



IMPROVEMENT ACTIONS

LUXEMBOURG

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

1. Recommendation

STATEC and the Other National Authorities should develop and expand publicly available and easily accessible release calendars containing information on the date and standardised release time of all upcoming releases of official statistics. (Compliance-relevant: ES CoP, Indicators 6.5 and 13.2)

Current situation:

At present, while STATEC publishes a release calendar for a subset of its outputs (for example, the Consumer Price Index and the results covered by the Special Data Dissemination Standard Plus of the International Monetary Fund), many of its outputs are not included in the release calendar. Additionally, the Other National Authorities involved in the peer review do not currently publish release calendars of their official statistical outputs.

Improvement sub-action 1.1:

In coordination with the Other National Authorities, STATEC will define a harmonised scheme for the release dates and times of all official statistics published by the members of the Luxembourgish statistical system, in order to compile and continuously update a release calendar on the website of the Luxembourgish statistical system (www.statistiques.lu).

Deadline: Q4 2025

Responsible institutions for improvement sub-action 1.1: STATEC, Other National Authorities

Improvement sub-action 1.2:

STATEC will publish and update the release calendar for the following quarter for the national statistical system on the website of the Luxembourgish statistical system on a regular basis, starting with STATEC releases and the releases of the main ONAs.

Deadline: Q1 2026 (updated annually)

Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 1.2: STATEC

2. Recommendation

STATEC should put in place procedures to ensure that participation in external activities and bodies does not conflict with the requirements of the role of head of STATEC. (Compliance-relevant: ES CoP, Indicators 1.2, 1.3 and 1.4)

Current situation:

User confidence and independence is of utmost importance for STATEC. The scientific independence is explicitly defined in the statistical law of 10 July 2011 and STATEC was the first country to make full reference to the European Code of Practice in this law, hence fully subscribing in law to principle 1 of the ES CoP.

Improvement sub-action 2.1:
STATEC will define and restrict external ancillary activities deemed compatible with the role of Head of the National Statistical Institute of Luxembourg. STATEC will draft and publish a list of categories of eligible ancillary external activities. It will also explain the reasons that make such eligible activities compatible with the role of Head of STATEC, and notably show how they do not interfere with the independence of the NSI. In particular, these reasons will be linked to the legal requirements put forward by the Staff Regulation of the Officials of the Luxembourgish State (<i>“Statut général des fonctionnaires de l’État”</i>), and in particular those of Article 14.
Deadline: Q4 2025
Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 2.1: STATEC
Improvement sub-action 2.2:
STATEC will publish the list of categories of eligible external ancillary activities and the reasons for participation of the Head of STATEC on STATEC’s website.
Deadline: Q1 2026
Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 2.2: STATEC
Improvement sub-action 2.3:
STATEC will review the list of eligible external ancillary activities on a regular basis. The list will also be reviewed and updated every time when a new Head of STATEC is appointed.
Deadline: Q4 2027 (every 3 years afterwards)
Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 2.3: STATEC

3. Recommendation
STATEC and the Other National Authorities should develop clear agreements for the national statistical system on how the sole responsibility for deciding on statistical methods, standards and procedures, and on the content and timing of statistical releases, is delineated in the Other National Authorities. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 1.4)
Current situation:
Currently, STATEC has yearly exchanges with the ONAs in the context of the “Comité des statistiques publiques”, which currently has 4 sub-groups (public finance, environment, real estate, Code of Practice), and a plenary body where ONAs are invited to present their activities. Moreover, specific training sessions regarding the Code of Practice are organized. ONAs must also notify their surveys to STATEC before sending the questionnaires to the respondents.
Improvement sub-action 3.1:
STATEC will visit every ONA listed below, in order to create awareness and a common understanding of how work on official statistics should be delineated from other tasks. In most ONAs, very few people are in charge of statistics, as they have several roles or tasks.
Deadline: Q4 2025

