

PEER REVIEW REPORT

ON COMPLIANCE WITH THE CODE OF PRACTICE AND
THE COORDINATION ROLE OF THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL INSTITUTE

HUNGARY

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Hungarian Central Statistical Office (HCSO) was established in its current form by legislation in 1993. It is described as a 'professionally autonomous government office', now under the supervision of the Minister of the Prime Minister's Office. The Act defines the official statistical service as being performed by the HCSO, Ministries, several government offices and the National Bank of Hungary. It states that the head of each body "shall ensure the autonomy of operation of the statistical activities and the independence of the dissemination of statistical information". The Act also established a National Statistical Council (NSC) to promote the functioning and the coordination of the official statistical service, to represent the interests of society and of the users of statistics.

The Peer Review team noted the commitment of the staff of the HCSO to values of independence, impartiality and objectivity. These values are supported by an extensive infrastructure of strategies and policies. The technical infrastructure of the office is well developed, and there is a strong commitment to international cooperation.

The primary statistical legislation (Act No. XLVI of 1993 on Statistics) is now in need of updating. It reflects the broad principles of good statistical governance and the current institutional arrangements but does not deal fully with the principles and related arrangements. The HCSO has itself been developing proposals for new legislation and more recently has extended these in to a more general updating of the statutory framework, taking full account of the amended Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council. Several of the recommendations of the Peer Reviewers relate to the further development and implementation of HCSO's own proposals. These include the development of a national code of practice to interpret and support the European statistics Code of Practice (CoP), and a system of statistical audits to ensure compliance. They also include proposals to strengthen the independence and transparency of the arrangements for the appointment, and termination of appointment, of the President of the HCSO - the Peer Reviewers regard this as a necessary step to achieve full compliance with Principle 1 of the CoP.

Increasingly, national statistical systems are exploiting the availability of administrative data to produce statistics that are more comprehensive and timely than those from statistical surveys alone. In many countries there are now growing numbers of national authorities producing important statistical outputs from their internal administrative data. This is true in Hungary as elsewhere and has increased the importance of effective coordination and the maintenance of professional standards beyond the traditional boundaries of the statistical office. The Peer Reviewers concluded that steps need to be taken to define the National Statistical System more clearly and empower the HCSO to manage and coordinate all the relevant statistical activities of national authorities.

Quality management has progressed rapidly within the HCSO in recent years but there is now a need for a more comprehensive and consistent approach to fully meet the expectations of the CoP and to focus quality procedures not just on control of statistical processes but on understanding and serving those user needs that are of greatest public value.

Overall, the Peer Reviewers concluded that although the statutory framework is in need of updating, the HCSO nonetheless achieves a high level of compliance with the CoP.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Governance

1. The relevant Hungarian authorities should support the early introduction of updated statistical legislation taking account of all relevant European regulations and guidance to better support the independent and efficient production of European statistics. (European statistics Code of Practice, Principles 1-6 and Coordination.)
2. The Hungarian Central Statistical Office should develop its current proposals for future legislation to strengthen the independence and transparency of the arrangements for the appointment, and termination of appointment, of the President of the Office and to recognise explicitly the President's role in the international statistical sphere and in the coordination of national statistical functions. (European statistics Code of Practice, Principle 1 and Coordination.)
3. The relevant Hungarian authorities should, in considering proposals for new legislation, support the establishment of the Hungarian Central Statistical Office as an independent regulatory body, both to give it greater managerial authority and autonomy and to underscore the independence of the National Statistical System. (European statistics Code of Practice, Principle 1.)
4. The relevant Hungarian authorities should, in considering proposals for new legislation, support stronger provisions relating to access by the Hungarian Central Statistical Office to administrative data for statistical purposes, including the obligation on the owners of administrative data sources to obtain the approval of the Hungarian Central Statistical Office in respect of the design, development, quality management and discontinuation of those sources. (European statistics Code of Practice, Indicators 8.7-8.9 and 10.3.)
5. In the context of the proposed revision of the national statistical legislation and the implementation of the amended Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 on European statistics, the relevant Hungarian authorities should review whether the budget and staff resources available to the Hungarian Central Statistical Office are adequate to fulfil all its statutory functions under national and European laws and to comply with all the standards of the European statistics Code of Practice. (European statistics Code of Practice, Indicators 3.1 and 3.2.)
6. The relevant Hungarian authorities in cooperation with the Hungarian Central Statistical Office should prepare and publish an inventory of the administrative data systems of the Hungarian public administration. Based on that inventory, the Hungarian Central Statistical Office should, as a contribution to efficiency and cost effectiveness, assess the potential of each as a source of official statistics and publish its conclusions. (European statistics Code of Practice, Principles 8 and 10.)

Coordination

7. The relevant Hungarian authorities should, in considering proposals for new legislation, include a clear definition of the National Statistical System of Hungary, indicating that statistical functions of national authorities are to be regarded as part of the National Statistical System if they meet certain criteria. These should either be included in the legislation directly or be determined by decree under the authority of the President of the Hungarian Central Statistical Office. (European statistics Code of Practice, Principles 1,2,3,7 and Coordination.)
8. The Hungarian Central Statistical Office should prepare a report based on an inventory of statistical activities considered to fall within the National Statistical System and review whether the current division of organisational responsibilities is optimal. (European statistics Code of Practice, Indicator 3.4, Principle 10 and Coordination.)
9. The relevant Hungarian authorities should, in considering proposals for new legislation, support the establishment of a committee of senior statistical officials from all relevant authorities to help coordinate the National Statistical System. The committee should be chaired by the President, and supported by a unit or individual within the Hungarian Central Statistical Office. (European statistics Code of Practice, Indicator 3.4, Principle 10 and Coordination.)
10. The relevant Hungarian authorities should, in considering proposals for new legislation, support the preparation and adoption of a National Statistics Code of Practice, to provide a practical and enforceable interpretation - in the context of the Hungarian public administration - of international standards of good statistical practice, particularly the European statistics Code of Practice. (European statistics Code of Practice and Coordination.)
11. The relevant Hungarian authorities should, in considering proposals for new legislation, support the establishment of a mechanism empowering the Hungarian Central Statistical Office to independently assess compliance with the National Statistics Code of Practice and to make the results public. (European statistics Code of Practice and Coordination.)

Quality management and user orientation

12. The Hungarian Central Statistical Office should establish a broader quality management system, fully reflecting the concepts of the Total Quality Management. A senior expert responsible for quality should fulfil the role of Quality Coordinator and report directly to the President. A cross-organisational Quality Committee should be established to support and guide the Quality Coordinator. (European statistics Code of Practice, Indicator 4.1.)
13. The Hungarian Central Statistical Office should further develop the Quality Guidelines so that they provide more comprehensive guidance to staff throughout the organisation, including the training of new staff, with respect to the implementation of quality management. (European statistics Code of Practice, indicators 4.1 and 4.2.)
14. The Hungarian Central Statistical Office should further develop the content and homogeneity of the quality related meta-information it produces and publishes on its website, in line with standardised metadata systems. (European statistics Code of Practice, Indicators 4.3, 6.4 and 15.5.)

15. The Hungarian Central Statistical Office should implement more uniform and transparent policy and procedures for planned regular and irregular revisions of statistical data, including a release calendar for all planned revisions. (European statistics Code of Practice, Indicators 6.6 and 8.6.)
16. The Hungarian Central Statistical Office should seek to develop further its dialogue with the broad base of users of its outputs. Moreover, it should aim to research and publicise the beneficial use made of its products and services with a view to stimulating further use and communicating the practical value of its products. (European statistics Code of Practice, Indicators 11.1, 11.3.)
17. The Hungarian Central Statistical Office should plan to upgrade its website by improving its structure, navigation, and design and to provide better access to detailed statistical data in an interactive way. (European statistics Code of Practice, Principle 15.)

