



Strengthening Quality Assurance for National Statistical Systems

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In 2004, Colombia was facing a crisis of basic information due to lack of quality statistics and basic indicators that supported decision making; lack of articulation of the actors that make up the National Statistical System (NSS) and lack of knowledge of the entities that comprise it regarding the functions of the National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE) as the governing body of the NSS. The reason is that up until the last decade, DANE was solely recognized as the leading producer of socio-economic indicators of country. Within this context, in 2006 the statistical quality assurance project was implemented, based on the model of statistical quality which involves the promotion, evaluation and monitoring of the implementation of good practices, the standard statistical production process and the continuous review of compliance with quality requirements. Such requirements are verified and validated by DANE to maintain or improve the quality of statistics, guaranteeing continuous improvement that allows the entities that produce statistics to generate confidence in users. This project has enabled for DANE to be recognized as the guiding and coordinating body of the NSS and in turn, has strengthened it by approaching the entities that produce information. In this process DANE has been able to identify the major weaknesses in the statistical production process in order to develop strategies that promote the fulfillment of statistical quality requirements and to advance in the implementation of internationally recognized standards and tools, with the objective of increasing the relevance, credibility, integrity and transparency of the statistics produced by entities of the NSS, allowing better planning, evaluation and monitoring of public policies in the country.

Keywords: model of statistical quality; quality requirements.