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Big Data for Official Statistics

Background document
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Recommendations for Access to proprietary data

Prepared by the Global Working Group on Big Data for Official Statistics

Recommendations for Access to proprietary data

Foreword

This background document should be read in conjunction with the Report of the Global Working Group (GWG) on Big Data for Official Statistics (E/CN.3/2017/7). In particular, this document provides further details to section IV of the Commission report. As the recommendations in this background document relate to the national quality assurance framework, the reader is also encouraged to relate this document to the Report of the Secretary-General on quality assurance in the global statistical system (E/CN.3/2017/8). Last but not least, this background document relates closely to the background document (to the same GWG report) on the Global Platform for data, services and applications, in particular to its work-stream 2 on data policy framework for data governance and information management including: ethics, privacy, confidentiality and security and technical infrastructure.

Introduction

The GWG promotes the use of and thus the access to new data sources for official statistics. Big Data have the potential to make official statistics more relevant through higher frequency of data, more granularity, finer geo-spatial information, and by adding new statistics and new dimensions of statistics, such as movement of observations over space and time.

In 2015, the GWG drafted so-called Principles for Access to Big Data Sources for Official Statistics[1], with the objective of helping statistical organizations in getting access to the new data sources, while striking a balance between the legitimate interests of organizations – often private sector – holding Big Data and the public need for better official statistics. These access principles were linked to the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and were appealing to the social responsibility of the data providers. The GWG had consulted on the content of those access principles with stakeholders on a number of occasions in 2015 and had generally received positive feedback.

At its meeting in Dublin in August 2016, the GWG discussed the next steps. First, it was agreed to use the term "recommendation" instead of "principle" to avoid conflict and confusion with the existing Fundamental Principles. More importantly, it was agreed that the recommendations should not be proposed as a stand-alone set of recommendations, but should be part of an overall review of the quality framework of official statistics, which consists of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, the Statistics Code of Practice and the National Quality Assurance Framework. The quality concerns of access to Big Data equally hold for access to certain types of administrative data, as for example tax or prison records, which are held by

[1] See under Documents at http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/events/2015/abudhabi/default.asp

public sector institutes. Therefore, the wording "access to proprietary data" covers better the domain of data to which the recommendations pertain.

Central to the discussion of access to proprietary data are not only quality concerns, but also concerns of data privacy, protection and security, and the partnership arrangements made with data providers and other parties involved in the compilation of proprietary data. Section A below then goes into details on the quality aspects of handling proprietary data; section B treats the data privacy and protection issues; and section C describes some partnership arrangements. General recommendations follow each section together with some specific advice.

A. Quality Framework of Official Statistics

The monitoring of the progress on the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development will require the use of new and non-traditional data sources such as Big Data, involving non-traditional data providers, such as telecom operators or social media platform providers.

A UNECE task team of the High-Level Group on modernisation of official statistics worked out a Quality Framework for Big Data in 2014, which split the quality aspects into those for the input phase, the throughput phase and the output phase. Access to data is mostly covered in the input phase. In some cases, the data will be already available whereas in other cases only information about the data will be available. This framework can be used for both assessing the suitability of acquiring a dataset, and assessing the quality of the dataset once acquired. Quality dimensions of the output phase can also be useful to evaluate the suitability of acquiring a data set, if data have been available on an experiment basis.

Table 1. Dimensional Structure of the Input Phase of the Big Data Quality Framework

Hyper-dimension	**Quality Dimension**	**Factors to consider**
Source	Institutional/Business Environment	Sustainability of the entity-data provider Reliability status Transparency and interpretability
	Privacy and Security	Legislation Data Keeper vs. Data provider Restrictions Perception
Metadata	Complexity	Technical constraints Whether structured or unstructured Readability Presence of hierarchies and nesting
	Completeness	Whether the metadata is available, interpretable and complete

	Usability	Resources required to import and analyse Risk analysis
	Time-related factors	Timeliness Periodicity Changes through time
	Linkability	Presence and quality of linking variables Linking level
	Coherence - consistency	Standardisation Metadata available for key variables (classification variables, construct being measured)
	Validity	Transparency of methods and processes Soundness of methods and processes
Data	Accuracy and selectivity	Total survey error approach Reference datasets Selectivity
	Linkability	Quality of linking variables
	Coherence - consistency	Coherence between metadata description and observed data values
	Validity	Coherence between processes and methods and observed data values