2. INTRODUCTION

This peer review report is part of a series of assessments, the objective of which is to evaluate the extent to which National Statistical Institutes (NSIs) and the European Statistical System (ESS)¹ comply with the European statistics Code of Practice (CoP).

The CoP, which sets out a common quality framework for the ESS, was first adopted in 2005 by the Statistical Programme Committee and updated in 2011 by its successor, the European Statistical System Committee. The CoP – 15 principles and related indicators of good practice – covers the institutional environment, the statistical production process and the output of European statistics. The ESS is committed to fully complying with the CoP and is working towards its full implementation. Periodic assessments review progress towards reaching this goal.

The first global assessment, a round of peer reviews in 2006–2008, explored how the NSIs and Eurostat were progressing in implementing the parts of the CoP relating to the institutional environment and dissemination of statistics (principles 1–6 and 15). This resulted in reports for each NSI and Eurostat, available on the Eurostat website². These reports also include a set of improvement actions covering all the principles of the CoP; these informed the annual monitoring of the implementation of the CoP in the ESS in the period 2009-2013.

The scope of this second round of peer reviews is broader: the assessment of CoP compliance covers all principles; the CoP compliance of selected other national producers of European statistics (as well as the NSI) in each country is assessed; and the way in which statistical authorities coordinate the production and dissemination of European statistics within their statistical systems is explored.

It should be underlined that there is a fundamental difference between the reports in the previous round of peer reviews conducted in 2006-2008 and the reports from this round. In the 2006-2008 round compliance with principles 1 to 6 and 15 of the CoP was assessed by means of a four-level scale (fully met; largely met; partly met and not met) and improvement actions were agreed on all 15 principles. After five years of continuous development most of the improvement actions have been implemented and significant progress towards full compliance with the CoP has been made. Therefore, rather than stating the state of play for all principles of the CoP, the reports from the 2013-2015 round mainly focus on issues where full compliance with the CoP has not been found or further improvements are recommended by the Peer Review team.

In order to gain an independent view, the peer review exercise has been externalised and an audit-like approach, where all the answers to the self-assessment questionnaires have to be supported by evidence, has been applied. As in 2006-2008, all EU Member States, the EFTA/EEA countries and Eurostat are subject to a peer review.

Each peer review in the Member States and EFTA/EEA countries is conducted by three reviewers and has four phases: completion of self-assessment questionnaires by a country; their assessment by Peer Reviewers; a peer review visit; and the preparation of reports on the outcomes. The peer review of Eurostat has been conducted by the European Statistical Governance Advisory Board (ESGAB).

¹ The ESS is the partnership between the Union statistical authority, which is the Commission (Eurostat), the national statistical institutes (NSIs) and other national authorities responsible in each Member State for the development, production and dissemination of European statistics. This Partnership also includes the EFTA /EEA countries.

² <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/quality/first-round-of-peer-reviews>

To test and complete the methodology, it was piloted in two countries, Iceland and Slovakia, over the summer of 2013.

The Peer Review of Hungary was conducted by Richard Alldritt (chair), Michelle Jouvenal and Peter Hackl, who made a peer review visit to Budapest on 4-8 May 2015. The programme of the visit is in Annex A and a list of participants in Annex B.

This report focuses on compliance with the CoP and the coordination of European statistics within the Hungarian statistical system. The report highlights some of the strengths of the Hungarian Central Statistical Office in these contexts and contains recommendations for improvement. Improvement actions developed by the Hungarian Central Statistical Office and other relevant authorities on the basis of this report will be published within the four-week period starting when the final report is sent to the NSI.

3. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEM

The Hungarian Central Statistical Office (HCSO) was established in its current statutory form by the Act No. XLVI of 1993 on Statistics ('the 1993 Act'), which describes it as a 'professionally autonomous government office'. It currently falls under the supervision of the Minister of the Prime Minister's Office. The budget of HCSO constitutes a separate budget chapter in the central government budget and the President of HCSO has sole responsibility for its execution.

The Act defines the official statistical service as being performed by the following bodies: Hungarian Central Statistical Office; Ministries and the Prime Minister's Office; President of the National Office for the Judiciary; Supreme Prosecutor's Office; National Bank of Hungary; Hungarian Competition Authority; Research and Technological Innovation Council; Hungarian Energy and Public Utility Regulatory Authority; and the institute of economic analyses supervised by the Minister of rural development. According to the Act, the head of each body "shall ensure the autonomy of operation of the statistical activities and the independence of the dissemination of statistical information".

The legislation includes thirteen formal responsibilities of the HCSO, one of which is preparing the draft of the national data collection programme of the official statistical service, implementing its own data collections and monitoring the implementation of the programme by the bodies of the official statistical service.

The Act also established a National Statistical Council (NSC), an advisory body to the President of the HCSO, to promote the functioning and the coordination of the official statistical service, to represent the interests of society and of the users of statistics. The members and the Chair of the NSC are appointed by the Prime Minister for a fixed term. The NSC is composed of representatives of the various national authorities and key data users, including: public administration, scientific community, business associations, chambers, and representatives of employers and of employees, local governments and social security agencies.

Objectives

The mission of the HCSO is to assist informed decision making, research and dialogue between all actors of society by producing and disseminating trusted, high-quality official statistics and analyses. HCSO's vision is that it gains respect inside and outside Hungary for its committed staff being responsive to changing users' needs, continuously increasing efficiency, improving quality, reducing burden on respondents and spreading statistical literacy.

In order to implement its mission and vision, HCSO promotes the following values: independence and objectivity; user orientation; commitment to quality; respect for its 150-year old traditions and flexible adaptation to the challenges of the 21st century.

Structure

HCSO has a hierarchical structure with departments and sections. The statistical domains are covered by 7 departments, each of them supervised by either the Deputy President for social statistics or the Deputy President for economic statistics. The Deputy President for legal affairs and financial management supervises the legal, administrative and financial issues. The President directly supervises dissemination, IT, the budget, human resources, international affairs, communication and press relations. The Methodology Department is supervised by the Deputy President for social statistics.

Besides the departments and sections, there are four Boards to discuss current and strategic issues and to develop recommendations for senior management: General Management Board; Methodology and IT Board; Dissemination Board and International Relations Board.

Appointment of the President of the HCSO

According to the 1993 Act, the Prime Minister appoints and terminates the appointment of the President and Deputy Presidents of HCSO. The term of appointment is 6 years which can be extended twice for 6 years each. The rules of employment relating to both posts are set out in the Act No. CXCIX of 2011 on Civil Servants. The President of the HCSO is at the highest non-political level of civil service.

Legislation

The main legislation includes:

- The Act No. XLVI of 1993 on Statistics,
- Act No. CXII of 2011 on the Right of Informational Self-Determination and on Freedom of Information,
- Act No. CXCIX of 2011 on Civil Servants,
- Government Decree 170/1993. (XII.3.) on the implementation of the 1993 Act,
- Government Decree 288/2009. (XII. 15.) which mandates the National Statistical Data Collection Programme.

Statistical programme

The statistical data collections of the official statistical service are included in the annual National Statistical Data Collection Programme of the official statistical service (NSDCP). The NSDCP is mandated by the Government Decree 288/2009. (XII. 15.) and is amended each year according to the changes in the data collections.

