

# *European Conference on Quality in Official Statistics (Q2016)<sup>1</sup>*

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During May 31<sup>st</sup>–June 3<sup>rd</sup>, traditional biennial conference focused on the quality in statistics, organised jointly by Statistical office of Spain (INE) and Eurostat, took place in Madrid. Around 450 participants from European as well as other countries representing statistical offices, central banks, universities, research institutes and multinational institutions (Eurostat, OECD) participated at this prestigious event in the statistical community.

The Conference aimed to cover relevant and innovative topics on quality ranging from the challenges and the new paradigm of quality in an information and knowledge-driven society including big data and multi-source statistics, to governance and management aspects like the ones linked to the ESS Vision 2020 or the lessons learned from 2013–2015 peer reviews in the European Statistical System. Furthermore, as an open forum of debate, it represented an opportunity to introduce innovation in the measurement and management of the quality in statistical domains and in specific statistical products.

The conference took place in the *Círculo de Bellas Artes* of Madrid, non-profit cultural institution, which is favourite venue for many events because of its perfect location, spectacular historical rooms and unique personality. The opening ceremony was delivered by Gregorio Izquierdo, President of INE, Miguel De Castro, Director of INE and Mariana Kotzeva, Deputy DG of Eurostat. The key lecture focused on the quality in official statistics from the point of view of highly respected statistical institution was held by Wayne Smith, Chief statistician of Statistics Canada.

The programme included invited lectures in plenary sessions, special (speed) sessions and oral contributions of other participants held in five parallel sessions. Participants heard many interesting contributions, whose abstracts and full papers have been published on conference webpage. The first day of the Conference the presentations of the representatives of the Czech Statistical Office (CZSO) were introduced. Marie Bohatá, former President of CZSO and Deputy DG of Eurostat, and Iva Ritschelová, President of CZSO, presented their view on the practical experience updated framework regulation of quality in European statistics and especially the role of so called Commitment of Confidence. Marek Rojíček, Vice-president of CZSO, presented the experience of the Office with the redesign of the statistical information system, which has been implemented in the last ten years.

Besides general statistical methodology issues and institutional aspects of quality many presentations were devoted to special statistical areas, for example national accounts, household surveys or demographic statistics. Several sessions were traditionally focused on the statistical literacy and the relations between

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producers and users of official statistics. The programme of the Conference was concluded by the session “High Quality Statistics in Changing Landscape – Challenges ahead” represented by high-level discussants, i.e. Mariana Kotzeva (Eurostat), Konrad Pesendorfer (Statistics Austria), Alfredo Cristobal (INE), Martti Hetemäki (ESGAB) and Juan Peñalosa (Bank of Spain).