

Implementation of the recommendations from the CSSP's statistical accession review of Costa Rica to the OECD



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Initials and acronyms

APR	Regional Planning Area of the Ministry of National Planning and Economical Policy
BCCR	Central Bank of Costa Rica
CAdPS	Expanded classification of services
Celac	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
Centroestad	Central American Statistical Commission
CBPECR	Code of Good Statistical Practice of Costa Rica
CCSS	Costa Rican Social Security Administration
CFISFL	Classification of the purposes of non-profit institutions
CIE	Inter-Institutional Statistical Commission
Cinpe	Center for Economic Policy for Sustainable Development
CNPV	National Housing and Population Census
Conace	National Statistics Advisory Board
Conare	National Council of Rectors
Comex	Ministry of Foreign Trade
CSSP	Committee on Statistics and Statistical Policy
CTI	Science, Technology and Innovation
EBdPS	Annual statistics on international trade in services, by expanded category of the balance of payments
ECE	Continuous Employment Survey
ENAHO	National Household Survey
ENIGH	National Household Income and Expenditure Survey
EPP	Population Estimates and Projections
ESU	User Satisfaction Survey
FMI	International Monetary Fund
IICE	Economic Sciences Research Institute
INEC	National Institute of Statistics and Census
INOE	National Inventory of Statistical Operations
INVU	Institute of Housing and Urban Planning
IPC	Consumer Price Index
MAG	Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock

MEP	Ministry of Public Education
MH	Ministry of Finance
Mideplan	Ministry of National Planning and Economical Policy
Micitt	Ministry of Science, Innovation, Technology, and Telecommunications
Mivah	Ministry of Housing and Human Settlements
Minae	Ministry of Environment and Energy
MPE	Statistical Production Model of the National Statistical System.
MS	Ministry of Health
NSDS	National Statistical Development Strategy
PEN	National Statistical Plan
PIB	Gross Domestic Product
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
Revec	Registry of Economic Variables
RRAA	Administrative records
RUE	Registry of Economic Units
RUP	Unified Population Registry
SEN	National Statistical System
Sepsa	Executive Secretariat for Agricultural Sector Planning
SIEH	Integrated System for Household Surveys
Sincyt	National S&T Information System
Sinigir	System on Integrated Waste Management
SGC	Quality Management System
SIRA	Integrated Administrative Records System
Sugese	General Superintendence of Insurance
UCR	University of Costa Rica
UPAD	Presidential Data Analysis Unit

Implementation of the recommendations from the CSSP's statistical accession review of Costa Rica to the OECD

1. Questions on the implementation of Law No. 9694

1.A. Law enforcement

1.A.1 Relevant documentation on the implementation of Law No. 9694

This section details the documentation that is relevant to the implementation of Law No. 9694 of the National Statistical System (NSS) and its amendments. In order to make progress in compliance with the Law, it is considered that additional documents should be available to help NSS members understand the legal framework and how it should be implemented to strengthen the production of official statistics. Table 1 shows the documentation that has been prepared to complement and contribute to compliance with Law No. 9694 and its amendments.

TABLE 1

Costa Rica. Documents that contribute to the implementation of Law No. 9694 of the National Statistical System and its amendments

Name of the document	Objective	Link
<p>1. Regulation of Law No. 9694 of the National Statistical System</p>	<p>The Regulation of Law No. 9694 of the National Statistical System (NSS) specifies and clarifies the obligations, attributions, and functions that the Law assigns to the entities that produce official statistics.</p> <p>Among the relevant aspects included in the Regulation, the following are highlighted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The procedure for the integration and updating of entities and statistical operations of the NSS is regulated. ◆ The profile and functions to be performed by the people in charge of the administrative units or statistical processes that make up the NSS are regulated. 	<p>https://bit.ly/3HGwpYm</p>

it continues

Continuation table 1

Name of the document	Objective	Link
1. Regulation of Law No. 9694 of the National Statistical System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The removal procedure, the attributions and duties of the members of the Directing Council of the National Institute of Statistics and Census (INEC, or its acronym in Spanish), as well as the functions of the Presidency and Secretariat, are regulated. <p>The approval process of the Regulation has become a slow process, and in addition to this, the change of government has also caused delays. Nevertheless, on January, 2023, the Regulation was officially published in the Official Gazette La Gaceta.</p>	
2. Amendment No. 10084 of Law No. 9694 of the National Statistical System	<p>Due to the country context showing a high fiscal deficit and restrictions to reduce public expenditure, it was necessary to negotiate an amendment to Law No. 9694 to be able to use institutional resources and carry out the census project. To this end, negotiations were held with the legislature in the fourth quarter of 2021. The amendment of Article No. 53 and the addition of an Article No. 53 bis to the NSS Law enables INEC to carry out national censuses and other statistical operations whose periodicity is greater than two years, and the expenditure of such projects is exempted from the fiscal rule.</p> <p>INEC shall have to establish a multi-annual planning and budget projections.</p>	https://bit.ly/3XNuKX2
3. INEC's multi-annual statistical production plan for the period 2021-2035	<p>Law No. 9694 mandates INEC to conduct a multi-annual planning, allowing it to project statistical production and the expenditure associated with this production.</p> <p>This plan details the programming of the statistical production that INEC shall conduct between 2021 and 2035. The multi-annual plan or long-term programming is a highly relevant instrument that stems from strategic planning and constitutes the guiding framework for preparing and defining the institution's preliminary budgets. It provides information on the institution's projected expenditure for the next and subsequent fiscal years, in relation to projected revenues, with the purpose of taking timely actions and decisions on the investments to be made in each budget period, once the approved budgets are available.</p>	https://bit.ly/3UlqiMp

it continues

Continuation table 1

Name of the document	Objective	Link
4. Document on the identification and prioritization of regulations	<p>As part of the process for the implementation of Law No. 9694 and its amendments, a thorough review of the Law was conducted to identify the regulations that need to be drafted. Priorities and a route were established to make progress in the drafting of regulations that provide guidelines or guides to put into practice the legal mandate and the correct functioning of the NSS in the short, medium, and long-term.</p> <p>This is due to the fact that, according to Article No. 33, subparagraph d) of the Law, INEC shall establish the standards, models, formats, and terminology that will govern the processes of production of statistics carried out by itself and by the entities that make up the NSS, in order to integrate, in a consistent manner, the country's economic, social, and environmental data.</p>	https://bit.ly/3AV6n00

The National Institute of Statistics and Census (INEC) has established a process for the preparation of the regulations, which is in charge of the Coordination Area of the National Statistical System, where the technical team prepares the regulations and submits them to the Coordination Area for approval. Subsequently, it is sent to the representatives of the Inter-Institutional Statistical Commission (CIE, for its acronym in Spanish) for review and validation. Once the regulations have been validated by the CIE, the approval of the Management Office and the Directing Council of INEC is requested.

Regarding the regulations prepared by INEC for the NSS operation, since the approval of Law No. 9694 and its amendments in 2019, a total of ten regulations have been issued, which are associated with a series of obligations, attributions, and functions established in the Law and its regulations. Table 2 specifies the name of the regulations prepared and published, as well as their purpose.

TABLE 2
Costa Rica. Regulations developed for the NSS operation

Name of the document	Objective	Link
<p>1. Quality Management System Manual of the National Statistical System</p> <p>It was approved by the INEC's Directing Council, through Agreement No. 3, session No. 24-2019 of July 9, 2019.</p>	<p>For official statistics to be an effective support element for the development of society, they shall meet a series of quality characteristics. Specifically, in order to get the most out of official statistics, it is important to be clear about the quality objective to be pursued, so as to determine how they should be produced and evaluated, as well as to establish strategies for continuous improvement.</p> <p>To comply with the above, the purpose of this document is to bring together all the good practices oriented to quality in the statistical context to articulate them in an orderly manner with the purpose of achieving the satisfaction of users and stakeholders of the statistical information produced in the NSS.</p>	<p>https://bit.ly/3FBPHx0</p>
<p>2. Guidelines for the dissemination of statistics and access to National Statistical System's microdata</p> <p>It was approved by the INEC's Directing Council, through Agreement No. 3, session No. 22-2019 of June 25, 2019.</p>	<p>To establish provisions to ensure user access to statistical results, statistical microdata bases and metadata, under the basic principles of confidentiality, transparency, proportionality, and independence set forth in the NSS Law.</p>	<p>https://bit.ly/3VJmjdH</p>

it continues

Continuation table 2

Name of the document	Objective	Link
<p>3. Code of Good Statistical Practice (second version)</p> <p>It was approved by INEC's Directing Council, through Agreement No. 4, session No. 32-2019 of September 24, 2019.</p>	<p>The Code of Good Statistical Practices provides a set of principles of good practices that must be considered in statistical production processes, since they are intended to strengthen the coordination of national statistical activity, and reinforce the trust and credibility of people and user institutions on the statistical information produced. To this end, the Code consists of a set of good statistical practices aimed at improving the official statistics produced by the entities of the NSS.</p>	<p>https://bit.ly/3UIEHYPs</p>
<p>4. Statistical Production Model of the National Statistical System</p> <p>Approved by INEC's Directing Council, through Agreement No. 3, session No. 21-2021 of July 27, 2021.</p>	<p>To establish a common production model for all units in charge of statistical production of the NSS entities (hereinafter, administrative units), which allows obtaining statistics that meet the quality attributes defined for statistical products (relevance, accuracy, timeliness and punctuality, coherence and comparability, and accessibility and clarity) to meet the requirements of people and entities that use statistical information.</p>	<p>https://bit.ly/3ENY9rr</p>
<p>5. Recommendation of skills and knowledge profiles</p> <p>Approved by INEC's Directing Council, through Agreement No. 3, session No. 21-2021 of July 27, 2021.</p>	<p>To provide guidance to the entities that make up the NSS on the minimum competencies and knowledge required by the personnel involved in the statistical production processes for the application of the Statistical Production Model.</p>	<p>https://bit.ly/3uekjHD</p>

it continues

Continuation table 2

Name of the document	Objective	Link
<p>6. Technical guidelines for incorporating an ethnic-racial approach in official statistics production</p> <p>It was approved by the INEC's Directing Council, through Agreement No. 3, session No. 30-2021 of October 5, 2021.</p>	<p>To establish the general provisions for public sector institutions and agencies involved in the production and dissemination of official statistics of the NSS to incorporate an ethnic-racial approach in their statistical information production processes, so that the country has relevant and timely information for the State, civil society organizations, academia, and the general population.</p>	<p>https://bit.ly/3VD51yS</p>
<p>7. Operational guide of the technical guidelines for incorporating the ethnic-racial approach in official statistics production</p> <p>It was approved by the INEC's Directing Council, through Agreement No. 3, session No. 30-2021 of October 5, 2021.</p>	<p>To provide tools for capacity building of technical staff of NSS institutions, to improve and expand the supply of statistics with an ethnic-racial approach, and thus have quality information to identify inequalities and gaps between different ethnic-racial groups in the social, cultural, political, and economic spheres, among others.</p>	<p>https://bit.ly/3ipwaXA</p>

it continues

Continuation table 2

Name of the document	Objective	Link
<p>8. Guide for the development of statistical operations metadata</p> <p>It was approved by the INEC's Directing Council, through Agreement No. 4, session No. 30-2021 of October 5, 2021.</p>	<p>To standardize the documentation of metadata and microdata of statistical operations in order to contribute to compliance with the principles of accessibility and clarity, impartiality, objectivity, and transparency of good statistical practices, and strengthen documentation activities in its statistical production processes.</p>	<p>https://bit.ly/3ASPxf</p>
<p>9. Guide for the development of dissemination calendars of official statistics</p> <p>It was approved by the INEC's Directing Council, through Agreement No. 5, session No. 30-2021 of October 5, 2021.</p>	<p>A good practice is for institutions and users to know in advance the exact dates when the results of official statistical operations will be published in an easy-to-understand and accessible format that are standardized according to the periodicity of disclosure. Hence, through this guidance, the entities know to proceed and comply with this good practice. This guide contains specific guidelines on the format and content of the dissemination calendars, so that the institutions adhere to an established format that contains the minimum information required.</p>	<p>https://bit.ly/3AZMDYS</p>
<p>10. Guidelines for the exchange of confidential data</p> <p>It was approved by the INEC's Directing Council, through Agreement No. 6, session No. 23-2022 of July 5, 2022.</p>	<p>To establish the general provisions to be implemented for NSS entities to manage the exchange of confidential data exclusively for the production of official statistics, ensuring that such exchanges are carried out within the framework of Law No. 9694 of the National Statistical System and its amendments.</p>	<p>https://bit.ly/3OQn6XY</p>

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The regulations detailed in Table 2 are intended to provide guidelines to the institutions that make up the NSS on the applicability of the provisions of Law No. 9694 and its amendments. For 2023 and 2024, other guidelines, guides, and instruments will continue to be developed to guide the institutions that make up the NSS, based on the “Report on the identification and prioritization of regulations.”

1.A.2 Progress and challenges in the establishment of the National Statistical System

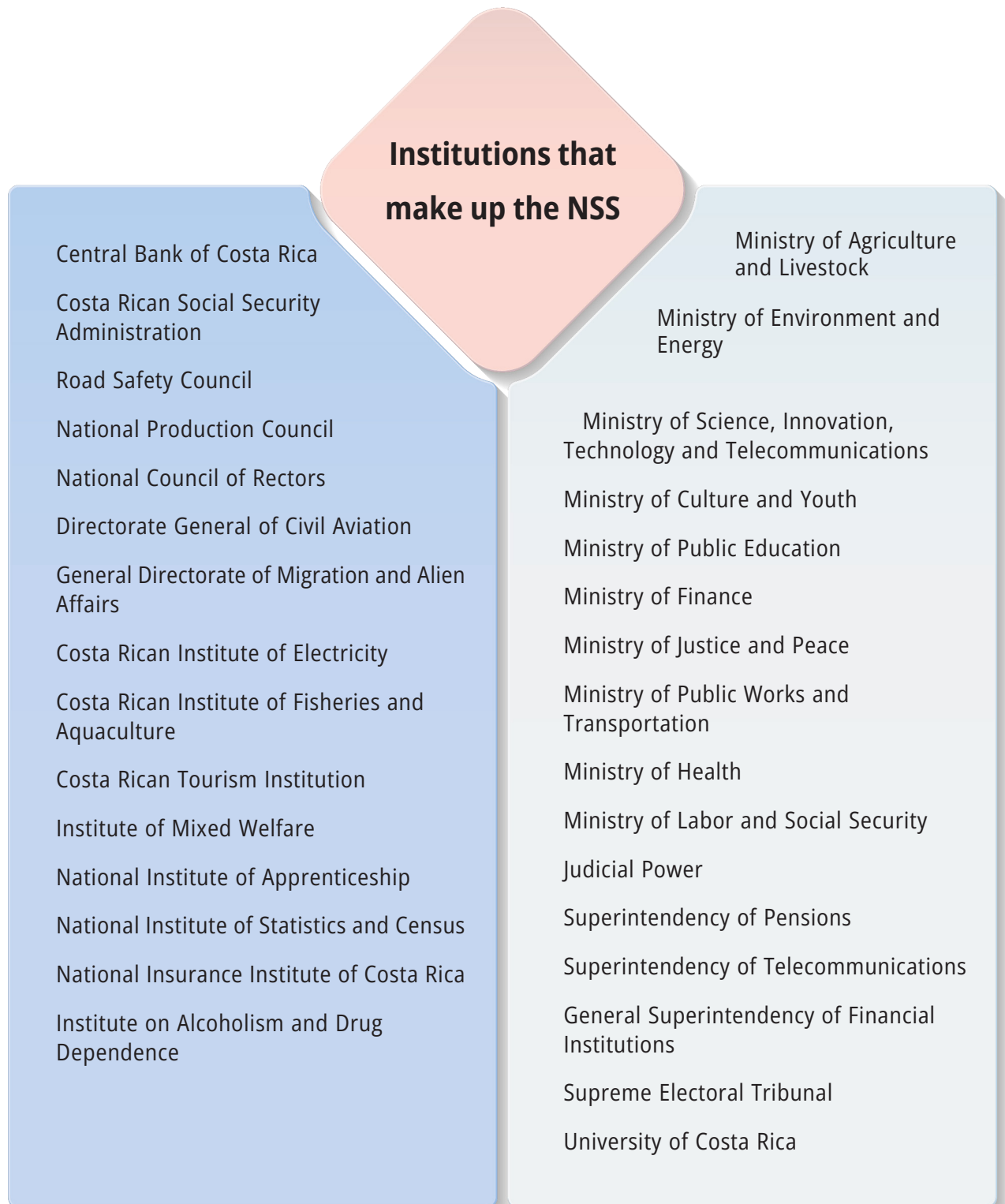
1. **Conformation of the National Statistical System:** Article No. 42, subparagraph a, of Law No. 9694 and its amendments state that INEC’s Directing Council shall establish the institutions that make up the National Statistical System (NSS) by means of a resolution based on the production of official statistics established by the National Statistical Plan (PEN, for its acronym in Spanish).

