

BRINGING DESAP SELF- ASSESSMENTS BACK INTO USE

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DESAP self-assessments

- Self-assessments are an essential part of important quality management systems
- DESAP = Checklist for the systematic quality assessment of statistics
 - Quality criteria of the ESS
 - Process-oriented
- Developed in 2002/03 for statistics that are compiled based on micro data
- All important ways of data collection are covered (paper questionnaire, online surveys and the use of administrative data)



The image shows the cover page of the DESAP checklist. At the top left is the European Commission Eurostat logo. At the top right is the Eurostat logo. The title 'DESAP' is prominently displayed in the center. Below it, the subtitle reads 'The European Self Assessment Checklist for Survey Managers'. At the bottom, there are three input fields: 'Name of the survey:', 'Name of the Survey Manager:', and 'Date:'.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION
EUROSTAT

EUROSTAT

DESAP

The European
Self Assessment Checklist
for Survey Managers

Name of the survey:

Name of the Survey Manager:

Date:

Pilot project in Germany



- DESAP tested for three surveys
 - Joint workshops of the FSO and State Statistical Offices
 - Two-step evaluation
- DESAP positively assessed for systematic evaluation of quality, but
 - Not all relevant aspects covered
 - Very time consuming

Better allowance of administrative data

- The original DESAP checklist covered statistics using administrative data only in a fairly superficial way
- Various new questions added, e.g.:

II/15 Are you able to influence the content and design of administrative data, etc.?

No

Yes

If yes, please specify.

II/16 Are you being informed about changes concerning the administrative data, etc.?

Yes, well informed

Yes, with certain restrictions

No

Expansion of assessment questions

- Additional question dealing with overall accuracy to include also relevant aspects that are not explicitly covered in the other assessment questions (e.g. accuracy implications of using a cut-off threshold)

- Original questionnaire: 15 assessment questions partly referring to
 - Product quality
 - Process indicators (e.g. overcoverage)

- Integration of six new questions ensuring an output-focused assessment of each of the 15 quality aspects

Example of an assessment question (I)

II/19

Does the frame contain units that do not belong to the target population (overcoverage)? It is recommended to also consider the quality indicator “Overcoverage – rate” when answering the question.

- 1 – Major overcoverage/Not known**
- 2 – Considerable overcoverage**
- 3 – Some overcoverage**
- 4 – Slight overcoverage**
- 5 – (Nearly) no overcoverage**

Example of an assessment question (II)

II/25

How do you appraise the bias caused by overcoverage (see question II/19) in the published results (that is after conducting quality assurance measures)?

1 – Major bias/Not known

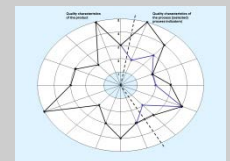
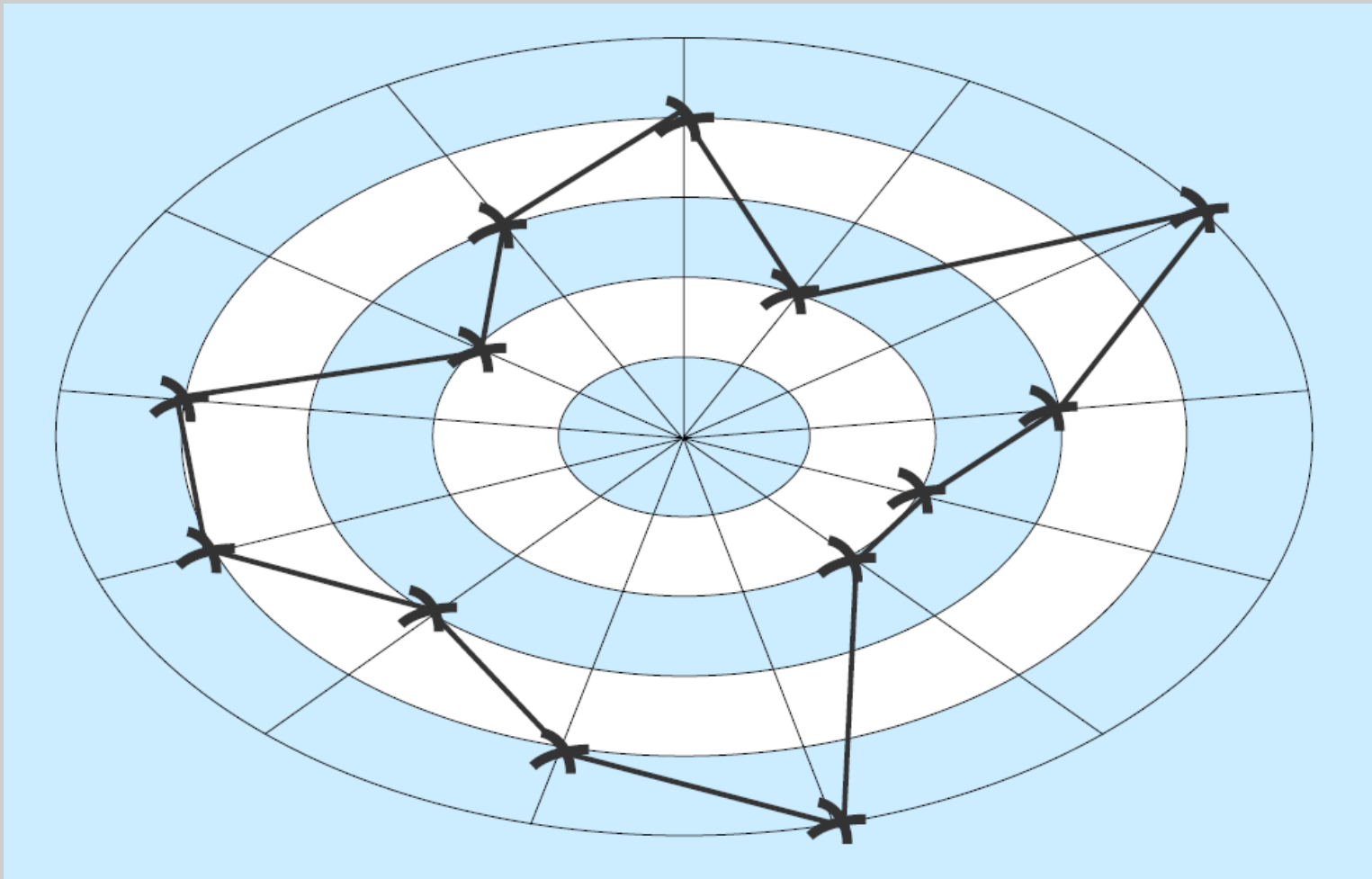
2 – Considerable bias

