



IMPROVEMENT ACTIONS DENMARK

**PEER REVIEWERS' RECOMMENDATIONS AND
IMPROVEMENT ACTIONS OF THE NATIONAL
STATISTICAL SYSTEM OF DENMARK IN RESPONSE
TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

<p>1. Recommendation</p> <p>Statistics Denmark and the Danish Government should identify and implement solutions that empower Statistics Denmark with a more general mandate to collect data for statistical purposes. (Improvement-related, ES CoP, indicator 2.1)</p>
<p>Current situation:</p> <p>This recommendation relates to the Act on Statistics Denmark from 2018 and responding to the recommendation would ideally require an amendment to the Act. During the pre-legislative negotiations of the revision of the law in 2018, a more general legal basis for data collection was discussed, but it was rejected by the responsible minister at the time. Accordingly, Articles 8-12 were not amended.</p> <p>In the light of the revision of the Regulation on European statistics (No 223/2009, as amended in 2015), it can become relevant for Statistics Denmark to discuss new legal changes, and reconsider how a more general mandate to collect data can be empowered in Denmark either through law or through other measures.</p>
<p>Improvement sub-action 1.1: Draft an amendment to the Act on Statistics Denmark</p> <p>Statistics Denmark will draft an amendment to the Act on Statistics Denmark that will empower Statistics Denmark with a more general mandate to collect data for statistical purposes.</p>
<p>Deadline: Q4 2026</p>
<p>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 1.1: Statistics Denmark</p>
<p>Improvement sub-action 1.2: Present the draft amendment to the responsible government authorities</p> <p>The draft amendment to the Act on Statistics Denmark will be presented to the Ministry of Digital Affairs at a meeting with the purpose of discussing a potential empowerment of Statistics Denmark's general mandate to collect data.</p>
<p>Deadline: Q4 2027</p>
<p>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 1.2: Statistics Denmark and the Danish Government</p>
<p>Improvement sub-action 1.3: Approval of the amendment to the Act on Statistics Denmark by the Danish Government</p> <p>After approval by the minister, the Act will be brought before the Danish Parliament for adoption.</p>
<p>Deadline: Q4 2027</p>
<p>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 1.3: The Danish Government</p>
<p>Improvement sub-action 1.4: Approval of the amendment to the Act on Statistics Denmark by the Danish Parliament</p> <p>The amendment to the Act will be brought before the Danish Parliament for adoption.</p>
<p>Deadline: Q4 2027</p>
<p>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 1.4: The Danish Government, the Danish Parliament</p>

2. Recommendation

Statistics Denmark and the Danish Government should ensure that appropriate legal and/or other mechanisms are in place to grant Statistics Denmark the authority to use privately held data. (Improvement-related, ES CoP, indicator 2.4)

Current situation:

The recommendation partly relates to the Act on Statistics Denmark from 2018 and responding to the recommendation would ideally require an amendment to the Act to ensure the appropriate legal mechanisms.

At this point, Statistics Denmark actively takes part in the current international debate on access to privately held data as well as in the revision of the regulation on European statistics (no 223/2009), as this revision can be instrumental for the Act on Statistics Denmark to be reopened. The debate generally confirms a common attitude to work towards ensuring legal mechanisms for gaining access to privately held data in the future for greater public value and to reduce response burden. Statistics Denmark continues to support all international initiatives working towards gaining access to privately held data for statistical purposes.

Improvement sub-action 2.1: Draft an amendment of the Act on Statistics

Statistics Denmark will draft an amendment to the Act on Statistics. The draft amendment will address how Statistics Denmark can be empowered with the legal mandate to use privately held data, which is central to reduce the response burden, to increase the quality and efficiency of statistical production and to be able to shed light on new phenomena in society.

Deadline: Q4 2026

Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 2.1: Statistics Denmark

Improvement sub-action 2.2: Present the draft amendment to the responsible government authorities

The draft amendment to the Act will be presented to the Ministry of Digital Affairs at a meeting with the purpose of discussing potential ways to gain access to privately held data.

Deadline: Q4 2027

Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 2.2: Statistics Denmark and the Danish Government

Improvement Sub-action 2.3: Approval of the amendment to the Act on Statistics Denmark by the Danish Government

After approval by the minister, the Act will be brought before the Danish Parliament for adoption.

Deadline: Q4 2027

Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 2.3: The Danish Government

Improvement Sub-action 2.4: Approval of the amendment to the Act on Statistics Denmark by the Danish Parliament

The amendment to the Act will be brought before the Danish Parliament for adoption.

