



EUROPEAN
STATISTICAL
SYSTEM

Improvement actions

FRANCE



Peer reviewers' recommendations and improvement actions of the national statistical system of FRANCE in response to the recommendations

March 2022

I- Strengthening the Institutional Environment

1. Recommendation:

The ASP, INSEE and related ministries should apply greater transparency in the processes governing the appointment of the Director-General of INSEE and of certain SSMs, with particular focus on the commencement of the processes. (Compliance-relevant: ES CoP, Indicator 1.8)

Current situation:

The Director-General of INSEE, as well as those heads of SSMs who are directors of central administration, are appointed by the French President through a decree of the Council of Ministers. The peer review team noted the introduction in 2016 of a Hearing Committee (Decree No 2016-663 of 24 May 2016) to oversee appointments of heads of all French ministerial departments who are directors of central administration or equivalent. The membership of this committee includes at least four people, one of whom works within the ministry with the job vacancy, one member who is external to this ministry, one member qualified in the fields of competence of the job to be filled and one member with expertise in human resource skills. Although there is no specific reference in the decree in this regard, a member of the ASP may participate in this Hearing Committee for the appointments of the Director-General of INSEE and those heads of SSMs who are directors of central administration. Furthermore, the ASP can put forward an opinion during the nomination process. This opinion is addressed to the Hearing Committee and relates to the professional competencies of the candidates being considered for appointment in accordance with the principle of professional independence as laid down in the ES CoP. The view expressed by the ASP on the selected candidate is published in the French Official Journal at the same time as the appointment decision.

However, the peer review team considers that a lack of transparency in the appointment procedures, particularly at the commencement of the recruitment process and the advertisement of the vacancy for the Director-General of INSEE and the heads of SSMs who are directors of central administration, remains a weakness in the French system that has the potential to impact negatively on the perception of the professional independence of INSEE and the wider statistical system.

Improvement action: Description of the DCAs' process of appointing

A1.1 - The French Official Statistics Authority intends to draw up, by the end of 2022, a specific document clearly explaining and contextualising the established process of appointing the Director-General of INSEE or those heads of Ministerial Statistical Offices who are directors of central administration (DCAs).

Deadline: 2022

Responsible institution for the improvement action and each of its sub-actions: ASP

Improvement action: Publication of the DCA's process of appointing

A1.2 - The French Official Statistics Authority along with INSEE intend to make reference on their respective websites to a document clearly explaining and contextualising the established process of appointing the Director-General of INSEE or those heads of Ministerial Statistical Offices who are directors of central administration .

Deadline: 2022

Responsible institution for the improvement action and each of its sub-actions: ASP and INSEE

2. Recommendation:

Expanding on their role in the appointment of the Director-General of INSEE and certain SSMs, the ASP should also have, in connection with the INSEE Director-General, an involvement in the appointment of heads of SSM for roles other than those at the level of directors of central administration. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 1.8)

Current situation:

The heads of SSMs who are not directors of central administration are recruited following a process starting with the publication of a vacancy notice. However, the ASP is not involved in such appointment procedures and has no mandate to put forward an opinion on the candidates.

Improvement action: Description of the appointment process of heads of MSO who are not DCA

A2.1 - The French Official Statistics Authority along with INSEE intend to publish, by the end of 2022, on their own websites, a commonly agreed document clearly describing their respective roles in the appointment process of those heads of Ministerial Statistical Offices who are not directors of central administration (DCAs).

Deadline: 2022

Responsible institution for the improvement action and each of its sub-actions: ASP and INSEE

Improvement action: Publication of the appointment process on MSO's websites

A2.2 – The Ministerial Statistical Offices concerned intend to make reference - as far as possible on their own websites - by the end of 2022, to the agreed document established by the French Official Statistics Authority and INSEE describing their respective roles in the appointment process of heads of MSO who are not directors of central administration.

Deadline: 2022

Responsible institution for the improvement action and each of its sub-actions: MSOs concerned

3. Recommendation:

The ASP, INSEE, SSMs and their relevant ministries should complete progressively the inclusion of clear statements on professional independence in the decrees of all ministries of SSMs. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 1.3)

Current situation:

On the independence of the SSP, the peer review team noted the ASP recommendation for inclusion of a clear statement on independence in the individual decrees of the ministries containing SSMs and the progress to date on this recommendation. The peer review team considers it important that these clear statements on independence are progressively incorporated or clarified as soon as possible in the decrees of all SSMs.