The draft programme is compiled by HCSO based on the proposals of the Ministries and other member organisations of the official statistical service. HCSO submits the draft programme to the National Statistical Council to request its opinion and for approval. The NSC has to approve and vote on the NSDCP before it can be submitted to the Government for adoption. The NSDCP currently contains 262 data collections and 97 data transmissions. Regarding the data collections in 2014, close to half were implemented by HCSO, the rest by nine other member organisations of the official statistical service.

Statistical products and dissemination

HCSO publishes aggregated data and metadata on its website, organized thematically, in a database and in predefined tables. It also produces publications including: First releases; Thematic analyses in the series Statistical Reflections; annual analyses; comprehensive analyses; publications for popularizing statistics; content edited for the web; three scientific journals; and classifications and methodological publications.

4. COMPLIANCE WITH THE CODE OF PRACTICE AND THE COORDINATION ROLE WITHIN THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEM

4.1 STRENGTHS OF THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL INSTITUTE IN RELATION TO ITS COMPLIANCE WITH THE CODE OF PRACTICE AND TO ITS COORDINATION ROLE

This section of the report identifies some aspects of the CoP in relation to which the HCSO is regarded by the Peer Review team as showing high standards in relation to compliance with the CoP.

Principle 1 of the CoP requires that the statistical authority should demonstrate professional independence from other policy, regulatory or administrative departments and bodies as well as from private sector operators, so as to ensure the credibility of European statistics. Although this report discusses the need to strengthen the legislative framework, the Peer Review team was impressed with the self-evident commitment of all the staff of the HCSO to values of independence, impartiality and objectivity. These values are supported by an extensive infrastructure of strategies and policies. Everyone who gave evidence to the review, including journalists, academics, and the main government users, spoke highly of the professionalism and helpfulness of the staff of the HCSO. The expectation of a service culture is implicit in various principles of the CoP, including Principles 1 and 15.

The technical infrastructure of the office is well developed, with modern systems and rapid progress towards integration and standardisation, in line with Principles 3 and 10 of the CoP.

There is a strong commitment to international cooperation, within the ESS but also with the United Nations (UN), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and other institutions. This is evident in the HCSO's active participation in European statistical developments and the major efforts it has made to comply with European statistical regulations with only very limited derogations (relevant to Principle 7 of the CoP).

The junior staff of the office were enthusiastic about HCSO as a place to work and indicated a strong understanding of the role of a national statistical office in the European context, indicating the effectiveness of training and the strong shared culture of the organisation strengthened by its long history (relevant to Indicator 7.6 of the CoP).

Although the Peer Review team did not identify any practices that are innovative in the broad sense relevant to these reports, the training arrangements of the HCSO School are worthy of special mention as they seem to be efficient, flexible and effective and to have the strong support of the staff of the office.

4.2 ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

4.2.1 GOVERNANCE

Updating statistical legislation

The 1993 Act, as the primary statistical legislation in Hungary, reflects the broad principles of good statistical governance and establishes the current institutional arrangements. However, in some respects it does not deal fully with the principles and arrangements that it covers, particularly when contrasted with recent examples of statistical legislation in other European countries. The following paragraphs give some examples.

There is no clear definition of the National Statistical System (NSS). The Act simply identifies a list of 'bodies of the national statistical system', including the HCSO, Ministries, National Office of the Judiciary, National Bank of Hungary and some others. The Act states that the HCSO may ask the bodies listed for information about their statistical activities and the implementation of the National Statistical Data Collection Programme (NSDCP) and that the bodies shall provide that information. It further states that the head of each body of the NSS shall ensure the autonomy of operation of the statistical activities and the independence of the dissemination of statistical information.

The absence of a formal definition, which would support the identification of those activities of Ministries that should properly be regarded as relating to official statistics and therefore elements of the NSS, is a significant impediment to effective coordination and to the implementation of common statistical standards and practices. At present only those activities that are unambiguously covered by European statistical legislation are clearly recognised as being encompassed by the NSS. Similarly, there is no systematic identification of the staff of 'bodies of the national statistical system', who should be regarded as being the members of a national statistical service and covered by its values and standards. These issues have become of greater relevance as the statistical activities of various national authorities have expanded in recent years. In the meetings during the Peer Review visit it was evident that further expansion in those activities is expected and this reinforces the importance of clear identification of the constituent parts of the NSS.

The Act creates a National Statistical Council (NSC), with an external Chair and broad membership, as an advisory body to the President of the HCSO with the aim of promoting the functioning and coordination of the national statistical system, to represent the interests of society and of the users of statistics. It is given the specific task of commenting on the draft of the NSDCP but also considers matters of statistical policy at the instigation of the HCSO which provides the secretariat. Senior managers of the HCSO told the Peer Review team that the Council has proved itself to be a valuable forum, but it is evident from its role, terms of reference and membership that it is not designed as a body to coordinate the day to day activities of the NSS. The view of the HCSO, which the Peer Review team supports, is that an additional interdepartmental committee structure is needed for routine management and coordination of statistical work across the NSS.

The professional independence of the HCSO is dealt with in the legislation by a single sentence which states that the HCSO 'shall be a professionally autonomous government office with a budget that constitutes a separate budget chapter'. The appointment of the President is addressed by a statement that 'The Prime Minister shall appoint and terminate the appointment of the President and Deputy Presidents of the HCSO'. These statements, taken together, fall short of a strong statutory backing for professional independence, particularly in respect of the appointment and termination of the President.

The Act contains no reference to the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, the principles of the CoP or the specific provisions of Regulation (EC) No. 223/2009 on European statistics (although there is a brief reference to this Regulation at Sec 27 of the Act). Including specific reference to the established international framework of good practice guidance would make clear what being 'professionally autonomous' means and also allow that concept to be more readily extended to the NSS, not just the HCSO.

The Act (Sec 21(4)) gives the HCSO the right to receive administrative data (including personal data) for statistical purposes. In practice however, the wording of the legislation is not entirely clear and the Peer Review team understands that there are some obstacles in cases where other legislation may be seen, by the data owners, to contradict this right. The Act does not deal with

issues such as the right of the HCSO to be involved in the design of administrative data systems or to influence development of such systems so as to make them more useful, or more reliable, for statistical purposes. Such powers could help to ensure the quality of statistics derived from these sources and increase cost-effectiveness. With the rapid expansion in the range of administrative data being produced in all EU countries, the importance of establishing the role of the NSI in relation to administrative data sources is getting ever greater.

The treatment of statistical confidentiality in the legislation would benefit from updating, particularly in relation to allowing HCSO to provide access to microdata under appropriate safeguards for approved research purposes.

HCSO proposals

The HCSO has been working on proposals for updating and extending the statistical legislation for the past two years. Initially this was limited in scope and intended to supplement the existing Act. However, with the imminent implementation of the amended Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 on European statistics, and as work and consultations have progressed, the proposals have developed into a more comprehensive overhaul of the existing Act. HCSO had submitted its earlier proposals to the Government in 2014 and these had been discussed by the State Secretaries. However, those proposals have now been withdrawn and the first draft of a more comprehensive text has been prepared.