Deadline: Q4 2027

Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 2.4: The Danish Government, the Danish Parliament

3. Recommendation

Statistics Denmark should reconsider the scope of the mandate of its Supervisory Board in order to remove any limitations, real or perceived, to the competences of the Head of Statistics

Denmark and to better reflect current practice. (Improvement-related, ES CoP, indicator 1.4)
<p>Current situation:</p> <p>The recommendation relates to the Act on Statistics Denmark from 2018 and the improvement activity will require an amendment of the Act.</p> <p>As stated in the peer review report, the current division between the Director General of Statistics Denmark and the Board has not posed any problem in the functioning of Statistics Denmark nor the Board. However, an amendment to the Act on Statistics (together with other changes to the Act) could clarify the mandate of the Board in line with the ES CoP.</p>
<p>Improvement sub-action 3.1: Draft an amendment to the Act on Statistics</p> <p>Statistics Denmark will formulate alternative draft amendments to the Act on Statistics Denmark that would be required in order to change the scope of the mandate of the present Board.</p>
Deadline: Q4 2026
Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 3.1: Statistics Denmark
<p>Improvement sub-action 3.2: Present and discuss the amendment of the Act of Statistics Denmark to the Board</p> <p>In advance of a potential opening of the Act of Statistics Denmark, Statistics Denmark will present and discuss the alternatives to changing the current mandate of the Board with the present Board.</p>
Deadline: Q2 2027
Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 3.2: Statistics Denmark
<p>Improvement sub-action 3.3: Present the draft amendment of the Act of Statistics Denmark to the responsible government authority</p> <p>Statistics Denmark will present and discuss the alternative amendments to the current mandate of the Board with the Ministry with the purpose of assessing the different alternatives.</p>
Deadline: Q3 2027
Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 3.3: Statistics Denmark
<p>Improvement sub-action 3.4: Approval of the amendment to the Act on Statistics Denmark</p> <p>The responsible minister will be presented with a final new amendment to the Act on Statistics Denmark. After approval by the minister, the act will be brought before the Danish Parliament for adoption.</p>
Deadline: Q4 2027
Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 3.4: The Danish Government
<p>Improvement sub-action 3.5: Approval of the amendment to the Act on Statistics Denmark by the Danish Parliament</p> <p>The amendment to the Act will be brought before the Danish Parliament for adoption.</p>
Deadline: Q4 2027
Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 3.5: The Danish Government, the Danish Parliament

4. Recommendation

The Danish Government and Parliament should avoid legislative decisions that would oblige Statistics Denmark to provide identifiable statistical data on individuals for administrative purposes. Where such legislative decisions are still in place, they should be discontinued. (Compliance-related, ES CoP, indicators 5.1 and 5.5)

Current situation:

In recent times, Statistics Denmark has experienced two cases where administrative use of statistical data on identifiable individuals was enacted in national legislation. Statistics Denmark objected strongly in both cases. The first time, the objection was not taken into account, while there was more responsiveness the second time, where Statistics Denmark was consulted at an earlier stage of the legislative process. Statistics Denmark and the Ministry of Digital Affairs intend to become more involved at an earlier stage in the legislative processes where individual data are foreseen to be used in the implementation of the legislation. In potential future cases, Statistics Denmark and the Ministry of Digital Affairs will work at a governmental level to find solutions that do not compromise ES CoP and the Data Protection Regulation.

Improvement sub-action 4.1: Legal clarification of archived register data

Statistics Denmark will provide a legal note that analyses other possible solutions than using statistical data for administrative use for potential future cases. The solution could be establishing a database for storing the incoming public authority registers in their raw form before Statistics Denmark uses the data for statistical purposes. In that context, Statistics Denmark could handle a potential new case as a record office, as the data in the raw form would not be subject to the limitation for statistical data and could possibly be used for administrative purposes. In the legal note, Statistics Denmark will look further into the legal questions arising from this possible solution.

Deadline: Q4 2025

Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 4.1: Statistics Denmark

Improvement sub-action 4.2: Raise awareness in the Danish government on legislation concerning data on individuals

Statistics Denmark and the Ministry of Digital Affairs will initiate proactive advocacy among relevant stakeholders informing about the recommendation and on the need for early involvement in legislative processes. Such advocacy will for example, be achieved by introducing the topic of “identifiable statistical data on individuals for administrative purposes” on the agenda of Statistics Denmark’s advisory committees meetings, in which a wide range of high-level stakeholders are represented.

Deadline: Q4 2025

Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 4.2: Statistics Denmark and the Ministry of Digital Affairs

5. Recommendation

The Danish government should ensure that Statistics Denmark’s government appropriations match its legal obligations. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 3.1)

Current situation:

Government appropriations for statistical production are declining while, at the same time, new compulsory and cost-driving obligations to provide data to Eurostat are increasing. No budget mechanism exists to compensate for new legally binding EU obligations.

