

NATIONAL USERS COUNCILS (NUCs)

AUSTRALIA

NAME, DATE OF CREATION AND LEGAL STATUS

Statistics Advisory Council
1975 – Australia Bureau Statistics Act

COMPOSITION

Chair Person
Chief Statistician
Between 10 & 20 members as determined by the Minister
Chair person and members are part time
Chair person appointed for 5 years

Payment to members
Determined by the remuneration tribunal

MAIN TASKS / ROLE / WAY OF INFLUENCING

To advise the Minister and Statistician in relation to improved extension and co-ordination of statistical services.
Annual and longer priorities and programmes of work.
No reference to an annual report.

AUSTRIA

NAME, DATE OF CREATION AND LEGAL STATUS

Federal Statistics Act 2000 supported by
1. The Statistical Council
and
2. The Central Commission of Statistics

COMPOSITION

1. Statistical Council

15 Members:

- 4 appointed by the Federal Chancellor
- 1 from each of : the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Economy and Labour, the Ministry for Social Security and Generations, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, for the Environment and the Management of Water Resources
- 1 from each of : the Austrian National Bank, Austrian Economic Chamber, Presidential Council of the Austrian Chambers of Agriculture, the Federal Chamber of Labour, the Austrian Federation of Communes, the Austrian Federation of Municipalities and the Council of Heads of Provincial Government

2. Central Commission of Statistics

- DG Statistics and DG Finance of the Federal Institution
- 1 representative of the Federal Chancellery
- 1 from each of : the Federal Ministries, Audit Office, Office of Provincial Government Admin, Austrian National Bank, Austrian Economic Chamber, Presidential Council of Austrian Chambers of Agriculture, Federal Chamber of Labour, Federation of Austrian Trade Unions, Federal Conference of Liberal Professoins, Austrian Chamber of Agricultural Labourers' Assembly, Austrian Federation of Communes, Austrian Federation of Municipal.
- experts of economic, scientific and cultural communities
- respective Austrian representative in CEIES

MAIN TASKS / ROLE / WAY OF INFLUENCING

1. Statistical Council

- To provide a yearly report
- To provide recommendations
 - a) on the methods of presenting administrative data in order that these may also be used for statistical purposes and
 - b) on the co-ordination of the Federal Ministries and the Bodies of Federal Statistics in matters concerning statistics from the Federation and from the EU
- To release statements
 - a) on various draft directives and the planned implementation of these, also on draft statutes concerning statistics
 - b) on draft decrees by the organs of the EU for purposes of producing Community statistics and carrying out statistical surveys
- To provide statements and recommendations on the working programmes and budget

2. Central Commission of Statistics

To advise the Federal Ministries, the organs of Federal Statistics and of the Federal Institution of Statistics Austria in questions of official statistics of general concern. Fulfilment of these tasks rests with special advisory bodies (19) installed for that purpose.

DENMARK

NAME, DATE OF CREATION AND LEGAL STATUS

Statistics Act 2000

COMPOSITION

National user bodies appointed on an ad hoc basis by Statistics Denmark's Board of Governors

The 6 currently existing Advisory Committees consist of representatives from labour-market organisations, industry, research and other organisations in the Danish society.

MAIN TASKS / ROLE / WAY OF INFLUENCING

Adivsory committees have been set up for the following statistical areas:

Business statistics, Agricultural statistics, Economic statistics, Environmental and energy statistics, Social statistics and Research

- To give advice on Statistics Denmark's annual work programme
- To assist in matters relating to: statistical development strategy, evaluation of existing statistics, questions of priorities, data collection and data quality, questions of dissemination, etc.

FRANCE

NAME, DATE OF CREATION AND LEGAL STATUS

CNIS (Conseil National de l'Information Statistique)- National Council for Statistical Information Decree n° 84-628 of 17 July 1984, on the CNIS implementing Law No 51-711 of 7 June 1951, ORDER OF 12 DECEMBER 1997, on the operation of the statistical survey quality label committee

COMPOSITION

The Council is chaired by the Minister for Economic Affairs

It has 100 permanent members and 66 substitute members from :

- consultative bodies (4%)
- associations (10%)
- professional organisations (20%)
- qualified experts (8%)
- university staff/researchers (4%)
- administrations (27%)
- the political world (5%)
- trade unions (22%)

Most are appointed for a term of four years, renewable.