Among the main features of the HCSO draft proposals are these:

- The status of the HCSO should be changed to that of an 'independent regulatory body'. Such statutory bodies are not part of the central government administrative system (and as such not under the direction of the Government) and have their own legislative powers, such as the power to issue decrees – to the extent provided for in the legislation that establishes the body. Such bodies can also employ staff on a different legal basis from other civil servants. This would give HCSO more flexibility over the recruitment and terms of employment of staff which would help the office to address challenges in recruitment and retention. The change in status would also allow the President of the HCSO to issue the NSDCP and the Organisational and Operational Rules of the HCSO, rather than these taking the form of decrees from the Prime Minister's Office. This would serve to highlight and reinforce the independence of the office.
- It is proposed that the arrangements for the appointment and termination of appointment of the President of the HCSO should be amended to give greater assurance of independence; however the Peer Review team concluded that HCSO's current proposals as outlined during the Peer Review visit, may not go far enough in ensuring transparency and independence (see below).
- Under the proposals, the HCSO would have the right to prepare a Hungarian National Statistics Code of Practice (NSCoP) and there would be an obligation on all officials within the national statistical service to abide by the NSCoP and the European statistics CoP. The HCSO would also have a duty and power to enforce adherence to these codes by conducting regular 'audits' of the statistical system.
- HCSO would have the authority to issue recommendations and guidelines on methodology and other professional matters to all parts of the statistical system.
- The legislation would establish a Coordinating Council for Official Statistics consisting of members of the statistical system. This would be a forum to discuss priority setting and standardisation, consider drafts of the NSDCP, develop the Hungarian National Statistics Code of Practice and consider issues relating to the use of administrative data sources and

other professional matters. The work of this body would complement and support that of the NSC.

- The legislation would also implement the amended Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 on European statistics with regard to access to administrative data and metadata, including allowing prompt access free of charge in a form suitable for statistical purposes and an obligation on the owners of administrative sources to obtain the approval of HCSO in respect of the design, development, quality management and discontinuation of those sources.
- Revised and modernised provisions would be included relating to statistical confidentiality, including provision for the HCSO to allow access to microdata for approved research purposes.

These proposals from HCSO represent a comprehensive revision of statistical governance in Hungary and reflect many features of recent statistical legislation in other European countries. They are relevant to all parts of the CoP but especially the independence of the HCSO and its role in coordinating the NSS. Although the primary reason for new legislation would be to update and clarify existing legislation, it would also provide an opportunity to build a stronger, more flexible and efficient NSS more suited to the 21st century. The growth in the development of administrative sources and the related progressive move away from reliance on statistical sample surveys as the primary source of data creates a need in many European countries for an effective statistical network across national authorities, rather than just a central office.

The Peer Review team makes the following observations on HCSO's proposals (observations on aspects relating to coordination are dealt with in the next section of the report):

- A change in status of HCSO to that of an independent regulatory body, whilst not fundamental to updating the Act No. XLVI of 1993 on Statistics or to compliance with the CoP, would nonetheless be beneficial as both a practical and symbolic step. It would give the HCSO some additional managerial flexibility and authority (in line with Principles 3 and 10 of the CoP) and it would serve to highlight within the public administration and more generally that the HCSO is the official authority on all statistical matters (which would support the 'Institutional Environment' indicators of the CoP).
- The arrangements for the appointment and termination of appointment of the President of the HCSO need to be as transparent as possible, based solely on professional and managerial competence, and free from any political favouritism. Indicator 1.8 of the CoP says that such appointments must be based on 'professional competence only'. However, the professional competence required of the head of a national statistical office is broad and includes the ability and credibility to contribute within the international statistical community and to coordinate statistical work across all the national authorities that are involved in the NSS. The nature and requirements of the professional role could helpfully be recognised in the future legislation. HCSO's current proposals suggest an initial and renewable term of appointment of nine years. A shorter term may be seen as more in line with international practice but this is not, of itself, central to the question of the independence of the arrangements. The introduction of a national code of practice is a potentially powerful way of interpreting the broad indicators of the CoP into the context of the Hungarian public administration and also establishing the professional authority of the President of the HCSO for the whole statistical system. Whilst a national code is not an essential step under the European CoP, it is always necessary to translate the international principles in the local context and the Peer Review team concluded that a national code would be the most effective way of doing this in Hungary.

- The need to strengthen, across Europe, the statutory arrangements that relate to the use of administrative sources for statistical purposes is recognised in the amended Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 on European statistics. HCSO's proposals in this regard would bring it in line with the strongest statistical legislation elsewhere and enhance compliance with Indicators 8.7 – 8.9 and 10.3 of the CoP.

With these considerations in mind and in order to achieve and further enhance compliance with the principles of the CoP **the Peer Reviewers make four related recommendations:**

1. **The relevant Hungarian authorities should support the early introduction of updated statistical legislation taking account of all relevant European regulations and guidance to better support the independent and efficient production of European statistics. (European statistics Code of Practice, Principles 1-6 and Coordination.)**
2. **The Hungarian Central Statistical Office should develop its current proposals for future legislation to strengthen the independence and transparency of the arrangements for the appointment, and termination of appointment, of the President of the Office and to recognise explicitly the President's role in the international statistical sphere and in the coordination of national statistical functions. (European statistics Code of Practice, Principle 1 and Coordination.)**
3. **The relevant Hungarian authorities should, in considering proposals for new legislation, support the establishment of the Hungarian Central Statistical Office as an independent regulatory body, both to give it greater managerial authority and autonomy and to underscore the independence of the National Statistical System. (European statistics Code of Practice, Principle 1.)**
4. **The relevant Hungarian authorities should, in considering proposals for new legislation, support stronger provisions relating to access by the Hungarian Central Statistical Office to administrative data for statistical purposes, including the obligation on the owners of administrative data sources to obtain the approval of the Hungarian Central Statistical Office in respect of the design, development, quality management and discontinuation of those sources. (European statistics Code of Practice, Indicators 8.7-8.9 and 10.3.)**

Resources

Between 2007 and 2014, the HCSO faced real-term budget and staff reductions in excess of 30% and 20% respectively (considering also the allowance for the population census in 2011). This was compensated as far as possible by the automation – computerisation – of previously manual statistical processes and other efficiency measures but it also led to slower development of new statistical activities to meet emerging needs and regulations. HCSO's judgement is that its current financial resources are adequate to fulfil current (EU and national) statutory obligations but insufficient to allow the HCSO to launch development projects needed to meet increasing regulatory and user demand. The Self-Assessment Questionnaire (SAQ) states that 'the tasks beyond the obligations (e.g. fulfilling national users' needs, introducing developments, more active participation in international projects) are curtailed by the significant cut in recent years.'

Principle 3 of the CoP requires that the resources available to the statistical authorities are sufficient to meet European statistics requirements. Implicit in this is that those requirements should be met in ways that are in full accordance with all parts of the CoP. For example, resources

must be adequate to maintain professional standards, for coordination of those parts of the statistical system that contribute to European statistics and to comply with Principle 11 of the CoP in relation to meeting user needs at national as well as international level.

The Peer Review team concluded that when all the recommendations of the Peer Review report are taken into account, the resources available to the HCSO may not prove sufficient, particularly in view of the additional responsibilities (such as promulgation of a new national code of practice and regular audit of the statistical system) contained in the new legislative proposals. Hence, to further enhance compliance with Principle 3 of the CoP **the Peer Reviewers recommend that:**

- 5. In the context of the proposed revision of the national statistical legislation and the implementation of the amended Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 on European statistics, the relevant Hungarian authorities should review whether the budget and staff resources available to the Hungarian Central Statistical Office are adequate to fulfil all its statutory functions under national and European laws and to comply with all the standards of the European statistics Code of Practice. (European statistics Code of Practice, Indicators 3.1 and 3.2.)**

Maximising use of administrative sources

Indicator 10.3 of the CoP requires that proactive efforts should be made to improve the statistical potential of administrative data and to limit recourse to direct surveys. Indicators 8.7 to 8.9 of the CoP require that the statistical authorities are involved in the design of administrative data systems to make them more suitable for statistical purposes; that agreements are made with owners of administrative data to establish a shared commitment to the use of those data for statistical purposes; and that statistical authorities cooperate with data owners in assuring data quality.