<p>Improvement sub-action 5.1: Raise awareness on resource needs at national level</p> <p>At national level, Statistics Denmark will increase the dialogue with the Ministry of Digital Affairs with regular meetings as well as with other relevant ministries to strengthen the national coordination on new EU legislation with regard to costs and burdens.</p>
<p>Deadline: Q4 2027</p>
<p>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 5.1: Statistics Denmark and the Danish Government</p>
<p>Improvement sub-action 5.2: Raise awareness on resource considerations at EU level</p> <p>At EU-level, Statistics Denmark will continue to advocate for reducing costs and burdens related to new EU legislation as well as the need for prioritisation between new and obsolete statistics.</p>
<p>Deadline: Q4 2027</p>
<p>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 5.2: Statistics Denmark</p>
<p>Improvement sub-action 5.3: Report on structural budget challenges to the Ministry</p> <p>Statistics Denmark will prepare and present a report to the Ministry that maps the structural budget challenges. As part of this reporting, Statistics Denmark will present a list of statistics and services that have been downgraded or abolished as a result of the need for a sharper prioritisation.</p>
<p>Deadline: Q4 2027</p>
<p>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 5.3: Statistics Denmark and the Danish Government</p>

<p>6. Recommendation</p> <p>Statistics Denmark should develop an explicit contingency plan to safeguard the quality of European statistics in the light of the projected budgetary situation. (Improvement-related, ES CoP, indicators 3.1 and 3.3)</p>
<p>Current situation:</p> <p>It is a fact that the decrease in funding can affect the quality of the statistics produced by Statistics Denmark. So far, Statistics Denmark managed to adjust its operations to the decreased funding by continuously adjusting the production processes and implementing modernisation projects in several areas. These investments are funded by reallocating resources from statistical work. It is, however, becoming more challenging since most funding reallocation possibilities have been already exhausted some time ago. In recent years, Statistics Denmark has focused on implementing standardised efficiency tools such as SMOF (Standardised and Modernised Error detection system), DAF (Data archive and error detection system) and SMOF-BI (SMOF using Power BI for visual data validation) in process phase (GSBPM phase 5).</p>
<p>Improvement sub-action 6.1: Modernisation and standardisation of production</p> <p>Statistics Denmark will continue to invest in smarter production systems, including a better approach to documentation and continue the modernisation process applying standardised efficiency tools such as SMOF, DAF and SMOF-BI to more areas and ensuring that documentation is prepared as part of the production process to avoid this being perceived as 'extra tasks'.</p>
<p>Deadline: Q4 2025</p>
<p>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 6.1: Statistics Denmark</p>

<p>Improvement sub-action 6.2: Preparation of a contingency plan</p> <p>Statistics Denmark will formulate a contingency plan that includes an action plan for different plausible scenarios, such as for example mapping mandatory and non-mandatory statistical products, to support Statistics Denmark in making informed prioritisation decisions.</p>
<p>Deadline: Q4 2026</p>
<p>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 6.2: Statistics Denmark</p>

<p>7. Recommendation</p> <p>The Supervisory Board of Statistics Denmark should ensure that sufficient funding is available to achieve upfront investments in beneficial innovation projects. (Improvement-related, ES CoP, indicator 3.1)</p>
<p>Current situation:</p> <p>Through their network, the members of the Board of Statistics Denmark have the opportunity to help pave the way for funding of specific projects from potential donors and funds. However, there is no mandate by law to ensure funding. Thus, needs and strategies for funding are continuously discussed and at least once a year by the Board.</p>
<p>Improvement sub-action 7.1: Overview of the need for funding</p> <p>To ensure sufficient private and public funding in the future, Statistics Denmark will produce an overview of funding needs, opportunities and initiatives that call for attention. This will be presented to the Board.</p>
<p>Deadline: Q4 2026</p>
<p>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 7.1: Statistics Denmark</p>
<p>Improvement sub-action 7.2: Ensure additional funding</p> <p>The Supervisory Board will receive the overview of funding needs, discuss it with Statistics Denmark and develop an action plan on how to present the funding needs to the relevant authorities.</p>
<p>Deadline: Q2 2027</p>
<p>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 7.2: The Board</p>

<p>8. Recommendation</p> <p>Statistics Denmark should ensure that staff are trained on institutional matters and statistical processes. (Improvement-related, ES CoP, indicator 7.6)</p>
<p>Current situation:</p> <p>Currently, the mandatory general competence building for staff at Statistics Denmark consists of four modules of 3 hours each, and these are part of the onboarding programme for new staff. This programme includes information about institutional matters and overall statistical processes. The central mandatory onboarding programme is the same for all groups of new staff.</p>

<p>Improvement sub-action 8.1: Revise the onboarding programme</p> <p>A revised onboarding programme will be developed distinguishing between groups of new employees and central and decentralised initiatives. This could include a lighter introductory course and a more comprehensive mandatory follow-up aimed at staff with statistics producing or supporting tasks. This ensures that it is possible to select appropriate and tailor-made courses and training programmes as part of the individual employee's plan for competence building.</p>
<p>Deadline: Q4 2025</p>
<p>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 8.1: Statistics Denmark</p>
<p>Improvement sub-action 8.2: Implement the revised onboarding programme</p> <p>The revised onboarding programme will be implemented in the organisation.</p>
<p>Deadline: Q4 2026</p>
<p>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 8.2: Statistics Denmark</p>