In order to comply with this legal mandate, the NSS’ Coordination Area carried out the following process:

- ◆ Those institutions that had commitments in the National Statistical Plan 2018-2022 were consulted about them, and confirmation of their interest in continuing to be part of the NSS was requested, warning about the commitments and responsibilities they acquire in the production and dissemination of statistics, as members of the NSS, in accordance with the provisions of the Law.
- ◆ A report was prepared with the list of institutions that accepted the commitment to continue being part of the NSS.
- ◆ The report was sent to INEC’s Directing Council for review and approval. At the meeting of the Directing Council held on June 30, 2020, Agreement No. 4 on the designation of the NSS’ member institutions became final.

The institutions that make up the National Statistical System are detailed in Figure 1.

FIGURE 1
Costa Rica. Institutions that make up the National Statistical System



The institutions listed above are producers of statistics, that is to say, they have at least one statistical operation registered in the National Inventory of Statistical Operations. Because of this, INEC, as the technical governing body of the system, has two specific challenges for the creation of the NSS:

- ◆ To identify institutions of the Public Administration or persons under private law that produce official statistics and are not part of the NSS.
- ◆ To identify institutions of the Public Administration or persons under private law that have records of information of interest. As indicated above, there is currently no entity in the NSS that is the sole owner of any administrative or information registry.

To address the above, INEC is working on a procedure to manage requests for the inclusion of entities in the NSS, either as producers of a statistical operation or as owners of an administrative or information registry. This procedure will provide the characteristics that statistical operations and administrative or information registries shall meet in order to be considered official.

Finally, it is important that the National Statistical System achieves greater recognition and visibility in the public administration, and that INEC maintains its leadership to strengthen and articulate the production of official statistics in the country.

2. Creation and conformation of the Inter-Institutional Statistical Commission: In order to make progress in the provisions of Article No. 7 of Law No. 9694 and its amendments, which establish the creation of the Inter-Institutional Statistical Commission (CIE) formed by the heads of the administrative units in charge of the statistical processes of the institutions of the NSS, the Management of INEC formally requested, by means of an official letter addressed to the heads of the NSS entities, that they designate a representative of the institution before the CIE. To this end, they were asked to indicate their name, email, and telephone number so that contact could be made later. With this management, we were able to officially have the list of the CIE representatives .

Pursuant to Article No. 9 of Law No. 9694 and its amendments, the CIE shall meet ordinarily once every six months and extraordinarily at the call of the President of the Commission. In accordance with the provisions of this Article, at the time of writing this report, the CIE has met three times in ordinary sessions and twice in extraordinary sessions. The extraordinary sessions have been convened to address issues related to the preparation of the 2023-2032 National Statistical Development Strategy (NSDS) and the 2023-2027 National Statistical Plan (PEN), as established in Article No. 7, paragraph a) of the Law.

1/ In the following link, the list of the CIE representatives can be consulted: <https://bit.ly/3RgWtft>

TABLE 3
Costa Rica. Regular meetings of the Inter-Institutional Statistical Commission

Session	Topics discussed	Main agreements	Participation of NSS entities
<p>1. First regular session of the CIE</p> <p>April 21, 2021</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Video in which Mr. Paul Schreyer, Chief Statistician and Director of Statistics and Data, greets 2. Presentation of participants 3. Inter-Institutional Statistical Commission: functions and operation according to Law No. 9694 4. Steering Committee of the Inter-Institutional Statistical Commission: general aspects and its election 5. Functioning of the Inter-Institutional Statistical Commission 6. Summary of commitments acquired with the OECD 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It is agreed to share the meeting documents and presentations with the CIE representatives. 2. It is agreed to share the document "Proposal for the organization and operation of the NSS" with the representatives of the CIE for them to issue their recommendations. 	<p>The first session of the CIE was attended by representatives of the 30 entities that make up the NSS.</p> <p>The entities that did not participate in this session are listed below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Costa Rican Institute of Fisheries and Aquaculture 2. Superintendency of Pensions

it continues

Continuation table 3

Session	Topics discussed	Main agreements	Participation of NSS entities
<p>2. Second regular session of the CIE</p> <p>October 26, 2021</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Presentation of the NSS' Statistical Production Model 3. Presentation on the process of elaboration of the National Statistical Development Strategy (NSDS) 2023-2032 and the National Statistical Plan (PEN) 2023-2027 4. Presentation of the Guide for the development of metadata and microdata 5. Presentation of National Inventory of Statistical Operations' results 6. Official delivery of new regulations 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It is agreed that the entities of the NSS will elaborate and publish the metadata of the statistical operations they produce, adopting at least the elements of the Guide for the development of metadata and microdata. This commitment shall be fulfilled within six months from November 1, 2021. 2. It is agreed to send the presentations and regulations to the entities for their information and consultation. 	<p>The second session was attended by representatives of 29 entities that make up the NSS.</p> <p>The entities that did not participate in this session are listed below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Costa Rican Institute of Fisheries and Aquaculture 2. National Meteorological Institute 3. Superintendency of Pensions
<p>3. Third regular session of the CIE</p> <p>May 11, 2022</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Presentation on the Housing and Population Census 2. Presentation of "Structural and stakeholder analysis" results Preparation process of the 2023-2032 NSDS and the 2023-2027 PEN 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It is agreed to grant an extension to extend the metadata delivery deadline to September 11, 2022. 2. It is agreed to send the presentations of the meeting with the CIE representatives. 	<p>The third session was attended by representatives of 31 entities that make up the NSS.</p> <p>The entity that did not participate in this session is detailed below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Costa Rican Institute of Fisheries and Aquaculture

INEC, as the technical governing body of the NSS, is currently working on an operational proposal for the CIE in order to consolidate the CIE as a body that allows the coordination and articulation of the System, focused on the fulfillment of the functions established in the Law. This proposal states an organizational model composed of sectoral statistical committees (first sectoral level) and statistical roundtables (second sectoral level). This model is expected to be implemented in the coming years and that it will allow the improvement of official statistics.

For the implementation of this proposal to be effective, greater involvement and ownership by the institutions participating in the CIE and their representatives is necessary. Currently, the CIE does not have a board of directors, as its composition and functions are specified in the Regulation. This has been a limitation for its consolidation and operation; however, it is expected that, with the approval of the Regulation of Law No. 9694 and its amendments, this board can be created to promote the participation of the Commission's representatives and ensure the fulfillment of its functions.

- 3. Creation of the National Statistics Advisory Board:** Article No. 26 of Law No. 9694 and its amendments create the National Statistics Advisory Board (CONACE, for its acronym in Spanish) as a consultative body for statistical users. However, although Article No. 28 of the NSS Law states that CONACE was to be installed before the President of INEC's Directing Council no later than July 1 corresponding to the beginning of the period following the approval of the law, this has not been possible so far due to the changes of government representatives in the positions of vice-ministers, the national emergency caused by COVID-19, and the change of government, which has hindered its conformation during this time.

However, with the entry into force of the new Costa Rican government in May 2022, INEC's Management Office has sent formal notes to public sector institutions, business organizations, and social, economic, and academic institutions, to appoint a CONACE representative. Table 4 shows details of the representatives defined by the institutions or organizations that make up CONACE.

TABLE 4
Costa Rica. Members of the National Statistics Advisory Board

Institution or organization	Representative's name
Ministry of National Planning and Economical Policy	Laura Fernández Delgado, Rector Ministry of National Planning and Economic Policy
Ministry of Public Works and Transportation	Ángela Mata Montero, Vice-Minister of Administration and Strategic Management of the Ministry of Public Works and Transportation.
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship	Lydia Peralta Cordero, Vice-Minister of Bilateral Affairs and International Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship
Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock	Julián Arias Varela, Vice-Minister of Agriculture and Livestock
Ministry of Culture and Youth	Alexander Castro Mena, Administrative Vice-Minister
Ministry of Science, Innovation, Technology, and Telecommunications	Orlando Vega Quesada, Vice-Minister of Telecommunications
Ministry of Housing and Human Settlements	Wendy Molina Varela, Vice-Minister of Housing and Human Settlements
Ministry of Finance	Priscilla Zamora Rojas, Vice-Minister of Expenditures
Ministry of Justice and Peace	Carolina Castro del Castillo, Vice-Minister of Strategic Management
Ministry of Health	Carolina Gallo Chaves, Vice-Minister of Health
Ministry of Environment and Energy	Carlos Isaac Perez, Vice-Minister of Strategic Management

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Continuation table 4

Institution or organization	Representative's name
Ministry of Human Development and Social Inclusion	Yorleny León Marchena, Minister of Human Development and Social Inclusion
Ministry of Public Education	José Leonardo Sánchez Hernández, Vice-Minister of Institutional Planning and Regional Coordination
Ministry of Economy, Industry, and Commerce	Patricia Rojas Morales, Vice-Minister of Economy, Industry, and Commerce
Central Bank of Costa Rica	Peggy Barrantes Pereira, Economic Information Management Department Director
National Council of Rectors	Magaly Rodríguez Pineda, National University
Confederation of RERUM NOVARUM Workers	María Luisa Fajardo Sánchez, Recording Secretary
Union of Local Governments	Rafael Vargas Brenes, Mayor of the Municipality of Goicoechea
National Association of Mayors' Offices and Municipalities	Marcel Soler Rubio, Director
National Association of Educators	Roger López Rodríguez, Member three, Board of Directors and National Association of Educators.

The establishment of this Council is useful for the functioning of the statistical system, since this body represents the users of official statistics, so that, for the NSS, the functioning of CONACE is relevant to maximize the production process of statistics, satisfying the information demands of users. It is expected that, with the effort made by INEC for the formation of representatives of the Council, CONACE can be convened to a first meeting in the first quarter of 2023.

4. Statistical planning of the NSS: In the functions and attributions that Law No. 9694 and its amendments grant to INEC, the responsibility to coordinate and execute a process for the elaboration of a ten-year National Statistical Development Strategy (NSDS) and a five-year National Statistical Plan (PEN) is established, in conjunction with the statistics producing institutions that are part of the System and in consultation with institutions and expert users of the official statistics produced by the NSS.

Article No. 6 of the aforementioned Law establishes that the NSS will base its activities on a ten-year NSDS, which will be executed through the five-year PENs. It also states that the strategies and actions established in these planning instruments will be mandatory for the members of the NSS.

Prior to the approval of Law No. 9694 and its amendments, INEC has coordinated and executed the development of three statistical planning instruments with a five-year time frame, following a strategic planning approach and a participatory methodology that has involved both producers and users of statistics in the definition of the strategy and the projects to be implemented. The three instruments developed are: the NSDS 2007 - 2011, the PEN 2012 - 2016, and the PEN 2018 - 2022, which ends in 2022.

Under the mandate of the Law, in 2021, INEC began the formulation of the 2023 - 2032 NSDS and the 2023 - 2027 PEN. Currently, the 2023 - 2032 NSDS is already in place. It was developed using a prospective strategic planning approach and a participatory methodology. Producers and users participated. The NSDS defines the priority topics on which it proposes to work to strengthen and improve national statistical production so that it meets the demands of the people and user entities.

In the 2023 - 2032 NSDS, the NSS' betting scenario for 2032, the public value, mission, vision, and values were defined. The strategic axes representing the pillars of the NSS and strategic objectives for each of them were also established, for a total of nine. The strategic axes defined for the 2023-2032 NSDS are: i) statistical production, ii) human talent and financing, iii) innovation, iv) statistical culture; and v) governance of the NSS.

Regarding the 2023 - 2027 PEN, work is currently underway to develop it. The PEN includes the strategic actions and institutional projects that will contribute to the achievement of the strategic objectives. It also contains the five-year programming of statistical operations. Work is currently underway to define the institutional projects and validate the statistical operations that will be produced during this five-year period. It is expected that, by the first four months of 2023, these instruments will be published on the NSS website to start their implementation.

For the implementation of the 2023 - 2032 NSDS and the 2023-2027 PEN, it is necessary to ensure that the authorities of the institutions that make up the NSS take ownership of these planning instruments to strengthen and improve national statistical production in accordance with the proposed strategic axes and objectives. For INEC, as the technical governing body of the NSS, the challenge lies in executing the strategic actions proposed for the coming years and being able to provide support to the different institutions.

5. **Administrative units or processes specialized in statistics:** The Regulation of Law No. 9694 defines the functions of the units or processes specialized in statistics of the NSS entities, as well as the responsibilities and profile of the person in charge. The Regulation officially published on January 19, 2023 in the Official Gazette La Gaceta, however, prior to this, the fact of not having had the regulation approved has been a limitation, it has no longer been possible to follow up on this matter.

Due to the different institutions that make up the NSS, it is necessary to delve deeper into the organizational structure of each of the entities, since, in some cases, there is no administrative unit or process specialized in statistics, but this is assumed by other units of the institution, such as planning or information management units, or there is one, but their functions are not defined, as conceived in the Law and established in the regulations. Therefore, the challenge in this area lies in the strengthening and establishment of administrative units or specialized statistical processes in the institutions under Law No. 9694 and its regulations, in order to have a technical counterpart in the institutions to facilitate the coordination of the NSS. In addition, the units or processes specialized in statistics should progressively adopt the functions established in the Regulation.

1.A.3 Consequences of the implementation of Law No. 9694 of the National Statistical System on INEC's activities

Prior to the approval of Law No. 9694 of the National Statistical System and its amendments, INEC and the institutions that make up the NSS were supported by a legal framework (Law 7839 of the National Statistical System) that had a series of deficiencies, some of which are detailed below:

- ◆ Limited definition of the functions and responsibilities of the NSS.
- ◆ Weak mandate to INEC to exercise technical leadership.
- ◆ Limited budget for INEC to carry out its functions.
- ◆ Difficulties in ensuring access to and use of administrative records.
- ◆ Lack of updating on emerging statistical issues.

Law No. 9694 and its amendments try to solve the deficiencies of the previous legal framework, and provide a clear framework on emerging topics. Law No. 9694 of the National Statistical System and its amendments were approved a little more than three years ago, and since then, INEC has made significant efforts to implement the provisions of this Law. Some aspects of the application of the Law that have had an impact on INEC's activities are detailed below:

1. Since the entry into force of the new legal framework of the NSS, INEC, as the technical governing body, has had to focus its efforts on actions aimed at implementing the provisions of the Law. This has had an impact on the workload of officials, either for the development of regulations, or to monitor and follow up the implementation of the same.
2. Law No. 9694 and its amendments clearly establish the conformation of the NSS. This regulation includes INEC, public administration institutions, and private law entities that produce official statistics, or have information records that serve as input for the production of statistics.

This clarified to INEC, as the technical governing body of the NSS, which entities should be part of the NSS, and allowed the ratification of the institutions that make up it.

In addition, in order to have a better identification of the records produced in the country, INEC is in the process of carrying out the National Inventory of Administrative Records. This helps to identify those records, which serve as input for the preparation of statistics, that are generated by entities that do not belong to the NSS, and that, according to the provisions of Article No. 4, subparagraphs (b) and (c), should be part of the system.

3. Law No. 9694 and its amendments incorporate the principle of statistical confidentiality, which is fundamental in everything related to the production of official statistics. A relevant aspect of this topic is that this principle covers not only data collected directly by institutions through surveys and censuses, but also those collected through administrative records. This implies that data from administrative records shall be provided in an anonymized form, which protects the handling of information from these sources.

