

## Chairman summary of session STCPM28: Statistics dissemination public service

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High quality statistics are not only a major tool for all economic and social activities; they are also instrumental in supporting private and public policy decision-making, while increasing decision-making transparency. No effort to produce high quality statistics can be complete without a high quality statistical dissemination system.

In this session, the experiences of both individual countries and international organisations were presented. Dissemination is a core function of official statistics agencies.

All of the presentations made it clear that dissemination of statistics must be carried out in a modern, customer-focused way, taking full advantage of modern, electronic means of dissemination through different media. Modern dissemination systems include: (i) standard data selection tools (filtering, full text or a selection of indicators); (ii) time series displayed in various formats, including charts; and (iii) flexibility for incorporating tables organised according to users' needs, taking due account of the need for the confidentiality of data. User interfaces should be designed to make data easily accessible.

The dissemination of statistical data faces future challenges, such as: (i) providing immediate availability; (ii) meeting the demand for more detailed explanations of data; (iii) dealing with competition from private statistical data providers; (iv) providing access to very large databases; and (v) meeting diverse user needs. Future statistical dissemination systems will also include efficient access for two important categories of users: those interested only in the main statistics, and frequent or expert users.

High quality statistical dissemination systems also maintain comprehensive metadata for all statistics, including detailed information on the concepts, methodology and procedures used.

This session confirmed that statistics in general, and those produced by central banks in particular, are a public good. The cost of producing statistics is borne by taxpayers, and most of the reporting burden falls on banks, businesses and individuals. It is the responsibility and the duty of central banks to make the results accessible to interested users in modern and user-friendly ways. It is also, however, a unique opportunity for central banks to make their value and relevance evident to the public, given that the wealth of central bank statistics represents an enormous asset.

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