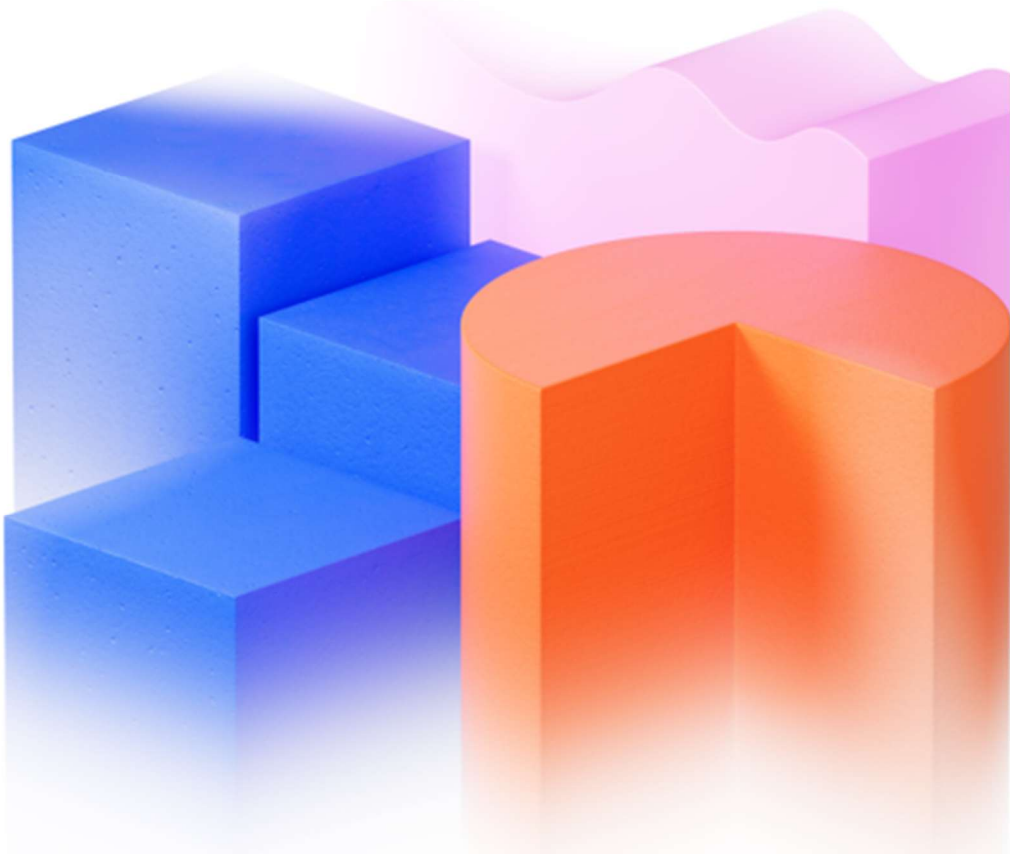
AI policy



POLICY

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AI policy

Background and Purpose 2
Goals for AI Use at Statistics Sweden 2
Applicability 2
Governing Principles 3
Principle 1: We use AI responsibly 3
Principle 2: We use AI in a secure manner 3
Principle 3: We use AI efficiently 4
Further Guidance 5

Background and Purpose

Artificial intelligence (AI) is developing rapidly, becoming increasingly established and being deployed widely across society. It affects public-sector organisations, their practitioners, and the individuals who rely on public services in numerous ways, many of which are still only partially understood.

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance to all employees at Statistics Sweden (SCB) in their decisions and actions related to AI, ensuring that Statistics Sweden remains an authority committed to the responsible and ethical use of AI.

This policy is an internal governing document for Statistics Sweden and applies to all employees who use or develop AI as part of their work. The policy is complemented by AI guidelines and together these governing documents cover the areas included in the Agency for Digital Government's guidelines for AI policies.

Goals for AI Use at Statistics Sweden

We use AI to advance Statistics Sweden's strategic goals, primarily to

- achieve an efficient, innovative, and secure statistical production process in which we have the capacity to develop and manage AI models
- unlock employee potential to strengthen skills and free up time through the use of AI.

Applicability

The policy covers all parts of Statistics Sweden's operations. AI at Statistics Sweden is classified according to different types of applications. This classification supports the prioritisation, governance, and development of AI solutions within Statistics Sweden. It is based on shared characteristics regarding purpose, implementation, use cases, technical conditions, and the realisation of benefits.

1. AI in statistical production aims to support or replace specific steps in the production process through automation and efficiency improvements, with stringent requirement for careful handling and control of information and quality. This includes the use of narrow machine-learning models trained for specific tasks, non-generative language models, and generative language models. Different models may be combined.

2a. Generative AI for internal processes close to production aims to support programming, quality assurance, documentation, metadata management, knowledge management and internal support. Generative language models are used for these purposes.

2b. Generative AI for administrative and organisational tasks aims to improve internal efficiency and provide day-to-day support. Generative language models are used for these purposes.

