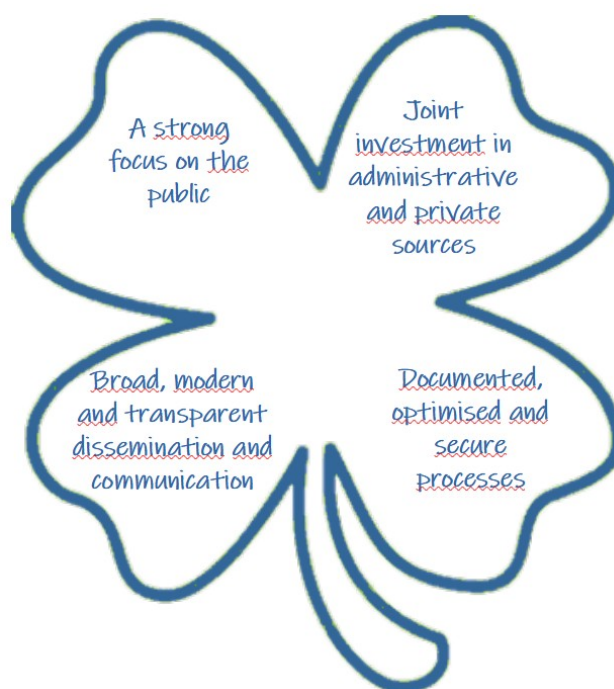


The quality¹ of the French Official Statistical Service (SSP) is ensured on three levels:

- An SSP quality policy, namely
"Integrating quality into processes with a view to security and efficiency"
- A quality strategy, defined as the route to achieving the target set in the quality policy. It also forms part of a logic of continuous improvement and is based on guidelines (axes and themes);
- Roadmaps, which break the axes and themes of the Quality Strategy down into operational actions.

The Quality Strategy 2022–2027 is based on four non-hierarchical axes. Each axis is broken down into themes, introduced by a short text summarising the context and the challenges. Each theme is linked to one or more of the principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice.

For each theme, actions for improvement are included in the INSEE and Ministerial Statistical Departments (SSM) roadmaps. These actions are taken from the European action plan established following peer recommendations during the third review and the areas for improvement identified during discussions with the services. The latter can be either pooled (undertaken by the SSP as a whole) across the entirety of the SSP or generic (applicable for a given stakeholder in a particular context). A common feature of many of the actions could be to seek out and benefit from experience and practices at both national and international level. In this regard, success stories will benefit from greater value with a view to increasing their knock-on effect.



The INSEE and MSD roadmaps will follow the structure of the Quality Strategy, integrating the relevant actions from the European action plan and actions specific to the entity concerned. The latter could be included in additional themes or axes not considered in the current framework.

Finally, a clause requiring a mid-term review will allow the actions to be updated depending on the context.

Warning: the proposed axes and themes are levers for improvement and in no way imply that no action has been taken in this regard. Conversely, there is also other work that contributes to the quality of official statistics that is not included here.

¹ Quality is understood here within the meaning of the European Statistics Code of Practice (CoP) and the challenge is to improve our compliance with its principles through our practices.

Documented, optimised and secure processes

Documenting in order to capitalise on knowledge



The existence of (statistical production or other) process documentation that is as complete and detailed as necessary without being excessive, but also structured, accessible, legible and up-to-date, is essential to the preservation of knowledge and the control and continuity of production, which sometimes becomes fragile as a result of frequent moves. In this regard, the Official Statistical Service (SSP) will therefore continue its efforts in the area of internal documentation, working towards standardisation by drawing inspiration from best practices. Particular emphasis will be placed on the role of stakeholders, the rules to be complied with for computer programs and the checking and validation of processes and results, as well as on documents intended to facilitate transitions during moves.

Adapting and developing quality approaches and process reviews



The INSEE Internal Audit Unit has identified processes for which risks must be controlled in order to ensure the continuity of the Institute's activities. Quality approaches offering a process analysis methodology using official and proven tools help to secure processes: formalisation helps to secure the execution of processes, and the shared and documented vision secures the transmission of competences. Beyond the essential processes, this methodology must now be adapted according to the context and must therefore be modular to allow the entirety of the Official Statistical Service (SSP) and the various different types of operation to benefit from it. In addition, in order to promote its deployment, communication with regard to the approaches will further enhance the contributions and progress that they will help to make.

Continuing investment in data validation and control systems



Data validation and control systems are key to the efficient management of statistical production activities. A self-evaluation operation for some of these systems was carried out by their project managers at the Official Statistical Service (SSP) in 2021. The findings drawn up upon completion highlighted the quality of the processing performed with a view to ensuring the consistency of the sources, from an internal or temporal point of view and by means of comparison with other existing sources.

However, areas for improvement have emerged:

- explain the concept of expected quality at the launch of an operation;
- extend the self-evaluation system to the processing of individual data with a view to achieving a more complete overview of the systems.

Beyond production, the attention paid to control and validation systems will also be extended to cover studies with the aim of securing the work performed by research officers.



Improving the quality of statistical metadata



The Statistical Metadata Repository (RMÉS) allows for the centralisation of statistical metadata (concepts, statistical operations, nomenclatures, codes, quality reports, etc.) in a single location with a view to providing all users with consistent reference documentation. The standardisation of their descriptions makes it easier for users to use them and therefore encourages the sharing of knowledge. It offers tools that facilitate their reuse by both man and machine, whether internal or external. It is now a question of improving the completeness of the repository and the associated service offer.

Boosting statistical confidentiality, secrecy and data security



In May 2018, the General Data Protection Regulation brought about profound change in the rules that are to be complied with when processing is carried out for statistical purposes. With a view to supporting the consideration, innovation and implementation of measures concerning the protection and security of personal data, efforts to develop the skills of agents will be intensified. In order to secure our practices and to protect ourselves from risks likely to undermine public confidence, the Official Statistical Service (SSP) will continue its methodological investment in order to guarantee secrecy and statistical confidentiality and to ensure that agents are able to benefit from ad-hoc training that is tailored to new techniques.