The need to enhance the statutory authority of the HCSO in these respects has been discussed above. Although the HCSO has been steadily developing its knowledge of the administrative systems across the Hungarian public administration, and also actively developing agreements with the owners of those data systems where it sees statistical potential, the absence of clear statutory responsibility may mean that there is further potential for statistical development of administrative systems than has so far been exploited.

With the prospect of stronger and clearer legislation in mind, and to further enhance compliance with Principles 8 and 10 of the CoP, **the Peer Review team recommends that:**

- 6. The relevant Hungarian authorities in cooperation with the Hungarian Central Statistical Office should prepare and publish an inventory of the administrative data systems of the Hungarian public administration. Based on that inventory, the Hungarian Central Statistical Office should, as a contribution to efficiency and cost effectiveness, assess the potential of each as a source of official statistics and publish its conclusions. (European statistics Code of Practice, Principles 8 and 10.)**

4.2.2 COORDINATION

Defining the National Statistical System

As noted in the previous section of this report, the absence, in the existing legislation, of a formal definition of either 'official statistics' or NSS constitutes a weakness and an obstacle to effective coordination and the implementation of common statistical standards and practices.

The statistical legislation in its present form defines as "statistical activities" those activities related to the "collection, processing, storage, transmission, receipt, analysis, supply, dissemination and publication of data with statistical methods". However, there is no specific reference to the features that could characterize such activities as official statistics, as opposed to other numerical work, so that they can be clearly identified and recognised nor to the responsibilities of the officials involved in their production.

Similarly, the NSS is defined in the legislation by a long list of bodies that perform statistical activities, with no further specification as to the nature of the products or outputs; nor to the relationship with the work of the HCSO, to which only a coordinating function is given relating to the production of the National Statistical Data Collection Programme (NSDCP). The statutory requirements in relation to preparation of the NSDCP assume the exchange of information between the member organisations of the NSS, but currently this is mainly aimed at updating the list of data to be collected or transmitted. The legislation does not provide for a mechanism or forum by which different interests are considered with a view to working together to produce a coherent set of products reflecting a shared system of values, adherence to the CoP and attention to users.

The Peer Review team formed the opinion that the NSS would benefit from a stronger identity, created through greater coordination and integration of the statistical work of its constituent parts, under the guidance of the HCSO. This would best be achieved if the law included specific provisions to support it. In particular there would be value in a set of criteria – or a process to identify criteria – which would serve to classify statistical activities as official statistics, and also a statutory function of the HCSO to monitor and certify that such criteria are met. These changes would define both official statistics and the NSS and enhance the coordinating role of the HCSO. They would also provide the basis of a formal framework within the statistical staff of the NSS which would pull together and work towards building a coherent and recognized network of units producing official statistics. The statistical law would further need to state that the staff within the NSS must adhere to the principles of good statistical practice when developing, producing and disseminating statistics. The shared endeavour of the NSS would have the added benefit of increasing awareness of the HCSO and further enhancing its professional authority within government, at the centre of the statistical system.

It is relevant here that the Peer Review team was informed that the statistical activities of various national bodies producing statistics have increased in scale in recent years, with further expansion expected in the future. This reinforces the importance of having a clear identification of the system and defined membership rules.

The HCSO is fully aware of these issues. Its document 'Strategy 2020', not only states HCSO's mission as being "to assist informed decision making, research and dialogue between all actors of the society by producing and disseminating credible and trusted high-quality official statistics and analyses", but to do so it is "a vital interest of HCSO, as the leading institution and coordinator of the official statistical service, to sharply distinguish its products from other information which cannot be considered official". It will be important that such aims should now be framed within a legislative context to give them the force they need to be implemented and preserved.

To further enhance compliance with the CoP and to enhance the standing and coordination of the National Statistical System **the Peer Reviewers recommend that:**

- 7. The relevant Hungarian authorities should, in considering proposals for new legislation, include a clear definition of the National Statistical System of Hungary, indicating that statistical functions of national authorities are to be regarded as part of the National Statistical System if they meet certain criteria. These should either be included in the legislation directly or be determined by decree under the authority of the President of the Hungarian Central Statistical Office. (European statistics Code of Practice, Principles 1,2,3,7 and Coordination.)**

Inventory of statistical functions

According to the current legislation, the Hungarian NSS has many constituent bodies, a subset of which is also included in the list of Other National Authorities (ONAs) which produce European statistics. The Peer Review team formed the impression that these bodies operate largely autonomously in their statistical work and, viewed as a whole, the production of statistics within the NSS is therefore probably not as efficiently organised as it should be.

During the meetings of the Peer Review team with the representatives of Ministries and other authorities, the picture that emerged was one of statistical functions located in small units across a large number of organisations. Some institutions noted their responsibilities to provide input to European statistics, either directly or by the means of the HCSO, and appeared to be well aware of the relevance of their work to the wider statistical system; nevertheless, they identified their primary commitment as being to fulfil national needs – essentially those of the Ministry within which they worked. In other words, the distinction currently drawn between national and European statistics, and between official statistics and other work, is rather vague and not based on a shared sense of belonging to a wider statistical system, sharing the same values and working as an integrated service.

In the context explained above, recognising that all data collections and data transmissions included in the NSDCP are listed in the annual plan, with an indication of the relevant European legislation, and also that there is a process in place aimed at avoiding overlaps between different statistical collections, the Peer Review team formed the impression that the whole system would benefit from drawing together in a published report an inventory of Hungarian official and European statistics produced by HCSO and all other parts of the public administration.

Such an exercise would provide an updated picture of the current position, evaluating several dimensions of quality against the provisions of the CoP and of the amended Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 on European statistics; it would also help to assess whether the institutional location of the statistical activities is optimal in terms of efficiency or whether some activities (such as data collection or publication) would be more cost effective if incorporated into the HCSO.

The CoP requires that statistical resources are used in the most cost-effective way. In order to establish the context for HCSO to take on a wider and more empowered coordinating role, and with the aim to further enhance compliance with the CoP, **the Peer Reviewers recommend that:**

- 8. The Hungarian Central Statistical Office should prepare a report based on an inventory of statistical activities considered to fall within the National Statistical System and review whether the current division of organisational responsibilities is optimal. (European statistics Code of Practice, Indicator 3.4, Principle 10 and Coordination.)**

A coordinating committee

To further strengthen and establish the NSS within a new statutory framework, a practical mechanism to support the management and coordination of the system is required. As previously mentioned, it is the view of the HCSO, which the Peer Review team shares, that an interdepartmental committee structure (a Coordinating Council for Official Statistics in the HCSO's proposals) is needed for management and coordination of statistical work across the NSS.

In the view of the Peer Review team, the committee should be chaired by the President of the HCSO and should have senior representatives of the NSS having direct responsibility for statistical functions as members. The committee would ensure the implementation of guidelines and standards for the development, production and dissemination of statistics throughout the NSS. Moreover, it would see to that the principles and shared practices of official statistics and European statistics are commonly understood and streamlined. Such a committee is likely to need the support of a dedicated unit or individual within the HCSO to manage its work and to ensure appropriated liaison functions.

