

IAOS Krakow Working Group

**Contributing to the collective reflection
on the challenges that our “datafied” societies
pose to Official Statistics**

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Creation of the Krakow Working Group by the IAOS in April 2022

- ▶ Co-chaired by Martine Durand and Jan Robert Suesser
- ▶ Members representing various actors (NSOs, International Organisations, researchers, private data providers, users, etc.)
- ▶ To reflect on the issues of Trust, Misuse and Ethics using a multidisciplinary approach
- ▶ To be a place for open exchanges with all stakeholders in the data ecosystem
- ▶ To provide recommendations that contribute at addressing the challenges faced by Official Statistics



➤ **Summer/Fall 2022**

Meetings of KWG members
in order to develop draft Terms of Reference

➤ **January 2023**

Terms of Reference and 2023 Work Programme
approved by IAOS Executive Committee



Terms of Reference cover two main themes

THEME 1

**In datafied societies,
how can Official Statistics best:**

**Deliver on
their two long-standing basic missions
(informing public policies,
informing public debates)?**

**Enhance their relevance?
What should (could) be
their additional roles
(new missions and new responsibilities)?**

THEME 2

**Official Statistics being grounded on
strong professional values (e.g. UNFPOS):**

**Are updates regarding
ethical and principles frameworks needed
in view of emerging practices
in Official Statistics?**

**How should Official Statistics engage
with other relevant actors and stakeholders
to foster these values, ethics and principles
in the whole data ecosystem?**



Key issues to be addressed under the two themes

THEME 1

How to foster interactions between:

- Official Statistics and other statistics producers?
- Statistical and Data Science approaches?

How to improve engagement with users?

How to address data and statistics misuse?

THEME 2

What are the emerging challenges to be addressed with the values, ethics and principles frameworks of for statistics?

How to engage with all relevant actors in fruitful and open discussions on issues related to values, ethics and principles?

How to promote adherence to shared practices by all actors?



2023 Work Programme

- **Three debates organised in May-June 2023 to discuss key issues with experts and practitioners**
- **Debates open for participation of all IAOS members and other stakeholders**
- **Development of a preliminary set of recommendations for the first discussion at WSC in Ottawa in July 2023**
- **Development of an IAOS-KWG webpage:**
 - a depository of relevant documents
 - links related to issues covered in the ToRs

Three discussions organised by the KWG in May-June 2023

❖ 1st discussion:

Sharing experiences among official statistics producers on their interactions with the diversity of non-official data providers

- *What are the types of interactions and collaborations between official producers and data providers aimed at complementing and filling in information gaps for policy making and the public debate?*
- *How are quality concerns and trust issues taken into account when using private data for the common good?*

Link to the presentation:

<https://iaos-isi.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/First-Dialogue-organised-by-the-Krakov-Working-Group-.pdf>



❖ **2nd discussion:**

**Increasing Official Statistics' engagement with users;
addressing misuse and misinformation**

- *Who are the users of official statistics and what are the different mechanisms in place to effectively engage with them?
Are improvements required to increase social license, promote use and increase trust?*
- *What actions are NSOs taking with regards to:*
 - *access, dissemination and communication*
 - *improvement of statistical literacy and addressing misuse and misinformation?*
- *Should NSOs take up new tasks such as conducting research and analysis with their own data to increase the value of Official statistics for users?*

Link to the presentation:

<https://iaos-isi.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/2nd-Debate-on-Users-and-Misuse-organised-by-the-Krakow-Working-Group.pdf>



❖ **3rd discussion:**

**Fostering strong ethical principles
underpinning data and statistics for the common good**

- *How the increasing use of privately-held data by Official Statistics is leading to new developments to reinforce the professional values and ethical principles underpinning Official Statistics?*
- *How Official Statistics can engage with providers of data and other stakeholders from outside Official Statistics, that contribute to public decision-making and public debates, in order to foster strong ethical principles?*

Link to the presentation:

<https://iaos-isi.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Third-Dialogue-organised-by-the-Krakov-Working-Group-Ethical-issues-230621.pdf>



Approach for the development of preliminary KWG recommendations

- ▶ Considering data for the public good whoever produces them
- ▶ Overarching goal is fostering trust in the data ecosystem
 - ▶ Complementing activities taking place in the many official statistics fora (*not duplicating the activities*)
 - ▶ Opening up beyond Official Statistics by engaging with non-official statistics stakeholders that are involved in one way or another in production and dissemination of data for the public good
 - ▶ To produce 'better' statistics where there may be problems with existing official statistics
 - ▶ To address users' needs by filling in important information gaps with quality data
 - ▶ To promote proper use and prevent misuse of data
 - ▶ To implement shared ethical values and principles at all stages of the production and dissemination process
- ▶ Official Statistics and other contributors to data for the public good reinforcing each other by working together along shared ideas and approaches



FOCUS ON TRUST, MISUSE AND ETHICS

Preliminary KWG recommendations (1)

1. Maintaining and Fostering Trust in data and statistics for the public good

- ▶ **Required collaboration between official statistics and private data providers**
Learning by doing, adapted approaches for different use-cases (no one size fits all)
 - ▶ exploring various types of long-lasting, trustworthy partnerships, taking into account different levels of maturity for data sharing
 - ▶ Not rushing to adopt legally-binding legislative frameworks beyond the issue of access to privately-held data for official statistics uses
 - ▶ Aiming for quality; transparency; privacy; consent; confidentiality
- ▶ **Required commitment for consultation with users**
 - ▶ Awareness about who the users are, what their needs and priorities are
 - ▶ Relying on consultative bodies with effective ways of listening, answering, deciding
 - ▶ Providing easy and open access to data; informing about quality of statistical products
- ▶ **Increase value of data for the public good**
 - ▶ Conducting research and publishing analyses based on Official Statistics own data to inform the public at large and policy makers on the matters of interest to them
 - ▶ Developing the branding of data and statistics for the public good



Preliminary KWG recommendations (2)

2. Addressing Misuse and Misinformation

- Investing in statistical literacy of society and the media
 - Communicating in plain language;
Use adapted means about what's behind the numbers;
Reaching at vulnerable population groups with relevant information
 - Going local by bringing data to the public through appropriate means
 - Contributing to educational programmes

- Being present in the public debate and correcting in case of data misuse
 - Removing impediments to appropriate use of quality data
 - Providing high quality data to counter misleading or wrongly disseminated data
 - Presenting information about what the data say and don't say

- Interacting effectively with fact-checkers

Preliminary KWG recommendations (3)

3. Fostering ethics

- ▶ **Producing for the public good purpose**
All contributors working within shared ethical frameworks
 - ▶ Sharing established principles for producing Official Statistics between official and non-official providers
- ▶ **Standardising/converging with ethical frameworks/guidelines**
 - ▶ Official statistics
 - ▶ Private sector
 - ▶ Academia
- ▶ **Integrating ethics in curricula of education in sciences (incl. statistics and AI)**
- ▶ **Establishing internal processes/functions and independent watchdog bodies to monitor the adherence to ethical principles**



Next steps

- **KWG will pursue its work under the IAOS umbrella**
- **Feedback from WSC participants will be integrated**
- **Seeking greater involvement of the actors from developing countries**
- **Elaborating an improved version of the proposed recommendations**

THANK YOU!