The CNIS has an executive consisting of 15 members. In addition to the Minister for Economic Affairs, who chairs it, it is composed of the Director-General of INSEE, the Commissioner for the Plan, the Governor of the Bank of France, representatives from Employer's as well as Workers' organisations and two members from the Council.

The executive elects a vice-chairman for four years.

The CNIS may establish, following proposal by its executive, specialist groups and working parties.

The Council and its executive may ask government departments to provide them with rapporteurs or experts for assistance with their work.

The executive prepares the work of the CNIS. For this purpose, it shall be assisted by the secretariat of the National Council for Statistical Information.

The secretariat of the CNIS is provided by the National Statistical and Economic Research Institute, through its department for statistical coordination. It implements the decisions of the Council and its executive.

MAIN TASKS / ROLE / WAY OF INFLUENCING

The National Council for Statistical Information provides a forum for producers and users of public statistics. As coordinator of government statistical activities, it prepares a medium-term program, and -within that framework- an annual program incorporating all public surveys.

A forum

Government statistical departments submit their projects (surveys, registers, panels and compilations from government records) to CNIS members.

The latter examine what each project seeks to achieve, how it will fit into the French statistical information system, and whether or not it deserves priority. All the stages from survey preparation to the dissemination of findings are reviewed.

The ultimate aim is to reach a consensus among statistical information producers and CNIS partners, who mainly represent business and labor organizations.

A coordinator

CNIS approval therefore guarantees that an accepted project meets a genuine information requirement in the public interest, that is not redundant, and that it contributes to the medium-term goals defined for the field under study.

A source of information

CNIS issues an abundant literature on a wide range of topics. It is thus the main source of information on statistical work in France.

A statistical survey quality label committee shall be established at the CNIS.

The statistical survey quality label committee shall examine the survey plans submitted to it by the producer services. It shall evaluate the application methods planned by the surveying department and shall award, if the evaluation is favourable, a label of general interest and statistical quality. It shall propose that the competent Ministers issue the preliminary approval to which the surveys mentioned in Article 2 of the aforementioned Law of 7 June 1951 are subject.

GERMANY

NAME, DATE OF CREATION AND LEGAL STATUS

Statistischer Beirat (Statistical Advisory Committee) Law on Statistics for Federal Purposes (Federal Statistics Law) of 22.01.1987, modif. 17.01.1996

Attached to the Federal Statistical Office

COMPOSITION

- 1 of each of : the Federal ministries, the Federal Audit Office and the Deutsche Bundesbank
- the heads of the statistical offices of the Länder
- the Federal Data Protection Commissioner
- 1 from each of the principal communal associations
- 7 from commerce and industry and 1 from the employers' associations
- 3 from the trade unions
- 2 from agriculture
- 2 from institutes for economic science
- 2 from the institutions of higher education

The Statistical Advisory Committee has the right to establish expert committees or working parties for dealing with special subjects.

Mr Heilemann and Mr Pückler (CEIES members)

MAIN TASKS / ROLE / WAY OF INFLUENCING

To advise the Federal Statistical Office in fundamental questions.

IRELAND

NAME, DATE OF CREATION AND LEGAL STATUS

National Statistics Board
Statistics Act 1993

COMPOSITION

Chair – currently an academic and eight members, three civil servants, two from business, one Trade Union and two ‘independents’.

MAIN TASKS / ROLE / WAY OF INFLUENCING

To guide the strategic direction of the CSO and to set priorities for the collection and compilation of official statistics.

The Board operates on the basis of five-year Strategic Plans. The Strategy for Statistics 1998-2002 was published in September 1998 and the Board is now working next Strategy for 2003.

As its mandate includes assessing the resources required for compiling official statistics, the Board is concerned that the CSO, in implementing *this Strategy for Statistics*, should operate as efficiently as possible.

ITALY

NAME, DATE OF CREATION AND LEGAL STATUS

The Italian National Statistical System (SISTAN) was founded in 1989 . On this occasion, ISTAT was re-organised and the following bodies were created: the *Committee for Directing and Co-ordinating Statistical Information* (COMSTAT), the *Council* (inside Istat), the *Commission for Guaranteeing Statistical Information* (CGIS), an external body.