Responsible institutions for improvement sub-action 3.1: STATEC, Other National Authorities (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Sustainable Development and Infrastructure, Ministry of National Education and Vocational Training, Ministry of Health, Accident Insurance Association, Agency for the Development of Employment, Department of Rural Economy, Viti-viniculture Institute, General Inspectorate of Social Security, Grand Ducal Police (Directorate for Information, Strategic Analysis), LISER (Luxembourg Institute of Socio-Economic Research)
Improvement sub-action 3.2: STATEC, in close cooperation with the Other National Authorities, will define templates for agreements/working procedures that will be used by the Other National Authorities to delineate the sole responsibility of the Statistical Head in the Other National Authority for deciding on methods, standards and the content and timing of statistical releases.
Deadline: Q4 2026
Responsible institutions for improvement sub-action 3.2: STATEC, Other National Authorities (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Sustainable Development and Infrastructure, Ministry of National Education and Vocational Training, Ministry of Health, Accident Insurance Association, Agency for the Development of Employment, Department of Rural Economy, Viti-viniculture Institute, General Inspectorate of Social Security, Grand Ducal Police (Directorate for Information, Strategic Analysis), LISER (Luxembourg Institute of Socio-Economic Research)
Improvement sub-action 3.3: STATEC will monitor the progress made on agreements/working procedures in the Other National Authorities and report on them in the Committee for Official Statistics.
Deadline: Q4 2027
Responsible institutions for improvement sub-action 3.3: STATEC, Other National Authorities

4. Recommendation STATEC and the Other National Authorities should complete the systematic use of a logo to clearly delineate official statistics produced from other reports and analysis at dissemination. (Improvement-related: ESCoP, Indicator 1.6)
Current situation: The logo of the Luxembourgish Portal of Official Statistics was created with this purpose in mind (https://statistiques.public.lu/fr.html). As a matter of fact, the Portal of Official Statistics is not STATEC's website, but the website for the whole of the Luxembourgish statistical system. However, sometimes ONAs publish statistics on their own websites without explicitly using the logo of the Portal of Official Statistics. In addition, not all statistics currently published by ONAs are available on the Portal of Official Statistics, although a large majority are. Furthermore, while data published by ONAs are already part of the portal, public opinion very often perceives this as a contribution of STATEC.
Improvement action 4: STATEC will further promote the Portal of Official Statistics as the portal of the Luxembourgish statistical system and integrate more clearly and visibly the Other National Authorities into the website.
Deadline: Q2 2026

Responsible institutions for improvement action 4: STATEC, Other National Authorities

5. Recommendation

STATEC should develop a detailed description of the national statistical system that clarifies what it does and does not encompass, and which includes a comprehensive description of governance and methods of cooperation. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 1bis.1)

Current situation:

The Committee for Official Statistics is created by article 8 of the statistical law of 2011. This article also stipulates that the working rules and the list of its members shall be fixed in a Règlement Grand-Ducal (the current version is the consolidated version of 10 September 2024 which is based on the Règlement Grand-Ducal of 12 March 2023 (<https://legilux.public.lu/eli/etat/leg/rgd/2013/03/12/n2/consolide/20240910>)).

However, this Règlement Grand-Ducal does not describe the national statistical system as such and does not specify the role played by the different members. The Committee for Official Statistics supports close cooperation across the national statistical system and the Other National Authorities are very active in the Committee and its Working Groups.

Improvement sub-action 5.1:

STATEC will create, animate and chair a working group inside the Committee for Official Statistics discussing the scope of the national statistical sSystem.

Deadline: Q4 2025

Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 5.1: STATEC

Improvement sub-action 5.2:

In close collaboration with the ONAs, STATEC will describe the exact scope of the national statistical system, as well as the governance structure of the system, and relations between its members, in a document. This document, once agreed upon by every member of the Luxembourgish statistical system, will be published on the Portal of Official Statistics.

Deadline: Q2 2026

Responsible institutions for improvement sub-action 5.2: STATEC, Other National Authorities

6. Recommendation

STATEC and the Other National Authorities should develop a plan to monitor compliance with the ES CoP across the national statistical system. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 1bis.1)

Current situation:

The Committee for Official Statistics has a dedicated sub-group for dealing with questions relating to the interpretation and implementation of the ES Code of Practice. In this context, there are also exchanges with Other National Authorities to evaluate their compliance with the ES Code of Practice indicators.

