

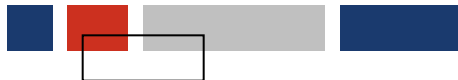


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# »» A crucial issue: Statistical quality as a necessary condition for trust

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**Against a socio-economic background of dramatic changes in the way information is collected and disseminated and of limited resources, official statistics face a great challenge to their relevance.**





**For this challenge the statistical official agencies have to innovate in a lot of areas, such as:**

- 1. On the statistical sources;**
- 2. On the priorities (beyond GDP);**
- 3. On the way the results are communicated;**
- 4. Even on their staff (new skills are required).**





**But the innovation cannot be an excuse to leave the statistical quality behind.**

**The quality of official statistics encompasses several dimensions (soundness of their methodologies, the rigour on the concepts used, their accuracy and punctuality, pertinence of the information provided, ...).**





**In the long term, the comparative advantage of National statistical offices vis-à-vis other players on the field of statistical production, relies heavily on the quality of their statistics.**

**This should be the polar star of the official statistics. We can follow different avenues but our walk has to converge to good/better data.**





Even if there are good examples of reliable and useful statistical information provided by other players, in most cases these examples are somehow anchored in official statistics.

Let me focus on one of dimensions of statistical quality not mentioned before, so typically present in official statistics that people tend to forget about it: international comparability.





**Official statistics tend to obey to international guidelines/conventions. Thus, the figures provided for one country may be assessed taking into consideration the same type of figures for other countries.**

**Indeed in many circumstances, we need a reference to evaluate the information conveyed by the statistical data.**









International comparability is often crucial to give meaning to the figures published. In the case of EU the concern on producing official statistics with a high degree of harmonization has no parallel in history and across the world.

As a matter of fact, the EU average constitutes a reference to assess the significance of a lot of national statistics. Several examples can be provided...





- Average number of hours worked per week for employees in 2016:

Portugal = 35.2;

EU = 30.1.

- Labour productivity per hour worked (EU=100):

Portugal – 68.9.





- Internet use by individuals (aged 16 to 74) in 2016:

Portugal = 70%;

EU = 82%.

- Individuals using the internet for participating in social networks (aged 16 to 74):

Portugal = 52%;

EU = 52%.





- Life expectancy at birth in 2015:

Portugal = 81.3 years;

EU = 80.6 years.

- Infant mortality rate in 2015 (per 1000 births):

Portugal = 2.9;

EU = 3.6 .





**Concluding: It is important to continue enhancing the cooperation of NSI (+others national statistical official entities) with Eurostat/ECB. It is an important dimension of quality, and it is also a comparative advantage of the Official statistics.**

**So, it is worth commemorating the European statistical day.**