Improvement action: Inclusion of an independence mention in MSO's decrees

A3.1 - INSEE intends to put into place and regularly follow-up an operational plan to revise, by the end of 2027, the relevant decrees of the six Ministerial Statistical Offices (Drees, Dares, Depp, Justice, Sies, OED), which do not include the mention of professional independence. To this end, INSEE will work in close collaboration with these Ministerial Statistical Offices and their hierarchies, while taking advantage of any institutional opportunities that may arise during this period.

Deadline: 2027

Responsible institution for the improvement action and each of its sub-actions: INSEE

Improvement action: Presentation of a report on independence mention in MSO's decrees to the ASP

A3.2 - INSEE intends accordingly to present to the French Official Statistics Authority, by the end of 2024, a progress report relating to the inclusion of a clear statement on professional independence in the decree of the six MSO concerned (Drees, Dares, Depp, Justice, Sies, OED), in order for the Authority to then formally require those Ministerial Statistical Offices to fulfil their related commitments in the event that they have not yet done so.

Deadline: 2024

Responsible institution for the improvement action and each of its sub-actions: INSEE

Improvement action: Publication of the MSOs' Decrees with Independence mention included

A3.3 – Once their respective decree has been duly revised by the inclusion of a clear statement on professional independence, the six Ministerial Statistical Offices concerned (Drees, Dares, Depp, Justice, Sies, OED) intend to make reference to it, as far as possible, on their own websites.

Deadline: 2027

Responsible institution for the improvement action and each of its sub-actions: MSOs concerned

4. Recommendation:

INSEE and SSMs should complete the systematic use of logos to clearly delineate official statistics produced by the SSP from other reports and analysis at dissemination. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 1.6)

Current situation:

Currently, approaches vary across the SSP as to how official statistics are branded and identified. There is potential for confusion in distinguishing between official statistics and other reports and analysis at dissemination. The peer review team noted the harmonisation work underway to strengthen the 'Official Statistical Service brand' through the use of a shared logo across the SSP, which would underline the independence of official statistics from other outputs and adherence to the ES CoP of all members of the SSP.

Improvement action: Design of a logo (with use cases) for the French Official Statistical service

A4.1 - INSEE along with all the Ministerial Statistical Offices intend to have designed, by the end of 2023, a new common logo for the French Official Statistical Service, the guidelines for the use of which will then be published in 2024 on Insee.fr, specifying the precise scope of the publications concerned by the logo for both INSEE and the Ministerial Statistical Offices.

Deadline: 2023-2024

Responsible institution for the improvement action and each of its sub-actions: INSEE

5. Recommendation:

To holders of administrative data, the Secrétariat Général du Gouvernement (SGG), Direction générale des Entreprises (DGE), Direction générale des Finances publiques (DGFIP), Direction de la Sécurité sociale (DSS), INSEE and the SSMs should be more involved in the design, development and discontinuation of administrative records in order to make them more suitable for statistical purposes. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 2.2 and 8.7)

Current situation:

The SSP has a strong and comprehensive legal mandate for data collection founded in Articles 1, 3bis and 7bis of the Statistical Law No 51-711 of 7 June 1951. The peer review team observed a high and shared awareness amongst INSEE and the three participating SSMs as to the overall strengths of this mandate, particularly in relation to access to administrative data sources for the purposes of compiling official statistics.

In particular, when administrative data are used for official statistical purposes (as set out in Art. 7bis), in order to maximise their statistical potential and ensure continuity and quality in the production of statistics, it is important that statistical authorities are systematically involved in the design and subsequent modifications of the administrative data sources.

While the peer review team was informed of examples of good collaboration between the statistical and administrative authorities on this issue, the need for consultation was identified in all cases where design or modification of administrative data used for official statistical purposes was planned.

Improvement action: Identification of the main administrative data sources within Official Statistical Service

A5.1 - INSEE along with the Ministerial Statistical Offices intend to identify, by the end of 2022, the main administrative data sources currently used within the French Official Statistical Service.