<p>9. Recommendation</p> <p>Statistics Denmark should establish a centralised monitoring framework to ensure that all processes operate efficiently and assure high product quality. (Improvement-related, ES CoP, indicator 8.3)</p>
<p>Current situation:</p> <p>Statistics Denmark has already come a long way in developing a task management system that helps staff keep track of the progress in the production cycle for particular production lines. Likewise, Statistics Denmark has started defining some quality goals or Key Performance Indicators, KPIs, for the individual processes in the statistical process model (GSBPM). Completing a task management system and subsequently integrating mandatory reporting on the relevant KPIs will allow for the construction of a centralised monitoring framework. Note that the KPIs are related to the processes, not the products per se. Quality and performance indicators, QPIs, specific to the products are primarily part of the documentation of statistics. In some cases, the KPIs should be supplemented with checklists, where the first checklist (for the dissemination process) is already in production, although in a very low-tech form.</p>
<p>Improvement sub-action 9.1: Put the task management system into production</p> <p>Statistics Denmark has a task management system under development. This system will be developed to the level where it can be put into production (primarily adding management of privileges).</p>
<p>Deadline: Q4 2026</p>
<p>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 9.1: Statistics Denmark</p>
<p>Improvement sub-action 9.2: Include KPIs into the task management system</p> <p>As part of the task management system, some KPIs will be built-in as part of the system, while others will be part of a set of minimum requirements for quality assurance in the production processes in the form of checklists for the production.</p>
<p>Deadline: Q4 2027</p>
<p>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 9.2: Statistics Denmark</p>

<p>Improvement sub-action 9.3: Inclusion of QPIs into the task management system</p> <p>For outputs, Statistics Denmark will increase the focus on the Quality and Performance Indicators, QPIs, to complete the QPI's regarding the Single Integrated Metadata Structure (SIMS 2.0). The starting point will be statistical products subject to European obligations for quality reporting.</p>
<p>Deadline: Q4 2026</p>
<p>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 9.3: Statistics Denmark</p>

<p>10. Recommendation</p> <p>Statistics Denmark should systematically derive and provide information about process and output quality to users. (Improvement-related, ES CoP Indicators 15.7, 4.2 and 4.3)</p>
<p>Current situation:</p> <p>Statistics Denmark has worked on improving the information about process and output quality to users for many years – especially since introducing SIMS (Single Integrated Metadata Structure) as the reference metadata standard for Statistics Denmark. There is still some way to go before we can provide adequate information about process and output quality for all statistical products to the users.</p>
<p>Improvement action 10: Construct a centralised monitoring framework to ensure efficient operation of processes.</p> <p>Once the task management system is put in place, Statistics Denmark will construct a centralised monitoring system building on the information that can be retrieved from the task management system. This system will contain information about processes and output quality. The aim is for this system to be a champion of the quality framework, being a natural connection point between individual staff, statistical production processes, statistical products and the organisation.</p>
<p>Deadline: Q4 2027.</p>
<p>Responsible institution for improvement action 10: Statistics Denmark</p>

<p>11. Recommendation</p> <p>Statistics Denmark should continue to work on process standardisation and documentation covering all sub-processes. (Improvement-related, ES CoP indicators 7.2 and 8.4)</p>
<p>Current situation:</p> <p>Over the past 15 years, Statistics Denmark has worked towards increasingly standardised production. The first steps were taken to standardise the collection phase (GSBPM phase 4) and the dissemination phase (GSBPM phase 7). In recent years, Statistics Denmark has focused on the process phase (GSBPM phase 5) and started the implementation of standardised efficiency tools such as SMOF (Standardised and Modernised Error detection system), DAF (Data archive and error detection system) and SMOF-BI (SMOF using Power BI for visual data validation). In the coming years, Statistics Denmark will continue the standardisation process, including more complex statistical production processes in the SMOF portfolio. Statistics Denmark will also invest more in developing more metadata driven production processes.</p> <p>To some extent, documentation of production processes is currently based on local standards. Quite a few statistical production lines have organised their work according to GSBPM and work is ongoing to expand this to more production lines. To support this work, Statistics Denmark will define requirements for process documentation.</p>

<p>Improvement sub-action 11.1: Extend process standardisation to more processes.</p> <p>Statistics Denmark will continue the work of modernisation and standardisation of processes by e.g. including more statistical products in the standard error detection system, SMOF. Statistics Denmark will complete a set of guidelines for quality assurance of statistics based on administrative data. Statistics Denmark will also formulate a set of minimum requirements for documentation of processes.</p>
<p>Deadline: Q4 2024</p>
<p>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 11.1: Statistics Denmark</p>
<p>Improvement sub-action 11.2: Minimum requirements for documentation</p> <p>Statistics Denmark will implement a set of minimum requirements for documentation of processes. Some of this will be developed in connection with the task management system of Statistics Denmark.</p>
<p>Deadline: Q4 2025.</p>
<p>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 11.2: Statistics Denmark</p>