Within the input phase – as shown in table 1 – the *source* and *metadata* dimensions deal with aspects of the data source that may be discoverable prior to actually obtaining the data. For this reason, *source* and *metadata* hyper-dimensions provide the opportunity for assessment before the data is obtained. Such an assessment is sometimes referred to as the 'discovery' phase, and can be undertaken, for example, to decide the fitness of the data for its intended use, determine what uses the data might be put to, or how much effort should be expended in acquiring it. Quality dimensions in the *data* hyper-dimension, on the other hand, can only be assessed once the data is actually acquired. In some cases, the NSO requirements and the intended use of the data will be known prior to the start of the data quality evaluation. In other cases, potential use of the data will be discovered as the data is explored further. For both cases, at the onset, or as the evaluation progresses, the intended use should be clearly documented. The new data may be useful for new statistics, or improvement of accuracy and relevance of existing statistics.

National Quality Assurance Framework

At the current session of the Statistical Commission a proposal is made under agenda item 3(e) to review the National Quality Assurance Framework (NQAF) template and guidelines. If the Commission endorses that proposal, the Big Data Quality Framework[2] can be used directly by the Expert Group, which will be requested to consider amending their contents, presentation and

[2] See http://www1.unece.org/stat/platform/display/bigdata/2014+Project

tools, making the NQAF suitable for assuring quality throughout the entire national statistical system including the application to new data sources.

The Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics

Within the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, the fifth principle concerns access to data. It states that "Data for statistical purposes may be drawn from all types of sources, be they statistical surveys or administrative records. Statistical agencies are to choose the source with regard to quality, timeliness, costs and the burden on respondents." This principle implicitly includes also access to Big Data. Since the principles and its implementation guidelines may be reviewed leading up to the 50th session of the United Nations Statistical Commission in 2019, the GWG may ask the committee reviewing these principles to take the concerns regarding the access to proprietary data into consideration.

The Statistics Codes of Practice

A statistics code of practice sets the quality standards for developing, producing and disseminating statistics. For example, the European Statistics Code of Practice sets the standard for European statistical offices and is accompanied by a national quality assurance framework, which serves as guidance on how to implement the code. Similar statistics codes of practice have also been developed and adopted in Latin America and in Africa. These codes of practice are very similar and cover the same 15 basic principles, as shown in Annex I. Latin America has two more principles on cooperation, which are not part of the European code.

The code regarding "Mandate for Data Collection" is most applicable to access to proprietary data and most in need of updating in light of the emergence of new data sources and new data providers. Annex II explicitly compares the indicators in relation to this "Mandate for Data Collection" as presented in statistics codes of practice in Europe and Latin America.

In Europe, the code of practice is currently been reviewed to make it fit for including new data sources and enabling use of new means of communication. The changes follow results of the projects implementing the European Statistical System Vision 2020 on using new data sources, i.e. administrative and big data, and on enhancing communication with users of official statistics. The basic approach in the review is to remove limitations of the code of practice, thus making it more generally applicable and to move data source specific items into the quality framework for European statistics. The items of the review have been identified following an ethical review of big data use in official statistics.

At the same time, the European Union is enforcing its strategy on building a single digital market in Europe. As part of this initiative, the law on data protection has been adapted to the changes brought by the digital revolution. The ePrivacy legislation is currently being reviewed. Another initiative is identifying obstacles to achieving a European data economy, mainly in the context of access and reuse of non-personal data, including access to data by statistical offices.

Recommendations

(1) It is recommended that the fifth principle of the Fundamental Principles be reviewed to include explicit reference to proprietary data.

(2) It is recommended that a Statistic Code of Practice at the global level be formulated based on existing regional Statistics Code of Practice while the Statistics Code of Practice be updated with respect to the access to proprietary data. The ongoing review and update of the European Statistics Code of Practice can be considered as an example.

(3) It is recommended that the update of the NQAF template and guidelines cover the quality dimensions, as they apply to access to proprietary data. The Big Data Quality Framework can be taken as guidance.

For example: Regarding the institutional or business environment, the quality aspects of sustainability through time of the data sources, and the reliability and transparency of the data provider should be taken into account. Factors include:

- Sustainability through time: factors (internal and external) which could affect the sustainability of the data provider's data in relation to the NSO requirements. If the data provider will not be available, will similar data providers or comparable data sources be available in the future?
- Reliability status: status of the data provided in terms of overall reliability of the data
- Transparency and Interpretability: Availability of relevant information about the data provider; and transparency about data collection and processing.