The mandatory delivery of information is a new topic included in the current legal framework of the NSS. It represents a relevant element for the information exchange process between the different instances of the Public Administration or persons under private law.

4. Prior to the approval of Law No. 9694, INEC had difficulties in accessing administrative records. Currently, the Law provides legal support for the request and access to administrative records, even when the information contained therein is protected by some type of reserve, which has facilitated access to this information.
5. Law No. 9694 and its amendments clearly define INEC's functions and attributions and strengthen its mandate to exercise the System's steering role. Given INEC's role as the technical governing body of the NSS, the institution has focused on establishing a series of regulations that allow it to implement the provisions of the Law. The current challenge to be able to visualize results is to provide support to the institutions for the application of the regulations in the statistical production processes, especially the adoption of the Statistical Production Model.

6. The approval of the NSS Law strengthens INEC's financing and ensures adequate resources in the long-term, since it defines the source of the resources to be used. However, the institution has faced problems in accessing the necessary resources for the production of statistics, since, although the institution has them, the Ministry of Finance (MH, for its acronym in Spanish) did not consider the space for growth in current expenditure imposed by the fiscal rule, which put at risk the execution of statistical operations that are of great relevance for the country, such as the National Housing and Population Census and the National Time Use Survey.

The application of Law No. 9635 on the Strengthening of Public Finances prevents the execution of expenditures beyond the limit established each year for the institution, and made it totally unfeasible to carry out the statistical operations detailed above. To access the resources, in November 2021, the Executive Branch signed the reform of Article No. 53 and the addition of an Article No. 53 bis to Law No. 9694 of the NSS. This amendment means that the application of the fiscal rule does not prevent the budgeting of statistical resources for the execution of the Census and other statistical operations whose periodicity is greater than two years and are financed with surplus resources set aside by INEC.

Consequently, INEC should establish a multi-annual planning and make budget estimates for all the years included in such planning. It is also indicated that INEC will include in the costs of the projects that are covered by the reserved funds the expenses used for their execution.

In addition, the amendment states that INEC will be subject to the budget approval procedures before the General Comptroller's Office of the Republic.

7. In compliance with the provisions of Article No. 53, INEC has a multi-annual plan of statistical production from 2021 to 2035, which considers a portfolio of 25 statistical operations, which will be executed by the institution on a recurring basis during that period. On average, INEC will maintain in execution about 21 statistical operations per year.

The multi-annual plan was approved by the INEC's Directing Council in ordinary session No. 844-2017, agreement No. 3, held on March 14, 2017. In addition, the updates to the plan were approved by the Management Office and were also approved by INEC's Directing Council at the 27-2021 ordinary session held on September 22, 2021.

The implementation and compliance with a new legal framework is a complex process that takes time, financial resources, and human talent. However, despite the short time that the Law has been in force, it is considered that it has a legal framework in line with the current requirements of national and international organizations, which explicitly supports the production of official statistics.

1.A.4 Consequences of the implementation of Law No. 9694 of the National Statistical System on BCCR's activities

Article No. 34, subparagraph g of Law No. 9694 of the National Statistical System and its amendments assigns INEC the responsibility of preparing and disseminating statistics, as detailed below: "basic statistics required for the production of the country macroeconomic accounts. The Central Bank of Costa Rica (BCCR, or its acronym in Spanish) shall request INEC to produce the statistics that it requires and are not usually produced by the NSS. INEC shall produce these statistics directly or coordinate their

production with other public or private agencies, or engage their production from other public or private institutions. In addition, this same subparagraph establishes that the Central Bank of Costa Rica shall be in charge of the production and publication of the national accounts and other macroeconomic accounts.

However, some factors external to INEC's work have limited access to and use of the financial resources established in the legal framework, which affects the production of certain statistical operations, either because their execution is postponed or the periodicity with which statistics are produced is affected. The above directly affects the Central Bank of Costa Rica in the production of the national accounts, which has repercussions on the timeliness and quality of the statistical operation that INEC shall deliver to the Bank. Therefore, to the extent that INEC does not execute statistical operations with the required timeliness, it limits the national accounts to have the required information for their calculation and would affect the compliance with the provisions of Article No. 34, subparagraph g.

Another relevant aspect of the application of Law No. 9694 and its amendments, which has impacted the work of the Central Bank of Costa Rica as a producer of statistics, has been the access to administrative records. Having a legal framework that incorporates the access to and use of information sources could facilitate the use of the inputs required for the production of national accounts and macroeconomic statistics. However, there are still challenges with those entities that are not accustomed to the provisions of Law No. 9694 and its amendments, or that consider other laws to take precedence over the legal framework of the NSS.

1.A.5 Relevant issues in the implementation of Law No. 9694 of the National Statistical System

This section details some relevant aspects that have occurred in the execution of Law No. 9694 of the National Statistical System and its amendments.

1. Regulations represent legal provisions of utmost importance for the legal system, since it is the normative body that establishes the factual assumptions for the application of a certain law. That is to say, the regulations, despite having a secondary character with respect to the law, are of great importance because they establish the framework within which the law is developed.

In this case, the lack of an approved regulation for Law No. 9694 and its amendments in the following months to its approval represented an obstacle to compliance with the Law since the absence of regulatory provisions may imply the lack of procedures and rules specifying how the Law should be developed.

Although Law No. 9694 and its amendments represent a clear legal framework, the proposed regulation contributes, for example, in the following areas:

- ◆ It specifies the way in which the updating of the entities comprising the NSS will be carried out, and the periodicity in which the National Inventory of Statistical Operations shall be taken place.
- ◆ It determines the functions of the administrative units or processes specialized in statistics, as well as the responsibilities and profile of the person in charge of the administrative unit.

- ◆ It determines the composition of the CIE's Board of Directors and its functions.
- ◆ It specifies the procedure for the removal of the directors of the INEC's Directing Council, and determines the powers and duties of its members and details the powers and duties of the Council.

Currently, the Regulation was already officially published in the Official Gazette **La Gaceta** on January 19, 2023.

2. The legal framework establishes a clear mandate to INEC for the elaboration of National Housing and Population Censuses, agricultural censuses, and censuses of other sectors deemed necessary, with a periodicity of ten years between each one. In this regard, it should be noted that the XI National Population Census and VII Housing Census, according to the periodicity established by Law, were planned to be carried out in June 2021.

However, due to external factors, INEC had to cancel the 2021 National Census due to the application of the fiscal rule, as established in Law No. 9635 on the Strengthening of Public Finances. In addition, the Budgetary Authority of the Ministry of Finance denied INEC's request for temporary hiring of census staff, supervisor and coordinator, which prevented the collection of information scheduled for June 2021.

However, due to the efforts made, and the approval in the second debate of File 22,702, amendment to Article No. 53 and addition of an Article No. 53 bis to Law No. 9694 of June 4, 2019, INEC managed to reschedule the execution of the XI National Population Census and VII Housing Census for June 2022. This is due to the fact that censuses and statistical projects with a periodicity of more than two years were exempted from the fiscal rule.

3. The application of Law No. 9694 and its amendments is not exempt from the situation in which the country has been immersed in recent years. These aspects, directly and indirectly, affect the application of the Law.
 - ◆ **Presidential Data Analysis Unit (UPAD, for its acronym in Spanish):** UPAD was a data analysis unit created by Executive Decree No. 41,996, as an advisory body of the Presidency of the Republic. This unit was created to compile and analyze data on matters of public interest to guide the President of the Republic in decision making. For this reason, the decree indicated that the institutions of the Central and Decentralized Public Administration shall allow access to all information required by the UPAD.

Although the Executive Decree was repealed, this situation created an atmosphere of distrust with the population. This complicates the actions of the NSS institutions in their work of collecting information for statistical purposes, even though Law No. 9694 and its amendments clearly establish the principle of statistical confidentiality and its sanctions in case of non-compliance. In this aspect, it highlights the importance of the inclusion of the statistical culture axis in the 2023-2032 NSDS to sensitize people on the use of data for statistical purposes, the principle of confidentiality and data protection.

- ◆ **Cyber-attacks on public institutions:** in 2022, several public institutions suffered a cyber-attack on their systems, which put their confidential information at risk. Among the institutions that make up the NSS, the following were the victims of the cyber-attacks.
 - Ministry of Finance
 - Ministry of Science, Innovation, Technology, and Telecommunications
 - National Meteorological Institute
 - Costa Rican Social Security Administration
 - Ministry of Labor and Social Security

In general, these attacks affected the functionality of computer systems and gave access to information with sensitive and non-sensitive data of the institutions, which caused a negative impact of distrust in citizens, due to the vulnerability of their data. This, in many cases, affected the continuity of services and the generation of statistical information (specifically in the case of the Costa Rican Social Security Administration). This highlights the importance of having security protocols and database safeguards in place.

1.B Impact on the implementation of the OECD's recommendations on Good Statistical Practices

The implementation of Law No. 9694 is relatively new, so the impact on some topics is still difficult to appreciate. However, it is expected that, in the medium term, they will begin to be seen more clearly. Nevertheless, this section indicates the progress and challenges identified since the entry into force of Law No. 9694 of the National Statistical System and its amendments in the implementation of the OECD's recommendations on Good Statistical Practices.

1.B.1 Clear legal and institutional framework

Costa Rica's National Statistics System shall have a legal framework that supports the production and dissemination of official statistics, which represents a great step forward. Law No. 9694 and its amendments, being a modern regulatory framework, include topics that are currently relevant in the production and dissemination of statistics, such as the following:

- ◆ Establishes the conformation of the NSS and the coordination mechanisms.
- ◆ Establishes the responsibilities of the institutions that are part of the NSS.
- ◆ Strengthens the principle of technical independence and confidentiality.
- ◆ Ensures INEC's funding, so that it can invest in its function as technical governing body of the NSS, as well as to comply with the production of statistics as established in the multi-annual plan.

- ◆ Proposes that the NSS will base its activities on a ten-year NSDS, which will be executed through the five-year PENS.
- ◆ Contemplates the access to and use of administrative registries, and includes topics related to new administrative registries and modification of existing ones.

Law No. 9694 and its amendments provide a legal basis for actions and progress in the improvement of statistical activity. For this reason, in the process of implementing the rule, it is necessary to make progress in the following:

- ◆ Strengthening the governance of the National Statistical System and its instances.
- ◆ Publicizing Law No. 9694 of the National Statistical System and its amendments, so that the institutions can take ownership of it.
- ◆ Developing guidelines, guides, and instruments that operationalize the provisions of the Law.
- ◆ Working with the institutions for the implementation of the regulations prepared by INEC, based on the provisions of the Law.

In the case of Costa Rica, having a highly decentralized statistical system, it is necessary to achieve the commitment and ownership of the institutions that make up the NSS with the legal framework, in their role as producers of statistics. It is also necessary to sensitize the heads of institutions to recognize the importance of generating official statistics for decision making.

1.B.2 Professional independence

With Law No. 9694 and its amendments, technical independence is explicit, and extends to all institutions that are part of the National Statistical System, which allows the institutions to determine the methodologies, their application and the dissemination of official statistics in a programmed manner, detaching themselves from political influences.

The aforementioned ensures in a better way that decisions on the improvement and evolution of statistics are made based on technical considerations. This is relevant in the production of a country's official statistics, since it is directly related to transparency towards citizens, and is fundamental for the generation of trust in the management of data for statistical purposes. The challenge in this area is to corroborate and strengthen the technical independence of the NSS institutions.

1.B.3 Adequacy of resources

For the official statistics production, it is necessary to have sufficient financial resources, as well as the appropriate human talent to carry out the production processes, in order to provide the country with the necessary statistical information for decision making and the generation of public policy.

With the approval of Law No. 9694 and its amendments, permanent sources of financing are ensured so that INEC can fulfill its role as the governing body of the NSS and producer of statistics, as well as to be able to meet future information needs. For this purpose, there is a multi-annual plan for statistical

production of INEC for the 2021-2035 period, which defines the programming of statistical operations for the coming years.

However, as mentioned in the previous sections, INEC has had problems accessing these resources, so it was necessary to make an amendment to the Law, specifically to Article No. 53, adding Article No. 53 bis so that the fiscal rule established in Law No. 9635 does not prevent the budgeting of the necessary resources for the execution of the Census and other statistical exercises that have a periodicity greater than two years and are financed with the reserve that INEC builds up every year for this purpose.

Regarding the human talent necessary for the production of statistics, the institutions constantly face different problems, which were identified in the diagnosis carried out for the elaboration of the 2023-2032 NSDS, and are detailed below:

- ◆ Difficulties in recruiting and retaining the human talent required for statistical processes.
- ◆ Limitations to compete for salaries in the labor market, since salaries are not very attractive for certain key disciplines in statistical production processes.
- ◆ Limited supply of the required professional profiles (professionals in statistics and information technologies).

Therefore, given the concern of the producers in terms of financing and human talent necessary for the generation of statistics, the 2023-2032 NSDS defined the human talent and financing as a strategic axis, for which the following strategic objectives were defined.

- ◆ To have appropriate human talent available to produce official statistics.
- ◆ To have the financial resources required for the official statistics production.

The NSS challenge for the next few years will be to have the appropriate human talent and the financial resources required for the production of statistics that are necessary to achieve the NSS target scenario by 2032. This will allow the acquisition of the necessary technological tools and the human talent trained for the use of technology and the implementation of statistical processes.

1.B.4 Protection of privacy

The NSS Law and its amendments include a complete section on statistical confidentiality. This section takes into account the prohibition for the staff of the NSS institutions to disclose the data of individuals or legal entities of which they have direct or indirect knowledge. Furthermore, this obligation extends even when the person is not part of the institution, for which a confidentiality agreement shall be signed. In the event of a breach of the duty of confidentiality, the law is clear on the sanctions that shall be applied to public officials or other individuals who provide services to NSS agencies.

The NSS entities are responsible for managing the data they collect and those they receive; therefore, they shall establish provisions to ensure the security, integrity, quality, and safekeeping of the data. To meet this mandate, INEC prepared and published a regulation for the entities that make up the NSS called "Guidelines for the exchange of confidential data." This instrument allows the standardization of activities that promote the exchange of data for statistical purposes between entities of the NSS, and other (NSS or not) entities of confidential data. In addition, INEC, as the technical coordinating body

of the NSS, is developing a “Protocol to preserve the principle of data confidentiality”, which aims to establish the necessary guidelines to preserve the principle of confidentiality in the NSS entities and thus generate confidence among the different actors involved in the generation of official statistics, such as data providers, producers of statistics, and information users.

The challenge in this area for INEC and for the institutions that make up the NSS lies in the implementation and incorporation of procedures that ensure data protection in the statistical production process.

1.B.5 Access to administrative sources

The current legal framework of the NSS supports the right of access to administrative records for statistical purposes. To this end, it provides INEC with unrestricted access to the administrative records of public institutions, even when the information is protected by some type of legal reserve.

The above is of great relevance, since prior to the approval of the current regulatory framework, INEC faced many difficulties in accessing some administrative records because these were protected by laws that established certain restrictions for the provision of information to the institution. However, with this explicit mandate, the institutions that own administrative records are obliged to provide this information. This has allowed access to some administrative records that are relevant for the generation of statistics.

Likewise, the NSS Law and its amendments establish that public institutions responsible for the generation of an administrative registry shall consult INEC when making changes or modifications to the data collection instrument of the administrative registry, or when a new registry is generated, so that statistical information needs are taken into account. To this end, it is necessary to establish channels for institutions to inform INEC about possible changes they are making or will make to administrative records, so that the system coordination is in the process of developing regulations to operationalize the provisions of the standard.

Access to administrative sources and the implementation of what is established in Law No. 9694 and its amendments is not a simple matter, and requires a long process and resources; having a legal framework is a big step, but it is not enough. It is necessary for INEC, as the governing body of the NSS, to continue socializing and raising awareness of this legal mandate with the institutions that produce official statistics and/or own administrative records, work that can be strengthened in the governance bodies of the NSS, such as the Inter-institutional Statistical Commission.

