

# **Commitment on Confidence in Statistics**

## **Citizen's Summary**

The aim of the European Statistics Code of Practice is to ensure public trust in statistics through adherence to a core set of principles governing how statistics are to be developed, produced and disseminated. These principles are built on the accepted international standard, the United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, which sets out the basic framework under which all official statistical organisations operate.

The principles focus on core values such as professional independence, impartiality, objectivity, reliability, statistical confidentiality and cost effectiveness while recognising official statistics as a public good.

The European Statistics Code of Practice is made up of 15 principles covering the institutional environment, the statistical production process and the output of statistics. The Central Statistics Office (CSO) as a member of the European Statistical system is duty-bound and committed to following the Code.

Each of the 15 principles has a number of specific indicator measures which are enacted through the policies and practices of the CSO.

The Statistics Act 1993 and EU Regulation No. 223/2009 on European Statistics are the primary legal instruments which allow the Director General of the Central Statistics Office to carry out their duties. In particular, the Statistics Act 1993 makes the CSO independent of Government and responsible for statistical methods and policies. The CSO's independence and compliance with the Code of Practice provides an assurance to the citizen that these duties are being carried out to the highest standards.

The adherence of all National Statistical Institutes (NSIs) within the EU to the Code of Practice is assessed every five years by an independent review board which is coordinated by Eurostat. Eurostat's own compliance with the code of practice is independently assessed by the European Statistical Governance Advisory Body (ESGAB). The reports and recommendations from these reviews are published as are the annual progress reports for each NSI.

As a result of changes to the EU Legislation on European Statistics, Governments of the Member States were invited to publicly declare their support for statistics being produced in line with the Code of Practice.

The Commitment on Confidence approved by the Government can be taken as a declaration of support for the existing laws and for those policies and practices instigated by the CSO to meet its obligations under the Code of Practice.

This Commitment on Confidence also gives the citizen further assurances on the independence and impartiality of statistics being produced by the Central Statistics Office. In signing this declaration, the Government is reaffirming the independence of the statistical office, acknowledging the value of official statistics as a public good and in doing so is also restating its expectation that the statistics produced are in line with the best international practices.