<p>12. Recommendation</p> <p>Statistics Denmark should continue its investments in analysing, deciding upon and explaining revisions in statistical areas where these are frequent and of high magnitude. (Improvement-related, ES CoP, indicators 12.3 and 8.5).</p>
<p>Current situation:</p> <p>In most economic statistics, revisions are well analysed and explained, but in other domains, this is not always the case. The data model of Statbank Denmark makes it possible (in principle) to perform revision analyses for all statistical tables published through this platform. In practice, it means almost all statistics published. The development of generic tools is needed, so that the highly standardised data format in Statbank Denmark can be utilised, and to perform a revision analysis is simply a matter of running a programmed task, not writing a relatively complex code from scratch in each production line. It should be noted, that the mentioned data model also supports checking the numbers prior to making updated/revised numbers public.</p>
<p>Improvement sub-action 12.1: Provision of more data for revisions</p> <p>In order to ease the process for users who do their own revision analysis, previously published data will be made available in Statbank format for a number of key variables in selected short-term and structural statistics, similarly to what is already done for key variables in economic statistics/national accounts.</p>
<p>Deadline: Q4 2026</p>
<p>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 12.1: Statistics Denmark</p>
<p>Improvement sub-action 12.2: Explanations on revisions to users for primary statistics</p> <p>Revisions to key variables in primary statistics serving as input to national accounts will systematically be explained and put into perspective in relation to consequences for national accounts figures, in the documentation of statistics, at the time of disseminating the primary statistics.</p>
<p>Deadline: Q4 2026</p>
<p>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 12.2: Statistics Denmark</p>
<p>Improvement sub-action 12.3: Revision analysis disseminated</p> <p>Dissemination of national accounts will systematically be accompanied by a revision analysis, explaining and putting into perspective the revisions of data in both words and</p>

numbers.
Deadline: Q4 2026
Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 12.3: Statistics Denmark

13. Recommendation
Statistics Denmark should increase the coherence of its statistics over time, following breaks in series for key data products. (Improvement-related, ES CoP, indicator 14.2)
Current situation:
In some cases, Statistics Denmark does not have a sufficiently accurate description of breaks in series. Users have expressed that even if a perfect alignment of disconnected series is not possible, Statistics Denmark should describe the shortcomings and seek alignment to the degree possible.
Improvement sub-action 13.1: Drawing up guidelines
The issue of coherence in statistics over time will be solved involving metadata according to existing guidelines (related to the Single Integrated Metadata Structure, SIMS) to ensure that breaks are sufficiently documented for the selected key areas, but specific guidelines on how to produce aligned time series for disconnected series will be developed.
Deadline: Q2 2025
Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 13.1: Statistics Denmark
Improvement sub-action 13.2: Establish longer time series for key aggregates
Longer time series will be established for key aggregate indicators if there is a user need and if it is possible.
Deadline: Q4 2025
Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 13.2: Statistics Denmark

14. Recommendation
Statistics Denmark should disseminate seasonally adjusted economic data more systematically. (Improvement-related, ES CoP, indicators 7.1, 7.2 and 14.2)
Current situation:
Today, most short-term statistics are disseminated both seasonally adjusted and unadjusted. However, some are not seasonally adjusted and for reasons that seem unclear from a user's point of view. The criteria used to decide when to seasonally adjust economic series in Statistics Denmark must be clearer.
Improvement sub-action 14.1: Identify relevant short-term statistics
Identification of short-term statistics published seasonally adjusted and not seasonally adjusted respectively.
Deadline: Q4 2025
Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 14.1: Statistics Denmark
Improvement sub-action 14.2: Define criteria for seasonal adjustments
Based on this mapping: a) Review the criteria guiding the decision to seasonally adjust time series and make these public; b) Investigate whether some of the not seasonally adjusted series should be seasonally adjusted according to the revised criteria.
Deadline: Q4 2026

Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 14.2: Statistics Denmark
Improvement sub-action 14.3: Publishing new seasonally adjusted short-term statistics Statistics Denmark will publish the set of statistics identified as suitable for seasonal adjustment and to which seasonal adjustment has applied
Deadline: Q4 2026
Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 14.3: Statistics Denmark

