

Misuse of statistics: time to speak out



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Existing ethical statistical frameworks are being challenged by new data ecosystem

Existing sources of ethics for statistics ...

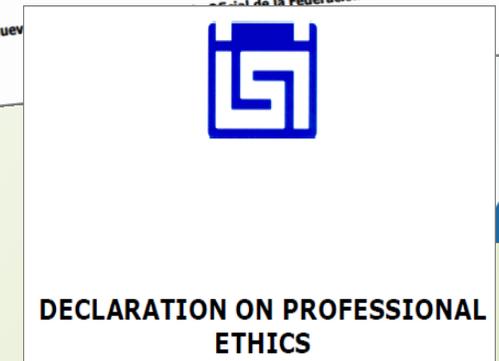
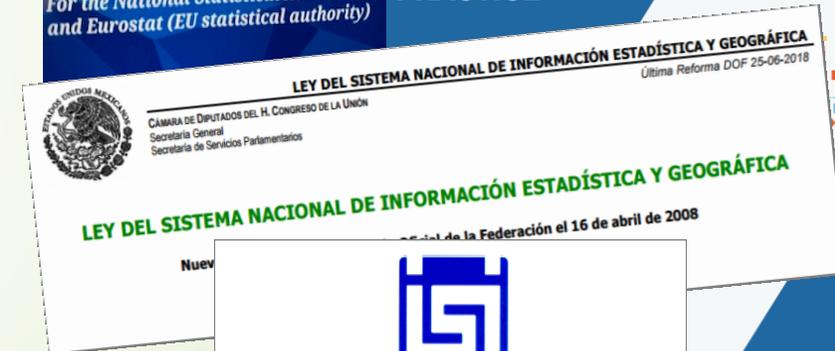
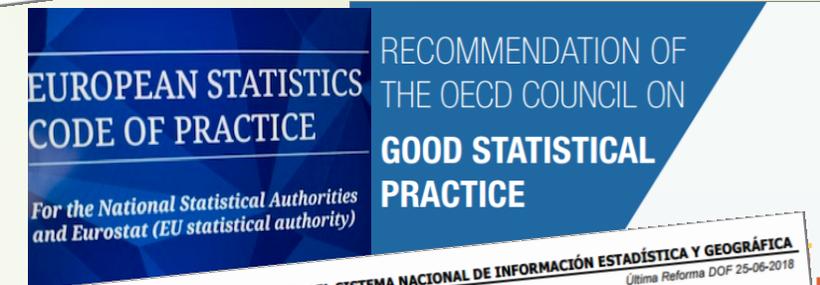
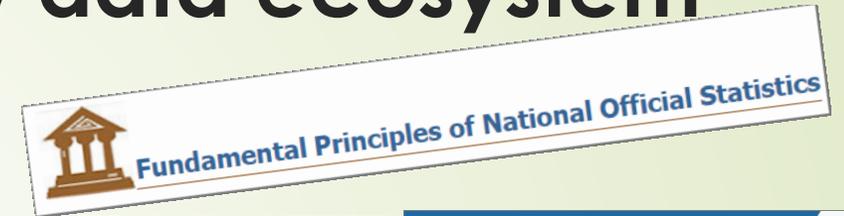
- ▶ National constitutions; Statistical laws; Fundamental principles of official statistics; Codes of practice, conduct, and ethics; International Statistical Institute Declaration on Professional Ethics, etc.

Are challenged by new data environment, digitalisation, artificial intelligence

- ▶ Myriad of new players may not adhere to existing principles (w.r.t. standards, quality, independence, transparency, privacy, confidentiality, etc.)

Increasing risk of misinformation and misuse of statistics

- ▶ Especially when emotions prevail over facts and evidence
- ▶ Role of social media



How to respond?

- 1. A new role for official statistics**
- 2. Establish new ethical code for whole data ecosystem**



New role for official statistics



Speak out if statistics are being misused and correct inaccurate facts



Work with fact checkers



Build partnerships and collaborations



Be more present where opinions are formed; contribute to statistical literacy



Offer new statistical products and services to both users and other producers



Monitor data quality, data protection; identify credibility gaps



NSOs as Data Stewards, Brokers, Facilitators



Establish a new ethical code for whole data ecosystem

- ▶ **Time to act: a new International Data Charter ?**
 - ▶ Establish a **set of universal ethical data principles**, based on existing frameworks, to be **developed and endorsed by actors** from the whole data community, **public and private**
 - Including quality framework, impartiality, privacy of personal data; data accessibility; data sharing and exchange; data interoperability
 - As well as dissemination, prevention of abuse and misuse of data
 - ▶ Establish an **independent enforcement mechanism** to ensure compliance with the agreed principles
 - Through regular assessments containing recommendations
 - Making the findings public
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