



## **Establishing a Diploma in Official Statistics: Overcoming the potential challenges and obstacles**

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### **Abstract**

In 2012 the Central Statistics Office (CSO) and the Institute of Public Administration (IPA) in Ireland launched a new educational programme - the Diploma in Official Statistics for Policy Evaluation. This diploma was a very deliberate response to perceived weaknesses in the knowledge and skills-sets of many Irish public servants. Rather than offering an academic statistics course, the diploma has been designed as practical, hands-on course, taught by professional statisticians from CSO, the Central Bank and policy and evaluation specialists from the IPA.

In establishing this programme a range of potential challenges and obstacles had to be considered and overcome. This paper gives a brief overview of what some of the pitfalls were and how they were solved. The paper also briefly describes the diploma itself along with some of the history of how and why it was established.

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