<p>15. Recommendation</p> <p>Statistics Denmark should develop a strategic vision on which statistics currently produced by other authorities could be integrated into Statistics Denmark's portfolio or be labelled as Danish official statistics. (Improvement-related, ES CoP, indicator 6.1)</p>
<p>Current situation:</p> <p>The Act on Statistics Denmark (2018), Articles 4 – 4c include provisions on official statistics, stating that all statistics produced by Statistics Denmark and all European statistics produced by Other National Authorities developing, producing and disseminating European statistics (ONAs) are subject to the guidelines of official statistics. The national guidelines on official statistics laid down by the National Statistician are derived from the ES CoP.</p> <p>National official statistics produced by ONAs are subject to a monitoring process based on the national guidelines carried out by Statistics Denmark. Statistics Denmark submits a report at the end of the year to the Minister of Digital Affairs describing the compliance with the guidelines by the ONAs.</p> <p>All national authorities in Denmark have – on a voluntary basis – the possibility to make their statistics become official statistics. So far, only two ONAs (in addition to their European statistics) and one other national authority have signed up for the scheme. Moreover, the legal status of Statistics Denmark does not include authority to instruct other government entities. Accordingly, Statistics Denmark cannot force other national authorities to produce their national statistics in accordance with the national guidelines making them official statistics.</p>
<p>Improvement sub-action 15.1: Develop a catalogue on official and publicly produced statistics</p> <p>To increase awareness of official statistics, Statistics Denmark will map and analyse the status of official statistics in Denmark as well as publicly produced statistics. This will include a report and a catalogue showing the inventory of European statistics and national public statistics.</p>
Deadline: Q4 2024
Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 15.1: Statistics Denmark
<p>Improvement sub-action 15.2: Presentation of the catalogue to the Board</p> <p>The Board is presented with the report and catalogue of all statistics produced by national authorities in Denmark. The Board is invited to discuss specific actions to be taken to create more awareness about official statistics.</p>
Deadline: Q4 2025
Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 15.2: Statistics Denmark
<p>Improvement sub-action 15.3: Develop a strategic vision</p> <p>The report as well as input from the Board will be used to develop a strategic vision on which official statistics produced by other national authorities could be integrated into the portfolio of official statistics produced by Statistics Denmark.</p>

Deadline: Q4 2027
Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 15.3: Statistics Denmark

<p>16. Recommendation</p> <p>Statistics Denmark should strengthen its strategic vision to reach out to new user groups and engage broader layers of society. (Improvement-related, ES CoP, indicators 11.1 and 15.2)</p>
<p>Current situation:</p> <p>As the peer review team pointed out in its report, Statistics Denmark invests systematically in reaching out to broad sections of society. Even so, it is still a challenge for many citizens to navigate in the often wide range of numbers and facts they meet in the media and on social networks - as well as to find and use official statistics.</p> <p>In Statistics Denmark’s Strategy 2025, there is a strategic objective to remain relevant. This will be done by matching the present-day needs of users and thus cover new areas of relevance to society, develop early indicators and use new channels of communication.</p> <p>Several activities are described in the 'Communication Strategy 2022-2025' – including increased focus on relevance, increased focus on specific user groups and hence, targeted activities aimed at pupils in their final years of compulsory school (and their teachers) and activities to support that journalists are trained to be able to find and use official statistics. Journalists are important disseminators of our statistics, and the media is the most effective channel in terms of reaching a wide audience.</p>
<p>Improvement sub-action 16.1: Reaching out to young people</p> <p>Statistics Denmark will reach out to the oldest pupils in lower secondary school through new communication channels, e.g. targeted material on educational platforms and social media.</p>
Deadline: Q4 2024
Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 16.1: Statistics Denmark
<p>Improvement sub-action 16.2: Reaching out to media</p> <p>Statistics Denmark will reach out to journalists. This will be done in order to extend efforts to conduct courses at the three schools of journalism in Denmark and also expand the offer on courses targeting media editorial offices, i.e. fully trained journalists.</p>
Deadline: Q 2024
Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 16.2: Statistics Denmark

<p>17. Recommendation</p> <p>Statistics Denmark should invest in a user-friendly description of statistical products. (Improvement-related, ES CoP, indicators 15.1, 15.5 and 15.6)</p>
<p>Current situation:</p> <p>Statistics Denmark has implemented a coherent metadata system covering documentation of statistics (quality reports), classifications, concepts and documentation of data series and variables. Efforts are already in place to improve the quality of descriptions to better reach a broader audience of users. Statistics Denmark invests in continuously improvement of the content, clarity and quality of the documentation of statistics.</p>

<p>Improvement sub-action 17.1: Review of documentation of statistics</p> <p>Closer cooperation between the communication unit and the quality unit in charge of the quality assurance procedures for documentation of statistics will be established. This will result in a thorough review of the documentation of the most important statistical products to make them more user-friendly. After the review, the documentation of statistics for these products will be updated and disseminated.</p>
<p>Deadline: Q4 2025</p>
<p>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 17.1: Statistics Denmark</p>
<p>Improvement sub-action 17.2: Training for staff on documentation</p> <p>Training and tools will be enhanced to ensure that staff have the competences needed for drafting statistical documentation of high quality. It is foreseen that this will include workshops, writing courses targeting, e.g. statistical literacy and standardised communication practices. The reviews will also play a part in revealing some of the challenges and opportunities in preparing user-friendly documentation and will be incorporated into the competence building scheme.</p>
<p>Deadline: Q4 2025</p>
<p>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 17.2: Statistics Denmark</p>