3 – Some bias

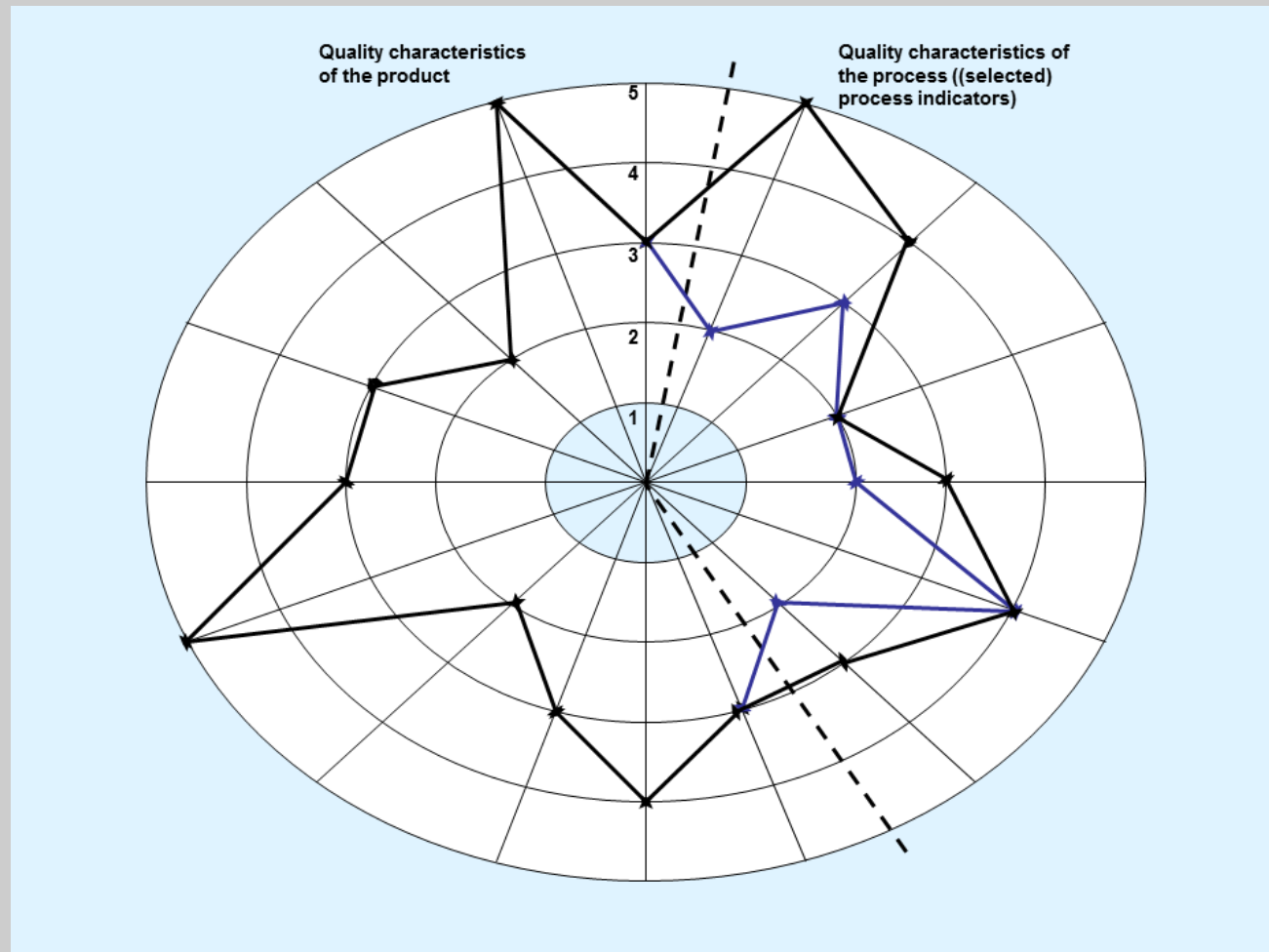
4 – Slight bias

5 – (Nearly) no bias

Assessment diagram (original)



Assessment diagram (advanced)



Summary questions for each chapter