1.B.6 Impartiality, objectivity, and transparency

Law No. 9694 and its amendments assign a mandate to the institutions to publish on their web page, twelve months in advance, a calendar with the publication date of the statistics under their responsibility, which shall remain updated, so that the publication date of each statistic is known one year in advance. To implement this mandate, INEC prepared and published the **“Guide for the development of dissemination calendars of official statistics”**, which aims to guide the institutions that make up the NSS on the structure and basic contents that the dissemination calendars should have. The purpose of the above is that institutions and users of statistics know in advance the exact dates when the results of official statistical operations will be published in an easy-to-understand and accessible format that are standardized according to the periodicity of dissemination, and that represent an input to inform about delays in the delivery of information and methodological changes.

The challenge in this area is to ensure that all institutions implement this regulation, so that users can view the publication dates of each of the statistics they generate on their web pages.

The **“Guide for the development of metadata for statistical operations”** was prepared to provide users with methodological information on the production process of official statistics, which will provide them with the necessary context to interpret and use the information correctly. This guide establishes the necessary provisions for the documentation of the characteristics and methodologies of statistical operations, databases with their variables and reference materials, which is intended to contribute to compliance with the principles of accessibility and clarity, impartiality, objectivity, and transparency of Good Statistical Practices. The institutions that make up the NSS have made significant efforts to comply with this requirement, and in the ordinary sessions of the CIE, agreements have even been established so that the institutions comply with this mandate.

1.B.7 Sound methodology and professional standards

Law No. 9694 and its amendments establish that the institutions that are part of the NSS shall apply the same standardized system of concepts, definitions, statistical units, classifications, nomenclatures, and codes that enable the comparison, integration, and analysis of the data and results obtained. In addition, it establishes the mandate to review and update the methodologies used in the production of official statistics, in order to adapt them to new demands and technical recommendations, seeking comparability of historical series.

In addition to the above, Principle 9 **“Sound methodology”** of the Code of Good Statistical Practices of Costa Rica (CBPECR, for its acronym in Spanish) states that the NSS institutions shall be based on solid and updated methodologies, and the institutions shall be committed to complying with nationally and internationally established standards. In this regard, in the self-assessment of the CBPECR, carried out in 2019, INEC evaluated compliance with this principle in the entities that make up the NSS; thereon, it was identified that 40 % of the institutions have a high level of compliance, while 24 % have a low level of compliance.

In order to improve compliance with this principle in the institutions that make up the NSS, one of the criteria for compliance with Principle 9 **“Sound methodology”** establishes: **“The NSS institutions recruit highly qualified personnel, in the relevant academic disciplines, for the development of methodologies and the stages of statistical production.”** Therefore, to support compliance with this principle, and

recognizing the need to have adequate staff, INEC developed the regulation called **“Statistical Production Model of the National Statistical System. Recommendation of competency and knowledge profiles”**, which describes the main competencies and minimum knowledge required of the personnel in charge of statistical production processes within the entities of the NSS.

1.B.8 Quality of statistical outputs and processes

INEC has within its functions and attributions stipulated in Article No. 33, paragraph i of Law No. 9694 and its amendments: “Establish the policy and quality framework that shall govern the production and dissemination of official statistics; promoting the adoption thereof by the NSS institutions, and assessing the quality of NSS statistics”.

Following this mandate, INEC has made significant efforts to define the set of quality characteristics that the country’s official statistics are expected to have, as well as the most appropriate strategy for monitoring statistics and establishing control and improvement mechanisms. Costa Rican Code of Good Statistical Practices is the main framework for ensuring statistical quality, since this regulation defines the set of good practices or essential requirements that units or processes specialized in statistics shall comply with.

Likewise, INEC prepared the “Quality Management System Manual of the National Statistical System” with the purpose of strengthening the production and dissemination of official statistics in the country, providing NSS institutions with the necessary tools in regulatory, methodological, and evaluative terms, gathering the good practices oriented to quality in the statistical context to articulate them in an orderly manner, in order to achieve user satisfaction.

In addition, the “Statistical Production Model (MPE, for its acronym in Spanish) of the National Statistical System” was developed, and describes the set of necessary processes, sub-processes, and activities for the production of quality statistics and for obtaining statistics that meet the quality attributes defined for statistical products (relevance, accuracy, timeliness and punctuality, coherence and comparability, and accessibility and clarity) that satisfy the requirements of the people and entities that use statistics.

The institutions that make up the NSS shall implement the statistical production model in each of the statistical operations they produce; this is essential for the NSS to make progress in quality management. To go forward, in the short-term, in the 2023-2027 National Statistical Plan, the entities that make up the NSS are being urged to include a project to be executed in this period that will allow the adoption and implementation of the MPE. This seeks that the institutions move in the same direction by programming actions to implement the MPE in all statistical operations, so that progress can be made in the standardization of the production of national statistics.

1.B.9 User-friendly access and dissemination of data and metadata, commitment to respond to misinterpretations of data by users

Law No. 9694 and its amendments clearly establish in Article No. 24 that “the institutions of the NSS shall clearly identify the main users of the statistics under their responsibility and consult them regularly on the relevance of the results published, the accuracy and quality observed, the new information needs, the level of access to statistical information and consider their opinions in the improvements of the statistical service.” In accordance with this, in the exercise of its function as technical governing body, INEC carried out in 2020 the User Satisfaction Survey (ESU, for its acronym in Spanish) in order to know the perception that people and user entities have of the statistics produced by the institutions that are part of the NSS.

Among the main conclusions of the ESU, it is worth noting that specialized users rate the quality of the statistical information produced by the NSS institutions as good to very good. In addition, opportunities for improvement are highlighted for the statistical operations of the NSS, in terms of access to information (in none of the cases was information considered “inaccessible”), the disaggregation used (more statistics are requested at the cantonal and district levels), as well as the coherence and timeliness of the statistics most frequently consulted by specialized users. This last item can be linked to the fact that the most consulted statistics have topics such as population, economy, and labor statistics, mainly produced by INEC and BCCR. Currently, INEC is preparing to carry out the second iteration of the ESU in 2023.

Regarding the regulations in force to support this good practice, INEC has prepared and published the “Guidelines for the dissemination of statistics and access to microdata of the National Statistics System” and the “Guide for the development of metadata for statistical operations”. In addition, in order to comply with the provisions of Article No. 11 of Law No. 9694 and its amendments, the “Glossary of statistical terms for the National Statistical System” was made available to the producers and users of statistics. In addition to these efforts, the 2023-2032 NSDS incorporates the statistical culture axis, which is conceived as the population’s capacity for the interpretation, use, and recognition of the importance of official statistics and statistical work, as well as for the provision of information and a better use of statistics. This axis includes two strategic objectives, which are detailed below, that guide the NSS strategy.

- ◆ To strengthen the statistical culture in the population to raise awareness of the importance of official statistics and the provision of information for their generation.
- ◆ To increase access to and use of official statistical information by the user population to strengthen the statistical culture.

Over the next ten years, the NSS will concentrate its efforts on meeting these objectives of the statistical culture axis, for which it will implement a series of strategic actions in the short-term (five years) aimed at meeting the defined goals.

1.B.10 Coordination of statistical activities

Law No. 9694 and its amendments clearly define the role and responsibilities of the entities producing statistics and/or owners of administrative records. To guarantee the coordination of the National Statistical System, Law No. 9694 and its amendments give INEC the responsibility of being the technical governing body of the NSS. In response to this commitment, the institution has been working on the process of drafting regulations that respond to the requirements of the articles that make up the legal framework of the NSS, and thus operationalize what is indicated in them.

Having regulations in place is an important step forward. However, for the coming years, it is necessary for institutions to advance in their implementation; for this, INEC shall have sufficient resources, both economic and human, to be able to provide support. Specifically, as mentioned in the previous sections, the 2023-2032 NSDS is currently being prepared, and as part of the objectives proposed for the governance axis, the following stands out: Consolidating the coordination and articulation of the NSS to strengthen the official statistics production to better meet the demands of the user population. The aim of this strategic objective is that the administrative units or processes specialized in statistics make progress in the adoption of the regulations issued by INEC.

To support the fulfillment of the above, and in general, for the fulfillment of the NSS strategy, the existence of governance bodies is crucial, since they are an important contribution to the coordination with the institutions that generate statistics, such as the Inter-Institutional Statistical Commission (CIE) and the National Statistics Advisory Board (CONACE), which consults with users of statistics.

1.B.11 International cooperation

Article No. 3, subparagraphs n and ñ, of Law No. 9694 and its amendments assigns the following functions to INEC:

- ◆ Providing technical and methodology advice for the establishment of statistics-related international agreements.
- ◆ Representing Costa Rica at international bodies and statistical activities, and ensuring that the information provided to international bodies is official.

In addition, Article No. 48, subparagraph I, states that the manager of INEC has the authority to represent the country before international organizations and bodies specialized in statistics.

In response to these mandates, INEC actively participates in groups and forums specialized in statistics, such as, for example, the Statistical Conference of the Americas (SCA), which is a subsidiary body of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), as well as participating in the Central American Statistical Commission (CENTROESTAD, for its acronym in Spanish). In addition, it is important for INEC to share experiences and knowledge among peers with other statistical offices in other countries, with the purpose of enhancing the production and dissemination of statistics. To this end, INEC has received support from the National Institute of Statistics of Chile, the National Institute of Statistics of Spain, and the National Institute of Statistics, Geography, and Informatics of Mexico.

In order to promote international cooperation in the NSS, a strategic objective has been included in the system's planning for the next ten years, with the aim of enhancing international cooperation in the NSS institutions to improve the production of official statistics.

1.B.12 Innovation, new and alternative data sources and methods

The legal framework of the NSS promotes research and methodological updates. Principle 14 of the CBPECR states that NSS institutions should explore innovative methodologies and methods that contribute to the production of official statistics; in particular, the possibilities of using non-traditional data sources (including private sector data) or combining them with existing data sources should be explored.

The last CBPECR self-assessment found that 44 % of the NSS institutions had a low compliance in the innovation principle. Therefore, being aware of the importance of promoting research and the use of non-traditional data sources and other innovations to improve statistical production processes, the 2023-2032 NSDS recognizes the importance of having an interconnected NSS that remains at the forefront in the application of new methodologies, technologies, and improvements related to the production of official statistics.

In order to promote the use of non-traditional and traditional sources, the following strategic objective was set for the next ten years in the axis of statistical production: **Enhancing the use of non-traditional and traditional sources in the NSS entities to increase the satisfaction of current and new demands for statistics from the user population.**

In addition, the following strategic objective was set in the NSDS innovation axis: **Strengthening innovation in statistical operations to improve the production process of official statistics and the security of data that allows the compliance of the user population's demands.**

2. Questions on the implementation of other recommendations

TABLE 5.

Costa Rica. Status of progress in the implementation of the recommendations issued by the OECD

Chapter / theme	Recommendation	Involved entities	Status	Details / Comments
1. Legal and institutional framework for official statistics	Ensure an efficient coordination of the NSS through the implementation of proper coordination mechanisms, including the appropriate functions of the Inter-Institutional Statistics Commission and the National Advisory Board created by the Law No. 9694.	INEC	On-going	<p>Law No. 9694 of the National Statistical System allowed the definition of coordination mechanisms for the NSS. The main coordination mechanisms are the Inter-Institutional Statistical Commission (CIE), a space for the producers of official statistics, and the National Statistics Advisory Board (CONACE) for the users of statistics.</p> <p>Inter-Institutional Statistical Commission (CIE): established in Article No. 7 of Law No. 9694 and its amendments, it is formed by the heads of the administrative units in charge of the statistical processes of the NSS institutions. Pursuant to Article No. 9 of Law No. 9694 and its amendments, the CIE shall meet ordinarily once every six months and extraordinarily at the call of the President of the Commission. In accordance with the provisions of this Article, at the time of writing this report, the CIE has met three times in ordinary sessions and twice in extraordinary sessions.</p>

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Continuation table 5

Chapter / theme	Recommendation	Involved entities	Status	Details / Comments
1. Legal and institutional framework for official statistics	Ensure an efficient coordination of the NSS through the implementation of proper coordination mechanisms, including the appropriate functions of the Inter-Institutional Statistics Commission and the National Advisory Board created by the Law No. 9694.	INEC	On-going	<p>The ordinary sessions have been held to address issues such as the conformation, functions, and operational aspects of the CIE, presentation of the Statistical Production Model (MPE), the process of elaboration of the 2023-2032 National Statistical Development Strategy (NSDS) and the 2023-2027 National Statistical Plan (PEN), the presentation of the Guide for the elaboration of metadata and microdata, the presentation of the results of the National Inventory of Statistical Operations (INOE, for its acronym in Spanish), and the presentation on the 2022 National Housing and Population Census (CNPV, for its acronym in Spanish) implementation .</p> <p>Meanwhile, the extraordinary sessions have been convened to address topics related to the process of elaboration of the 2023-2032 National Statistical Development Strategy (NSDS) and the 2023-2027 National Statistical Plan (PEN), as established in Article No. 7, paragraph a), of the Law.</p> <p>By 2023, it is planned to implement an operational proposal for the CIE that proposes a sectoral organization model through the establishment of sectoral committees and statistical roundtables, which will serve as spaces for the review and discussion of the main statistical issues of each sector and propose improvements</p>

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Continuation table 5

Chapter / theme	Recommendation	Involved entities	Status	Details / Comments
1. Legal and institutional framework for official statistics	Ensure an efficient coordination of the NSS through the implementation of proper coordination mechanisms, including the appropriate functions of the Inter-Institutional Statistics Commission and the National Advisory Board created by the Law No. 9694.	INEC	On-going	<p>National Statistics Advisory Board (CONACE): Article No. 26 of Law No. 9694 and its amendments creates the National Statistics Advisory Board (CONACE) as a consultative body that brings together the main users of statistics. However, despite the fact that Article No. 28 of the NSS Law states that CONACE should be installed before the President of INEC's Directing Council no later than July 1 corresponding to the beginning of the period following the approval of the Law, this has not been possible so far.</p> <p>Although the Law clearly establishes the representatives of CONACE, aspects such as the changes of representatives in the Ministries, the national emergency caused by COVID-19, and the change of government have hindered its conformation during this time. However, with the entry into force of the new Costa Rican government, INEC's Management Office has sent formal notes to public sector institutions, business organizations, and social, economic, and academic institutions to appoint CONACE's representatives.</p>

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Continuation table 5

Chapter / theme	Recommendation	Involved entities	Status	Details / Comments
1. Legal and institutional framework for official statistics	<p>Create a more process-oriented institution at INEC, in line with efforts to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Implement the quality management framework for statistics developed during the accession review process 	INEC	On-going	<p>In this regard, INEC's progress is as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Implement the quality management framework for statistics developed during the accession review process: INEC submitted to the entities of the NSS the Quality Management System (QMS) Manual of the National Statistical System (NSS) in 2019. The QMS comprises the regulatory framework (Law No. 9694 and its regulations, statistical norms, standards and statistical planning documents), the substantive processes (statistical production processes), and the strategic processes that allow for quality assurance or control of the products and services provided by the NSS, which is why they have been referred to as the evaluative framework. <p>Among the main actions for the implementation of the QMS, from the perspective of the substantive processes, the publication of the Statistical Production Model (MPE) of the NSS in 2021, which aims to standardize production among the entities that make up the system, stands out. Currently, work is underway to adopt it, and statistical regulations have been developed to promote compliance. The adoption of the MPE and the regulations is taking place gradually, both for INEC's production and for the rest of the NSS's institutions.</p>

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Continuation table 5

Chapter / theme	Recommendation	Involved entities	Status	Details / Comments
1. Legal and institutional framework for official statistics	1. Implement the quality management framework for statistics developed during the accession review process	INEC	On-going	<p>As part of the strategic processes, in 2019, INEC coordinated a first self-assessment of the Costa Rican Code of Good Statistical Practice (CBPECR), the results of which are available on the web, as well as the collection instrument. In 2020, the first User Satisfaction Survey (ESU) was applied. By 2023, the second iteration of both consultation instruments is expected to be applied.</p> <p>Regarding the support elements of the QMS, INEC has a new legal framework since 2019, pending the publication of the Regulation to Law No. 9694. Additionally, during 2022, INEC is working on the formulation of the 2023-2027 National Statistical Plan and the 2023-2032 National Statistical Development Strategy.</p> <p>Among the activities that are being developed and will continue during 2023 is the definition of quality indicators to evaluate statistical processes and products. To this end, INEC formed an internal working group to identify indicators by production process and by quality attribute; these indicators will then be applied to the various statistical operations of the entities of the NSS. In addition, work is underway to improve the designs for strengthening the second ESU of the NSS, and to delimit the route to follow for strengthening administrative records.</p>

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Continuation table 5

Chapter / theme	Recommendation	Involved entities	Status	Details / Comments
1. Legal and institutional framework for official statistics	<p>1. Implement the quality management framework for statistics developed during the accession review process</p> <p>2. Implement a revision policy</p>	INEC	On-going	<p>Finally, the challenges that have been identified during the implementation of the QMS are the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Availability of human, technological, and financial resources to provide adequate follow-up to the implementation of the QMS both in the rectory and in each entity of the NSS. b. The adoption of the Production Model and its adaptation to the different methods of collecting statistical operations. c. Defining mechanisms to guide NSS entities on how to adopt the QMS. d. Availability of processes or procedures in place to evaluate the implementation of the quality framework. <p>2. Implementing a revision policy: the implementation of a revision policy for making methodological changes in INEC's statistical operations is expected to start being planned during 2023, and the first actions planned to begin with this would be the formation of a working group and study of the experience of other countries on the subject to define a working route to follow.</p>

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Continuation table 5

Chapter / theme	Recommendation	Involved entities	Status	Details / Comments
<p>1. Legal and institutional framework for official statistics</p>	<p>3. Increase the engagement of users at various stages of the statistical production process</p>	<p>INEC</p>	<p>On-going</p>	<p>3. Increasing user participation in different stages of the statistical production process: INEC currently consults with user entities when initiating new statistical operations or when undergoing thematic or methodological redesign, in accordance with the provisions of the Statistical Production Model of the National Statistical System. Regarding regular consultations with users, INEC's administrative units in charge of statistical production are validating a methodology or procedure for regular consultations with users. The proposed methodology contemplates two consultation moments: to expert users and to the general public. The consultation includes the following activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Review of the registry of users in the information services process, according to subject or statistical operation and classification of the person. b. Identification of expert persons thus identified in the registry. c. Application of "focus group" if it is a small group or consultation workshop with expert users. d. Opening an open consultation on the website for citizen consultation. e. Assessment of the feasibility of applying what was indicated in the consultations.