Deadline: 2022

Responsible institution for the improvement action and each of its sub-actions: INSEE

Improvement action: Definition of guidelines for joint collaboration for administrative data

A5.2 - INSEE along with the Ministerial Statistical Offices intend to define, by the end of 2024, dedicated guidelines relating to more effectively formalise the joint collaboration with those entities that supply the French Statistical Service with administrative data, and afterwards to promote them in order to better take into account the statistical needs in the design and development of the corresponding data sources. In particular, according to these guidelines, those providers should commit to informing INSEE about the changes or discontinuation of their data.

Deadline: 2024

Responsible institution for the improvement action and each of its sub-actions: INSEE

Improvement action: Implementation of joint collaboration guidelines for administrative data

A5.3 - INSEE along with the Ministerial Statistical Offices equally intend to implement, by the end of 2025, the guidelines relating to more effectively formalise the joint collaboration with those entities that supply the French Statistical Service with administrative data, in order to support those producers within the French Official Statistical Service involved in setting up new partnerships.

Deadline: 2025

Responsible institution for the improvement action and each of its sub-actions: INSEE and MSO's

Improvement action: Development of a statistical register for individuals and housing

A5.4 - INSEE intends to develop, by the end of 2025, a dedicated statistical register (so-called RESIL) so that those providers of administrative data regarding individuals and housing would have the opportunity to add to it. Such a register would facilitate the exchange of data within the

Official Statistical Service, while respecting the provisions guaranteeing the confidentiality of data.

Deadline: 2025

Responsible institution for the improvement action and each of its sub-actions: INSEE

6. Recommendation:

In future updates of the relevant legislation, INSEE, the DINUM Director (Direction interministérielle du numérique) as Chief Data Officer, Conseiller action publique et numérique au sein du Cabinet du Premier ministre, should enable wider access to private data for investigation of statistical potential and should also broaden the scope of use of new data sources beyond that of replacement data for mandatory surveys. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 2.4)

Current situation:

Concerning access to privately held data, France has been a leading country internationally in the modernisation of its Statistical Law with a view to enabling, under certain conditions, access to such data for the production of official statistics. Articles 1 and 19 of the Law for a Digital Republic, Law No 2016-1321 of 7 October 2016 establish the principle of the obligation to transmit public or privately held data free of charge for the preparation of official statistics. Furthermore, the decree implementing Article 3bis of the Statistical Law No 51-711 of 7 June 1951, introduced by the Law for a Digital Republic, was signed on 31 March 2017. However, the legal impediments remain and while the transmission of private data for statistical purposes can be made compulsory, the restrictions around advance trials (requiring prior agreement of data holders) and use of the transmitted data (solely as a replacement for mandatory surveys) can be a barrier to access. It is well recognised that the great potential of privately held data for the official statistical community is not only as a replacement for existing data collection, but also a means of informing policy decisions on new and emerging phenomena with much more granular and frequent or near real-time information.

Improvement action: Elaboration of a synthesis on the benefits & limits of current privately held data legislation

A6.1 - INSEE intends to draw up, by the end of 2022, a comprehensive synthesis on the respective benefits and limits of the current legislation, regarding access to privately-held data for producing statistics, with a view to bringing it to the attention of the directeur de la Direction interministérielle du numérique, of the Conseiller action publique et numérique au sein du Cabinet du Premier ministre, as well as of the Directeur du Cabinet du Ministre de l'Economie et des Finances.

Deadline: 2022

Responsible institution for the improvement action and each of its sub-actions: INSEE

Improvement action: Appointment of an expert advisor for the negotiations of European data regulations

A6.2 - Concerning the three European projected data regulations (Data Governance Act, Data Act, ePrivacy), INSEE intends to appoint, by the end of 2021, in the context of the upcoming EU French Presidency, an expert advisor to fully support in the first half of 2022 the French service responsible for participating in the on-going negotiations. This is with a view to ensuring that the needs of official statistics are properly taken into account in these regulations. Moreover, this expert advisor will be actively committed to supporting the proposed revision of Regulation 223/2009 of 11 March 2009 (revised), in particular with regard to access to privately-held data. INSEE intends to consider the need to revise the French statistical legislation, once the European Regulation 223/2009 of 11 March 2009 (revised) has been amended and the Data Act Regulation has been approved.