Further, the complexity of the data may need to be considered in terms of tools and technical requirements to receive, read, process and store the file; how structured the data is and how easy it will be to work with that structure; and whether the data is characterized by hierarchies and nestedness.

B. Data privacy, data protection and data security

It is now widely accepted that Big Data has an important role to play in the monitoring of the progress made on achieving the SDGs. At the same time, there is a growing list of legitimate concerns[3] regarding risks associated with handling and processing of Big Data, whether during primary or secondary use, particularly in light of today's fragmented regulatory landscape. These

[3] A number of these concerns were taken from the draft guidance note by the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) on Big Data for the Achievement of the 2030 Agenda: data privacy, ethics and data protection.

concerns continue to complicate efforts to develop standardized, scalable approaches to risk management and data access. A coordinated approach is required to ensure the emergence of frameworks for safe and responsible use of Big Data for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

Whether directly or through a contract with a third party data provider, data should be obtained, collected, analyzed or otherwise used through lawful, legitimate and fair means. In particular, data access (or collection, where applicable), analysis or other use should be in compliance with applicable laws, including data privacy and data protection laws, as well as the highest standards of confidentiality, moral, and ethical conduct. Any data use must be compatible or otherwise relevant, and not excessive in relation to the purposes for which it was obtained.

Data security is crucial in ensuring data privacy and data protection. Taking into account available technology and cost of implementation, robust technical, organizational safeguards and procedures (including efficient monitoring of data access and data breach notification procedures) should be implemented to prevent any unauthorized use, disclosure or breach of personal data. Personal and sensitive data should be encrypted when transferred to or from any network connected server.

It is expected that the GWG will draft a data policy framework for governance and information management including ethics, privacy, confidentiality and security, and will subsequently seek endorsement for this framework by the Statistical Commission.

General Data Protection Regulation of the European Union

Arguably the biggest change to the regulatory landscape of data privacy in Europe comes with the extended jurisdiction of the General Data Protection Regulation[4] (GDPR), as it applies to all companies processing the personal data of data subjects residing in the European Union, regardless of the company's location. Previously, territorial applicability of the directive was ambiguous and referred to data process 'in context of an establishment'. This topic has arisen in a number of high profile court cases.

The GDPR makes its applicability very clear: it will apply to the processing of personal data by controllers and processors in the EU, regardless of whether the processing takes place in the EU or not. The GDPR will also apply to the processing of personal data of data subjects in the EU by a controller or processor not established in the EU, where the activities relate to: offering goods or services to EU citizens (irrespective of whether payment is required) and the monitoring of behavior that takes place within the EU. Non-EU businesses processing the data of EU citizens will also have to appoint a representative in the EU.

[4] See http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/LSU/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.2016.119.01.0001.01.ENG and http://www.eugdpr.org/article-summaries.html. The full text is available at http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.2016.119.01.0001.01.ENG

Box 1. GDPR – (EU) 2016/679 – and ePrivacy Directive

In the European Union, the Digital Single Market Strategy ("DSM Strategy") has as an objective to increase trust in and the security of digital services. The reform of the data protection framework, and in particular the adoption of Regulation (EU) 2016/679, the General Data Protection Regulation ("GDPR"), was a key action to this end. The DSM Strategy also announced the review of Directive 2002/58/EC ("ePrivacy Directive") in order to provide a high level of privacy protection for users of electronic communications services and a level playing field for all market players. This proposal reviews the ePrivacy Directive, foreseeing in the DSM Strategy objectives and ensuring consistency with the GDPR.

The ePrivacy Directive ensures the protection of fundamental rights and freedoms, in particular the respect for private life, confidentiality of communications and the protection of personal data in the electronic communications sector. It also guarantees the free movement of electronic communications data, equipment and services in the Union. It implements in the Union's secondary law the fundamental right to the respect for private life, with regard to communications, as enshrined in Article 7 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.