<p>18. Recommendation</p> <p>Building on its current practice and good practices from other Member States, Statistics Denmark should invest in strengthening the Danish Statistical System by taking the necessary initiatives to ensure all Other National Authorities comply with the ES CoP in a sustainable manner. (Compliance-relevant, ES CoP, Indicator 1bis.1 and 1bis.2)</p>
<p>Current situation:</p> <p>Statistics Denmark coordinates the national statistical system through a Coordinating Committee on Official Statistics composed of the National Statistician (Chair) and representatives from all other national authorities producing official statistics in Denmark. For monitoring the ONAs' compliance with the ES CoP, Statistics Denmark developed a set of national guidelines in 2015. The ONAs that are part of the Coordinating Committee annually submit a self-assessment to Statistics Denmark on their compliance with the guidelines. If the ONAs assess that they do not comply with an indicator in the guidelines, they are asked to set up an improvement action in accordance with the code and a follow-up procedure will be laid down.</p> <p>Following the self-assessment procedure, one to two ONAs are selected for 'mini-peer reviews' each year on a rotational basis. A review team scrutinises the self-assessment and material/documentation provided by the institution. Concurrently with monitoring the ONAs' compliance, Statistics Denmark arranges workshops on themes requested by the ONAs in order to strengthen their competencies.</p>
<p>Improvement sub-action 18.1: Identify areas in need of improvement in ONAs.</p> <p>For a more coherent monitoring process and coordination with ONAs and their compliance and improvements, Statistics Denmark will build on the existing monitoring of ONAs' compliance with national guidelines.</p> <p>Statistics Denmark will identify areas in need of improvement and strengthening of the entire NSS and the statistical units in the ONAs, such as independence, communication, documentation and output quality. Statistics Denmark will identify this through the annual self-assessment by adding explorative questions to the questionnaire.</p>
<p>Deadline: Q2 2027</p>
<p>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 18.1: Statistics Denmark</p>

<p>Improvement sub-action 18.2: Presentation of identified areas to the Coordination Committee</p> <p>Statistics Denmark presents an analysis covering all ONAs at the annual Coordination Committee meeting, which identifies relevant areas of improvement for the upcoming year.</p>
<p>Deadline: Q4 2027</p>
<p>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 18.2: Statistics Denmark</p>
<p>Improvement sub-action 18.3: Set-up a system to address weaknesses in ONAs</p> <p>Statistics Denmark will set up a system for addressing the identified areas in need of improvement in initiatives for knowledge sharing in workshops and bilateral initiatives with selected ONAs on a regular basis.</p>
<p>Deadline: Q4 2027</p>
<p>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 18.3: Statistics Denmark</p>

<p>19. Recommendation</p> <p>The Environmental Protection Agency should formalise its statistics function to reinforce its professional independence. It should furthermore ensure that European statistics are produced and disseminated free from Ministerial influence, including the choice of publication dates. Any pre-release arrangements should be made public. (Compliance-relevant, ES CoP, Indicators 1.1, 1.4 and 6.7)</p>
<p>Current situation:</p> <p>Today the Danish Environmental Protection Agency (DEPA) notifies the Ministry of Environment and Gender Equality of Denmark prior to publication of official statistics. There may also have been correspondence between the DEPA and the Minister of Environment of Denmark before the date of publication and the Ministry of Environment and Gender Equality of Denmark will typically have an opinion about the date of publication. Contact persons in the Ministry are technical counterparts on the two statistical topics: Waste and Pesticides.</p>
<p>Improvement sub-action 19.1: Proposing a statement on the professional independence of the statistics function of the Environmental Protection Agency.</p> <p>The DEPA will start the process of formalising the professional independence of its statistics function by contacting the Ministry of Environment and Gender Equality of Denmark, by sending a formal request to the executive office, yet with room for technical dialogue between the DEPA and the Ministry of Environment and Gender Equality of Denmark. The DEPA will propose operationalisation by use of the standard form from Statistics Denmark and will obtain a statement of opinion from the Ministry of Environment and Gender Equality of Denmark.</p>
<p>Deadline: Q2 2022</p>
<p>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 19.1: The Environmental Protection Agency</p>
<p>Improvement sub-action 19.2: Formalising the professional independence of the statistics function of the Environmental Protection Agency.</p> <p>DEPA and the Ministry of Environment and Gender Equality will sign the agreement on the professional independence of the statistical function of DEPA.</p>
<p>Deadline: Q3 2022</p>
<p>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 19.2: The Environmental Protection Agency and Ministry of Environment and Gender Equality</p>

<p>Improvement sub-action 19.3: Standard formulation about pre-access to accompany publications</p> <p>The DEPA will incorporate a standard formulation about who has been given access to see the statistics publications prior to publication. This formulation will be a part of all communication about the statistics. It will be present in the publications of all official statistics and accompany any news or related text on the DEPA homepage. The DEPA will look for inspiration in other state agencies.</p>
<p>Deadline: Q4 2022.</p>
<p>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 19.3: The Environmental Protection Agency</p>