Deadline: mid-2022 and 2027

Responsible institution for the improvement action and each of its sub-actions: INSEE

II- Embedding Quality Management throughout the National Statistical System

7. Recommendation:

INSEE and the SSMs should complete the implementation of quality approaches across the SSP as well as implementation and dissemination of quality reports. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 4.3)

Current situation:

A commitment to systematic and ongoing improvements to the quality of official statistics is clearly embedded in the strategies and work programmes of INSEE and the SSMs. Strong quality governance across the SSP is clearly demonstrated and is greatly supported by the Official Statistics Quality Label Committee (CL), which assesses the technical quality of all surveys included in the statistical programme. All new surveys must apply for the quality label and all existing surveys must re-apply for the label after five years.

The creation of the Strategic Committee for Quality (CoSaQ) and the development of a quality strategy based on five quality guidelines (governance, skills, implementation of quality approaches, adoption of recommendations and meeting user needs) and its adoption in 2017 by INSEE and the SSMs was noted by the peer review team. The progress to date on the implementation of the strategy was also noted, as was the commitment to implement it across the SSP.

INSEE has developed process-based quality approaches consisting of systematic process description, risk analysis and the subsequent development of an improvement action plan for the process in question. Implementation of the quality approaches will require significant investment and the peer review team noted that the quality approaches have been so far implemented for many processes at INSEE and some processes in the SSMs. INSEE has prepared a diagram of its statistical production processes and for some processes, the quality approach is missing. All SSMs participating in the peer review reported that they would like to further implement relevant quality approaches to their processes.

The importance of improvements in quality reporting is well understood by INSEE and the SSMs and quality reports are regularly produced for Eurostat but not always made publicly available. In particular, standardised, user-oriented quality reports are not always published or made available on the websites of INSEE or the SSMs.

Improvement action: Implementation of quality initiatives for essential processes

A7.1 - For each of those processes producing European statistics and referred to as "essential" (according to Insee's Inspection Générale report No. 2020_84 /DG75-B001 of 18 November 2020) INSEE intends to carry out respectively, by the end of 2027 at the latest (before its fourth peer review), targeted quality initiatives. For certain of these processes, the initiatives will be implemented for the first time; for the others, they will take the form of a regular process review.

Deadline: 2027

Responsible institution for the improvement action and each of its sub-actions: INSEE

Improvement action: Formalisation and promotion of INSEE's range of service for quality initiatives for MSOs

A7.2 - INSEE intends to formalise and promote, by the end of 2023, a range of services dedicated to the various producers within the Ministerial Statistical Offices with a view to implementing relevant quality initiatives which take into account the specificity of their respective environments.

Deadline: 2023

Responsible institution for the improvement action and each of its sub-actions: INSEE

<p>Improvement action: Definition and implementation of MSOs' roadmap for quality initiatives</p> <p>A7.3 - Each Ministerial Statistical Office intends to draw up, by the end of 2024, its own roadmap setting out a specific plan for implementing, by the end of 2027 at the latest (before its fourth peer review), relevant quality initiatives regarding its statistical production processes.</p>
<p>Deadline: 2024-2027</p>
<p>Responsible institution for the improvement action and each of its sub-actions: MSOs</p>
<p>Improvement action: Dissemination of quality reports for « essential » processes</p> <p>A7.4 - INSEE intends to ensure, by the end of 2027 at the latest (before its fourth peer review), the dissemination on Insee.fr of the user-oriented sections (ESMS) concerning the quality reports (using the SIMS format) for all the series relating to those statistical production processes producing European statistics and referred to as "essential" (according to the Insee's Inspection Générale report N° 2020_84 /DG75-B001 of 18 November 2020). This will of course be subject to the quality reporting required by the respective regulations being compliant with the SIMS format.</p>
<p>Deadline: 2027</p>
<p>Responsible institution for the improvement action and each of its sub-actions: INSEE</p>
<p>Improvement action: Formalisation and promotion of INSEE's range of services for quality reports for MSOs</p> <p>A7.5 - INSEE intends to formalise and promote, by the end of 2023, subject to a technical feasibility study, a range of services dedicated to the various producers within the Ministerial Statistical Offices in order for them to more easily elaborate their SIMS-compliant quality reports by using the RMéS repository.</p>
<p>Deadline: 2023</p>
<p>Responsible institution for the improvement action and each of its sub-actions: INSEE</p>