3. Generative AI in external interfaces aims to create systems that interact with users of statistics, data providers or respondents. These systems are designed with particular consideration for privacy, robustness, and factual accuracy. Model Context Protocol (MCP) and generative AI are used, where “AI-ready” data is a prerequisite.

Governing Principles

Principle 1: We use AI responsibly

1a: Ethics, privacy and compliance

We use AI in a manner that upholds trust in Statistics Sweden by complying with applicable regulations, central government values, and ethical standards.

1b: Data quality and reliability

We ensure that the data used to train and apply AI models is reliable and of high quality.

1c: Transparency and insight

We make clear when and how AI is used, and we document Statistics Sweden’s AI models. Statistics Sweden is responsible for all content published externally with Statistics Sweden as the originator.

Reasoning

This principle is fundamental to ethical and responsible AI use. It is reflected in the machine-learning process and is supported by the processes for approving new data sources, as well as the processes for approving software and cloud services.

Implications

Trust in Statistics Sweden can be maintained also when we use AI to assist in the production of statistics.

When we communicate with users, data providers, researchers, or data processors we aim to describe how AI has been used, for what purpose, and with what data.

Principle 2: We use AI in a secure manner

2a Security and data protection

We maintain a high level of data protection by adhering to the Statistics Sweden Information Security Management System (SCB LIS) and by conducting impact assessments relating to the protection of personal data.

2b Risk-based approach

We apply a risk-based approach throughout the entire lifecycle in order to ensure appropriate organisational control and to identify the necessary level of monitoring for AI technology. When we intend to use AI technology, we conduct risk analyses to assess the conditions and prerequisites for use. These analyses comply with SCB LIS guidelines for risk analyses and must be updated regularly.

2c Employee skills

Our risk-based work relies on our employees having sufficient AI skills and a good understanding of the internal steering documents in this respect.

Reasoning

With this principle, we emphasise that security and data protection are fundamental to all use of AI. As technology evolves rapidly and cannot be universally regulated, risk analyses must be time-limited and specific to each application. This enables us to safely harness innovation and provide employees with access to powerful AI tools.

Implications

The level of risk can be adapted based on the intended use of AI, through risk analysis that consider both the area of application as well as whether the technology is procured or developed in-house.

By following the machine-learning process, risk management is built into the development of our proprietary AI models, which minimises the level of risk when we implement and manage AI in statistical production.

For procured AI solutions, risk analyses form part of the procurement process and the approval process for software and cloud services. Use is directed toward areas where the risk of undermining trust in Statistics Sweden is minimal. What may be approved at one point in time may require a new risk analysis later, depending on changing circumstances in and around AI use.

With documented risks prior to testing and implementation, we can apply appropriate control measures.

Skills development is essential for all employees who wish to use AI systems. It is not only AI-related skills that must be strengthened, but also knowledge of how to assess the information classification of data used in AI systems and how to conduct risk analyses.

Principle 3: We use AI efficiently

3a Common principles and processes

We operate in acccordance with common principles and processes when developing our AI capabilities. This is particularly applicable to architecture principles, the machine-learning process, the approval of new software, and the process of innovation and idea generation. These processes ensure that AI related matters are prepared in a coherent and cross-functional manner.

3b National and international cooperation

We collaborate nationally and internationally in the field of AI to benefit from developments made by others (such as methods, models, systems and support), contribute to ongoing advancements, and strengthen our own competencies.

3c Steering groups for the management objects

We use the steering groups for the process-based Management Domains to prioritise new AI initiatives. These also make decisions before AI is introduced into statistical production. The Management Domains are responsible for the management and further development of Statistics Sweden's AI components. Decisions must indicate compliance with the principles of the policy and Statistics

Sweden's processes and must specify which organisational functions have been consulted.

3d Skills support

We facilitate AI skills development by making internal and external training programmes accessible in a single location.

Reasoning

By working in a coordinated and cross-disciplinary manner, we are better able to achieve the objectives established for Statistics Sweden's use of AI.

Implications

We prepare AI-related matters within appropriate existing organisational functions, enabling us to:

- coordinate work on AI models intended for use in statistical production
- analyse and align AI initiatives
- make informed prioritisation decisions regarding AI solutions
- manage AI-related risk analyses
- plan and coordinate training for the entire organisation

Our principles and processes must evolve in step with the development of our AI use. Up-to-date information on ongoing AI initiatives, suitable AI training opportunities, internal governing documents and related resources must be available on Statistics Sweden's intranet and on a dedicated AI page in SharePoint.

Further Guidance

Statistics Sweden's use of AI is generally based on the agency's regular governance and support structures, and the most important elements are referenced in this policy.

Guidelines, procedures, and other information relating to the use of AI use in more specific terms can be found on the agency's Intranet.

Statistics Sweden's process for machine learning in statistical production is available in the Statistical Production Support System under General Processes.