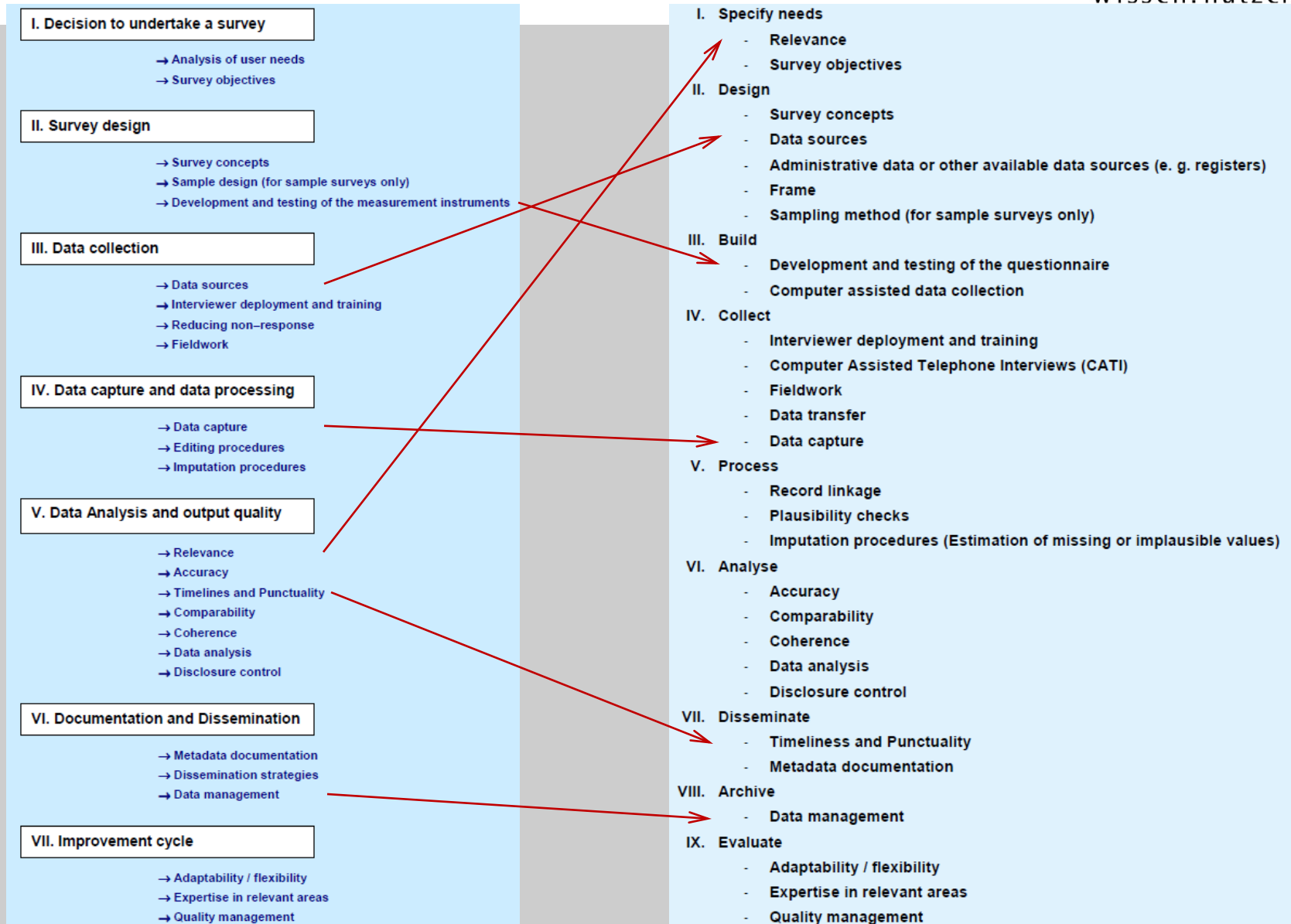
- Addition of two general questions with identical wording for recording improvement ideas and as a summary assessment per chapter:

