

The implementation of the ES Code of Practice in the National Statistical System: the Italian experience

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The Recommendation adopted by the Commission in February 2005, beside promulgating the European Statistics Code of Practice, recommended to Member States that they acknowledge the importance of the Code and take the measures required to ensure that it is correctly implemented by the national statistical institutes and other national statistical bodies responsible in each Member State for producing and disseminating statistics.

Due to the a wide variety of institutional set-ups of the statistical authorities, the different legal arrangements and the structure of the national statistical system in each Member States, the implementation of the Code can vary across one to another. In the case of Italy the national statistical system (Sistan) is a network, coordinated by Istat, composed of diverse public administration at central, regional and local level with specific characteristics.

Following the self assessment and the peer review made by Istat as required by the ESS implementation strategy, and after an initial test made to some Sistan bodies, the importance to develop a specific approach to extend the Code of Practice to the system as a whole have increased. Therefore, taking into account the recommendation of the Commission to enhance the impact of the self-regulatory approach of the Code and being aware of the importance and value of the Code and the need of its application nationwide, Istat totally committed itself in initiatives aimed at analyzing the actual feasibility to extend the Code to the system.

This paper describes the Italian project towards implementing the Code of Practice, the undertaken activities for the realization of a pilot survey for the extension of the Code to the national statistical system and future steps to improve the implementation of the Code at national level.