore need to be selected on grounds of their relevance, because they must apply to France; they must also

accurately reflect the goal and the production capacity of the producing department. It also appears necessary to reduce the number of indicators to 100; however, the indicators may be designed according to a tree structure, with the main UN indicators and their different variants.

For the group, this entails developing a monitoring dashboard of all SDGs with priority given to the 2018 goals. Nevertheless, working together in a small group, the members considered that it might be advisable to consider all of the indicators in the initial phase of the works, even if this meant documenting these indicators in a second phase. Indeed, in addition to selecting the indicators, it is important to make them comprehensible to everyone. At the minimum, by July 2018, the group must have carried out all this work for the indicators covered by the reporting process.

The working group will be divided into sub-groups responsible for the economic, social and environmental aspects respectively, with the indicators divided among the three sub-groups. The report will be submitted in H2 2018.

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 profound changes in the job market, and in other aspects of the way our society operates. It therefore wished to participate in the discussions intended to identify the scope of the “digitisation of the economy” by organising a seminar on this topic.

Initially envisaged in 2017, this seminar will be held on 7 March 2018 and will be entitled: “The digital economy: key issues for official statistics”. The programme took shape in the summer of 2017 and will be divided into three parts:

- “Measurement of growth and the digital economy, old and new subjects”: innovation and technical progress and their impact on the measurement of GDP are quite old questions and the aim is to determine whether the digital economy falls into this same context;
- “Corporate statistics and markets in the digital era”: this will consist in examining digital practices, the measurement of the platform economy or the Internet economy, their impacts, information systems, the organisational practices of companies, etc.;
- “Impacts of digital technology on labour market statistics (employment, professions, competencies)”: this session will refer to the Gazier report on the diversity of forms of employment and will include presentations on the evolution and transformation of professions and competencies, the risks and opportunities associated with automation and contributions concerning the use of “big data” in this field which may trigger changes in approaches and statistical concepts.

Uses of digital technology in social practices and in relationships with public services were also covered by the presentation of the “Demography and Social Questions” Commission in the spring. On this occasion, the CNIS stated its desire to see more precise measurements of the digital divide and the characteristics of the populations concerned.

The CNIS also pointed out the different studies produced by official statistics on this subject:

- an article entitled “Données massives, statistique publique et mesure de l’économie” (“Big data, public statistics and measurement of the economy”) in the 2017 edition of the publication “L’économie française”,
- an initial evaluation of the importance of de tourist accommodation proposed by private individuals via Internet platforms in *INSEE Analyses* no. 33 of February 2017,
- a study document by DARES, entitled “L’économie des plateformes: enjeux pour la croissance, le travail, l’emploi et les politiques publiques” (“The platform economy: key issues for growth, work, employment and public policies”), published in August 2017.

2 -Themed review of proceedings in commissions and working groups proceedings

2 -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)

A) Report on the measurement of concealed work

With regard to employment, one of the major focuses of the year was the finalisation of the report by the "Measurement of concealed work and impact on public finance" working group, chaired by Alain Gubian, which corresponded to the CNIS' medium-term demand for better knowledge of the changes in the employment field and which aims to determine the extent of concealed work in France and of the temporary secondment of foreign workers. Specifically, this clarifies the relevant definitions and analyses the different methods of quantification that are used or can be used to estimate the level of concealed work.

The 41 recommendations of the working group, divided into four topics, are intended more for bodies in charge of collections and benefit payments and for administrations responsible for combating fraud and concealed work than for the traditional stakeholders in official statistics. One of these proposals, in particular, has been developed by a Concealed Work Monitoring Observatory which is responsible for the regular production of a qualitative and quantitative summary informed by a diverse range of sources and approaches and based on the model devised by the working group.

B) Statistical data on staff representatives

Prior to the meeting held on 22 June addressing discrimination in employment, the first meeting of the "Employment, Qualification and Earned Income" Commission was an opportunity to take stock of the statistical data on staff representatives, available from DARES, the DGAFP and the Directorate for Labour.

At the end of this meeting, the production of a regular summary of these data was recommended.

C) Knowledge of the situation of young people

The "Employment, Qualification and Earned Income" and "Demographics and Social Issues" Commissions focused on young people from the perspective of professional integration on the one hand and access to residential autonomy, on the other.