To further enhance compliance to the CoP, the Peer Reviewers recommend that:

- 9. The relevant Hungarian authorities should, in considering proposals for new legislation, support the establishment of a committee of senior statistical officials from all relevant authorities to help coordinate the National Statistical System. The committee should be chaired by the President, and supported by a unit or individual within the Hungarian Central Statistical Office. (European statistics Code of Practice, Indicator 3.4, Principle 10 and Coordination.)**

A national code of practice

The earlier recommendations in this report relating to the strengthening of statistical legislation and, as part of that, the stronger definition and coordination of the NSS, build on proposals already developed by the HCSO. Assuming they are implemented, the NSS will be more formally constituted as a professional network responsible for the production of official statistics in line with international and European best practices. This will provide a more developed framework within which to take forward, at national institutional level, the quality measures and principles already embraced internationally when the statistical offices of EU Member States adopted the CoP. With this in mind, the preparation and adoption of a National Statistics Code of Practice (NSCoP) designed to translate the broad international principles into more binding and specific practices for bodies that are not themselves national statistical offices, would, in the view of the Peer Review team, help to reinforce the identity and role of the NSS and ensure its sustainability.

It would also provide a formal framework within which the HCSO could, with the agreement of the relevant authorities, exercise its professional oversight of the statistical work of other national authorities. Whilst in principle the European statistics CoP might be used for this purpose, it requires a lot of interpretation in the case of statistical work located in small units dispersed across several national bodies, particularly where the statistical work is not covered by EU regulations; a national code would, in effect, create a bridge between international principles and national practices.

The adoption and enforcement of a NSCoP are already included in the HCSO's proposals for new statistical legislation. The Peer Review team recognises that these steps are not a requirement under the CoP but concluded that they could prove to be a powerful way of interpreting the broad principles of the CoP into the context of the Hungarian public administration.

More specifically, the adoption of a NSCoP could have several beneficial effects for the HCSO and the NSS, including:

- Ensuring the involvement of the NSS in the drafting phase of the NSCoP, in order to secure an agreed interpretation of all relevant features of the CoP in the Hungarian national context.
- The commitment of the HCSO to the promotion of statistical quality beyond its boundaries and throughout the statistical system, in particular through the monitoring of compliance with the national code.
- The inclusion of specific national arrangements within the NSCoP which will help to make the NSS more cohesive and focused – such as procedures for information exchange, common training and mutual support – and, as a particularly important case from the user perspective, a common approach to the publication of key statistical data via a shared website.
- The longer term development and integration of the Hungarian NSS by continuous improvement stimulated by the periodic assessment of the functions and achievements of its component parts.

It would be beneficial if the results of the auditing exercises – once established – were routinely published by the HCSO, in a manner similar to what now happens at the European level. Such an approach would help to assure common standards, endorse the significance of the process and increase the credibility of the system.

To foster a common vision of the HCSO at the centre of a cohesive NSS committed to quality, and to further enhance compliance with all parts of the CoP, **the Peer Reviewers make two related recommendations:**

10. The relevant Hungarian authorities should, in considering proposals for new legislation, support the preparation and adoption of a National Statistics Code of Practice, to provide a practical and enforceable interpretation - in the context of the Hungarian public administration - of international standards of good statistical practice, particularly the European statistics Code of Practice. (European statistics Code of Practice and Coordination.)

11. The relevant Hungarian authorities should, in considering proposals for new legislation, support the establishment of a mechanism empowering the Hungarian Central Statistical Office to independently assess compliance with the National Statistics Code of Practice and to make the results public. (European statistics Code of Practice and Coordination.)

4.2.3 QUALITY MANAGEMENT AND USER ORIENTATION

The HCSO stresses the importance of high quality of statistical processes and products to serve the needs and maintain the trust of users across the fields of politics, public administration, business, the scientific community, and the general public. The stated mission, vision and “Strategic Objectives for 2020” as identified in HCSO’s ‘Strategy 2020’ document emphasises many aspects of quality, including timeliness and punctuality. Quality reports on the various statistical products include indicators of accuracy. Compliance with legislation is seen as ensuring the relevance of the statistical products, although the Peer Review team concluded that more might need to be done to understand the use and utility of the products with a view to maximising their value to the broad user community. The HCSO has developed a Quality Policy document and

Quality Guidelines for Statistical Processes which are both available on the HCSO website. The Quality Policy states the general principles and quality concepts. The Quality Guidelines describe comprehensively the concepts related to the statistical process along the lines of the Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM).

Central responsibility for quality issues currently falls to the Methodology Department of HCSO which reports to the Deputy President for social statistics – although further changes to the organisational structure were under discussion at the time of the Peer Review visit. Quality reports are produced under the guidance of the Methodology Department by the responsible subject matter units. Producer-oriented quality reports are produced for internal purposes, user-oriented quality reports focus on information that serves users to understand and to properly use the statistical products.

At the top level, communication with users is focused through the NSC which convenes four times a year and mostly considers broad matters requiring consultation and discussion. A number of user groups have also been established, e.g. for media and for the scientific community, which deal with more technical discussions. In addition, the user satisfaction measurement system has been revised to help the HCSO to improve statistical processes and products.

The Quality Management System

Principle 4 of the CoP requires that statistical authorities should systematically and regularly identify strengths and weaknesses to continuously improve process and product quality. It was noted in the course of the Peer Review meetings that the quality management system within the HCSO, as currently developed, is not as comprehensive as it could be. It does not have the broad coverage recommended for example by the Total Quality Management (TQM) principles. Currently, the HCSO approach has a strong focus on technical issues and process control. Typically, the Quality Guidelines describe comprehensively the quality concepts related to statistical processes and products but do not cover wider matters such as:

- managing response burden (CoP Principle 9);
- user orientation, including aspects such as communication policy, market strategy, product and marketing policy, accessibility of results and monitoring the use and utility of existing outputs (CoP Principle 11);
- staff development, including aspects such as staff training, job enrichment, flexibility, co-operative management, team work, and staff satisfaction (CoP Principle 3).

The Peer Review team concluded that the HCSO would benefit from further developing its quality management arrangements and its organisational structure in such a way that:

- responsibility for the quality management programme is under the management of a senior expert who can act as the Quality Coordinator;
- role of identifying potential for improvements and steering those developments is given to a senior level Quality Committee.

Under such a model, the Quality Committee would discuss the various projects and the annual work plan, designing the quality management strategy, and providing the Quality Coordinator with information on quality issues across the organisation. This would help the HCSO to profit from the systematic identification of weaknesses and the implementation of improvement actions, continuously gaining in cost-effectiveness.

In order to further enhance compliance with Principle 4 of the CoP, **the Peer Reviewers recommend that:**

- 12. The Hungarian Central Statistical Office should establish a broader quality management system, fully reflecting the concepts of the Total Quality Management. A senior expert responsible for quality should fulfil the role of Quality Coordinator and report directly to the President. A cross-organisational Quality Committee should be established to support and guide the Quality Coordinator. (European statistics Code of Practice, Indicator 4.1.)**

Developing the Quality Guidelines

According to the ESS Quality Assurance Framework, the Quality Guidelines should help to implement quality management within the statistical production process, aiming to improve the efficiency of statistical processes and ensuring the consistently high quality of statistical products. The guidelines should facilitate the work of the line departments, including the training of new staff, and demonstrate to users of the statistical products that the statistical authority is striving for compliance with the CoP. The Peer Review team concluded that the HCSO Quality Guidelines are well structured, dealing comprehensively with processes according to the GSBPM. However, the checklists are often rather general in nature and may not offer as much guidance to staff as might be needed. The Peer Review team was informed that additional guidance is given in training courses of the HCSO School but concluded that further development of the Quality Guidelines would be beneficial.