COMPOSITION

1. The Committee for Directing and Co-ordinating Statistical Information (COMSTAT)

It is chaired by Istat's president – as the highest authority of SISTAN – and made up of representatives from regions, provinces, municipalities, public administrations and institutions (all the bodies which constitute the SISTAN).

2. The Council

- Istat's President
- members from COMSTAT, university professors or directors of statistical research institutes
- The president of the *Commission for Guaranteeing Statistical Information*
- Istat's Director-General.

3. The Commission for Guaranteeing Statistical Information (CGIS)

Chairman: Independent

Members:

- University professors specialised in statistical or economic subjects or directors from statistical research institutes not in SISTAN
- Top managers specialised in the same subjects from public administrations not in the SISTAN – Istat's President attends the CGIS meetings.

MAIN TASKS / ROLE / WAY OF INFLUENCING

1. The Committee for Directing and Co-ordinating Statistical Information (COMSTAT)

- To address and co-ordinate the activity of central and local statistical offices which belong to SISTAN and to provide them with statistical guidelines. It issues binding directives and orienting acts towards the statistical offices.

2. The Council

- To plan, direct and control Istat activities.
- To define the guidelines and strategies for Istat's activities and, in particular, to approve:
 - the yearly plan for objectives and expenses foreseen for the following three-year period and the yearly estimates of revenues;
 - the yearly plan for the implementation of the National Statistical Programme (PSN);
 - the budget, the possible variations and the final balance;
 - Istat's organisation chart, setting the central and local offices organisation, their functions, personnel and tools;
 - the financial, economic and patrimonial management.

3. The Commission for Guaranteeing Statistical Information (CGIS)

CGIS was set up to guarantee the principle of impartiality and completeness of statistical information. It is an independent institution and was established at the Presidency of the Council of Ministers. Its role is:

to supervise the impartiality and the completeness of statistical information;
to contribute to the right enforcement of laws on disclosure control to the authority for the protection of confidentiality;
to supervise the quality of statistical methodologies and information techniques used for the collection, storing and dissemination of data;
to supervise the compliance of surveys with the directives coming from the EU and international organisations;
to give advice on the National Statistical Programme (PSN).

THE NETHERLANDS

NAME, DATE OF CREATION AND LEGAL STATUS

Central Commission for Statistics (CCS)

1996 National Statistics Law The Commission is in fact the mother of official statistics in the Netherlands. It was established in 1892, in 1899 Statistics Netherlands originated from the permanent secretariat of the Commission.

COMPOSITION

11 members, appointed by the Crown on account of their personal qualities (2 of them head a government department, 1 from the Central Economic Policy Analysis Bureau, 1 from the Scientific Council for Government Policy, 1 from the Social Science Council within the Netherlands Science Foundation, 1 is the deputy Director of the Dutch national bank. Its secretary is a CBS official. The Commission has some twenty advisory subject-matter subcommittees. The CCS meets 4 times a year.

MAIN TASKS / ROLE / WAY OF INFLUENCING

The Director-general of Statistics Netherlands reports on a regular basis to the CCS on international, especially Community, developments.

Its role is :

- to authorise the statistical programme of Statistics Netherlands ;
- to improve the co-ordination of government statistics at large ;
- to recommend the appointment of the Director-general;
- to authorise the access of applicants to CBS microdata;
- to check on the reduction of administrative burden on business.

The role of the Commission will be enlarged when Statistics Netherlands obtains executive agency status within Dutch government. Draft legislation to that effect is with Dutch parliament right now.

PORTUGAL

NAME, DATE OF CREATION AND LEGAL STATUS

The Higher Statistical Council (CSE)

The National Statistical System (NSE) created by Law nº. 2 - 15th of April 1989

COMPOSITION

Presided by the Minister who supervises the National Institute of Statistics (INE), the Vice-president is the President of the INE.

28 members representing different areas:

- Public services (15)
- Regional Government (2)
- Municipal Associations (1)
- Central Bank (1)
- Central Trade Union Organisations (2)
- Associations of Employers (4)
- Consumer Associations (1)
- Universities (2)

MAIN TASKS / ROLE / WAY OF INFLUENCING

The CSE must be consulted before any legislation creating statistics services or containing any rules affecting the structure or operation of the National Statistical System can be approved.

