



Glossary

Defining the main terms used in the European Statistics Code of Practice, as adopted by the ESSC of November 2017

Term	Short definition	Reference in the ES Code of Practice
European statistics	Relevant statistics that are necessary for the performance of the activities of the European Union and are defined in the relevant statistical programme.	Preamble; Quality Declaration; P 1; P 1bis; P 2; P 3; P 4; P 7; P 8; P 9; P 11; P 12; P 13; P 14; P 15
Official statistics	Statistics describing on a representative basis phenomena of public interest to policy makers, the economic agents and the public at large. They are developed, produced and disseminated by the statistical authorities in compliance with the provisions of the Union and national law and the European statistics Code of Practice / National Codes of Practice. They shall be referred to as 'official statistics' in the statistical programme.	Preamble
Statistical authorities	The bodies responsible for the development, production and dissemination of European statistics. They: a) exercise public authority based on national law; b) have production of statistics included among their tasks in the respective basic act; c) have clearly been given the responsibility at the national level for the production of a specific and identifiable part of European statistics.	Preamble; I 6.7; I 7.6; I 7.7; I 8.7; P 1; P 1bis; P 2; P 4; P 6; P 7; P 8; P 9; P 10
Value (of official statistics)	Value derives from compliance with the quality requirements set out in Union / national law and the European statistics Code of Practice / National Codes of Practice as well as from replying to and anticipating user needs and from employing innovative practices.	Preamble; I 11.1
Standards	A normative document, established by consensus and approved by a recognised body that provides for common and repeated use, rules, guidelines or characteristics for activities or their results, aimed at the achievement of the optimum degree of order in a given context.	Preamble; I 1.4; I 5.5; main heading of Principles 7-10; I 7.1; I 7.2; main heading of Principles 11-15; I 12.2; I 13.1; I 14.3; I 15.5
Statistical work programme / Work programme	The framework for the development, production and dissemination of official statistics, setting out the main fields and objectives of the actions envisaged.	I 1.5; I 11.2





Statistical output	The outcome of the work of statistical authorities which can take the form of statistical products and statistical services. They are the results from a statistical process, to be accessed by the users. They can take the form of aggregate statistics, analysis and microdata, and can be disseminated using different channels.	Preamble; P 4; I 4.3; I 4.4; main heading of Principles 11-15; I 11.1; I 12.1; I 12.3; I 15.5; I 15.7
Statistical (production/business) process	A set of interrelated or interacting sub-processes (activities) which transforms inputs into statistical outputs in a defined institutional environment.	Preamble; P 4; I 4.2; I 5.4; main heading of Principles 7-10; P 8; I 8.3; I 8.4; I 10.2; I 12.3; I 15.6
Administrative data	Data collected and maintained as a result of administrative processes, for administrative purposes, in conformity with legal bases other than statistical legislation and derived from administrative sources before any processing or validation by the statistical authorities. They can be used for statistical purposes.	I 2.2; I 8.1; I 8.6; I 8.7; I 8.8; I 9.4; I 15.6
Integrated data	Data that result from combining data from two or more sources or datasets – they are a class of statistical data in which the values for short unit intervals can be added together to give a series of values relating to longer intervals.	I 12.1
Other data	Other than survey and administrative data, such as big data or crowd sourced data which can be used for the purposes of European or national official statistics.	I 2.4; I 8.1; I 8.7; I 15.6
Privately held data	Data held by private entities (i.e. the data holders are private bodies), such as big data, which can be used for the purposes of European or national official statistics.	I 2.4
Source data	All kinds of data that have not been processed (also called raw data) and are used as an input to a statistical process, i.e., administrative data, other data and data collected by surveys.	I 12.1; I 12.3
Data holder	An organisation, institution, enterprise or individual administering/controlling the access and use of a data source, that is used or is considered to be used for the purposes of official statistics.	I 8.7
Data provider	An individual, a household, enterprise, administration or any other respondent which directly or indirectly provides statistical data and/or reference metadata to the statistical authorities.	Preamble; P 5
Data source	A specific location, data set or database from where data and/or metadata are available. They can take the form of statistical survey, administrative sources or other data sources, such as big data.	Preamble; I 6.2; I 6.4; I 9.4; I 9.6; I 10.3
Data security	Preservation of confidentiality, integrity and availability of data and measures taken to prevent unauthorized access or use of data.	P 5; I 5.5
Privacy (of data providers)	Privacy is a concept that applies to data subjects while confidentiality applies to data. It is the status accorded to data which has been agreed upon between the person or organisation furnishing the data and the organisation receiving it and which describes the degree of protection which will be provided.	Main heading of Principle 5
Metadata	Data that defines and describes the underlying statistical data.	P 8; I 8.4; P 15; I 15.1; I 15.5
Open data standards	Standards that enable the data to be freely accessed, used, modified, and shared for any purpose (subject, at most, to requirements that preserve provenance and openness).	I 15.2