8. Recommendation:

INSEE and the SSMs should further promote the statistical metadata repository (RMÉS in French) in order to fully implement the use of it across the SSP. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 8.4)

Current situation:

The development of the central statistical metadata repository (RMÉS) to support management of concepts, classifications and information relating to statistical operations was noted by the peer review team. While the peer review team also noted the commitment to implementation across the SSP, full use of RMÉS is currently not in place.

Improvement action: Formalisation and promotion of a range of services for statistical metadata repository within INSEE

A8.1 - INSEE intends to formalise and promote, by the end of 2023, a range of services dedicated to its various producers in order for them to comprehensively describe their concepts and classifications for the RMÉS repository.

Deadline: 2023

Responsible institution for the improvement action and each of its sub-actions: INSEE

Improvement action: Formalisation and promotion of INSEE's range of services for statistical metadata repository for MSOs

A8.2 - INSEE in close collaboration with the Ministerial Statistical Offices intends to formalise and promote, by the end of 2023, subject to a technical feasibility study, a range of services dedicated to the various producers within the Ministerial Statistical Offices in order for them to comprehensively describe for the RMÉS repository those concepts and classifications, which are under their sole ownership.

Deadline: 2023

Responsible institution for the improvement action and each of its sub-actions: INSEE

9. Recommendation:

INSEE should standardise documentation used for internal processes, in particular statistical procedures, in order to ensure operational continuity in the case of staff turnover. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 8.4)

Current situation:

Observing the high staff mobility within INSEE, the internal documentation practices are of high importance. The quality approaches commence with a process description, which may be a good starting point for further standardisation of internal documentation. As part of harmonisation to underpin quality and to ensure operational continuity in the case of staff turnover, it is important to ensure that documentation for internal processes is standardised, structured, accessible, readable and up-to-date.

Improvement action: Formalisation of a framework for a documentation of statistical production processes

A9.1 - After having experimented it on a diversity of processes, INSEE intends to formalise, by the end of 2025 at the latest, the organisational framework for a template to be used for documenting all the statistical production processes. This template will then be submitted in 2026 for approval to the Strategic Committee on Quality.

Deadline: 2025-2026

Responsible institution for the improvement action and each of its sub-actions: INSEE

<p>10. Recommendation: INSEE and the SSMs should complete the implementation of the revision and error policies across the SSP. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 6.3 and 12.3)</p>
<p>Current situation: INSEE and SSMs have committed to announcing and publishing revisions and corrections of errors on their websites. While there have been divergences observed in practices in the past, INSEE and SSMs have developed a plan to harmonise these practices. In 2019, INSEE formalised a general revision policy that is available on the INSEE website and sets out the rules to be followed when deciding on revisions and when organising, documenting and publishing revisions. This policy has inspired a shared revision policy for the SSMs, which was drawn up in 2020 and which most of the SSMs have published on their websites. In 2020, a working group made up of representatives of INSEE and the SSMs developed a shared error correction policy and protocol for measuring, rectifying and reporting errors that has yet to be formally adopted before implementation.</p>
<p>Improvement action: Publication of the revision and error correction policies A10.1 - INSEE as well as each Ministerial Statistical Office intend to make, by the end of 2022, their revision and error correction policies available on their respective websites. INSEE also intends to publish the related error correction protocol on the French Official Statistical Service intranet site.</p>
<p>Deadline: 2022</p>
<p>Responsible institution for the improvement action and each of its sub-actions: INSEE and MSOs</p>
<p>Improvement action: Raising awareness of the dissemination staff about the revision and error correction policies A10.2 - INSEE intends, by the end of 2022, to draw the attention of its agents working within its Department for Dissemination to the revision and error correction policies and protocol.</p>
<p>Deadline: 2022</p>
<p>Responsible institution for the improvement action and each of its sub-actions: INSEE</p>
<p>Improvement action: Inclusion of revision and error correction policies in the quality training course A10.3 - Moreover, INSEE intends to include, from 2023 onwards, a specific module on their revision and error correction policies in our Quality awareness-raising training courses, which are regularly provided across all the SSP.</p>
<p>Deadline: 2023</p>
<p>Responsible institution for the improvement action and each of its sub-actions: INSEE</p>

11. Recommendation:

The SSMs should review their pre-release access arrangements to ensure harmonised adherence to the ES CoP, in particular in relation to the number of users having pre-release access. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 6.7)

Current situation:

The procedures for pre-release access at INSEE and across the SSMs are transparent and were reviewed in 2017. At that time, the interval between transmission of pre-release material and publication of results was further minimised.

