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# Official Statistics for Democratic Societies

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## Statistics is a key for people empowerment

High-quality statistics strengthen democracy by allowing citizen access to key information that enhances accountability. Access to solid statistics is a fundamental "right" that permits choices and decision based on information. Without statistics there cannot be a well grounded and participated democracy.

Statisticians should be aware of the power of data which lies in their transformation of information services for knowledge.

## Open data are fundamental for open societies

Statistics are the cornerstone of public open data. They are the basis of open government. In the EU Open Data Data Portal, Eurostat statistical database accounts for the bulk of data offered.

Enhancing access to statistics in open formats enables the free use of data, its interoperability and consumption in integrated modalities. Open statistics as a result allow to make sense of complex phenomena and help in their interpretation without borders and limits. As such open statistics are a key sources of free dialogue in our societies.

Statisticians should ensure open and transparent access to data and metadata and measure their actual use for information and knowledge.

## Datacy is a key enabler for citizens

Statistical literacy is critical to ensure that individuals can benefit from the power of data and can make use of open access to statistical information and its associated services. Data literacy is not limited to knowledge of basic statistical information, it entails knowing the limit of statistics and their use/misuse. Capabilities to understand statistics and how they are produced are a fundamental skill for a whole individual and an aware citizen.

Statisticians should proactively invest in datacy capabilities in society at large and measure the results of statistical literacy.

## The future is smart statistics

The value of data is in the statistical methods which ensure quality services. In the digital ecosystem where data are abundant and a commodity, the value of information is increasingly based on algorithms that generate tailored insights for users.

Statisticians should continue to invest in methods and algorithms that enhance the quality of data for statistical services tailored to users needs.

## More influence means more responsibilities

As statistical information is increasingly used for policy decisions, statisticians need to investigate how their services are used, the ethical implications and the impact of evidence use on the policy cycle.

It is a duty of statisticians to explore the link between statistics, science and society and lead intellectual reflections on the possible risk of reliance on data-centrism.