Improvement sub-action 6.1:
STATEC, in collaboration with the Other National Authorities, will develop, discuss, and agree upon a procedure to monitor compliance with the ES CoP by all members of the national statistical system. The procedure will include measurement tools for evaluating compliance, a schedule of training courses on the ES CoP, a schedule of discussions on compliance in the Committee for Official Statistics and other measures to monitor and increase compliance with the ES CoP
Deadline: Q4 2026
Responsible institutions for improvement sub-action 6.1: STATEC, Other National Authorities
Improvement sub-action 6.2:
STATEC, in collaboration with the Other National Authorities, will develop a survey on awareness of the ES CoP and compliance with it by the members of the national statistical system. The survey will be carried out regularly and its frequency will be discussed and agreed on by the Committee for Official Statistics.
Deadline: Q4 2026
Responsible institutions for improvement sub-action 6.2: STATEC, Other National Authorities

7. Recommendation
STATEC should develop quality guidelines for the national statistical system and monitor and review their implementation. (Compliance-relevant: ES CoP, Indicator 1bis.2)
Current situation:
National guidelines to ensure quality in the development, production, and dissemination of European statistics for the national statistical system have not yet been developed.
Improvement sub-action 7.1:
Based on its own experience in quality assurance, STATEC will draft guidelines, submit these for discussion to the members of the national statistical system, through the Committee for Official Statistics and adopt and publish them on the Portal of Official Statistics.
Deadline: Q4 2026
Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 7.1: STATEC
Improvement sub-action 7.2:
STATEC will regularly monitor the progress on implementation of the guidelines and report the results of the monitoring to the Committee for Official Statistics.
Deadline: Q4 2026 (annually afterwards)
Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 7.2: STATEC

8. Recommendation:
STATEC should complete deployment of the new version of Portal for Official Statistics. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 15.1 and 15.2)

Current situation:
STATEC hosts the Portal for Official Statistics of the Luxembourgish State, and the products and statistical outputs of the national statistical system are disseminated on this portal. A new version of the portal went online on 30 March 2022. However, a tool for dynamically generating ad hoc statistical tables (which uses the Dot Stat framework promoted by the OECD) still needs to be improved by defining better data structure definitions using new features of Dot Stat.
Improvement action 8:
Review and improve data structure definitions and modelling in order to increase the performance of the Lustat module of the Portal of Official Statistics.
Deadline: Q2 2025
Responsible institution for improvement action 8: STATEC

9. Recommendation:
STATEC and the Other National Authorities should promote visibility of the national statistical system and the ES CoP in the Statistics Portal of Luxembourg and across the websites of the Other National Authorities. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 1bis.1, 15.1 and 15.2)
Current situation:
There are ongoing developments by STATEC to improve and update the Portal of Official Statistics, which provides opportunities for increasing the visibility of the national statistical system and the role of the contributions of ONAs on statistical outputs published. Currently the Portal of Official Statistics is often perceived as solely belonging to STATEC, which stems from the fact that a very large majority of publications and tables effectively originates from STATEC.
Improvement sub-action 9.1:
STATEC will create and animate a task force under the leadership of STATEC's Chief Communication Officer, inviting all the members of the national statistical system. The objective is to draft a work programme on statistical outputs encompassing all the national statistical system, clearly indicating which member is responsible for which statistics.
Deadline: Q4 2025
Responsible institutions for improvement sub-action 9.1: STATEC, Other National Authorities
Improvement sub-action 9.2:
STATEC will publish this work programme of the national statistical system on the Portal of Official Statistics, which is the portal for all official statistics.
Deadline: Q4 2025
Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 9.2: STATEC
Improvement sub-action 9.3:
STATEC will promote the Portal of Official Statistics by a communication campaign, stressing the role of the different contributors.
Deadline: Q4 2025
Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 9.3: STATEC

10. Recommendation:

In future updates of the relevant legislation, STATEC (and the relevant Ministry) should ensure access for the national statistical system to privately held data for the investigation of statistical potential and for use in the compilation of official statistics. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 2.2 and 2.4)

Current situation:

Currently, STATEC's law does not enable access to privately held data. Currently all access has to be negotiated bilaterally with the providers.

Improvement action 10:

STATEC, in collaboration with the Ministry of Economy, will draft a list of measures and principles, which should be featured in the next update of the organic law of STATEC. This list will include the free-of-charge access to privately held data for statistical purposes, in accordance with provisions of the revised regulation 223/2009 and the Data Act.

Deadline: Q4 2026

Responsible institutions for improvement action 10: STATEC

11. Recommendation:

STATEC should establish a systematic approach to quality management based on best European practice, including a clear commitment to quality at an appropriately high hierarchical level, and prioritisation of the systematic quality management approach in STATEC's strategic planning. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 4.1)

Current situation:

There is a clear need to establish a more systematic approach to quality, both within STATEC and across the national statistical system. Annual quality reports and trainings on quality already take place within STATEC. However, the number of people dealing with quality matters as their principal task is very low, limiting the capacity to further promote quality assurance management inside STATEC and to centrally monitor and assure quality across the national statistical system.