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Continuation table 5

Chapter / theme	Recommendation	Involved entities	Status	Details / Comments
1. Legal and institutional framework for official statistics	3. Increase the engagement of users at various stages of the statistical production process	INEC	On-going	<p>f. Systematization of the consultation results and what would be contemplated.</p> <p>In both types of consultation, it is intended to obtain criteria regarding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The topics and variables that are of special interest to be contemplated in the statistical operation. b. The desirable products in order to have access to the information (databases, publications, tables, online processing, data visualization platform, among others). c. The means of communication that are considered convenient to know when the results are available. <p>The application of this procedure will entail a pilot exercise with the National Labor Demand Survey in 2023, from which the aspects of improvement will be evaluated so that it can be considered the regular exercise. For this reason, a deadline for its start has not yet been defined.</p>

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Continuation table 5

Chapter / theme	Recommendation	Involved entities	Status	Details / Comments
1. Legal and institutional framework for official statistics	4. Reinforce the coordination of the national statistical system, for example through a web platform for the NSS	INEC	On-going	<p>4. Reinforce the coordination of the National Statistical System, for example through a web platform for the NSS: in 2021, the process of redesigning INEC's web page including the NSS sub-site began. For this purpose, a web development company was hired to re-design the website.</p> <p>In 2022, the development of the new INEC website was completed and made available to the public. The NSS sub-site contains information on regulations, activities, work of the CIE and CONACE, work of the groups, committees, INOE, OCDE. By 2023, we will be working on consolidating the content of the NSS sub-site, which implies finalizing the uploading and systematization of pending information, uploading information to the NSS events calendar, and sensitizing NSS institutions to make use of the web page for consultation and publication of information.</p>

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Continuation table 5

Chapter / theme	Recommendation	Involved entities	Status	Details / Comments
1. Legal and institutional framework for official statistics	Implement and monitor multi-annual planning.	INEC	On-going	<p>In view of the demanding requirements for statistical information and in order to make up for the country's statistical backlog in terms of methodology, continuity, timeliness, and quality, the National Institute of Statistics and Census (INEC) defined a portfolio of statistical operations with a multi-annual time frame, which provides a comprehensive overview of the new statistical requirements and outlines the material, physical, and human resources to meet them.</p> <p>In this context, INEC defined its multi-year time frame and set it out in the Multi-Annual Statistical Production Plan, covering a 15-year period. This plan provides a broader panorama than that offered by annual planning, and establishes a comprehensive vision of the institution's economic and human resources horizon, seeking stability and financial equilibrium. At the same time, it allows the Institute to analyze its budgetary performance, human resources, and institutional capacity to comply with its legal mandate.</p> <p>INEC's multi-annual statistical production plan considers a portfolio of 25 statistical operations and, on average, the Institute will maintain around 21 statistical operations per year. In addition, this plan considers other initiatives and projects that seek to strengthen the technical, methodological, and technological capacity to support the achievement of the institutional strategy.</p>

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Continuation table 5

Chapter / theme	Recommendation	Involved entities	Status	Details / Comments
1. Legal and institutional framework for official statistics	Implement and monitor multi-annual planning.	INEC	On-going	<p>Notwithstanding the above, INEC has been attending to its multi-year planning in accordance with the financial and human resource capacities possible, taking into consideration that the country has been facing complex economic situations that have restricted the allocation and use of budgetary and human resources, a situation that has hindered the fulfillment of what was initially planned by INEC in its multi-annual plan, and has caused the suspension of the execution of some statistical operations, such as the National Housing and Population Census, which had to be rescheduled for two years.</p> <p>Given the above, and in view of the institutional dynamics and the environment, the multi-annual plan is reviewed each year and updated according to different needs, in addition to the behavior and particularities of each fiscal year, which is documented for subsequent analysis, while allowing the traceability of events. It is worth mentioning that this multi-year instrument is a reference for the Institute's annual planning, and creates a framework of technical and financial viability for INEC to support the achievement of its strategy, in accordance with its legal mandate.</p>

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Continuation table 5

Chapter / theme	Recommendation	Involved entities	Status	Details / Comments
1. Legal and institutional framework for official statistics	Implement and monitor multi-annual planning.	INEC	On-going	<p>In another vein, the approval of Law No. 9694 of the National Statistical System strengthened the Institute's sources of financing, thereby reinforcing the viability framework necessary to meet multi-annual planning. This law strengthens this multi-annual vision by ensuring the financing of statistical operations and projects with a periodicity of more than 2 years, which reasonably guarantees the allocation of the resources required for their attention.</p> <p>Thus, it is through this multi-annual planning that INEC has been outlining its framework of action to ensure the achievement of the strategy, by envisioning in this time frame the supply of statistical information to be made available to the various sectors of society, and that will enhance the generation of public value of official statistics, consistent with the mandate of law.</p>

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Continuation table 5

Chapter / theme	Recommendation	Involved entities	Status	Details / Comments
1. Legal and institutional framework for official statistics	Publish the INEC's confidentiality policy.	INEC	On-going	<p>INEC has developed the Protocol to preserve the principle of data confidentiality. The purpose of this document is to establish the necessary guidelines to preserve the principle of confidentiality in the NSS entities and thus generate confidence among the different actors involved in the generation of official statistics, such as data providers, producers of statistics, and information users.</p> <p>This document is based on Articles No. 20 to 23 of section IV of Law No. 9694 of the NSS, referring to the confidentiality of statistics, and is addressed to all the entities that make up the NSS.</p> <p>This protocol will be available in the first quarter of 2023 in INEC's website: www.inec.cr.</p>
2. Statistical infrastructure	Undertake the population and housing census in 2021, in accordance with the frequency of censuses established by Law No. 9694, and complete work program to achieve the production of annual population estimates that are not projections.	INEC	On-going	<p>The continuity of national population and housing censuses with the periodicity recommended by the OECD is guaranteed thanks to the implementation of Law No. 9694 of the NSS, which, through Article No. 34, delegates to INEC the preparation and dissemination of national population and housing censuses, with a periodicity of no more than 10 years. Article No. 52 defines INEC's funding sources, ensuring resources for multi-year planning and periodic execution of statistical operations, including the National Housing and Population Census (CNPV).</p>

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Continuation table 5

Chapter / theme	Recommendation	Involved entities	Status	Details / Comments
2. Statistical infrastructure	Undertake the population and housing census in 2021, in accordance with the frequency of censuses established by Law No. 9694, and complete work program to achieve the production of annual population estimates that are not projections.	INEC	On-going	<p>The XI National Population Census and VII Housing Census was planned to be executed in 2021, but it had to be postponed for a year due to budget execution limitations by Law No. 9635 on Strengthening Public Finances of 2018 that prevented the use of the money provided for this statistical operation.</p> <p>To comply with the execution of the XI Population Census and VII Housing Census, the following activities had to be carried out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Proposing a bill in the Legislative Assembly to amend Law No. 9694 of the NSS, in Article No. 53 and add Article No. 53 bis, which would allow INEC to be excluded from the application of the fiscal rule and to guarantee the execution of the national census and other programmed statistical operations. ◆ Management to obtain political support for the approval of the draft amendment to the Law. It was approved in November 2021. <p>The XI Population Census and VII Housing Census took place during 2022. The data collection stage has been completed and is now in the cleaning and processing stage. Data are expected to be released in the second quarter of 2023.</p>

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Continuation table 5

Chapter / theme	Recommendation	Involved entities	Status	Details / Comments
2. Statistical infrastructure	Undertake the population and housing census in 2021, in accordance with the frequency of censuses established by Law No. 9694, and complete work program to achieve the production of annual population estimates that are not projections.	INEC	On-going	<p>The following activities were carried out in relation to population projections and annual population estimates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ For the population projections, the calculation of population estimates and projections (EPP, for its acronym in Spanish) prepared jointly by INEC and the Central American Population Center based on the results of the 2011 population and housing census was replicated; in addition, the EPPs were replicated, as far as possible, using Bayesian hierarchical models, a methodology used by the United Nations Population Division; this was done in 2013. In 2020, the new methodology was documented, which guarantees the annual update of the estimates, with new parameters that include the behavior of national trends, and therefore, better establishes the national outlook.

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Continuation table 5

Chapter / theme	Recommendation	Involved entities	Status	Details / Comments
2. Statistical infrastructure	Undertake the population and housing census in 2021, in accordance with the frequency of censuses established by Law No. 9694, and complete work program to achieve the production of annual population estimates that are not projections.	INEC	On-going	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Regarding annual population estimates, INEC established a work plan for a first phase from 2019 to 2023 to create and maintain a Unified Population Registry (RUP, for its acronym in Spanish) to collect reliable information on its characteristics. This project requires access to and use of administrative records, and Law No. 9694 provides these powers to INEC. The project has an estimated progress rate of 50 % of this first phase, and progress has been made as programmed in the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Diagnosis of the quality and timeliness of the sources of information to be used in the population calculation based on administrative records. The main sources identified come from the Supreme Court of Elections, the General Directorate of Migration and Foreigners, the Costa Rican Social Security Administration, and the Mixed Institute of Social Assistance.

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Continuation table 5

Chapter / theme	Recommendation	Involved entities	Status	Details / Comments
2. Statistical infrastructure	Undertake the population and housing census in 2021, in accordance with the frequency of censuses established by Law No. 9694, and complete work program to achieve the production of annual population estimates that are not projections.	INEC	On-going	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Elaboration of the methodology to be used to establish the criteria to set the residency status of the people in the different registries, and also to observe the footprint or traceability of the population in each registry. 3. Operationalization of the methodology through two practical exercises, the first one for May 30, 2011 to be compared with the data of the 2011 Population Census, and the second one for June 30, 2022 to be compared with the 2022 Population Census, both for the national population. 4. Practical exercises for the calculation of the foreign population residing in the country in regular condition. 5. Practical exercises for the calculation of internal migration by means of administrative records of the Supreme Court of Elections.

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Continuation table 5

Chapter / theme	Recommendation	Involved entities	Status	Details / Comments
2. Statistical infrastructure	<p>Move to a single statistical business register. To this end, consider merging the Register of Enterprises and Establishments (DEE, for its acronym in Spanish) and the Register of Economic Variables (REVEC, for its acronym in Spanish). The resulting statistical business register should be completely shared, maintained by INEC.</p> <p>1. Explain in what extent the implementation of the Law No. 9694 helped in solving this issue and improve information sharing that should ultimately pave the way for a single national business register.</p>	INEC	On-going	<p>The Registry of Economic Units (RUE, for its acronym in Spanish) project, under the responsibility of INEC, will allow the creation of a statistical registry of economic units that integrates the relevant administrative records and provides reliable and updated information on the country's business park and its characteristics.</p> <p>Initially, the RUE was scheduled to conclude its design and start its implementation in 2023, beginning with a pilot test. However, there were delays due to the prioritization of other institutional needs, personnel transfers, and the need to review the design that was being developed, which caused the planned date for the test to be postponed to 2024.</p> <p>Currently, the following sub-processes of the statistical design process are in place: Identification of needs, design of the conceptual framework, and design of the capture instrument. From the processing design, we partially have the following: data integration plan, coding plan, validation plan, consistency plan, analysis plan, and allocation and imputation plan, which may vary when the results of the pilot test to be carried out in 2024 are available.</p> <p>Therefore, the execution of the pilot test and its report, as well as the adjustments to the aforementioned plans and the product plan, are still pending.</p>

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Continuation table 5

Chapter / theme	Recommendation	Involved entities	Status	Details / Comments
2. Statistical infrastructure	1. Explain in what extent the implementation of the Law No. 9694 helped in solving this issue and improve information sharing that should ultimately pave the way for a single national business register.	INEC	On-going	<p>On the items indicated:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Enterprise and Establishment Directory (DEE) in charge of INEC has not yet been integrated with other administrative sources such as the Registry of Economic Variables (REVEC) in charge of BCCR, sources from the Costa Rican Social Security Administration (CCSS, for its acronym in Spanish), the Ministry of Finance and others due to the fact that the statistical design of the RUE is expected to be completed, in order to provide a robust system that allows a conformation according to the established statistical procedures <p>It is important to point out that progress has been made in defining agreements with the different sources. With the CCSS, there is a proposal for an agreement that is expected to be approved in 2023; while with the Ministry of Finance, INEC is working together to identify those variables that will be required. All of the above is covered by Law No. 9694 of the NSS, which allows INEC to access the sources of information necessary for the production of official statistics.</p>

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Continuation table 5

Chapter / theme	Recommendation	Involved entities	Status	Details / Comments
2. Statistical infrastructure	1. Explain in what extent the implementation of the Law No. 9694 helped in solving this issue and improve information sharing that should ultimately pave the way for a single national business register.	INEC	On-going	INEC is also currently working on the Integrated Administrative Records System (SIRA, for its acronym in Spanish) project, which is intended to be a computer system developed from innovative information technologies that will provide a favorable structure for the reception, storage, custody, processing, and high security of large volumes of data from administrative records, as well as the cornerstone for the development of methodologies and guidelines for the homogenization of the use of administrative records. This project will improve the information transfer once the aforementioned agreements are defined.

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Continuation table 5

Chapter / theme	Recommendation	Involved entities	Status	Details / Comments
2. Statistical infrastructure	2. Develop a proposal for the integration of Government Units in the Register of Enterprises and Establishments (DEE) and then the single business register.	INEC	On-going	<p>2. The proposed integration of the government units would take place with the implementation of the RUE project, which began in the second quarter of 2020. In this, all institutional units of the economy are contemplated, including both the private and public sectors</p> <p>In the capture instrument, there will be a specific section for the public sector, "Is it a unit owned or controlled by the government?", and includes the characterization of the economic unit, size of the economic unit, foreign trade, business demographics of the economic unit, among others.</p>

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Continuation table 5

Chapter / theme	Recommendation	Involved entities	Status	Details / Comments
2. Statistical infrastructure	Ensure better overall coordination and cooperation among the NSS members for statistical classifications.	INEC	Not started	In recent years, INEC has strengthened the work of standardizing the use of classifiers through the creation of an institutional process that has allowed the alignment of the different activities and a closer approach to the institutions. In addition to this, INEC is consolidating the operation of the NSS. Therefore, in the formulation of the future work of the CIE (through sectoral committees and statistical roundtables), it is proposed to establish inter-institutional cooperation and coordination to develop classifiers within the CIE.