In line with the 'Better Regulation' requirements, the Commission carried out an ex post Regulatory Fitness and Performance Programme of the ePrivacy Directive. It follows from the evaluation that the objectives and principles of the current framework remain sound. However, important technological and economic developments took place in the market since the last revision of the ePrivacy Directive in 2009. Consumers and businesses increasingly rely on new internet-based services enabling inter-personal communications such as Voice over IP, instant messaging and web-based e-mail services, instead of traditional communications services. These Over-the-Top communications services are in general not subject to the current Union electronic communications framework, including the ePrivacy Directive. Accordingly, the Directive has not kept pace with technological developments, resulting in a void of protection of communications conveyed through new services.

The GDPR is a very extensive regulation, which was adopted in April 2016 and will take effect in May 2018. An example of one its preamble statements is the following: "(24) The processing of personal data to the extent strictly necessary and proportionate for the purposes of ensuring network and information security, i.e. the ability of a network or an information system to resist, at a given level of confidence, accidental events or unlawful or malicious actions that compromise the availability, authenticity, integrity and confidentiality of stored or transmitted personal data, and the security of the related services offered by, or accessible via, those networks and systems, by public authorities, by computer emergency response teams (CERTs), computer security incident response teams (CSIRTs), by providers of electronic communications networks and services and by providers of security technologies and services, constitutes a legitimate interest of the data controller concerned. This could, for example, include preventing unauthorized access to electronic communications networks and malicious code distribution and stopping 'denial of service' attacks and damage to computer and electronic communication systems."

An example of the consequences of the introduction of GDPR for statistical offices in EU member states is given in the example of the Central Statistics Office of Ireland in Box 2 below.

Box 2. The case of CSO Ireland

On the mobile phone project of CSO Ireland to use Call Data Records of mobile phone users to compile tourism indicators -
CSO Ireland will try again this year to come up with an updated solution under the existing regulatory regime that will not raise objections from Data Protection Commissioner or the Mobile Network Operators. The updated solution will more than likely require enhanced privacy preserving routines and some assurance that data being collected meets a 'strict' definition of anonymous. This updated solution will likely incur additional cost that will be another hurdle to overcome. CSO Ireland would also hope that any solution would be future proofed. In many respects, CSO Ireland is already operating as if the new GDPR is in place.

On legislative situation in Ireland -
The GDPR is due to come into effect in 2018. This will require most EU member states to update various pieces of legislation to ensure they can function under the new GDPR. In Ireland the suggested approach is one piece of legislation, which may be sufficient to ensure business can continue. The GDPR also codifies a fair bit more of the principles of data protection that were not in previous directives. Of particular note are the references to pseudonymisation, impact assessments and the requirement to have a dedicated protection officer.

On ePrivacy directive (relevant to mobile phone project) -
This is the piece of legislation that is causing difficulty for the mobile phone project. With the new GDPR there is a requirement to updated related pieces of legislation accordingly. The EU ePrivacy directive is one of these pieces of legislation which relates to mobile phone data (among other things). As part of an EU public consultation on revising the directive, CSO Ireland along with a number of other national statistical offices made short submissions for official statistics requirements.

Recommendations

(4) It is recommended that the update of the NQAF template and guidelines covers the data privacy, data protection and data security aspects related to access to proprietary data. The EU general data protection regulation can serve as guidance, as well as the UNDG guidance note on data privacy, ethics and data protection.

> *For example*: Aspects to be taken into account are the lawful, legitimate and fair use of personal data, purpose specification for use of such data and the risks, harms and benefits assessment. Special attention should be given to data security.

C. Partnership arrangements

Obtaining access to proprietary data does not necessarily mean obtaining a full data set with full access control. In many practical cases, the statistical office does not acquire the Big Data in full, but either has the data provider as a partner in the processing of the data, or uses an intermediary to do the pre-processing of the data. Moreover, the hosting, processing and otherwise treatment of the data may require strategic partnerships with technology companies, academia or research institutes. These partnership models should be well documented as they are a crucial part of the quality assurance framework.

The following types of partnerships[5] are among those relevant for statistical institutes in engaging with third parties, such as private sector and academia, in relation to the use of Big Data for official statistics namely (1) cooperative research and development agreements, (2) cooperative agreements, and (3) joint venture partnerships. This last type is a public-private partnership in which a government agency and its business partner jointly plan, invest resources in, and carry out a project to meet an agency mission need and share any revenue generated from the project.