So, in order to further enhance compliance with Principle 4 of the CoP, **the Peer Reviewers recommend that:**

- 13. The Hungarian Central Statistical Office should further develop the Quality Guidelines so that they provide more comprehensive guidance to staff throughout the organisation, including the training of new staff, with respect to the implementation of quality management. (European statistics Code of Practice, indicators 4.1 and 4.2.)**

Metadata and revisions

Within the HCSO, each subject matter unit, supported by the Methodology Department, is responsible for monitoring and assuring the quality of its own statistical processes. On the HCSO website, quality reports are available for most statistical products in the form of 'meta-information'. The contents of this meta-information are: general descriptions, concepts and definitions, classifications, data production methodology, data quality and data sources. The data quality refers to the quality of the statistical results and covers relevance, accuracy, and comparability. The general descriptions contain a section on timeliness, revision policy and practice, but the degree of detail given for different statistical products varies considerably.

The Peer Review team concluded that a more consistent and comprehensive approach to quality related meta-information on the website would be helpful to users of statistics.

Reports on metadata designed along the Euro-SDMX Metadata Structure (ESMS) are not available. However, the HCSO does fulfil the obligation to transmit quality reports for various statistical products to Eurostat. These quality reports are mentioned in the meta-information but not published on the HCSO website. Quality reports that are transmitted to Eurostat might be made public via the HCSO website and producer-orientated quality reports could be made available to users on request.

In order to further enhance compliance with Principles 4, 6 and 15 of the CoP, **the Peer Reviewers recommend that:**

- 14. The Hungarian Central Statistical Office should further develop the content and homogeneity of the quality related meta-information it produces and publishes on its website, in line with standardised metadata systems. (European statistics Code of Practice, Indicators 4.3, 6.4 and 15.5.)**

Indicator 6.6 of the CoP requires that advance notice is given on major revisions and Indicator 8.6 requires that revisions follow standard, well-established and transparent procedures. The Peer Review team noted that whilst the HCSO states in the SAQ that a published revisions' policy is available on its website and that revisions of major statistical series are announced in the meta-information, a more comprehensive approach to planned regular and irregular revisions would better meet the expectations of the CoP.

In order to further enhance compliance with the CoP, **the Peer Reviewers recommend that:**

- 15. The Hungarian Central Statistical Office should implement more uniform and transparent policy and procedures for planned regular and irregular revisions of statistical data, including a release calendar for all planned revisions. (European statistics Code of Practice, Indicators 6.6 and 8.6.)**

Strengthening communication with users

Principle 11 of the CoP embraces some demanding indicators. Indicator 11.1 requires statistical authorities to monitor the relevance and utility of existing statistics and Indicator 11.3 requires them not just to monitor user satisfaction but to follow it up systematically. These indicators imply a need to understand and acknowledge the beneficial use that is being made of the statistical products, and how well the products meet the user needs from the perspective of the user. It also requires a view to be taken on which uses of the statistics – which types of decisions and actions that are influenced by the statistics – are of sufficient public value to merit priority in terms of statistical resources. For example, is the use of official statistics by the insurance sector regarded as a use of public value and if so is it sufficiently supported?

In the Peer Review Report of 2007 it was commented that “HCSO's relationship with its users is somewhat underdeveloped relative to best practice elsewhere”. The Peer Review team formed the impression that despite a number of innovations and developments, there is still scope to pursue a deeper knowledge of the relevance and utility of its products to better meet the expectations of the CoP.

In order to further enhance compliance with Principle 11 of the CoP, **the Peer Reviewers recommend that:**

- 16. The Hungarian Central Statistical Office should seek to develop further its dialogue with the broad base of users of its outputs. Moreover, it should aim to research and publicise the beneficial use made of its products and services with a view to stimulating further use and communicating the practical value of its products. (European statistics Code of Practice, Indicators 11.1, 11.3.)**

The main dissemination channel of the HCSO is its website. Although the content of the website is rich and was complimented by many of those who gave evidence to the Peer Reviewers, finding the desired information on the website is not always easy due to a rather complicated design. For example, statistics on a certain topic can be found in the section “first releases”, which essentially are press releases, then in “Data, Tables”, in the section “Dissemination database”, corresponding

breakdowns in the section “Regional Atlas”, and in the section “Interactive charts and maps”. Further sources may be in the sections “Economic and financial data” and “International Data”.

The online Catalogue covers all publications and also involves the dissemination calendar of first releases (containing exact release dates) which covers statistics based on European regulations. The Peer Review team was informed by HCSO that the need for further development of the website was recognised but that due to resource constraints it remained in the early stages of planning.

In order to further enhance compliance with Principle 15 of the CoP, **the Peer Reviewers recommend that:**

- 17. The Hungarian Central Statistical Office should plan to upgrade its website by improving its structure, navigation, and design and to provide better access to detailed statistical data in an interactive way. (European statistics Code of Practice, Principle 15.)**

4.3 NATIONAL STATISTICAL INSTITUTE VIEWS WHERE THEY DIVERGE FROM PEER REVIEWERS' ASSESSMENT

HCSO has no diverging views from the Peer reviewers' findings.

ANNEX A: PROGRAMME OF THE VISIT

AGENDA

4-8 May 2015 - Hungary

Time	Programme	Organisation	Participants
Day 1 – Monday 4 May 2015			
From-To	Subject	Institution	Name
09.00–11. 45	PR team discussion to finalise preparations for the visit.		
12.00–12.30	Preparatory meeting with the NSI coordinator team to discuss practical aspects of the visit: introduction of programme, organisational matters.		Kornélia Mag; Tamara Pál Tímea Nagy
12.30–13.30	Lunch		
13.30–15.00	General information session with a description of how the national statistical system is organised.	HCSO	Gabriella Vukovich; Kornélia Mag József Kópházi; Eszter Nagy Mónika Freid; Szabolcs Tóth Tamara Pál
15.00–15.30	PR team meeting		
15.30–17.00	The statistical law and related legislation (CoP principles 1, 2, 5 and 6)	HCSO	Eszter Nagy; Zoltán Vereczkei Angéla Kátainé Marosi; Éva Farkas-Varga; Gabriella Nemezc, Beáta Nagy; Éva Gárdos, Melinda Oparin-Salamon NSI team
Day 2 – Tuesday 10 March 2015			
From-To	Subject	Institution	Name
09.00–09.30	PR team meeting		
09.30–10.30	Programming, planning and resources, including training (CoP principles 3, 9 and 10)	HCSO	Szabolcs Tóth; Adrienn Szöllősiné Szép; Gábor Csutorás; József Kópházi; Soma Antoni, Éva Gárdos, Marcell Nagy, Miklós Juhász, Gabriella Bihari NSI team
10.30–11.00	PR team meeting		
11.30–12.30	Meeting with main users – Ministries and other public/private institutions (including Central Bank as a user)	The Central Bank of Hungary, Ministry for National Economy, National Health Insurance Fund, HCSO	Béla Simon, Gábor Huszár István Kósa, Kármén Billo Judit Gimesi-Ország, Petra Fadgyas-Freyler NSI team
12.30–14.00	Lunch and PR team meeting		
14.00–15.00	Meeting with main users – Media	Magyar Hírlap MTI Reuters RTL Klub	Anita Élő, Sándor Faggyas, Kamilla Vámos, Krisztina Than, György Baló