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Continuation table 5

Chapter / theme	Recommendation	Involved entities	Status	Details / Comments
2. Statistical infrastructure	Ensure that missing classifications are integrated into the statistical compilation for statistical domains of INEC and BCCR when data are going to be required by international organisations	INEC BCCR	On going	<p>Both INEC and BCCR have made progress in the adoption of the international classifications recommended in their latest version in order to maintain consistency and comparison as required by international organizations. With respect to the following classifications by statistical domain under the responsibility of BCCR, at present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Annual statistics on international trade in services, by expanded category of the balance of payments (EBdPS, for its acronym in Spanish [2010]) by partner country: this is implemented for data on exports of goods and services by country. Information on imports of services by country of origin is expected to be available in 2025, with the calculation of GDP with reference year 2022. ◆ Classification of the purposes of non-profit institutions (CFISFL, for its acronym in Spanish): no work has yet been done on this item; it was only implemented for the change of base of the CPI. This recommendation is expected to be adopted with the calculation of GDP with reference year 2022.

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Continuation table 5

Chapter / theme	Recommendation	Involved entities	Status	Details / Comments
2. Statistical infrastructure	Ensure that missing classifications are integrated into the statistical compilation for statistical domains of INEC and BCCR when data are going to be required by international organisations	INEC BCCR	On going	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Expanded classification of services (CAdPS, for its acronym in Spanish): it is available with the standard classification of the balance of payments, but not with the expanded classification. In October 2022, the information on exports by country according to the expanded classification for the period 2013 - 2019 was shared with OECD, and it is expected to send the corresponding information for 2020 in the first quarter of 2023.
3. National accounts	<p>Improve the annual and quarterly non-financial accounts in the following areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Annual institutional sector accounts: carry out backward calculations to the year 2000 and enhance timeliness. 	BCCR	On-going	<p>The efforts made by BCCR to improve the annual and quarterly non-financial accounts through the following activities are detailed below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Annual institutional sector accounts: carry out backward calculations to the year 2000 and enhance timeliness: this item is being executed. Among the progress, work has been done on the splicing of the General Government and Financial Companies sector. Currently, the availability of published data is in a period of t+24. <p>The development of some tasks had to be moved due to the national emergency caused by COVID-19, so it is expected to conclude this item in 2024.</p>

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Continuation table 5

Chapter / theme	Recommendation	Involved entities	Status	Details / Comments
3. National accounts	2. Expand the time coverage of a number of important time series, such as GDP by industry, final demand, etc.	BCCR	On-going	<p>2. Expand the time coverage of a number of important time series, such as GDP by industry, final demand, etc.: this item was already implemented; in 2021, the retropolated series of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by industry and by demand components were published since 1991 with quarterly and annual periodicity.</p> <p>The implementation of this recommendation implied the adoption of international standards for national accounts. In order to extend the time series up to 1991, not all the information required for a direct application of what these methodologies suggest was available, so in some cases a splicing of the time series was carried out.</p>

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Continuation table 5

Chapter / theme	Recommendation	Involved entities	Status	Details / Comments
3. National accounts	<p>3. Improve gradually the computation of capital stocks and consumption of fixed capital by using a more detailed asset breakdown and by introducing a retirement distribution (or using a geometric age-price profile).</p> <p>4. Produce balance sheets for non-financial assets per institutional sector.</p>	BCCR	On-going	<p>3. Improve gradually the computation of capital stocks and fixed capital consumption by introducing a retirement distribution (or using a geometric age-price profile): the improvement in this calculation is underway, with an estimated 90 % progress. We already have a preliminary calculation from 2012 to 2019 that was developed with the technical advice of the IMF. The calculation is currently being revised. Several options for the calculation were tested, and the one that gave the best results was the geometric age-price profile.</p> <p>The delay in concluding this activity is due to the fact that a survey of assets and their corresponding economic useful life was applied to companies. This is expected to be completed by the end of 2022.</p> <p>4. Produce balance sheets of non-financial assets per institutional sector: the status of this item is linked to item 3, so the estimated percentage of progress is also 90 % since they are dealt with jointly.</p>

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Continuation table 5

Chapter / theme	Recommendation	Involved entities	Status	Details / Comments
3. National accounts	<p>5. The measurement of consumption of fixed capital that is used in estimates of public sector output should progressively be based on standard national accounts methodology rather than public sector accounts.</p> <p>6. Explore the possibility to develop "output based" indicators for some important non-market producers.</p>	BCCR	On-going	<p>5. The measurement of fixed capital consumption used in public sector output estimates should progressively be based on standard national accounts methodology rather than public sector accounts: the status of this item is linked to item 3, so the estimated percentage of progress is also 90 % since they are dealt with jointly.</p> <p>6. Explore the possibility to develop "output based" indicators for some important non-market producers: this item is yet to be implemented, since it represents the development of a new statistic.</p> <p>The main technical and operational actions proposed to start with the development of this item are to explore, within the statistics of the main non-market institutions, the availability, quality, and timeliness of management statistics, which will allow the creation of production indicators. With the reference year change 2022, the exploration of the use of production indicators for non-market activities will begin..</p> <p>It is expected to start with the execution of this item in the second half of 2023. .</p>

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Continuation table 5

Chapter / theme	Recommendation	Involved entities	Status	Details / Comments
3. National accounts	<p>7. Reduce the part of quarterly time series based on mechanical interpolation.</p> <p>8. Improve the timeliness of preliminary quarterly estimates of GDP.</p>	BCCR	On-going	<p>7. Reduce the part of quarterly time series based on mechanical interpolation: this item has already been executed, obtaining the quarterly publication of GDP according to economic activity (original series, cycle trend, and seasonally adjusted) in 2021.</p> <p>This was achieved by reducing the percentage of GDP calculated by mechanical interpolation to 10 %. The main challenge in the execution of this item was to calculate derived volume indexes based on the sales declarations made to the Ministry of Finance. The publication is available on the BCCR website.</p> <p>8. Improve the timeliness of preliminary quarterly GDP estimates: this item has been implemented since 2022, and as a result, the quarterly publication of GDP by economic activity and expenditure component (original series, cycle trend, and seasonally adjusted) was obtained. Additionally, the breakdown of household final consumption expenditure and expenditure on gross fixed capital formation, GDP by production regime, quarterly GDP in dollars, and terms of trade are published.</p>

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Continuation table 5

Chapter / theme	Recommendation	Involved entities	Status	Details / Comments
3. National accounts	<p>8. Improve the timeliness of preliminary quarterly estimates of GDP.</p> <p>9. Formulate and disseminate a revision policy for quarterly accounts.</p>	BCCR	On-going	<p>The biggest challenge was to organize the statistical processes in such a way as to guarantee the availability of the basic information needed to calculate quarterly GDP.</p> <p>The advance publication calendar indicates the dates on which the first GDP estimate will be published in T+30 and a revised publication in T+90. This is available at: https://gee.bccr.fi.cr/indicadoreseconomicos/Documentos/NEEDD/Calendario-esp.htm</p> <p>9. Formulate and disseminate a quarterly accounts revision policy: this item was implemented in 2021, obtaining as a product a quarterly publication of GDP according to economic activity and expenditure component (original, cycle trend, and seasonally adjusted series), with reference year 2017.</p> <p>The dissemination of the figures is made on the institution's website. There is an advance calendar that informs about the dates established for publication.</p> <p>During the development, the biggest challenge was to organize the statistical processes in a way that guarantees to have the basic information to perform the calculation of the quarterly GDP.</p>

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Continuation table 5

Chapter / theme	Recommendation	Involved entities	Status	Details / Comments
3. National accounts	10. As a longer-term project, development of quarterly sector accounts may be envisaged.	BCCR	On-going	<p>10. As a longer-term project, the development of quarterly sectoral accounts may be envisaged: this item is yet to be executed, and it has not yet been possible to define deadlines to start, since it is first necessary to evaluate the human resources and technological infrastructure required.</p> <p>Likewise, the change of reference from GDP to 2022 is being initiated. The quarterly accounts by institutional sector will be a statistical product for the 2027 GDP reference change exercise (evaluation of human resources, technological capacity, information sources, and quality indicators).</p>
4. Price statistics	<p>Pursue improvements in the CPIs in the following areas:</p> <p>1. Inclusion of owner-occupied housing (following a consistent approach with other statistical areas such as national accounts and income distribution statistics).</p>	INEC	On-going	<p>The following are the actions indicated for the improvement of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) under the responsibility of INEC:</p> <p>1. Inclusion of owner-occupied housing (following a consistent approach with other statistical areas, such as national accounts and income distribution statistics): Costa Rica will follow the equivalent renting approach to calculate a parallel index to the official CPI that includes owner-occupied housing.</p>

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Continuation table 5

Chapter / theme	Recommendation	Involved entities	Status	Details / Comments
4. Price statistics	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Inclusion of owner-occupied housing (following a consistent approach with other statistical areas such as national accounts and income distribution statistics). Consideration of internet purchases where these are significant. 	INEC	On-going	<p>The activities for the calculation of the parallel index were delayed due to the implementation of other activities; however, the pending activities are expected to be completed in the course of 2023. These activities consist of analyzing the scenarios proposed for the calculation of the indicator, monthly calculation of the index, approval of the proposal at the institutional level, programming the calculation in the computer system, and defining how the results will be sent to the OECD. The calculation of the parallel index is expected to be completed by the end of 2023.</p> <p>2. Consideration of Internet purchases when these are significant: this request was considered in the update of the CPI to the December 2020 base. Internet purchases are used for the monthly collection of prices of two items of the CPI December 2020 base: airline tickets and movie tickets, items for which it was determined that this means of purchase is used by a significant portion of consumers.</p> <p>The use of Internet purchases is established in the CPI methodological document: "Consumer Price Index December 2020 base. Methodology", in section 7.5 "Collection methods",</p>

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Continuation table 5

Chapter / theme	Recommendation	Involved entities	Status	Details / Comments
4. Price statistics	<p>2. Consideration of internet purchases where these are significant.</p> <p>3. Inclusion of the prices of second-hand goods if there is evidence that these carry a sufficient weight in consumer expenditure.</p>	INEC	On-going	<p>where it is stated that “the interviewer staff obtains the required prices by entering and searching the reporting establishment’s webpage”. The methodology of the CPI December 2020 base can be downloaded at this link: https://inec.cr/estadisticas-fuentes/estadisticas-economicas?topics=134%252C653&documentsTypes=methodology&page=3.</p> <p>3. Inclusion of the prices of second-hand goods if there is evidence that these have a sufficient weight in consumer expenditure: second-hand goods are included in the calculation of the CPI December 2020 base weights, but not in the collection of prices, due to the operational difficulties that this implies. In the CPI methodological document, “Consumer Price Index December 2020 base. Methodology”, section 5.3 “Distinction between gross and net expenditure”, indicates the treatment applied to expenditure on second-hand goods in the CPI. The methodology of the CPI December 2020 base can be downloaded at this link: https://inec.cr/estadisticas-fuentes/estadisticas-economicas?topics=134%252C653&documentsTypes=methodology&page=3.</p>

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Continuation table 5

Chapter / theme	Recommendation	Involved entities	Status	Details / Comments
<p>4. Price statistics</p>	<p>3. Inclusion of the prices of second-hand goods if there is evidence that these carry a sufficient weight in consumer expenditure.</p> <p>4. Launch of projects for explicit quality adjustment methods for products that are liable to rapid quality change, such as information technology products.</p>	<p>INEC</p>	<p>On-going</p>	<p>During the project to update the CPI to the December 2020 base, it was not possible to determine the weight of second-hand goods in consumer expenditure, due to the fact that the 2018 National Household Income and Expenditure Survey (ENIGH, for its acronym in Spanish) did not include a variable to be able to separate spending between new and second-hand goods.</p> <p>In the next ENIGH, which is scheduled to be conducted in 2024, a variable was included to separate spending on new and second-hand goods, with which it will be possible to determine the weight in consumer spending of these two types of goods. The assessment for the inclusion of second-hand goods in the CPI data collection will be conducted in the next change of base project, with the results of this analysis expected to be available by the end of 2025.</p> <p>4. Launch of projects for explicit quality adjustment methods for products that are liable to rapid quality change, such as information technology products: analysis for the implementation of explicit quality adjustment methods will be conducted as part of the research for the next CPI change of base project, scheduled to start in 2023.</p>

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Continuation table 5

Chapter / theme	Recommendation	Involved entities	Status	Details / Comments
4. Price statistics	4. Launch of projects for explicit quality adjustment methods for products that are liable to rapid quality change, such as information technology products.	INEC	On-going	<p>The results of these investigations are expected to be available by the end of 2025.</p> <p>The application of explicit methods will be evaluated in the telecommunications services to be included in the new CPI base, for which technical assistance will be provided and the availability of information will be analyzed with the companies that provide these services.</p>
4. Price statistics	Investigate further quality adjustment as regards import price index, and ensure that they are consistent with those made for other economic statistics.	BCCR	Not started	<p>This task was part of a project that had already been concluded. At the time, the feasibility analysis indicated that its implementation was not possible. The BCCR has not initiated activities for this recommendation, due to the fact that there are currently other institutional priorities and therefore there are no human resources available to proceed with its implementation. For the time being, there are no plans to take up the recommendation again; in the future, deadlines will have to be determined, which will be after 2025.</p>

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Continuation table 5

Chapter / theme	Recommendation	Involved entities	Status	Details / Comments
4. Price statistics	Publish detailed and updated methodological information on the Producer Price Index in English on the internet website of the BCCR.	BCCR	On going	<p>The BCCR has already published the methodology for the services producer price indexes, and is in the process of revising the one for manufacturing; both are in Spanish.</p> <p>The estimated percentage of progress for this recommendation is 70 %, with a slight delay according to the initial schedule due to a lack of personnel to meet the requirements. The pending activities are expected to be completed by January 2023.</p>
4. Price statistics	Develop a residential property price index.	BCCR	Implemented	<p>The BCCR has developed the calculation of this index starting in December 2018 and ending in December 2021, when the project was completed. Additionally, in the execution of this recommendation, a quantity index of meters sold was generated.</p> <p>This price index is expected to be a benchmark for society and the national banking system. However, the index is currently only available for internal use by BCCR, so one of the challenges is to publish it.</p>

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Continuation table 5

Chapter / theme	Recommendation	Involved entities	Status	Details / Comments
5. Structural and demographic business statistics	Improve the harmonisation of Structural and Demographic Business Statistics (SDBS) through accessing tax records and social security data for statistical purposes.	INEC	On going	<p>The harmonization of the Structural and Demographic Business Statistics (SDBS) would be achieved through the implementation of the Registry of Economic Units (RUE) project under the responsibility of INEC, which would use administrative records of the Costa Rican Social Security Administration (CCSS), the Central Bank of Costa Rica (BCCR), the Ministry of Finance, Municipalities, and others as sources of information.</p> <p>To achieve harmonization, progress shall be made in agreements that define how data will be handled by the different parties involved, in order to apply the stipulations of Law No. 9694 of the NSS on data access for statistical purposes, allowing INEC access to fiscal, social security, foreign trade, and other data. Significant progress has been made in the two base administrative registries for the RUE:</p> <p>Social security records: INEC and the CCSS have already worked on a proposal for an agreement that is currently under review, and is expected to be approved in 2023.</p>

