



Code of Practice for the Irish Statistical System

Annual Update of the Director General 2020

This is the 2020 annual update of the Irish Statistical System Code of Practice (ISSCoP). The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted that public sector data is a national asset and made clear the value of data and data analysis to support evidence-based decision making. In this regard, ISSCoP is a key component in further strengthening the governance and quality of Irish Official Statistics.

The Statistical System Coordination Directorate was established in the CSO in mid- 2016 and tasked with the creation of the necessary coordination framework that supports the broader statistical system, assisting the CSO to meet its national (Statistics Act, 1993) and EU legislative requirements (Amended Regulation (EC) 223/2009) into the future. During 2020, the Directorate further developed mechanisms to monitor compliance with the ISSCoP by compilers of Official Statistics and compliance with the European Statistics Code of Practice by compilers of European Statistics.

There was considerable cooperation between the CSO and Government Departments and Government Agencies in terms of building commitment to best practice in the production of Official Statistics under ISSCoP. During the year, the Department of Finance's Fiscal Monitor (Exchequer Statement element) was awarded the ISSCoP certification and a further fourteen organisations engaged with the certification process.

CSO is very appreciative of the ongoing support it has received again during 2020 from colleagues throughout the public service with respect to the implementation of this important initiative. This support strengthens our Irish Statistical System. On behalf of CSO I look forward to continuing this collaboration with all our partners in the coming years.

Pádraig Dalton

Director General

Central Statistics Office