



20 years of Russian
statistics' modernization:
experience and perspectives

Credibility of Official Statistics – New Trends

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What are official statistics about?

Common language to effectively communicate about all sorts of phenomena

- A language that allows to build a new or maintain an already established collective memory
- A societal perception framework facilitating taking all sorts of decisions
- Language to be understood has to be based on conventions empowered through an administrative mission and held accountable

Challenges

- Statistics are massively used for evidence-based policy making
- Official statisticians are not at ease with this development and its consequences – most notably with the high visibility of statistics and their proximity to political decision making and thus politics
- Official statisticians are particularly worried that the adequacy and credibility of their statistical work are cast into doubt

Credibility

- Power of inspiring belief
- Capacity for belief

Two key components (objective and subjective nature)

- Scientific credibility (concepts, methodology, quality)
- Institutional credibility (independence, integrity, transparency, accountability)

Credibility enhancing initiatives

- UN level (UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics – revised preamble, intention to bring them to the political level)
- European level (European Statistics Code of Practice, ESGAB, regulation on European statistics, robust quality management in gov. fin. Statistics, peer reviews)
- National level (national codes, supervisory authorities)

Conclusions

- Engagement in a permanent dialogue with all parties concerned
- Broad acceptance of concepts, methods and results by stakeholders
- Implementation of the fit-for-purpose paradigm
- Professional independence and public accountability