There are numerous sources of data on professional integration, which relate to the "Entry into the adult world" (EVA) scheme. Within this scheme involving multiple data collection agencies, young people are interviewed by the DEPP (if they are still in secondary education), by the SIES (if they have obtained their Baccalauréat secondary school-leaving certificate) or by INSEE (if they are no longer in secondary or higher education). In addition, the Employment Survey describes the situation for young people on the labour market from a cross-sectional perspective. CEREQ data derived from the Génération survey, data from SIES (the MSO for higher education) derived from the Ministry for Higher Education, Research and Innovation's professional integration surveys of university graduates, data from the DEPP (the MSO for the French national education system) derived from an exhaustive survey of apprentices in Apprentice Training Centres, and finally, data from DARES (the MSO for Labour) derived from its recording system for apprenticeship contracts and professionalisation contracts, supplements this statistical information system on the professional integration of young people.

This scheme – the fruit of collaboration between different producers – is consistent. It will be further improved by the use of the unique national identifier (created in 2015) for each pupil, student or apprentice, which should improve the observations by preventing duplicate entries and enriching the databases of the young people to be surveyed.

Concerning young people's access to residential autonomy, the two sources used in a complementary manner are the National Survey of Young People's Resources (ENRJ, 2014), which aims to develop an understanding of the resources of the under-25s, and which also provides data on living conditions and residential pathways while taking account of different types of residences (parental home, collective or independent housing, multiple residences), and the National Housing Survey (ENL), which, thanks to its regular publications, supplements the statistical overview by providing data about the long-term changes that reflect changes in society. The study of young people and their living conditions makes it possible to extend the observations beyond 25 years of age in order to study the different forms of cohabitation.

These two very detailed sources are widely used by researchers and housing stakeholders.

The CNIS hopes that the changes concerning the housing information system will ensure the continuity of these data by maintaining the representativeness of young people and the historical comparability.

D) Follow-up by Official Statistics to the report of the CNIS working group on family breakdown

The recommendations of the report of the working group chaired by Claude Thélot, entitled "Family breakdown and its consequences: 30 recommendations to improve knowledge thereof" led to the publication of several studies in 2017:

- A special report, published in the 2017 edition of France Portrait Social, entitled “Formations and break-ups of unions: what are the particularities of cohabitating relationships?”, presents the characteristics of cohabitation and an assessment of the number of people cohabiting, break-ups of cohabiting relationships and minors impacted by the separation of cohabiting parents.
- A working document, published in May 2017 and entitled “Family structures in France: comparison of the census, the family and housing survey and the employment survey”, reviews the breakdown of the population into households and families in these three sources.

E) Knowledge of disability and dependency

The situation concerning statistics on disabled people and elderly dependent people was discussed by the “Public Services and Services for the Public” Commission. Numerous surveys have been conducted and many changes have been made since 2011, in four areas which correspond to the CNIS’ overall recommendations:

- matching of different sources concerning the same individuals to improve the quality of the data;
- collection of data at the territorial level (regions, départements, municipalities and inter-municipal entities according to the sources);
- development of the longitudinal dimension (studies on the periods of time spent in retirement homes for elderly dependent people, monitoring of mortality over 15 years, etc.)
- dissemination of data via the Quetelet network, via user licences and the data.Dreeswebsite, among others.

For the record, an inter-commission body involving the “Environment and Sustainable Development” and “Public Services and Services for the Public” Commission was organised on the subject of health and the environment, with the aim of presenting data enabling the identification of causalities between environmental phenomena and impacts on health.

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

A) Tourism statistics

The activities of the “Enterprises and Market Strategies” Commission focused on the mechanism used by official statistics bodies to observe tourism statistics in H2.

The occupancy surveys of tourist accommodation, conducted by INSEE since the 1980s, firstly in hotels and subsequently extended to other categories (camp sites and other holiday accommodation such as hotel-apartments and holiday villages) play a key role in the mechanism used by official statistics bodies to observe tourism statistics. These occupancy surveys are supplemented by two tourism clientele surveys conducted in association with the Banque de France and the Directorate-General for Enterprise, which are generally used for the satellite account of tourism. Other sources of data are used, such as bank cards and mobile telephony. Regional extensions of the tourist occupancy surveys cover the regional aspect.

This extensive system of surveys and studies is widely used by stakeholders in the tourism sector, particularly at the regional level.

For the record, the contribution made by the Crop Management Practices surveys to agricultural and environmental policy was studied in H1.

B) Initial activities of the Banking Inclusion Observatory

The presentation of the 2016 report of the Banking Inclusion Observatory informed the Commission of the progress made in the implementation of the Observatory’s missions, and more specifically of the methods used by the Banque de France to collect quantitative and qualitative information from credit institutions in relation to people in situations of financial fragility, pursuant to the Order of 9 March of the French Monetary and Financial Code.