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Continuation table 5

Chapter / theme	Recommendation	Involved entities	Status	Details / Comments
5. Structural and demographic business statistics	Improve the harmonisation of Structural and Demographic Business Statistics (SDBS) through accessing tax records and social security data for statistical purposes.	INEC	On going	<p>Fiscal records: INEC and the Ministry of Finance are working together to identify those variables that will be required and to define how the data and the parameters for their transmission, among others, will be treated. It has not yet been defined whether the document to formalize the deal will be an agreement or any other alternative, nor is there a deadline for its approval.</p> <p>For the access to information sources, which involves the aforementioned agreements, in general, it is estimated that there is a percentage of progress of 30 %. In the meantime, the implementation of the RUE is expected to start with a pilot test in 2024, which will improve the harmonization of Structural and Demographic Business Statistics (SDBS).</p>
6. Indexes of production and demand	Develop an index on the number of dwellings for which construction work started.	BCCR INEC	On going	<p>The BCCR is compiling quarterly information on the start of construction works, and expects to publish the indicator no later than June 2023.</p> <p>Among the main challenges is that it is based on a database corresponding to an administrative registry, where there is a backlog between the time of the construction permit application and the start of construction, which limits coverage and response.</p>

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Continuation table 5

Chapter / theme	Recommendation	Involved entities	Status	Details / Comments
6. Indexes of production and demand	Develop an index on the number of dwellings for which construction work started.	BCCR INEC	On going	On the other hand, the need for human resources and the definition of institutional priorities led to a delay in the execution of this recommendation. The estimated percentage of progress is 7 %.
7. International trade statistics	Provide more comprehensive metadata information on BCCR's website in English on Supply and Use Tables.	BCCR	Implemented	<p>The BCCR prepared a document in English detailing the calculation of the supply and use table, entitled Costa Rica: Extended supply and use tables and non-financial private sector accounts to address globalization. This was published in 2021, and the main challenge was the amount of time required for its preparation.</p> <p>This document is available to the public in the BCCR website through the following link: https://www.bccr.fi.cr/indicadores-economicos/DocCuentasNacionales2017/ESUT_COSTA_RICA.pdf.</p>
8. Balance of payments and international trade in services statistics	Fill in coverage gaps in the annual international trade in services statistics.	BCCR	Implemented	<p>The BCCR filled the information gaps indicated, generating data on exports of services by country from 2013 to 2019 by regime in colones and dollars.</p> <p>The main challenge, in the case of special regimes, was to digitize and process the sales reported in the administrative records by partner country, and for the definitive regime, it was necessary to resort to additional research, such as surveys and telephone consultations.</p>

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Continuation table 5

Chapter / theme	Recommendation	Involved entities	Status	Details / Comments
8. Balance of payments and international trade in services statistics	Fill in coverage gaps in the annual international trade in services statistics.	BCCR	Implemented	The published data can be found on the BCCR website, and can be accessed through the following link: https://www.bccr.fi.cr/indicadores-economicos/DocCuentasNacionales2017/Exportaciones_por_pais_regimen_dolares.xlsx .
9. Financial statistics and related statistics	1. Complete the production and dissemination of general government accounts (including the development of quarterly non-financial accounts for the general government) in line with the 2008 SNA.	BCCR MH	On going	1. The BCCR is completing the production and dissemination of the government accounts. Currently, a preliminary version of table 0200 General Government Accounts in t+6 for the years 2019-2020-2021 has already been sent. It is considered that the recommendation has been implemented as scheduled, counting with a progress percentage of 75 %. The implementation of this recommendation is expected to be completed in 2024.

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Continuation table 5

Chapter / theme	Recommendation	Involved entities	Status	Details / Comments
9. Financial statistics and related statistics	<p>2. Improve their timeliness through the implementation of the action plan to implement GFSM 2014 between the BCCR and the Ministry of Finance (MdH).</p> <p>3. Implement IPSAS to enable the release of first quarterly general government accounts in 2023.</p>	BCCR MH	On going	<p>2. Currently, the Ministry of Finance is responsible for the implementation of the 2014 Manual on Public Finance Statistics (MEFP, for its acronym in Spanish), with the participation of BCCR as support and accompaniment. To carry out MEFP's implementation, a work schedule was developed that extends until 2026, with the collaboration of the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Among the main challenges to conclude the implementation of this item is the need to ensure the human resources specialized in information technology and to have the required training</p> <p>3. According to Resolution No. DCN-0002-2021 of the National Accounting of the Ministry of Finance, institutions shall implement the version 2018 of IPSAS at the close of the fiscal year 2023 or earlier. In addition, it indicates a transitional period of 3 years granted by the version 2018 of IPSAS 33. Although this information will be used for a final version in t+6 of the General Government Accounts, the preliminary information sent for previous years is quite accurate, except for interest and transfers that cannot be consolidated in t+6.</p>

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Continuation table 5

Chapter / theme	Recommendation	Involved entities	Status	Details / Comments
9. Financial statistics and related statistics	4. Implement the necessary institutional arrangements between the BCCR, MdH and INEC to ensure that substantial efforts are carried out to raise the quality of general government accounts in the framework of the 2008 SNA.	BCCR MH	On going	4. Within the framework of the Public Finance Statistics Working Group that was established and formalized in 2018, with the joint support of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Regional Technical Assistance Center for Central America, Panama and the Dominican Republic (CAPTAC-DR, for its acronym in Spanish) and the Central American Monetary Council, the Ministry of Finance with the support of the BCCR has been working on the harmonization of fiscal statistics and implementation of the 2014 Public Finance Manual as a priority objective. For its part, the National Accounting Directorate of the Ministry of Finance plans to complete the implementation of the version 18 of IPSAS by 2024.
9. Financial statistics and related statistics	Close the gaps in financial accounts (quarterly accounts, balance sheets, household assets and liabilities, etc.) and implement an efficient regular data transmission.	BCCR	On going	The BCCR, with the publication of the annual GDP figures with reference year 2022, expects to close the gap in the financial accounts by incorporating the information of annual household financial accounts. For the quarterly accounts, it is expected that with the reference year change 2027 in the national accounts, the gap will be closed.

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Chapter / theme	Recommendation	Involved entities	Status	Details / Comments
10. Labour and labour compensation statistics	Complete the on-going integration process of labour and household surveys (ECE, ENAHO, ENIGH, ENAMEH, etc.) into a single continuous survey (SIEH, for its acronym in Spanish), with the following objectives:	INEC	On going	<p>The Integrated System for Household Surveys (SIEH) aims to improve the thematic and geographic coverage for the production of statistics and social indicators, measured through household surveys and in accordance with national needs and international requirements. This is mainly through the integration of the National Household Survey (ENAHO, for its acronym in Spanish) and the Continuous Employment Survey (ECE, for its acronym in Spanish) into a single household survey.</p> <p>To carry this out, in 2017 INEC received support from the World Bank and the Central Bank of Costa Rica for the first stage of implementation that would generate diagnostics and initial proposals to lay the groundwork for the development of the SIEH. This meant a first stage of implementation and concluded in 2020.</p> <p>In 2021, a second stage of implementation began with the purpose of giving continuity to the development of the SIEH, through a work plan that extends until 2026, with the following objectives:</p>

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Chapter / theme	Recommendation	Involved entities	Status	Details / Comments
10. Labour and labour compensation statistics	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish an integrated sample design for household surveys. 2. Define an integrated thematic and conceptual framework for household surveys. 3. Develop an integrated information technology system for household surveys, allowing INEC to provide users with detailed metadata. 	INEC	On going	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish an integrated sample design for household surveys: work is currently underway on the design of the sample, with support from ECLAC to review progress on this item. The estimated progress percentage is 40 %, and the goal is to complete it by 2024. 2. Define an integrated thematic and conceptual framework for household surveys: among the activities completed for this objective are the proposal of the questionnaire to which tests have already been applied, and the design of the conceptual framework. Among the main advances are the instructions for interviewers, the inconsistency plan, and the tabulation plan. The estimated progress percentage is 40 %, and the goal is to complete all pending activities for this objective by 2025. 3. Develop an integrated information technology system for household surveys, allowing INEC to provide users with detailed metadata: this is currently the objective with the longest backlog. There are technical and operational capacity limitations in INEC's IT Department that have delayed the development of the system.

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Chapter / theme	Recommendation	Involved entities	Status	Details / Comments
10. Labour and labour compensation statistics	3. Develop an integrated information technology system for household surveys, allowing INEC to provide users with detailed metadata..	INEC	On going	<p>The main progress on this objective was the design, and it is expected to be followed up in 2023. Progress on this objective is estimated at 5 %.</p> <p>The SIEH is expected to enter field testing in 2025 and to be finally implemented in 2026.</p>
11. Business tendency survey and consumer opinion surveys	Extend the scope and periodicity of the Business Tendency Survey.	UCR	On going	<p>The Institute for Research in Economic Sciences (IICE, for its acronym in Spanish) of the University of Costa Rica is in charge of carrying out the Quarterly Survey on Business Expectations and has made progress in the required seasonal adjustments, starting in 2020 for both the global index and for the individual indices by economic sector under study.</p> <p>Regarding the issue of periodicity and coverage, the IICE cannot increase the periodicity or expand the coverage of the survey due to structural limitations.</p>

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Chapter / theme	Recommendation	Involved entities	Status	Details / Comments
11. Business tendency survey and consumer opinion surveys	Extend the scope and periodicity of the Business Tendency Survey..	UCR	On going	<p>Currently, the development of the survey continues on a quarterly basis, for reasons of installed capacity and budget. The budget depends on the Fund for Higher Education (FEES, for its acronym in Spanish), which in real terms was reduced by 2023 and, in addition, the fiscal rule that restricts spending is being implemented and that this means that the University not only has a limited budget, but there are also legal spending restrictions, therefore, it makes it difficult to secure the budget required to increase the periodicity and coverage of the survey.</p> <p>A third factor to consider, and that has been observed in the last three years, is that the businessmen interviewed state that their expectations do not change significantly from one quarter to the next, due to the nature of their activities and how they are managed within the economy. of the country (generally in Costa Rica the same companies are maintained), so conducting the survey on a monthly basis would not contribute to generating better information since different responses would not be reflected from one month to the next and it is likely that it will generate an increase in the non-response rate.</p>

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Chapter / theme	Recommendation	Involved entities	Status	Details / Comments
12. Income distribution and poverty statistics, well-being indicators	Improve the coverage of well-being indicators.	INEC	On-going	<p>At the time of the OECD review, the country had 22 of the 25 well-being indicators available. The details of the 3 pending indicators are explained below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Household net worth: this information is expected to be addressed with the implementation of the Integrated System for Household Surveys (SIEH). ◆ Adult skills in education: this information is expected to be addressed with the implementation of the SIEH. . ◆ Time use survey microdata: since 2018, data from the first iteration of the 2017 National Survey on Time Use (ENUT) are available on INEC's website. The second application of the survey was executed during 2022, so it is expected to have updated microdata in 2023. <p>It is expected to have the pending indicators that depend on the SIEH until 2027, taking into account the schedule for implementing and obtaining SIEH products.</p>

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Chapter / theme	Recommendation	Involved entities	Status	Details / Comments
13. Assessment of Costa Rican statistics collected by other directorates	<p>Regional and Territorial Statistics. Participating in the Regional Development Policy Committee (RDPC) and its related Working Parties (WPTI, Working Party on Rural Policy, and Working Party on Urban Policy)</p>	Mideplan	Implemented	<p>As of May 2021, with the formal entry of Costa Rica as a member country of the OECD, the Regional Planning Area (APR, for its acronym in Spanish) of the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Policy (MIDEPLAN, for its acronym in Spanish) has been responsible for the representation of Costa Rica before the RDPC, and two of its officials were appointed as delegates. Since then, it has actively participated in the biannual sessions with specific interventions, as well as other spaces convened, such as seminars, workshops, presentations of studies, discussion series, among others.</p> <p>In August 2022, with the support of the Ministerial Office of MIDEPLAN and the Ministry of Foreign Trade (COMEX, for its acronym in Spanish), the pending appointments of delegations to the three formal working groups of the RDPC were negotiated with other related institutions. In particular, one delegation from INEC for the Territorial Indicators working group (the other designated to MIDEPLAN's APR), two delegations from the Ministry of Housing and Human Settlements (MIVAH, for its acronym in Spanish) and the Institute of Housing and Urban Planning (INVU, for its acronym in Spanish), respectively, for the Urban Policy working group, and two delegations from the Institute of Rural Development (INDER, for its acronym in Spanish) for the Rural Policy working group (WPRUR, for its acronym in Spanish).</p>

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Chapter / theme	Recommendation	Involved entities	Status	Details / Comments
13. Assessment of Costa Rican statistics collected by other directorates	Regional and Territorial Statistics. Participating in the Regional Development Policy Committee (RDPC) and its related Working Parties (WPTI, Working Party on Rural Policy, and Working Party on Urban Policy)	Mideplan	Implemented	This has helped institutionalize Costa Rica's participation in the OECD, distribute tasks and responsibilities, and foster inter-institutional cooperation in the development of public policy and country positions. The new delegations will be participating in their first meetings at the end of November 2022.

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Chapter / theme	Recommendation	Involved entities	Status	Details / Comments
<p>13. Assessment of Costa Rican statistics collected by other directorates</p>	<p>R&D, Innovation, Science and Information and Communications Technology Statistics. Implementing the 2017 roadmap for STI statistics, including the following action points:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop greater awareness of OECD resources and guidance, through for example internal workshops. 	<p>MICITT</p>	<p>On going</p>	<p>Of the activities indicated in the roadmap for ITS statistics, the status is as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This item has already been implemented; the trainings provided by Ministry of Science, Innovation, Technology, and Telecommunications (MICITT, for its acronym in Spanish) are based on the OSLO and Frascati manuals promoted by the OECD. Training is provided on an annual basis.

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Chapter / theme	Recommendation	Involved entities	Status	Details / Comments
13. Assessment of Costa Rican statistics collected by other directorates	2. Harmonise approaches between the BCCR and MICITT and ensure that unnecessary duplication of data collection efforts is avoided when it comes to measure R&D expenditures for STI and national accounts statistics.	MICITT	On going	2. The methodological harmonization for measuring R&D expenditures for STI statistics and national accounts between BCCR and MICITT was conducted through working sessions between 2019 and 2020; however, both institutions continue with their measurements due to the coverage comprised by each of them. Therefore, it is considered that they complement each other and have to continue working in parallel to ensure the coverage of the target population required by each institution.

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Chapter / theme	Recommendation	Involved entities	Status	Details / Comments
13. Assessment of Costa Rican statistics collected by other directorates	3. Implement a cooperation between the BCCR, MICITT and CINPE to co-ordinate their respective R&D data sources, as well as possible updates to the current innovation survey approach to obtain a detailed picture of R&D performance within Costa Rica's firms.	MICITT	On going	3. The cooperation between BCCR and MICITT to coordinate the respective data sources and the design of the instrument was conducted during the joint working sessions held between 2019 and 2020 mentioned above. The participation of the International Center for Economic Policy for Sustainable Development (CINPE, for its acronym in Spanish) is to support MICITT in the collection of information according to an agreement signed between the parties, so the coordination was mainly between BCCR and MICITT.

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Chapter / theme	Recommendation	Involved entities	Status	Details / Comments
13. Assessment of Costa Rican statistics collected by other directorates	4. Implement the Oslo Manual 2018 for collecting reporting and using data on innovation in the context of the preparation of the MICITT's innovation survey to be launched in 2020. This process should be accompanied by the development of a relevant statistical/ analytical infrastructure.	MICITT	On going	4. This item has already been implemented. MICITT was previously oriented with the 2015 OSLO Manual, so the challenge for the innovation survey was to incorporate all the changes contemplated in the 2018 version of the OSLO Manual. In August 2022, the survey data collection was under development.

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Chapter / theme	Recommendation	Involved entities	Status	Details / Comments
13. Assessment of Costa Rican statistics collected by other directorates	5. Support online platforms and publications for STIs statistics of Costa Rica. Mapping of financial flows supporting science, R&D and innovation across the STI system should be particularly encouraged in order to assist prioritisation of monitoring and evaluation work.	MICITT	On going	5. This item was implemented through the uploading of information from the MICITT Open Data Portal that already existed, and which is the site where the MICITT publishes the statistics it generates. The National S&T Information System (SINCYT, for its acronym in Spanish) project was also developed. This system contains data that allows monitoring the traceability of financial flows that support science, technology and innovation. The project was presented in 2019 and can currently be accessed through the following link: https://www.sincyt.go.cr/ .