Improvement sub-action 11.1:

STATEC will hire a full time Quality Manager and place it under the direct responsibility of the Director General of STATEC. The tasks of the Quality manager will include:

- Implementation of the improvement actions set out in the action plan from the third round of Peer Reviews.
- Taking a leadership role in the context of the Committee for Official Statistics for promoting a more frequent and enhanced collaboration between STATEC and the ONAs. The quality manager shall visit the ONAs on a regular basis and discuss potential problems.
- Develop an aggregated view of the current state of quality reporting using the different quality reports which come with most official statistics compiled according to European Regulations and are sent by STATEC to Eurostat on a regular basis.
- Prepare and conduct the regular survey sent by STATEC to its users.
- Promote awareness for quality related subjects by organizing information sessions, trainings etc. (e.g training on the CoP).
- Close collaboration with the Chief Methodology Officer of STATEC
- Ensure that a systematic quality management approach is integrated into strategic planning

Deadline: Q1 2025

Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 11.1: STATEC
Improvement sub-action 11.2: STATEC will further promote awareness to quality issues by designating dedicated Quality Delegates inside of its Departments, who will support the Quality Manager in the different statistical domains.
Deadline: Q4 2025
Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 11.2: STATEC

12. Recommendation: STATEC and the Other National Authorities should expand quality reporting practices to all official statistics produced by the national statistical system and ensure publication of quality reports nationally, including quality reports developed by the Other National Authorities. (Improvement-related: ESCoP, Indicators 4.3 and 15.7)
Current situation: Currently, quality reports are established by statistical domains and sent to Eurostat, but they are not published at the national level. A more aggregated view of quality reporting is currently not compiled.
Improvement sub-action 12.1: STATEC will actively promote quality reporting practices with the Other National Authorities and enhance its own production of quality reports. The Quality manger will be responsible for compiling a more aggregated view on the current status of quality inside the office and coordinate actions in case of quality issues.
Deadline: Q4 2025
Responsible institutions for improvement sub-action 12.1: STATEC, Other National Authorities
Improvement sub-action 12.2: The Other National Authorities will produce quality reports for all statistical products produced by them.
Deadline: Q4 2024
Responsible institutions for improvement sub-action 12.2: Other National Authorities
Improvement sub-action 12.3: STATEC and the Other National Authorities will publish all their quality reports for all statistics produced on the Portal for Official Statistics.
Deadline: Q4 2026
Responsible institutions for improvement sub-action 12.3: STATEC, Other National Authorities

13. Recommendation: STATEC and the Other National Authorities should introduce the systematic review of statistical processes and outputs, building on the documentation gathered in the quality reports. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 4.2)
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Current situation:
Even if the quality reports are used in an ad hoc manner, there is no systematic review of the documentation gathered in the quality reports in order to improve statistical processes and outputs.
Improvement sub-action 13.1:
STATEC will start building an internal quality management system that stores information from existing quality reports and from other sources in a standardized and systematic manner.
Deadline: Q4 2026
Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 13.1: STATEC
Improvement sub-action 13.2:
STATEC will establish a system of quality reviews for its statistical processes and output, using the documentation system with information from quality reports.
Deadline: Q4 2027
Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 13.2: STATEC
Improvement sub-action 13.3:
STATEC will support and advise the Other National Authorities on setting up a more systematic review of the quality of their statistical processes and outputs.
Deadline: Q4 2027
Responsible institutions for improvement sub-action 13.3: STATEC, Other National Authorities

14. Recommendation:
STATEC should develop and support the adoption of standard approaches to methodology across the national statistical system. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 7.2)
Current situation:
STATEC has appointed a chief methodology officer who centralises the methodology function. The role of this function is to examine methodological best practices and promote standard approaches where possible across the office.
Improvement sub-action 14.1:
Under the lead of its newly appointed chief methodology officer, STATEC will start to develop methodologies applicable for different statistical domains and to be used across the national statistical system.
Deadline: Q4 2025
Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 14.1: STATEC
Improvement sub-action 14.2:
STATEC will promote the standard methodologies and best practises to the Other National Authorities, through the Committee for Official Statistics, and encourage the Other National Authorities to apply them in their statistical production processes.
Deadline: Q4 2026
Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 14.2: STATEC

