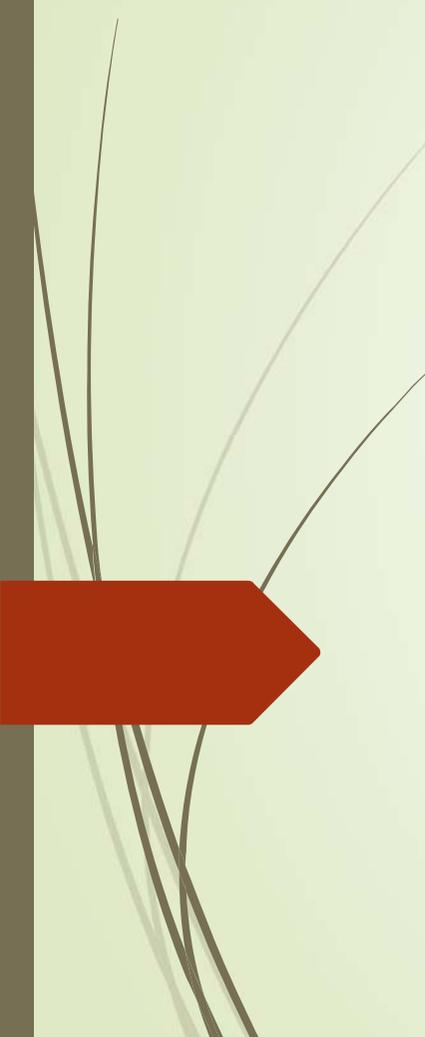# Misuse, Trust, Governance and Ethics: Enhancing Official Statistics' Capacity to address these issues

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Context

- Data has become a global commodity produced, used and shared by a myriad of actors

- Increased demand for and use of data in public debate; strong appetite for data-driven decisions

- Official statistics have lost their quasi-monopoly position in the production and dissemination of information to inform the public debate

- New actors that have entered the data ecosystem may not be aware or be at odds with Official Statistics' long-established rules and ethics principles

- This raises questions about independence, integrity, quality, transparency and privacy of data and statistics and the governance of data

- And can lead to mis-use, mis-information, disinformation and distrust in statistics

So, what can Official Statistics do?

Official Statistics have a major role to play in:

- Addressing data mis-use
- Improving governance
- Restoring/Preserving trust
- Fostering ethics

But they should not act alone.

They need to engage with other relevant actors.

The issues are inter-linked
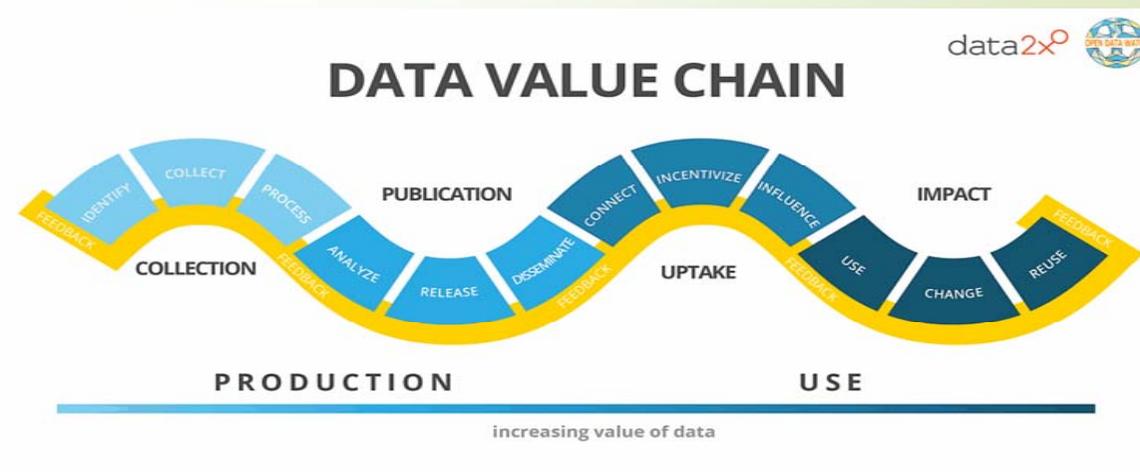# and need to be tackled together

Good governance key for trust and to address mis-use

Professional ethics and deontological practices essential for reinforcing trust

Misuse, manipulation detrimental to trust

Trust key for enhanced use of data

Need to act along the whole data value chain and involve relevant actors at all stages

data2x

DATA VALUE CHAIN

COLLECT
IDENTIFY
PROCESS
FEEDBACK
ANALYZE
RELEASE
DISSEMINATE
PUBLICATION
FEEDBACK
CONNECT
INCENTIVIZE
INFLUENCE
IMPACT
FEEDBACK
USE
CHANGE
REUSE
FEEDBACK

COLLECTION
UPTAKE

PRODUCTION   **USE**

increasing value of data

Addressing mis-use

Speak out
if statistics are being misused or manipulated

Correct
inaccurate facts and errors of interpretation

Expand social media culture

Be more present where opinions are formed

Build partnerships and collaborations with other actors

Work with fact checkers

Contribute to statistical literacy of data producers and users

Improving Governance

Clarify respective roles and responsibilities of different actors

Push for laws and regulations to secure professional independence, compliance to professional standards, data protection, openness, accessibility and dissemination

Establish/promote the NSO as the data steward in relevant domains

Establish frameworks for the use, re-use and repurposing of various kinds of data

Secure investments in order to develop infrastructure, implement relevant innovation and share knowledge and know-how with other actors

Restoring/Enhancing Trust

Communicate widely the core values of official statistics

Ensure full compliance to codes of ethics and conduct within official statistics community

Disseminate principles and best practices to other data producers and users

Valorise and improve dissemination of existing official statistics; adopt open data policies

Develop new statistical products that provide relevant and timely information, and up-to-date services to users as to producers

Anticipate potential sources of crises and develop appropriate tools to respond

Build partnerships with other actors concerned with mistrust and misuse of information

Fostering ethics

Fundamental Principles of National Official Statistics

EUROPEAN STATISTICS CODE OF PRACTICE
For the National Statistical Authorities and Eurostat (EU statistical authority)

DECLARATION ON PROFESSIONAL ETHICS
National Statistical Laws

RECOMMENDATION OF THE OECD COUNCIL ON **GOOD STATISTICAL PRACTICE**

Principles Governing International Statistical Activities

● **Speak up about the overarching importance of ethics principles in Official statistics' practices**

● **Contribute to set up an International Forum involving all actors to address misuse, governance, trust and ethics**

• Based on existing frameworks, develop and promote the effective use of a set of core values and of universal ethical data principles, to be followed by public and private actors

● **Promote the creation of an independent mechanism to monitor compliance and accountability with respect to the principles**

• Through regular assessments containing recommendations and making the findings public

● **Create alliances among actors to combat bad practices and promote good ones**

Issues
for
discussion
and
next steps

In your view:

- ➡ What are the main assets and weaknesses of Official Statistics in the present data environment?

- ➡ What are the main issues to be tackled in relation to misuse, trust, governance and ethics?

- ➡ What concretely does your own institution do? With whom are you talking?

- ➡ What should be the role of Official Statistics and how active should the engagement be with other actors in the data ecosystem?

- ➡ How best can the IAOS contribute to addressing the issues at stake?

➡ Next steps:

Creation of an IAOS reflection group to discuss issues, elaborate scenarii and advance proposals