I/13 Where do you see significant need for improvement in process phase "Specify needs"?

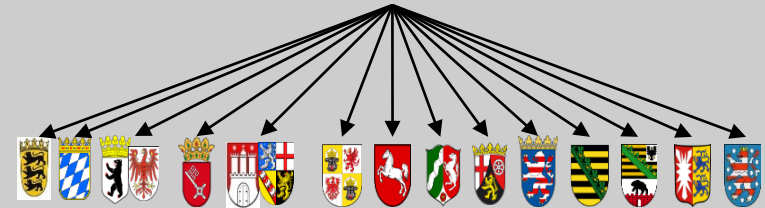
I/14 Having considered the questions in this section, how would you rate the methods and processes you use regarding this process phase?

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------|---|
| Excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1 |
| Very good - completely fit for purpose | <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 |
| Good but some improvement needed | <input type="checkbox"/> | 3 |
| Unsatisfactory - a number of areas need improvement | <input type="checkbox"/> | 4 |
| Unacceptable - key areas requiring urgent attention | <input type="checkbox"/> | 5 |

Conversion to GSBPM 4.0



Use of DESAP in Germany



- **Workshops involving**
 - at least Land Statistical Office of the sponsor state + Destatis for decentralised surveys (participation of three additional Land Statistical Offices recommended)
 - team consisting of 3-5 people for centralised surveys

- **Independent conduct of self-assessments**
- **Support by quality managers on demand**

Deployment based on pre-defined occasions

- Before/after fundamental redevelopment or revision (reprogramming) of production systems *
- Request by high-level board *
- Before Compliance Visits without specific questionnaire
- Before/after substantial employee turnover
- On the initiative of the statistics' expert meeting

* Mandatory self-assessment

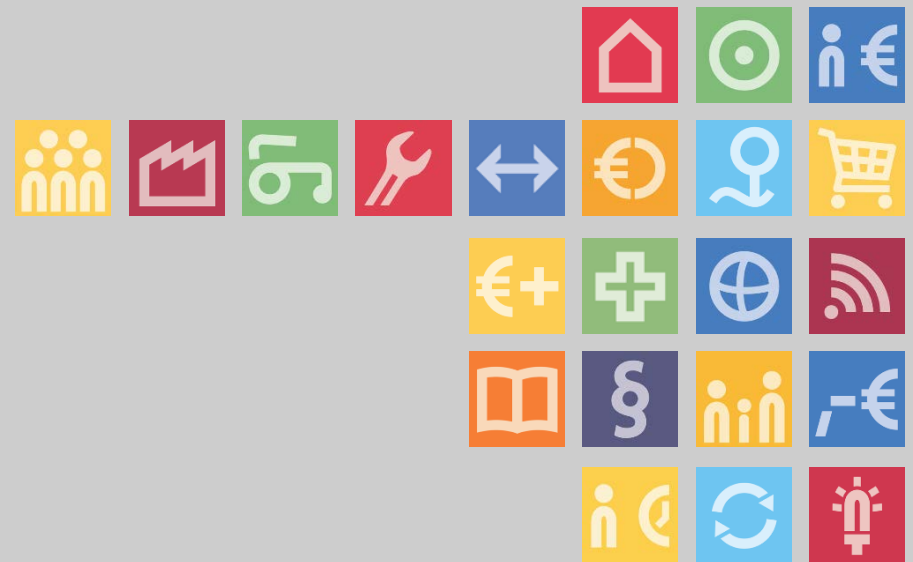
Outlook and further development

- Current version of the questionnaire not to be considered final
 - Further improvements of the questionnaire based on the findings from actual statistical practice
 - GSBPM 5.0



- DESAP might be a valuable starting point also for quality audits
- Combining self-assessments and other more objective instruments like quality indicators?

MANY THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION!



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