Within the US Department of Commerce the National Technical Information Service (NTIS) is an agency, which is charged with managing its information resources. NTIS holds the unique authority to match up client agencies in the federal US government with private sector partners who have the expertise to advance the government's research and development goals. Any federal agency can engage in one of these joint-venture partnerships provided they have the appropriated funds available. NTIS serves as the relationship manager, signing a memorandum of understanding with the selected private partner and an interagency agreement directly with the federal client agency. Recently, the US Secretary of Commerce expanded the mission of NTIS to explicitly include a role in making federal government data on the nation's economy, population, and environment more accessible and useful.

Recommendations

(5) It is recommended that the update of the NQAF template and guidelines covers the partnership arrangements related to the access to proprietary data. The work[6] of the Task Team on Access and Partnerships with respect to documenting good practices and especially to developing a template for a Memorandum of Understanding can serve as guidance.

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[5] See a recent article by Alexander Kostura and Daniel Castro (of the Center for Data Innovation) titled *"Three Types of Public-Private Partnerships That Enable Data Innovation"*, which can be found at https://www.datainnovation.org/2016/08/three-types-of-public-private-partnerships-that-enable-data-innovation/

[6] See http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/events/2015/abudhabi/gwg/GWG%202015%20-%20item%202%20(ii)%20-%20Good%20practices%20for%20data%20access%20and%20partnerships.pdf and http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/events/2015/abudhabi/gwg/GWG%202015%20-%20item%202%20(ii)%20-%20Template%20for%20MOU%20with%20global%20data%20providers.pdf

For example: The institutional and business environment together with the data privacy, protection and security concerns should be taken into account as they apply to the partnership arrangements. In addition, the concerns of fair burden sharing, balancing of public and private interest, and cost and effort of proving access to data should also be covered. The template developed by the task team on Access and Partnerships offers many points of consideration for a data sharing agreement.

Conclusion

The global community of official statistics needs to use new non-traditional data sources, such as Big Data, to keep official statistics relevant and of high-quality. Getting access to those new data sources involves a number of challenges which are not explicitly foreseen in in the Statistics Code of Practice and the current NQAF template and guidelines. Updates of Statistics Codes of Practice and NQAF will help the national statistical office to develop corresponding new legislation to obtain access to the emerging data sources. It is recommended that the expert group on the review of the NQAF formulates a global Statistics Code of Practices as a standard and updates the NQAF as a measurement framework for the quality dimensions concerning access to proprietary data, includes additional considerations on data privacy and data protection, and includes quality aspects related to partnership models. It is further recommended that the group reviewing the fundamental principles looks into the possibility of explicitly mentioning access to proprietary data.

Annex I – Main principles of Statistics Codes of Practice

Europe	Latin America
Principle 1: Professional Independence. Professional independence of the National Statistical Institute and other producers of official statistics from other policy, regulatory or administrative departments and bodies, as well as from private sector operators, and ensures the credibility of official statistics.	**1. Professional independence:** In order to guarantee the credibility of official statistics, the national statistical institute and other members of the national statistical system must be professionally independent of political and administrative agencies and other external sources of interference.
Principle 2: Mandate for Data Collection. The National Statistical Institutes and other producers of official statistics have a clear legal mandate to collect information for official statistical purposes. Administrations, enterprises and households, and the public at large may be compelled by law to allow access to or deliver data for official statistical purposes at the request of the National Statistical Institute and other producers of official statistics.	**3. Statistical mandate for data collection:** The collection of information for the preparation of official statistics must be supported by a clear legal mandate. At the request of the national statistical institutes and members of the national statistical system, the administrations, corporations, households and the public in general may be required by law to provide access to data for the preparation of official statistics or to submit such data, which will be treated as confidential.
Principle 3: Adequacy of Resources. The resources available to the National Statistical Institute and other producers of official statistics are sufficient to meet official statistics requirements.	**5. Adequacy of resources:** The resources available for national statistical activity must be sufficient and appropriate for the generation of official statistics
Principle 4: Commitment to Quality. The National Statistical Institute and other producers of official statistics are committed to quality. They systematically and regularly identify strengths and weaknesses to continuously improve process and product quality.	**6. Quality commitment:** The entities that produce statistics within the national statistical system must work and cooperate in accordance with rules, principles and standards
Principle 5: Statistical Confidentiality. The privacy of data providers (households, enterprises, administrations and other respondents), the confidentiality of the information, they provide, and its use only for statistical purposes are absolutely guaranteed.	**4. Statistical confidentiality:** The national statistical institute and the other members of the national statistical system shall guarantee the protection and confidentiality of the information used to produce official statistics and shall refrain from identifying the sources.