However, the peer review team identified a potential for further rationalisation and limitation of the number of users benefiting from pre-release access across the SSMs.

Improvement action: Drawing up a list of beneficiaries of pre-release access for each MSO

A11.1 - Each Ministerial Statistical Office intends to annually draw up, from 2022 onwards, the list of those stakeholders who benefit – due to their particular functions - from pre-release access arrangements, and intends to bring this first to the attention of the Statistical Programme Committee (CPS), then to the French Official Statistics Authority, and to publish all these pre-release access arrangements on its respective website.

Deadline: 2022

Responsible institution for the improvement action and each of its sub-actions: MSOs

12. Recommendation:

INSEE should review its arrangements for secure and controlled transmission of pre-release material to ensure safe and managed transmission of the related material. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 6.7)

Current situation:

The procedures for pre-release access at INSEE and across the SSMs are transparent and were reviewed in 2017. At that time, the interval between transmission of pre-release material and publication of results was further minimised.

The peer review team identified opportunities for improving security around the processes for transmitting pre-release material.

Improvement action: Drawing up a message for pre-release material

A12.1 - INSEE intends to draw up, by the end of 2022, a dedicated message to be duly attached to all pre-release material, drawing the attention of the beneficiaries concerned to the requirements they need to comply with, as well as to the potential sanctions they would be exposed to in the event of any embargo breach. This message will also be made publicly available on Insee.fr.

Deadline: 2022

Responsible institution for the improvement action and each of its sub-actions: INSEE

Improvement action: Integration of the term « embargoed » on pre-release material

A12.2 - INSEE intends to clearly and visibly mark, by the end of 2022, the term “embargoed” on all pre-release material.

Deadline: 2022

Responsible institution for the improvement action and each of its sub-actions: INSEE

III- Meeting Changing User Needs in a Changing Data Environment

13. Recommendation:

SSMs should use a wider range of communication channels as appropriate, including social media platforms. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 15.2)

Current situation:

Wide-ranging arrangements exist to consult users on their needs for official statistics, including the National Council for Statistical Information (CNIS in French) and its thematic working groups.

INSEE has launched a project to comprehensively redesign dissemination processes. The Melodi project plans accessibility improvements by offering new open data services including a catalogue of outputs, a data mining function that builds tables on demand, a mass downloading tool, options to print tables on demand and an API covering all disseminated databases.

With the growth in the number of communication channels, particularly social media platforms, the peer review team identified areas for improvement across the SSP related to maximising the potential to engage with a wider audience of users through these new channels.

Improvement action: Elaboration of a synthesis of the benefits and limits of communication channels

A13.1 - INSEE, in close cooperation with all the Ministerial Statistical Offices, intends to draw up, by the end of 2023, a synthesis of the respective benefits and limits regarding the potential future communication channels which could be used by these Offices. This synthesis would then be brought in 2024 to the attention of the strategic committee dedicated to dissemination and communication, within the French Official Statistical Service (CODICOM-SSP).

Deadline: 2023-2024

Responsible institution for the improvement action and each of its sub-actions: INSEE

Improvement action: Definition of MSOs' communication strategies

A13.2 - Each Ministerial Statistical Office intends to define, by the end of 2024, its own communication strategy, making best use of the various channels set up by INSEE, if and when relevant.

Deadline: 2024

Responsible institution for the improvement action and each of its sub-actions: MSOs

Improvement action: Providing support for MSOs' communication strategies

A13.3 – INSEE intends, from 2025 onwards, to provide appropriate support for the implementation of their social medias communication strategies, as and where requested by each Ministerial Statistical Office.