<p>15. Recommendation:</p> <p>To ensure operational continuity, STATEC and the Other National Authorities reviewed (Direction de la Santé, Service d'Économie Rurale and Inspection Générale de la Sécurité Sociale) should develop internal process documentation in a standardised way, particularly for statistical procedures. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 8.4)</p>
<p>Current situation:</p> <p>Recognising a need for standardised documentation for internal processes and procedures, STATEC has started to document processes according to the GSBPM, piloting the work of National Accounts and Enterprise Statistics. However, standardized documentation is less advanced in other statistical processes.</p>
<p>Improvement sub-action 15.1:</p> <p>STATEC will develop a template/guidance document for standardised internal process documentation, following the GSBPM.</p>
<p>Deadline: Q4 2025</p>
<p>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 15.1: STATEC</p>
<p>Improvement sub-action 15.2:</p> <p>STATEC will implement the template/guidance document for its main statistical processes.</p>
<p>Deadline: Q4 2026</p>
<p>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 15.2: STATEC</p>
<p>Improvement sub-action 15.3:</p> <p>STATEC will promote the implementation of the template/guidance document to the Other National Authorities reviewed (Direction de la Santé, Service d'Économie Rurale, Inspection Générale de la Sécurité Sociale) for their main statistical processes.</p>
<p>Deadline: Q4 2027</p>
<p>Responsible institutions for improvement sub-action 15.3: STATEC, Direction de la Santé, Service d'Économie Rurale, Inspection Générale de la Sécurité Sociale</p>

<p>16. Recommendation:</p> <p>STATEC and the Other National Authorities reviewed (Direction de la Santé, Service d'Économie Rurale and Inspection Générale de la Sécurité Sociale) should develop policies and fully implement processes for archiving data and metadata. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 15.1)</p>
<p>Current situation:</p> <p>STATEC has developed a standardized platform for archiving data (ViVa). Data are stored in non-proprietary format with metadata (documentation of variables, questionnaires etc.). ViVa is designed to store source data (raw survey data, corrected survey data, administrative data) and results at different levels of detail. ViVa also includes tools for version management, both for individual files, and for sets of files, which were used to produce certain results (e.g sets of basic data used to compile different vintages of National Accounts). However, the platform is currently still not widely used inside STATEC for two reasons: firstly, current procedures need time to incorporate the new tool, and secondly some features of ViVa still need further development.</p>

Improvement sub-action 16.1:
STATEC will develop an archiving policy for data and metadata using ViVa and other appropriate tools (e.g. Dot Stat for published results on the Portal of Official Statistics).
Deadline: Q4 2025
Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 16.1: STATEC
Improvement sub-action 16.2:
STATEC will implement the policy for data and metadata archiving.
Deadline: Q4 2027
Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 16.2: STATEC
Improvement sub-action 16.3:
The Other National Authorities reviewed (Direction de la Santé, Service d'Économie Rurale, Inspection Générale de la Sécurité Sociale) will, with the support of STATEC, be encouraged to develop archiving policies for their data and metadata. STATEC will also offer its assistance for implementing archiving policies.
Deadline: Q4 2027
Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 16.3: STATEC, Direction de la Santé, Service d'Économie Rurale, Inspection Générale de la Sécurité Sociale

17. Recommendation:
STATEC should ensure systematic user consultation across all stakeholders and sectors to identify and prioritise user needs. (Improvement-related: ESCoP, Indicator 11.1)
Current situation:
A Supreme Council of Statistics is set up in legislation (Article 9 of the 2011 Law) and its remit includes making proposals for new statistical areas of development and for improving the statistical work of the NSS. The members of the council represent different stakeholders/user groups (State/Government, Central Bank, researchers, higher education, press ...). In an annual plenary meeting, STATEC presents its work programme for the coming year to the Supreme Council of Statistics. The Council members are free to acknowledge the programme, ask for clarifications, or formulate requests. The report of the Council, including opinions expressed and formulated requests is then submitted to the Ministry of Economics. The report is made widely available, and on some occasions the report has even triggered discussions in Parliament. General public users are not represented in the Supreme Council of Statistics. However, they are regularly consulted via a user survey.
Improvement sub-action 17.1:
STATEC will expand its procedure for consulting more systematically all users over an adequate time period. The procedure will include already established consultation processes such as through the Supreme Council of Statistics or the user survey, enhancing existing tools where possible.
Deadline: Q4 2025
Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 17.1: STATEC
Improvement sub-action 17.2
STATEC will implement the procedure and use the results/feedback from the consultation to identify most frequent user needs and prioritise them for implementation.

Deadline: Q4 2026
Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 17.2: STATEC