Peer reviews in the European Statistical System - their challenges for development and innovation

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Abstract:
The presentation will share experiences from the design and implementation of two rounds of peer reviews in the European Statistical System as well as from the design phase of the third round of peer reviews in the European Statistical System starting in June 2021. It will shed some light on the differences in the methodology to implement these three rounds of peer reviews, the lessons learnt from each round and how to use peer reviews and assessments for continuous improvements in the statistical systems of the countries participating in the peer review process.

The presentation will further focus on the two distinct objectives of the third round of peer reviews in the European Statistical System and how these two objectives will be reached by using certain methods and tools. This will include sharing experiences and practices for the different phases of the peer review/assessment starting from the preparations of the methodology/approach, the self-assessment phase, the peer reviewing phase, the reporting phase and the monitoring/follow-up phase.

The presentation will furthermore, explain that the current round of peer reviews in the European Statistical system focuses not only on the review of compliance with the existing quality framework, consisting of the European statistics Code of Practice and the corresponding Quality Assurance Framework, but also on forward looking recommendations for improvement, in the context of further development and innovation. This second objective is enshrined in the methodology and is addressed already in the self-assessment phase of the peer review process. The selection of experts conducting the peer reviews took into account innovation knowledge and they were further trained on how to identify these forward-looking recommendations, including innovative practices. The peer reviewing process itself also contains guidance and elements of looking for new developments and innovation.

Finally, the presentation will also cover experiences and good practices in finalising and following-up the peer review process to ensure that the process leads to visible and long-lasting improvements across the European Statistical System and identifies good and innovative practices across the system to learn from each other.

Keywords:
Review of compliance; Improvements; Good practice