Europe	Latin America
Principle 6: Impartiality and Objectivity. The National Statistical Institute and other producers of official statistics develop, produce and disseminate official statistics respecting scientific independence and in an objective, professional and transparent manner in which all users are treated equitably.	**7. Impartiality and objectivity:** The national statistical institute and the other members of the national statistical system must produce and disseminate official statistics respecting scientific independence and in an objective, professional and transparent manner, so that all users are treated equally.
Principle 7: Sound Methodology. Sound methodology underpins quality statistics. This requires adequate tools, procedures and expertise.	**9. Sound methodology:** The production of official statistics by the national statistical institute and the other members of the national statistical system must be based on sound instruments, procedures and expertise.
Principle 8: Appropriate Statistical Procedures Appropriate statistical procedures, implemented from data collection to data validation, underpin quality statistics.	**10. Appropriate statistical procedures:** The quality of official statistics used by national statistical institute and the other members of the national statistical system must be underpinned by appropriate procedures and tools at every stage of the statistical process.
Principle 9: Non-excessive Burden on Respondents The reporting burden is proportionate to the needs of the users and is not excessive for respondents. The National Statistical Institute and other producers of official statistics monitor the response burden and set targets for its reduction over time.	**11. Non-excessive burden on respondents:** The national statistical institute and the other members of the national statistical system must set their targets so as to gradually reduce the burden on respondents. The request for information must be in keeping with the needs of users and must not be excessive for the respondents.
Principle 10: Cost Effectiveness. Resources are used effectively.	**12. Cost-effectiveness:** The national statistical institute and the other members of the national statistical system must use resources efficiently and effectively.
Principle 11: Relevance. Official statistics meet the needs of users.	**13. Relevance:** The national statistical institute and other members of the national statistical system must satisfy users' information needs on the basis of their requirements

Europe	Latin America
Principle 12: Accuracy and Reliability. Official statistics accurately and reliably portray reality	**14. Accuracy and reliability:** The official statistics produced by the national statistical institute and the other members of the national statistical system must be an accurate and reliable reflection of the actual situation
Principle 13: Timeliness and Punctuality. Official statistics are released in a timely and punctual manner.	**15. Timeliness and punctuality:** The national statistical institute and the other members of the national statistical system must produce and disseminate official statistics in a timely, punctual and transparent manner
Principle 14: Coherence and Comparability. Official statistics are consistent internally, over time and comparable between regions and countries; it is possible to combine and make joint use of related data from different sources.	**16. Coherence and comparability** The official statistics produced by the national statistical institute and the other members of the national statistical system must be coherent internally and over time and must be comparable across regions and countries.
Principle 15: Accessibility and Clarity. Official statistics 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.	**17. Accessibility and clarity:** The official statistics generated by the national statistical institute and the other members of the national statistical system must be presented clearly and comprehensibly and disseminated appropriately, thereby enabling equitable access by all users.

Annex II – Comparison of the Mandate for Data Collection

Europe	Latin America
Principle 2: Mandate for Data Collection. The National Statistical Institutes and other producers of official statistics have a clear legal mandate to collect information for official statistical purposes. Administrations, enterprises and households, and the public at large may be compelled by law to allow access to or deliver data for official statistical purposes at the request of the National Statistical Institute and other producers of official statistics.	**3. Statistical mandate for data collection:** The collection of information for the preparation of official statistics must be supported by a clear legal mandate. At the request of the national statistical institutes and members of the national statistical system, the administrations, corporations, households and the public in general may be required by law to provide access to data for the preparation of official statistics or to submit such data, which will be treated as confidential.
2.1 The mandate of the statistical authorities to collect information for the development, production and dissemination of European Statistics is specified in law. 2.2 The statistical authorities are allowed by law to use administrative data for statistical purposes. 2.3 On the basis of a legal act, the statistical authorities may compel response to statistical surveys.	3.1 The legislation in force grants the national statistical institute and the members of the national statistical system a mandate to collect information for the preparation and dissemination of official statistics. 3.2 The legislation in force specifies that individuals and corporations are bound to provide information to the coordinating body of the national statistical system and provides for penalties for failure to comply with the law. 3.3 Legislation grants the governing body of the national statistical system access to, and use of, administrative registers for the purpose of generating official statistics.