Deadline: 2025

Responsible institution for the improvement action and each of its sub-actions: INSEE

14. Recommendation:

INSEE should improve the navigation of its website for all user types and should further optimise the website search engine to provide improved accessibility. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 15.2.)

Current situation:

Wide-ranging arrangements exist to consult users on their needs for official statistics, including the National Council for Statistical Information (CNIS in French) and its thematic working groups.

INSEE has launched a project to comprehensively redesign dissemination processes. The Melodi project plans accessibility improvements by offering new open data services including a catalogue of outputs, a data mining function that builds tables on demand, a mass downloading tool, options to print tables on demand and an API covering all disseminated databases.

The peer review team identified opportunities to optimise experience for all types of users – expert and casual – who engage with the INSEE website.

Improvement action: Improvement of the search engine and data access on the website

A14.1 - INSEE intends to improve both the organisation of its information and the settings of its search engine, taking into account user feedback regarding those statistics which have proved the most difficult to find on the website. This modification will be shared from 2023 onwards with the CODICOM (the strategic committee dedicated to dissemination and communication) via an annual report. Moreover, with a view to monitoring the impact of all the actions set up to further improve data access, INSEE intends, from 2023 onwards, to report annually to the CODICOM on the level of satisfaction of its Insee.fr users (a level which is already regularly monitored).

Deadline: 2023

Responsible institution for the improvement action and each of its sub-actions: INSEE

Improvement action: Releasing a catalogue of INSEE's datasets on the website

A14.2 - INSEE intends to release a comprehensive catalogue of all its datasets on insee.fr, both in French and in English (an example of a dataset catalogue can be found on data.gouv.fr). This catalogue will allow the users to navigate throughout Insee's data and its various formats. A first version of this catalogue will be released by the end of 2025 based on Insee's main sources (macroeconomic, local and structural business statistics, census).

Deadline: 2025

Responsible institution for the improvement action and each of its sub-actions: INSEE

15. Recommendation:
INSEE should improve access to its dissemination databases for all users, particularly via Explorer and API web services. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 15.2 and 15.5)
Current situation:
Wide-ranging arrangements exist to consult users on their needs for official statistics, including the National Council for Statistical Information (CNIS in French) and its thematic working groups. INSEE has launched a project to comprehensively redesign dissemination processes. The Melodi project plans accessibility improvements by offering new open data services including a catalogue of outputs, a data mining function that builds tables on demand, a mass downloading tool, options to print tables on demand and an API covering all disseminated databases. The peer review team furthermore, identified opportunities to optimise experience for all types of users – expert and casual – who engage with disseminate databases.
Improvement action: Enhancing access to INSEE’s key statistical datasets via API and data explorer tool
A15.1 - INSEE intends to make available to all its users, by the end of 2025, its key statistical datasets (including national accounts, structural business statistics, census results) via a unique standard API web service as well as a practical data explorer tool.
Deadline: 2025
Responsible institution for the improvement action and each of its sub-actions: INSEE

16. Recommendation:
SSMs should investigate the possibility of expanding access to microdata for research purposes and implement it where possible. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 15.4)
Current situation:
Improvements in the levels of access to microdata for researchers, and the related protocols, were noted as was the role of the Statistical Confidentiality Committee (CSS) in approving requests for access to data from across the SSP, either directly or via the access centres, Quetelet-Progedo and the Secure Access Data Centre (CASD). To further support the research community, and as researcher access to administrative data is currently limited, broadening of access for researchers to administrative data was identified as an improvement opportunity.
Improvement action: Definition of a roadmap for MSOs supply of micro-data
A16.1 - Each Ministerial Statistical Office concerned intends to define, by the end of 2024, a roadmap to further develop its supply of micro-data to researchers, in particular via the Secure Access Data Centre (CASD in French).
Deadline: 2024
Responsible institution for the improvement action and each of its sub-actions: MSOs concerned
Improvement action: Broadening MSO’s access protocol for researchers
A16.2 - Each Ministerial Statistical Office intends to define, by the end of 2023, its own protocol for broadening access for researchers to those administrative data that the ministerial Statistical Office use for its own statistical purposes, subject to the agreement of the administrative authorities concerned.
Deadline: 2023
Responsible institution for the improvement action and each of its sub-actions: MSOs