The CSE is responsible for:

Defining the general guidelines for national statistical activity and establishing their priorities;

Guaranteeing the co-ordination of the National Statistical System, by approving concepts, definitions, classifications and other technical instruments of statistical co-ordination;

Approving the plan of activities of the INE and the corresponding final report;

Promoting the good use of administrative documents for statistical purposes, by recommending that administrative documents use statistical definitions, concepts and nomenclature;

Making suggestions regarding the general rules and principles regulating the production of statistics mentioned in paragraph a) of paragraph 3 of article 14 of this law, whenever requested to do so by the Government;

Ensure the observance of statistical confidentiality and decide on proposals for the waiving of statistical secrecy according to the law;

Approving its internal regulations;

Suggesting which of INE's responsibilities may be delegated in other public services departments or which should no longer be delegated, in accordance with the law.

POLAND

NAME DATE OF CREATION AND LEGAL STATUS

The Statistical Council created by Law of 29 June 1995

COMPOSITION

17 members

State Administration bodies (6)

Central Bank (1)

Employers , Social and Professional organizations (6)

Trade Unions (2)

A Social and an Economic Scientist (2)

MAIN TASKS /ROLE/WAY OF INFLUENCING

Article 15

The Statistical Council, further referred to as the `Council`, shall be established as the advisory and opinion-making organ in the field of statistics.

The Council shall be subordinated to the President of the Council of Ministers.

The responsibilities of the Council shall include:

determination, annually, on the basis of the proposals prepared by the President of the Central Statistical Office, of a draft programme of statistical surveys for the next year,

submission to the Council of Ministers, not later than on 30 June each year, of the draft programme of statistical surveys of official statistics,

recommendations on conducting new and periodic surveys concerning a broad scope of statistical observation and related to them methodological and preparatory activities, planned for the period of the next ten years,
evaluation of the implementation of the programme of statistical surveys of official statistics and formulation of opinions on other issues having a considerable significance to the development of official statistics,
providing opinions on the motions concerning the appointment and recalling of the President of the Central Statistical Office,
providing opinions on the budgetary expenses on statistical surveys.

Article 16

The Council shall consist of 17 members.

The Council shall be composed of persons appointed by the President of the Council of Ministers representing state administration bodies and units of local authorities - six persons, the Central Bank of Poland - one person, organisations of employers, social organisations, professional and economic bodies - six persons, nation-wide trade unions - two persons and two experts - one in the field of social sciences and one in the field of economic sciences, as the members of the Council.

The President of the Central Statistical Office shall take part in the meetings of the Council.

Article 17

The term of office of the Council shall last 5 years starting from the date of its establishment. The term of office for a member of the Council shall terminate together with the term of the whole Council.

The President of the Council of Ministers may recall a member of the Council before the end of the term exclusively in case when:

the person shall submit a resignation,

the person shall not participate in the activities of the Council.

In case of an incidence mentioned under paragraph 2 and in case of the death of a member of the Council, the President of the Council of Ministers shall appoint a new member to the Council. The provision of Article 16, subparagraph 2 shall apply correspondingly.

The Chairman of the Council shall be elected from among its members.

The procedures of work of the Council shall be determined by the statute of the Council and shall be approved by the President of the Council of Ministers.

The administrative service of the activities of the Council shall be provided by the Central Statistical Office.

The costs of the activities of the Council shall be covered from the state budget allocated to the Central Statistical Office.

Article 18

The programme of statistical surveys of official statistics shall be determined by the Council of Ministers by a regulation specifying for each survey:

the topic and the organiser of the survey,

the type of the survey,

the subject matter and units covered by the survey as well as the sources of statistical data,

the units of the national economy and natural persons who do not conduct economic activity shall be obliged to provide information and submit statistical data or participate in the surveys on the optional basis,

the forms, the frequency and the place of data collection,

the type of statistical information and the forms and dates of its dissemination,

including major figures and indicators,

the costs and sources of financing.

Article 19

The Council of Ministers shall ensure that the programme of statistical surveys of official statistics, shall include surveys that are relevant for the observation of social and economic processes, in particular:

(1) permanent surveys oriented towards continuous observation of major aspects of life and occurring phenomena,

(2) periodic surveys, including all kinds of censuses,

(3) surveys which guarantee the comparability of the results, in case when they refer to changing over time objects of statistical observation or if the methodology of survey changes,

(4) the surveys which are indispensable for meeting the obligations of the Republic of Poland to provide data to international organisations.