The Banking Inclusion Observatory, which brings together associations, banks and the relevant public stakeholders under the chairmanship of the Governor of the Bank of France, can in this way measure the number of people in situations of financial fragility, their characteristics and the distribution of the specific offerings proposed to them.

In relation to the improvements made by this collection of data and the uses that are made of it, the CNIS encourages the efforts currently being made to refine the data (harmonisation of definitions, indicators of pricing policy), which will enable the consolidation and enhancement of the information published by the Observatory.

For the record, in H1, the "Financial System and Financing of the Economy" Commission examined specific responses

to the financing of innovation in enterprises.

2 -3. Progress and expectations on the environment and sustainable development (“Environment and Sustainable Development” Commission)

In addition to the inter-commission activities carried out on the health and environment topic, mentioned previously, in H2, the Commission focused on the activities of the National Observatory for Biodiversity, created by article 25 of the Grenelle 1 Law of August 2009, coordinated since September 2017 by the French Agency for Biodiversity, whose purpose is to provide up-to-date information on biodiversity for the public. A working group has developed a set of **92 indicators**, which are largely differentiated and organised according to territories, based on entries relating to questions in two groups: one group of four sets directly related to the National Biodiversity Strategy, and the other to eight thematic sets.

These indicators enhance the knowledge of this field.

However, this profusion of indicators has led the CNIS, in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals and the French variants of the indicators developed by the CNIS working group chaired by Jean-René Brunetière, to recommend the pooling of efforts in all processes concerning indicators relating to this topic, in order to improve the coordination and clarity of the indicators and messages delivered.

2 4. Progress and expectations in territorial aspects (“Territories” Commission)

Statistics on Overseas France, the gridded data and local knowledge of insecurity were the subjects covered by the Commission during the course of 2017.

A) Review of statistics on Overseas France

For Overseas France, the authority in statistical matters depends on the legal status of the departments and local authorities.

The presentation of the review of statistics in French Overseas Departments and Collectivities (DOM-COM) showed that despite a persistent feeling of insufficiency, there is actually an extensive range of statistical production. The INSEE-DGOM framework agreement, in progress since 2013, is stabilising the survey programme in the DOMs.

The improvement underway concerns statistical productions using administrative data, which do not cover all DOMs.

B) Knowledge of insecurity at the local level

The local knowledge of insecurity was examined via the presentation of the Multi-Annual Plan to Combat Poverty and for Social Inclusion 2013-2017 and its local variants which use a range of indicators to carry out the territorial monitoring of poverty and exclusion.

The CNIS recommends the monitoring and enhancement of these indicators and their consideration in the choices made by the CNIS working group in charge of the developing the French variants of the indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals.

Annexe 9 : Principles of the 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 system²³

"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".²⁴

Statistical authorities,²⁵ comprising the Commission (Eurostat), National Statistical Institutes and other national authorities responsible for the development, production and dissemination of European Statistics,²⁶ 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.

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

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

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

26 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 credibility 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.

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.

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

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.

Principle 10: Cost effectiveness. Resources are used effectively.

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.

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

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

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.

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.

Annexe 10 : The Ministerial Statistical Offices on 31 December 2017

DREES	Ministry for Solidarity and Health Ministry for Labour Ministry for Public Action and Accounts Department of Research, Studies, Evaluation and Statistics
SSP	Ministry for Agriculture and Food Secretariat General Department of Statistics and Forward Studies
SDES	Ministry for the Ecological and Solidarity Transition General Commission on Sustainable Development Department for Data and Statistical Studies
DEPP	Ministry for National Education Ministry for Higher Education, Research and Innovation Department of Evaluation, Forward Studies and Performance
SIES	Ministry for Higher Education, Research and Innovation Under-Directorate for Information Systems and Statistical Studies
DARES	Ministry for Labour 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 Territorial Cohesion Directorate General for Local Authorities Department for Local Studies and Statistics
Public Finances	Ministry for Public Action and Accounts 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 Public Action and Accounts Directorate General for Customs and Indirect Taxation Department for Statistics and Economic Studies
Civil Service	Ministry for Public Action and Accounts Directorate General for the Administration and Civil Service Department of Studies, Statistics and Information Systems
Immigration Integration	Ministry for the Interior Directorate General for Foreigners in France Department of Statistics, Studies and Documentation
Youth and Sport	Ministry for National Education Department with national competence named "National Institute of Youth and Popular Education" Studies, Observation and Statistics Unit
Defence	Ministry for the Armed Forces Directorate of Financial Affairs

	Economic Observatory of Defence
Culture	Ministry for Culture Secretariat General 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

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