



REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS



STATISTICAL SERVICE

QUALITY POLICY

Version 1.2

October 2021

QUALITY POLICY

1. Mission and Vision of the Statistical Service of Cyprus

The mission of the Statistical Service of Cyprus (CYSTAT) is to produce and disseminate reliable statistical information about Cyprus in a timely manner, aiming to:

- Assist the government in policy-making
- Inform and support the business world and the public in general, in Cyprus and abroad
- Inform and support organisations and scientific/research centres, in Cyprus and abroad

Additionally, it acts as a coordinator and technical advisor to other public organisations about tasks of statistical nature.

CYSTAT executes its mission with the vision to become a model organisation, from which everybody seeks high quality statistical information. Consequently, the quality component in all aspects of statistical information and in all stages of statistical production is the cornerstone of all statistical activities.

2. Quality in the European Statistical System

Within the European Statistical System (ESS) great emphasis is given to the production and dissemination of statistics of high quality. This is reflected in the relevant ESS Quality Declaration¹ which is co-signed by the heads of the National Statistical Institutes of the ESS and EUROSTAT. The European Statistics Code of Practice (CoP)² determines the basic principles for developing, producing and disseminating European statistics. Many of these principles are quality related, since the quality of statistics is neither one-dimensional nor absolute.

3. Quality Commitment of the Statistical Service of Cyprus

Fully compliant with the European acquis, CYSTAT endorses the ESS Quality Declaration and adopts the common quality framework of the ESS (CoP, Quality Assurance Framework³ and general quality management principles⁴). This sets quality as one of the main priorities of CYSTAT in its overall strategy which is applied in all aspects of statistical production. In practice, this is achieved by fully applying national and union legal and institutional framework for statistics, which includes the Official Statistics Law of 2021 (Law No. 25(I)/2021), the European Statistics Law (Regulation (EC) 223/2009)⁵ and all other European Regulations of statistical content.

CYSTAT's Quality Policy aims to achieve a systematic improvement of statistical products and processes through the development of appropriate methodologies and tools and the provision of scientific and technical support to the staff involved in the production and dissemination of official statistics.

¹ Quality Declaration of the European Statistical System, September 2016:

<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/64157/4392716/quality-declaration-ESS.pdf>

² European Statistics Code of Practice, November 2017:

http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/64157/4392716/Revised_CoP_Nov_2017.pdf

³ Quality Assurance Framework of the ESS, version 2.0:

<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/64157/4392716/ESS-QAF-V1-2final.pdf/bbf5970c-1adf-46c8-afc3-58ce177a0646>

⁴ General quality management principles such as: continuous interaction with users, commitment of leadership, partnership, staff satisfaction, continuous improvement and harmonisation.

⁵ Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 on European statistics as amended by Regulation (EU) 2015/759:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:02009R0223-20150608&from=EN>

4. Rules and Principles of CYSTAT's Quality Policy

Based on the above, CYSTAT commits to apply the following rules and principles in all its activities, so as to ensure the quality of official statistics and continuously improve it. These principles stem mainly from the CoP.

4.1. INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK AND QUALITY

- 4.1.1. CYSTAT is committed to quality. It systematically and regularly identifies strengths and weaknesses to continuously improve process and output quality.
- 4.1.2. CYSTAT ensures the coordination of all activities for the development, production and dissemination of European statistics at the level of the national statistical system and the European Statistical System, respectively. CYSTAT actively cooperates within the partnership of the European Statistical System, so as to ensure the development, production and dissemination of European statistics.
- 4.1.3. CYSTAT maintains its professional independence from other policy, regulatory or administrative departments and bodies, as well as from private sector operators.
- 4.1.4. Statistical authorities have a clear legal mandate to collect and access information from multiple data sources for statistical purposes. Administrations, enterprises and households, and the public at large may be compelled by law to allow access to or deliver data for European statistical purposes at the request of CYSTAT.
- 4.1.5. CYSTAT ensures that the resources available, human or not, are sufficient in order to perform its operations at a high level of quality.
- 4.1.6. CYSTAT guarantees the privacy of data providers, the confidentiality of the information they provide, its use only for statistical purposes and the security of the data.
- 4.1.7. CYSTAT develops, produces and disseminates statistics in an objective, professional and transparent manner in which all users are treated equitably.

4.2. QUALITY OF STATISTICAL PROCESSES

- 4.2.1. CYSTAT recognises that sound methodology underpins quality statistics and utilises adequate tools, procedures and expertise for the development, production and dissemination of statistics.
- 4.2.2. CYSTAT implements appropriate statistical procedures throughout the statistical processes.
- 4.2.3. CYSTAT ensures that the response burden is proportionate to the needs of the users and is not excessive for respondents. CYSTAT monitors the response burden and sets targets for its reduction over time.
- 4.2.4. CYSTAT ensures that resources are used effectively.

4.3. QUALITY OF THE STATISTICAL OUTPUT

- 4.3.1. Statistics produced by CYSTAT meet the needs of users.
- 4.3.2. Statistics produced by CYSTAT accurately and reliably portray reality.
- 4.3.3. Statistics produced by CYSTAT are released in a timely and punctual manner.
- 4.3.4. Statistics produced by CYSTAT are consistent over time, internally consistent and comparable; it is possible to combine and use related data from different data sources.
- 4.3.5. Statistics produced by CYSTAT are presented in a clear and understandable form, released in a suitable and convenient manner, available and accessible on an impartial basis with supporting metadata and guidance.

5. Implementation of the Quality Policy in the Statistical Service of Cyprus

The Methodology and Quality Management Unit of CYSTAT is responsible for the implementation of the Quality Policy within CYSTAT. It therefore establishes procedures to monitor and review the quality of current statistical processes. More specifically, the Unit is responsible for the following tasks:

- Promotion, development and utilisation of methods and techniques for the improvement of statistical quality within CYSTAT, in line with European and international standards and principles.
- Encouragement of systematic improvement of the quality of statistical outputs and processes through:
 - a. the documentation of processes,
 - b. the definition of quality guidelines for statistical processes and relevant quality indicators,
 - c. managing/coordinating quality controls and analysing quality indicators.

6. Quality Policy in the National Statistical System

According to article 5a of Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 on European statistics⁶ and article 5 of the Official Statistics Law of 2021, the head of CYSTAT produces national guidelines, where this is necessary, to ensure quality in the development, production and dissemination of all European statistics within the National Statistical System (NSS) and monitors and reviews their implementation; while being responsible for ensuring compliance with those guidelines solely within CYSTAT.

To this end, CYSTAT:

- Coordinates the activities of the NSS regarding the development, production and dissemination of European statistics.
- Coordinates the implementation of the CoP within the NSS.
- Produces quality guidelines, to ensure quality in the development, production and dissemination of all European statistics within the NSS.
- Monitors and reviews the implementation of the CoP and the quality guidelines by the members of the NSS.
- Provides consultation and guidance regarding any standards, classifications and methodologies that have to be applied when producing harmonised European statistics.
- Provides means for establishing principles and methods of producing reliable European statistics of high quality by the NSS.

⁶ Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 on European statistics as amended by Regulation (EU) 2015/759:
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:02009R0223-20150608&from=EN>