



EXPERT GROUP MEETING (EGM) ON
“PEER REVIEWS FOR NATIONAL STATISTICAL OFFICES IN
THE OIC MEMBER COUNTRIES (OIC-PEER)”



Light Peer Review on the Implementation of the European Code of Practice: Palestine Experience

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Overview

The national strategy for Palestinian official statistics 2009-2013

2010: Self assessment using European Statistics COP

2012: Conducting Light Peer Review (LPR) mission

2012-2016: follow-ups and implementation of LPR recommendations

European Statistics Code of Practice (COP)

Sets the standard for developing, producing and disseminating European statistics

It builds upon a common ESS definition of quality in statistics

Adopted by the Statistical Programme Committee on 24 February 2005

Revised by the European Statistical System Committee in September 2011

Light Peer Review (LPR)

- The light peer review (LPR) of (PCBS) was undertaken in the framework of the Eurostat funded project Global assessments of statistical systems of candidate and potential candidate countries as well as ENP countries.
- Light peer reviews are based on the structure and procedures of the ESS (European Statistical System) peer reviews designed for candidate countries and countries with developed statistical systems.



LPR Mission Objectives



Transparency and accountability



Areas for improvement



Identify the gaps



Enhance the capacity on the implementation of the COP

LPR Mission Scope

 Principle 1- Professional Independence	Principle 9- Non-excessive Burden on Respondents
 Principle 2- Mandate for Data Collection	Principle 10- Cost Effectiveness
 Principle 3- Adequacy of Resources	Principle 11- Relevance
 Principle 4- Quality Commitment	Principle 12- Accuracy and Reliability
 Principle 5- Statistical Confidentiality	Principle 13- Timeliness and Punctuality
 Principle 6- Impartiality and Objectivity	Principle 14- Coherence and Comparability
Principle 7- Sound Methodology	 Principle 15- Accessibility and Clarity
Principle 8- Appropriate Statistical Procedures	

The Benefits of LPR Mission

1. A third-party would examine applying the European Code of Practices at PCBS, and this would reinforce transparency and accountability principles.
2. Determining priorities in the field of statistics, and examining possibilities of development in abidance to the self-assessment report of the rules of European Code of Practices.
3. Identifying gaps between standards that applied at PCBS and relevant European standards.
4. Improving and developing performance of PCBS on applying the Code of practices.
5. This is a worthwhile process for PCBS, which would assist in implementing all of the recommendations of the self assessment report.

How PCBS Implemented LPR

2008: Applying COP (Pilot)

Localizing self assessment COP questionnaire

Filling self assessment questionnaire and preparing COP report

2010: Updating final self assessment and final COP report

2011: Initializing LPR mission process

Identifying contact person

How PCBS Implemented LPR (Cont.)

Formation an internal team



Implementing awareness workshops



Managing documents



Providing required documents



6-9 Feb. 2012: Receiving LPR mission



Report prepared by LPR mission

How PCBS Implemented LPR (Cont.)

Discussing mission report



Preparing action plan for follow-ups and recommendations



Monitoring the implementation of the action plan



Documenting All follow-ups



Developing follow-ups system



Implementation of mission's recommendations as planned

LPR Mission Outputs

A Report includes the following sections:

1. Findings per principle of COP
2. Good practices to be highlighted
3. List of improvement actions by principle of the COP
4. Recommendations of the peer review team
5. Road Map on satisfying the requirements of the COP according to European Statistical System

LPR Report Main Findings

1. (LPR) was to evaluate the compliance of PCBS with selected principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice
2. The PCBS is a young and ambitious organization, reflected by its aspiration to be one of the leading NSIs in the region
3. The relatively young and highly qualified workforce leaves the impression of a well trained staff
4. The General Statistical Law (GSL) specifies the legal basis for the production and dissemination of official statistics and also for the organization of the system of official statistics in the Palestine
5. The financial and the human and IT resources are adequate for the tasks currently to be fulfilled

LPR Report Main Findings (Cont.)

6. The peer review team welcomes the modern view and the provisions in the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) of needs and options of data collection
7. The PCBS presents its statistics clearly and the data are well accessible, although the statistical releases could be made more informative
8. The PCBS produces the largest share of official statistics in Palestine
9. The considerable progress made by the PCBS within the last couple of years is also stressed by other international institutions in the field, such as the IMF, the UNO (UNFPA) or the World Bank



LPR Report: Good Practices to be Highlighted

One of the good practices observed during the LPR exercise that could be recommended to other NSIs is the use of a sound accounting system for monitoring the costs and time and labour consumption of all statistical activities. The system is computerized and easily accessible by authorized persons.

Other candidates for good practices are:

1. Media contest for the best news item based on PCBS' statistic
2. Enhance the relation with users
3. Commitment to social responsibility

LPR Report: Main Improvement Actions

1. In a future revised GSL, the professional independence shall explicitly be expressed
2. Development of a strategy to achieve the long-term financial sustainability of the PCBS
3. Increase of the contribution of administrative bodies to the production of official statistics of the (NSS)
4. Extend endeavors in the direction of an EFQM-oriented quality system
5. The annual programme of the PCBS shall cover the conduct of audit activities and the publication of metadata reports
6. A policy for dealing with errors in disseminated press releases or statistical reports should be available and made public
7. The presentation of quantitative indicators in the metadata reports, in particular for quality aspects, should be extended, standardized, and homogeneous for all statistical products



Applying the Code of Practice for the European Neighbourhood of South Countries inside PCBS

The Code of Practice for the European Neighbourhood of South Countries is based on 16 principles covering the institutional environment, the statistical production processes and the output of statistics. A set of indicators of good practices for each of the principles provides a reference for reviewing the implementation of the Code. The National Statistical Institutes are responsible for the development, production and dissemination of Statistics, together with governments, and ministries, commit themselves to adhere to the Code. The principles of the Code of Practice together with the quality dimensions represent a common quality framework in the Statistical System.



Last Word

It's a pleasure to PCBS to assist our partners in the OIC members countries, with regard to building capacity in applying Code of Practice and to be part of the LPR experts missions.



Related Documents

1. Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2009. National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) 2009-2013. Ramallah - Palestine.
< http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/Portals/_Rainbow/Documents/NSDS_e.pdf >
2. European Statistics Code of Practice Self Assessment Questionnaire: PCBS Information, 2012
3. European Statistical System Code of Practice Peer Reviews: The peers' guide, (Ver. 1.2), Luxembourg, 2007
4. Peter Hackl, Jolanta Szczerbinska, and Volker Täube, Light Peer Review of the Implementation of the European Statistics Code of Practice in the occupied Palestinian territory (Ver. 9), 17 May 2012
<http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/portals/_pcbs/LPR-PCBS-2012-En.pdf>
5. Ali Hussein, PCBS Experience in Implementing European Code of Practice (COP), 2016
<<http://www.ine.es/q2016/docs/q2016Final00292.pdf>>