<p>20. Recommendation</p> <p>The Other National Authorities reviewed (the Danish Energy Agency, the Danish Environment Protection Agency and the Danish Immigration Service) should ensure that their statistical processes and output quality are systematically documented. (Improvement-related, ES CoP, indicators 4.3, 4.2 and 8.3)</p>
<p>Current situation:</p> <p>The Danish Immigration Service: The Danish Immigration Service has focused on publicly available metadata relevant to understand the statistics and has less material publicly available about the statistical processes and how the statistics are compiled.</p> <p>The Danish Energy Agency: Documentation of statistical processes and methods underpins data quality and facilitates sustainable production of European statistics, establishing and preserving the institutional knowledge. The Agency does not systematically document statistical processes and output quality.</p> <p>The Environmental Protection Agency: Today, not all, but some of the statistical processes are managed by physical peer training, among other things because the agency has lost a significant portion of its experienced staff due to a relocation of the main office in 2019.</p>
<p>Improvement sub-action 20.1: Improved documentation of statistical procedures</p> <p>The Danish Immigration Service will contact Statistics Denmark and the other ONAs before the end of 2022 to address the existence of a possible relevant template to document statistical procedures as well as to share knowledge of how to approach the task. It will produce relevant material of the statistical processes and make it publicly available together with the statistical publications at us.dk.</p>
<p>Deadline: Q4 2023</p>
<p>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 20.1: The Danish Immigration Service</p>
<p>Improvement sub-action 20.2: Documentation of methodology and processes</p> <p>The Danish Energy Agency has many documents already describing methodology, procedures and processes. It will get an overview of the information in order to update it and will structure the documentation as one main document with an overview of the statistics and with appendices describing them in more detail.</p>
<p>Deadline: Q4 2026</p>
<p>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 20.2: The Danish Energy Agency,</p>

<p>Improvement sub-action 20.3: Written documentation of statistical procedures</p> <p>The Danish Environmental Protection Agency will implement the written documentation of its statistical procedures/manuals for official statistics and make sure the procedures/manuals are archived in the quality management system. In January 2023 the documentation will be initiated and required organizational archiving of manuals/procedures including a distinct add-on about professional independence for production of official statistics.</p>
<p>Deadline: Q2 2024</p>
<p>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 20.3: The Danish Environmental Agency.</p>

<p>21. Recommendation</p> <p>Statistics Denmark should examine whether the need to document statistical procedures and output quality applies to all Other National Authorities and, if so, introduce suitable measures. (Improvement-related, ES CoP, indicators 1bis.1, 8.4 and 15.1)</p>
<p>Current situation:</p> <p>Statistics Denmark has developed a set of guidelines for official statistics reflecting the ES Code of Practice, which the ONAs are expected to comply with. Compliance with the guidelines is monitored through a procedure of annual self-assessments. The current self-assessment questionnaire is not addressing the question of documentation of statistical procedures and output quality in a detailed manner.</p>
<p>Improvement sub-action 21.1: Identify deficiencies in documentation of statistical procedures and output quality</p> <p>Statistics Denmark will include extra questions on documentation of statistical procedures and output quality to be included in the annual self-assessment procedure for the ONAs related to monitoring compliance with the national guidelines for official statistics to identify any deficiencies in documentation.</p>
<p>Deadline: Q4 2025</p>
<p>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 21.1: Statistics Denmark</p>
<p>Improvement sub-action 21.2: Draw up a plan on deficiencies in documentation of statistical procedures and output quality</p> <p>Statistics Denmark will, if necessary, on the basis of the results from including extra questions in the monitoring procedure draw up a plan for assisting the ONAs in improving their documentation of statistical procedures and output quality.</p>
<p>Deadline: Q4 2025</p>
<p>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 21.2: Statistics Denmark</p>
<p>Improvement sub-action 21.3: Implementing the plan for improving ONAs documentation</p> <p>Statistics Denmark will implement the plan for assisting the ONAs documentations based on the measures introduced in the monitoring procedure.</p>
<p>Deadline: Q4 2027</p>
<p>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 21.3: Statistics Denmark</p>

<p>22. Recommendation</p> <p>The Danish Energy Agency should ensure that statistical confidentiality rules are observed</p>
--

in all cases. (Compliance-relevant, ES CoP, indicators 5.4 and 5.5)
<p>Current situation:</p> <p>Today statistical confidentiality rules are not systematically applied and there is no formal procedure to apply them.</p>
<p>Improvement sub-action 22.1: Establishment of an overview of Confidential data</p> <p>The Danish Energy Agency will receive an overview of sensitive data collections, to be able to monitor them. This overview will be updated at least once a year. The Agency has prepared a draft document with definitions of confidentiality and measures to establish a procedure for monitoring and handling the confidentiality. The document needs to be finalised.</p>
<p>Deadline: Q3 2024</p>
<p>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 22.1: The Danish Energy Agency</p>
<p>Improvement sub-action 22.2: Monitoring the confidentiality rules</p> <p>The Danish Energy Agency will apply the rules described in the new document at least once a year before finalising the annual statistics compilation. This will be done first by updating the overview document over sensitive data in a structure way, and second by applying the measures described in the document if confidentially issues are identified.</p>
<p>Deadline: Q3 2024</p>
<p>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 22.2: The Danish Energy Agency</p>