Time	Programme	Organisation	Participants
15.00–15.30	PR team meeting		
15.30–16.30	Meeting with main users – Scientific community	HÉTFA Research Institute and Centre for Economic and Social Analysis, Centre for Economic and Regional Studies of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, University of Szeged, Budapest Business School, Széchenyi István University, TÁRKI, HCSO	Klára Major Gábor Kertesi dr. Péter Kovács dr. Éva Sándorné Kriszta dr. PéterRóbert NSI team

16.30–17.30 PR team meeting

Day 3– Wednesday 6 May 2015

From-To	Subject	Institution	Name
09.00–09.30	PR team meeting		
09.30-10.30	Quality (organisational structure, tools, monitoring, practical application) (CoP principles 4 and 11 to 15)	HCSO	Kornélia Mag; Bernadett Szekeres Zsófia Ercsey; Angéla Kátainé Marosi Eszter Nagy, Áron Kincses Marcell Kovács, József Krisztik Éva Ender NSI team
10.30–11.30	PR team meeting		
11.30–12.30	Methodology, data collection, data processing and administrative data, including confidentiality (CoP principles 2,5, 7 and 8)	HCSO	Kornélia Mag; Eszter Nagy Gábor Csutorás; Éva Gárdos Erzsébet Kómár; Eszter Virágh Beáta Nagy; József Kópházi, Eszter Németh; Ildikó Szűcs, Adrienn Szöllősi Szép NSI team
12.30–14.00	Lunch and PR team meeting		
14.00–15.00	Dissemination, including users' role (CoP principles 6, 11 and 15)	HCSO	Melinda Oparin-Salamon; Angéla Kátainé Marosi; Zoltán Vereczkei Eszter Nagy; Éva Farkas-Varga, Norbert Bakos, Edina Mátyás-Bodovics, Áron Kincses NSI team

15.00–17.00 PR team meeting

Day 4– Thursday 7 May 2015

From-To	Subject	Institution	Name
09.00–09.30	PR team meeting		
09.30-10.30	Meeting with Other National Authority(1)	Hungarian Energy and Public Utility Regulatory	Tamás Tóth; Akos Gerencsér NSI team

Time	Programme	Organisation	Participants
		Authority HCSO	
10.30–11.00	PR team meeting		
11.15–12.00	Meeting with Other National Authority(2)	Ministry of Agriculture	Zsombor Páll; Elemér Szabó Babinyec Ferenc NSI team
12.00–13.30	Lunch and PR Team meeting		
13.30–14.15	Meeting with Other National Authority(3)	Research Institute of Agricultural Economics	Szabolcs Vágó NSI team
14.15–15.00	Coordination role of the NSI and Integration with the ESS	HCSO	Tamara Pál; Zoltán Vereczkei Eszter Nagy; Gabriella Bihari Angéla Kátainé Marosi; Gábor Valkó Ildikó Györki; Péter Szabó NSI team
15.30–16.15	Meeting with Junior staff		Zsolt András; Tímea Mária Cseh Klaudetta Gyirán-Kazár; Natalie Jamalia; Roland Kadlecsik Ildikó Lieber; Sándor Misánszki József Dániel Padányi; Hajnalka Sembery-Sugár; Dániel Szilágyi Brigitta Zsom
16.15–17.00	Clarifications, remaining or additional issues and focus areas (PR team plus national coordinator)		Kornélia Mag

Day 5– Friday 13 March 2015

From-To	Subject	Institution	Name
09.00–12.00	PR team meeting		
12.00–13.00	Meeting with senior management: conclusions and recommendations	HCSO	Gabriella Vukovich; Eszter Nagy; Kornélia Mag; Mónika Freid; József Kópházi Tamara Pál
13.00–15.00	PR team meeting to plan preparation of report		

ANNEX B. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Peer review team

Mr Richard Alldritt (chair)
Ms Michelle Jouvenal
Mr Peter Hackl
Eurostat observer
Ms Zsuzsanna Kovacs, administrator of unit D4

NSI PR Team

1	Ms. Gabriella Vukovich , President of HCSO
2	Ms. Kornélia Mag , Director, Methodology Department
3	Ms. Eszter Nagy , Legal adviser, Legal Affairs Section
4	Ms. Mónika Freid , Director, Dissemination Department
5	Ms. Tamara Pál , Deputy Director, Presidential Department

Participants of HCSO

1	Mr. József Kópházi , Director, Information Technology Department
2	Mr. Szabolcs Tóth , Director, Financial Management Department
3	Mr. Gábor Csutorás , Head of Section, Human Resources Management and Education Section
4	Ms. Angéla Kátainé Marosi , Adviser, Dissemination Department
5	Ms. Bernadett Szekeres , Quality manager, Methodology Department
6	Ms. Beáta Nagy , SDC expert, Sampling and Methodology Section
7	Ms. Zsófia Ercsey , Adviser, Methodology Department
8	Mr. Zoltán Vereczkei , Deputy Director, Methodology Department
9	Ms. Adrienn Szöllősiné Szép , Director, Business Statistics Department
10	Ms. Éva Gárdos , Adviser, Population and Social Protection Statistics Department
11	Ms. Éva Farkas-Varga , Head of Section, Press and Communication Section
12	Mr. Áron Kincses , Deputy Director, Living conditions, Labour Market and Education Statistics Department
13	Mr. Gábor Valkó , Director, Rural Development, Agriculture and Environment Statistics Department

14	Ms. Melinda Oparin-Salamon , Senior expert, Dissemination Department
16	Mr. Marcell Kovács , Head of Section; Census Topics Section
17	Mr. Péter Szabó , Director, Services and Foreign Trade Statistics Department
18	Ms. Ildikó Szűcs , Adviser, Methodology Department
19	Ms. Edina Mátyás-Bodovics , Head of Section, Information Service
20	Mr. Soma Antoni , Head of Section, Dissemination System Development Section
21	Ms. Gabriella Bihari , Project manager, Presidential Department
22	Ms. Eszter Németh , Deputy Director, Population and Social Protection Statistics Department
23	Mr. József Krisztik , Head of Section, Survey System Development Section
24	Ms. Eszter Virágh , Adviser, Survey Methodology Section
25	Mr. Miklós Juhász , Expert, Register and Survey Co-ordination Section
26	Ms. Éva Ender , Expert, Classifications and Metainformation Section
27	Mr. Norbert Bakos , Expert, Regional Dissemination Section
29	Ms. Ildikó Györki , Adviser, Methodology Department
30	Ms. Erzsébet Kómár , IT Adviser, Application Development Section
31	Mr. Marcell Nagy , Expert, Veszprém Department
32	Ms. Gabriella Nemecz , OSAP coordinator, Legal Affairs Section

Junior staff of HCSO

1	Mr. Zsolt Andrási , Rural Development, Agriculture and Environment Statistics Department
2	Ms. Tímea Mária Cseh , Veszprém Department
3	Ms. Klaudetta Gyirán-Kazár , Debrecen Department
4	Ms. Natalie Jamalia , Methodology Department
5	Mr. Roland Kadlecsik , Living conditions, Labour Market and Education Statistics Department
6	Ms. Ildikó Lieber , Services and Foreign Trade Statistics Department
7	Mr. Sándor Misánszki , National Accounts Department
8	Mr. József Dániel Padányi , Financial Management Department
9	Ms. Hajnalka Sembery-Sugár , Legal Affairs Section
10	Mr. Dániel Szilágyi , Dissemination Department

11	Ms. Brigitta Zsom , Living conditions, Labour Market and Education Statistics Department
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