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Chapter / theme	Recommendation	Involved entities	Status	Details / Comments
13. Assessment of Costa Rican statistics collected by other directorates	6. Develop an information system of science, technology and innovation indicators, including an information bulletin on issues of statistics and indicators of science, technology and innovation, an open data portal allowing users to generate and export tables and graphics in various formats, and support for business innovation surveys.	MICITT	On going	6. This item was already implemented through the inclusion of a module of indicators within the National Information System of Science and Technology Information (SINCYT) that would allow replacing the newsletter with a permanent consultation site within the system. The design was carried out with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Trade (COMEX) to ensure compliance with OECD information requirements.

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Chapter / theme	Recommendation	Involved entities	Status	Details / Comments
13. Assessment of Costa Rican statistics collected by other directorates	<p>Public Governance Statistics. Improve comparability of statistics on the composition and compensation of government employees as well as pursue on-going efforts to improve the collection of administrative data.</p>	MIDEPLAN	On going	<p>In 2017, by agreement of the Budget Authority, the Technical Secretariat of the Budget Authority (STAP, for its acronym in Spanish), the Ministry of National Planning (MIDEPLAN) and the General Directorate of Civil Service (DGSC, for its acronym in Spanish) were requested to integrate a working group in charge of defining the information requirements regarding employment and salaries of public entities, in order to have a Public Employment Database that integrates all the information, as well as to seek other possible databases that may complement.</p> <p>Since 2019, this database is managed by the STAP and the DGSC, receives IT technical assistance from the Directorate of Infocommunication Technologies (DTIC, for its acronym in Spanish) of the Ministry of Finance, and collects periodic information from public institutions of the Central Government and the decentralized sector, district councils, and the Integra System of the Ministry of Finance, which comprises 26 institutions of the Executive Branch (Ministries and attached). Several variables of interest were considered, such as: number of employees, salaries, occupational level, gender, academic degree, job specialty, among others related to human talent management.</p>

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Continuation table 5

Chapter / theme	Recommendation	Involved entities	Status	Details / Comments
13. Assessment of Costa Rican statistics collected by other directorates	Public Governance Statistics. Improve comparability of statistics on the composition and compensation of government employees as well as pursue on-going efforts to improve the collection of administrative data.	MIDEPLAN	On going	<p>According to the new Public Employment Framework Law approved at the beginning of 2022, MIDEPLAN shall manage the Integrated Public Employment Platform. To this end, STAP and DGSC have recently coordinated with MIDEPLAN to deliver the Public Employment Database, which will be the basis for this platform, and MIDEPLAN, for its part, has been informed of the technical and IT qualities of this database.</p> <p>In April 2022, a cyber-attack affected programs and equipment of different institutions, and therefore the updating of the database. In response, the DTIC's technical team worked to enable the different tools as soon as possible, trying to comply with security elements for users and data under custody.</p> <p>As of November 2022, the three institutions are coordinating technical IT aspects, such as the necessary equipment requirements to enable the transition of the STAP database to MIDEPLAN.</p>

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Continuation table 5

Chapter / theme	Recommendation	Involved entities	Status	Details / Comments
13. Assessment of Costa Rican statistics collected by other directorates	Agriculture Statistics. Improve data sharing between public and private sectors.	MAG	Not started	<p>The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG for its acronym in Spanish) through the Executive Secretariat for Agricultural Sector Planning (SEPSA for its acronym in Spanish) is responsible for taking the necessary steps to prepare the Agricultural Statistical Newsletter. To this end, it coordinates with the different parties involved in order to obtain the sources of information, including coordination with the private sector.</p> <p>For the development of the Agricultural Statistical Newsletter, all the necessary information has been available thanks to the good relations maintained with private sector informants.</p> <p>Given that the entity has established good relations and understanding with the counterparts that provide the information required for the production of the Agricultural Statistics Newsletter, it has not been necessary to formalize deals or arrangements with the private sector. As evidence of these good relations, there have been no information gaps in the publications of the newsletter; however, the possibility of formalizing agreements if required in the future is not ruled out.</p>

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Continuation table 5

Chapter / theme	Recommendation	Involved entities	Status	Details / Comments
13. Assessment of Costa Rican statistics collected by other directorates	<p>Development Assistance Statistics. Pursue support to adapt the statistical systems to better capture and report data on development flows on a regular basis.</p>	MIDEPLAN	On going	<p>The International Cooperation Project Management System (SIGECI, for its acronym in Spanish) is the only centralized information system on international cooperation in Costa Rica since 2010, under the responsibility of the International Cooperation Area (ACI, for its acronym in Spanish) of MIDEPLAN. This is an online repository of all projects, programs, and supply and demand actions that the country manages with resources from international technical and financial non-reimbursable cooperation, by region, sector, institution, modality, type of cooperation, funding source, and execution status. It includes climate markers and links to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the National Development and Public Investment Plan (PNDIP, for its acronym in Spanish), the International Cooperation Policy and international instruments ratified by the country.</p> <p>Since the end of 2021, a technological update of SIGECI has been underway to offer a more accessible, fast, accurate, and visual information system, in line with new trends. The new SIGECI will be online in early 2023, at the latest. The resources have been provided by MIDEPLAN's pre-investment fund.</p> <p>If initiatives at the international level require certain types of new data from Costa Rica, non-reimbursable financial resources would be needed to make the corresponding adjustments to existing systems.</p>

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Continuation table 5

Chapter / theme	Recommendation	Involved entities	Status	Details / Comments
13. Assessment of Costa Rican statistics collected by other directorates	<p>Transport Statistics. Improving coordination between ITF and Costa Rica even though Costa Rica is not ITF Member.</p>	MOPT	On-going	<p>The Ministry of Public Works and Transportation (MOPT, for its acronym in Spanish), as the country's public works and transportation rector, is in charge of preparing and publishing the Statistical Yearbook of the Public Works and Transportation Sector. This yearbook gathers statistics produced by other institutions in the transport sector and MOPT integrates them in the publication. The institution has worked to improve coordination with the actors involved to facilitate the collection of the data required for the preparation of the yearbook, and thus comply with the information requirements of the OECD's International Transport Forum (ITF).</p> <p>In 2022, Costa Rica, as an official member of the OECD, received an invitation to participate in one of the activities of the OECD's International Transport Forum (ITF). At that time, due to complications related to the change of government in the country, it was not possible to meet the request, and therefore the country did not participate in the activity. However, another invitation was received for an ITF activity, scheduled for January 2023, for which the respective arrangements are being made, and it is expected the head of MOPT participates.</p>

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Continuation table 5

Chapter / theme	Recommendation	Involved entities	Status	Details / Comments
13. Assessment of Costa Rican statistics collected by other directorates	Transport Statistics. Improving coordination between ITF and Costa Rica even though Costa Rica is not ITF Member.	MOPT	On-going	For the year 2023, it is expected that MOPT will continue to actively coordinate with the ITF and participate in its activities. To this end, the support of Costa Rica's Ministry of Foreign Trade (COMEX), which has served as a liaison channel between the ITF and the country, facilitating coordination between the parties, is considered very valuable.
13. Assessment of Costa Rican statistics collected by other directorates	Environment Statistics. Fill in gaps in environmental statistics including data on waste generation, recycling and treatment (beyond municipal waste); data on air and GHG emissions; and more generally environmental data broken down by sector and by industry.	MINAE	On going	The main areas within the environmental statistics where information gaps were identified and the details of their current status are specified below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Waste, recycling, and treatment: this item is in execution, achieving progress in covering pending information gaps that allowed having data series on waste, recycling, and treatment in aggregate form from 2010 until 2020. The main sources of information are the Ministry of Health (MS, for its acronym in Spanish) and Ministry of Environment and Energy (MINAE, for its acronym in Spanish).

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Continuation table 5

Chapter / theme	Recommendation	Involved entities	Status	Details / Comments
13. Assessment of Costa Rican statistics collected by other directorates	<p>Environment Statistics. Fill in gaps in environmental statistics including data on waste generation, recycling and treatment (beyond municipal waste); data on air and GHG emissions; and more generally environmental data broken down by sector and by industry.</p>	MINAE	On going	<p>Currently, MS continues the development and consolidation of the National Information System on Integrated Waste Management (SINIGIR, for its acronym in Spanish), which will provide a platform for integrating waste data. This project was affected by the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, so efforts are still being made to consolidate it. Meanwhile, MINAE, through the environmental comptroller's office, manages a system that has certain disaggregated information on hazardous waste, the Hazardous Waste Management System (SIGREP, for its acronym in Spanish).</p> <p>◆ Air and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions: MINAE integrates these statistics from information obtained by the National Meteorological Institute (IMN, for its acronym in Spanish) and the Ministry of Health (MS).</p> <p>In 2022, the IMN was able to prepare and transmit to MINAE GHG emissions inventories with series up to year 2020. With this, the series currently available are disaggregated by sector and range from 1990 to 2020, covering the information gap pointed out by the OECD when it evaluated the country, and there were only 3 of these reports.</p>

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Continuation table 5

Chapter / theme	Recommendation	Involved entities	Status	Details / Comments
13. Assessment of Costa Rican statistics collected by other directorates	<p>Environment Statistics. Fill in gaps in environmental statistics including data on waste generation, recycling and treatment (beyond municipal waste); data on air and GHG emissions; and more generally environmental data broken down by sector and by industry.</p>	MINAE	On going	<p>Regarding atmospheric emissions, data is available for fixed sources, such as boilers and cement plants. These are reported to the Ministry of Health, while the challenge in this area is in other emission sources for which there is no annualized information due to the difficulties in measuring them, such as vehicle emissions due to being diffuse sources.</p> <p>◆ Disaggregation by sector and industry in general: this item is in progress; by the end of 2022, we expect to have air and emissions data disaggregated by sector. The data is currently under review and will be sent by the IMN to MINAE. The main pending issues at this point are the waste data, which are still not disaggregated by sector and industry, according to the last questionnaire sent to the OECD.</p>

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Continuation table 5

Chapter / theme	Recommendation	Involved entities	Status	Details / Comments
13. Assessment of Costa Rican statistics collected by other directorates	<p>Education Statistics. Provide further Education Statistics through the additional INES, LSO or NESLI data collections, which include the trend data collection and Ad-hoc Surveys as agreed during each network's biannual meetings (these surveys are optional although countries are strongly encouraged to provide data if possible).</p>	MEP	On going	<p>In the area of education statistics, the OECD recommended that Costa Rica complete the following surveys, the status of which is detailed below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dropout data availability survey: at the NESLI meeting in Ireland during 2018, the country did not agree with the methodology, and since then the country has not received requests to complete information on dropout. 2. Early childhood education and care survey (ECEC, for its acronym in Spanish): this questionnaire was sent to the organization in 2020 with information on children aged 0-4 years. Since then, the organization has not requested it again. 3. 2018 tertiary education completion rates survey: this questionnaire was submitted with the conditions required by the organization in 2018.

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Continuation table 5

Chapter / theme	Recommendation	Involved entities	Status	Details / Comments
13. Assessment of Costa Rican statistics collected by other directorates	<p>Education Statistics. Provide further Education Statistics through the additional INES, LSO or NESLI data collections, which include the trend data collection and Ad-hoc Surveys as agreed during each network's biannual meetings (these surveys are optional although countries are strongly encouraged to provide data if possible).</p>	MEP	On going	<p>4. Tuition fees and financial support survey: the tuition fees survey has been sent with the required information since 2018. Regarding the survey on financial support, there are problems since it has not been possible to comply with part of the required information due to the level of disaggregation required by the organization due to the nature of the Costa Rican scholarship system.</p> <p>Among the efforts to address this problem, in 2021 a meeting was held with representatives of OECD, Ministry of Public Education (MEP, for its acronym in Spanish) and National Council of Rectors (CONARE, for its acronym in Spanish) to expose the situation and reach agreements on the matter.</p> <p>5. Fifth INES priority ranking exercise: the fifth priority ranking exercise could not be submitted by the country. However, for the next iteration, the country is going to submit the complete information for the sixth INES priority ranking exercise on February 18, 2021.</p>

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Continuation table 5

Chapter / theme	Recommendation	Involved entities	Status	Details / Comments
13. Assessment of Costa Rican statistics collected by other directorates	Education Statistics. Provide further Education Statistics through the additional INES, LSO or NESLI data collections, which include the trend data collection and Ad-hoc Surveys as agreed during each network's biannual meetings (these surveys are optional although countries are strongly encouraged to provide data if possible).	MEP	On going	6. Collection of trend data in finance: this item was partially completed due to problems in obtaining data on tertiary education at the time.

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Continuation table 5

Chapter / theme	Recommendation	Involved entities	Status	Details / Comments
13. Assessment of Costa Rican statistics collected by other directorates	<p>Insurance statistics. Close gaps in pension and insurance statistics, in particular those related to distinguish the gross operating expenses and commissions associated with the direct business and reinsurance activities of insurance companies.</p>	SUGESE	On going	<p>Regarding information gaps in insurance statistics, the General Superintendence of Insurance (SUGESE, for its acronym in Spanish) has made efforts to detail the available information by means of disaggregation, including the separation of life and non-life insurance accounts, as well as insurance and reinsurance accounts to the extent possible, according to the characteristics of the insurance market in Costa Rica.</p> <p>Likewise, we are working on the adoption of the IFRS 17 accounting standard, which will make it possible to cover part of these gaps. The adoption of this accounting standard will make it possible to cover information gaps in terms of operating expenses for commissions and insurance premiums. However, with the implementation of IFRS 17, it will not be possible to disaggregate insurance information into domestic and foreign, and there will be no short-term actions to obtain this disaggregated information due to a cost issue. The adoption of IFRS 17 was initially planned to take place in 2022; however, due to delays with the schedule it will be until 2023, so the adoption of this accounting standard is the biggest challenge.</p>

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Continuation table 5

Chapter / theme	Recommendation	Involved entities	Status	Details / Comments
13. Assessment of Costa Rican statistics collected by other directorates	Enhance the capacity to exchange data and metadata via the SDMX global data dissemination and exchange.	BCCR MH INEC	On going	<p>BCCR: the BCCR has made progress in adopting the SDMX format for both balance of payments and monetary and financial statistics. The balance of payments is already in SDMX format, and with respect to monetary and financial statistics, an initial submission was made to the OECD in this format and validation was obtained from the organization, so it is feasible that these statistics will use the format for data transmission in the first quarter of 2023.</p> <p>As for the quarterly accounts, work has been done on the adoption of the format. A first submission was made to the OECD, the Organization channeled the corresponding feedback, and progress is being made in incorporating said observations. Therefore, it is feasible that the format for this statistic will be adopted in the second semester of 2023.</p> <p>The main difficulty that the Bank has faced in the implementation of SDMX data transmission is the need to develop institutional capacities to adopt global transmission standards, which, together with the workload at the institutional level, has significantly delayed progress in the implementation.</p>

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Continuation table 5

Chapter / theme	Recommendation	Involved entities	Status	Details / Comments
13. Assessment of Costa Rican statistics collected by other directorates	Enhance the capacity to exchange data and metadata via the SDMX global data dissemination and exchange.	BCCR MH INEC	On going	<p>Ministry of Finance: the adoption of the SDMX format for data transmission has been complex for the institution, given that it is currently focused, at first, on adopting the format for the development of INEC metadata, and secondly, on making the necessary arrangements at the institutional level to have what is required to carry out transmissions in the SDMX format.</p> <p>INEC: since 2018, INEC transmits data in SDMX of the Consumer Price Index (CPI); however, the use was stopped in 2021 due to a change of the index base to December 2020 base, and the implementation of a new computer system to calculate the indicator.</p> <p>Regarding the Continuous Employment Survey (ECE), some of the tables are transmitted to the OECD through SDMX; however, some others are sent through e-mail.</p> <p>Currently, INEC has an initiative to institutionalize the SDMX; however, the lack of staff of the Technical Unit of Informatics Services (UTSI, for its acronym in Spanish) has delayed its implementation, but it is expected to make progress in a work plan for the implementation of the SDMX in the statistical operations of the institution.</p>



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