

Eurostat- Statistical Office of the European Union

1. Demographic and social statistics (Eurostat)

1.1 Population and migration

Theme 1.01 Population

1. Description

Developments in demographic and migration statistics are driven by an increased policy focus on the long-run socio-economic impacts of demographic change and the European Pact on Immigration and Asylum. The underlying priority for this theme is to enhance the policy relevance and the quality of population statistics and analyses.

2. Work Programme for 2010

2.1 ONGOING WORK

- Collect, analyse and disseminate demographic and migration statistics.
- Implement a programme for the quality assurance of migration and asylum statistics used in the allocation of the 'Solidarity and Management of Migration Flows' funds.
- Develop and implement an action plan to meet the growing needs related to EU migration policies, in particular by promoting conceptual integration and mainstreaming in the area of migration statistics.
- Prepare a proposal for the practical arrangements and structure of the quality reports on population and housing censuses (as provided for by Article 7(1)(c) of Regulation 763/2008).
- Improve the level of quality (in particular as regards the relevance, comparability and timeliness) of the existing demographic data collection.
- Review priorities and needs for further implementing measures provided for in Regulation 862/2007 as regards Articles 9(5) (formats for the transmission of data), 10(2)(d) (additional disaggregations) and 10(2)(e) (rules on accuracy and quality standards).
- Implement the strategy for the production of statistics on life expectancy by socio-economic group.
- Start preparatory work on the next round of population projections.

1.2 Labour

Theme 1.02 Labour market

1. Description

Labour market statistics provide short-term and structural descriptions of the labour market in monetary and non-monetary terms as well as in a time-use context. The focus is on both the supply (actual participation in its various dimensions, labour reserve, inactive persons) and demand side (job vacancies). The statistics cover the European Union, the euro area, Member States, candidate countries and EEA/EFTA countries. They support the conduct and coordination of policies in the fields of employment and economic and monetary policy. They also help the Commission to define, implement and monitor labour market policies within the revised Lisbon strategy and the European employment strategy. For the medium term, the focus is on improving labour statistics in terms of coverage and quality by adapting and strengthening the Labour Force Survey (LFS) process so that it can better meet user demands for pertinent and timely data; (ii) improving the coherence and integration of employment statistics; (iii) further developing the structural indicators and the principal European economic indicators (PEEI) for the labour market; (iv) fully implementing job vacancy statistics; and (v) fine-tuning the integrated system of earnings and labour cost statistics.

2. Work Programme for 2010

2.1 ONGOING WORK

- Collect, process and disseminate short-term and structural labour statistics (employment, unemployment, labour costs, job vacancies, labour market policies, earnings) within the deadlines specified in regulations and gentlemen's agreements.
- Disseminate the results of the 2008 LFS ad hoc module on the labour market situation of migrants; reach agreement on the 2012 LFS ad hoc module on the transition from work to retirement.
- Transmit and disseminate the results of the 2008 Labour Cost Survey.
- Reach agreement on improvement actions following the recommendations of the Task Force on the Quality of the LFS.
- Start producing and disseminating quarterly job vacancy statistics within the new legal framework.
- Continue preparations for the implementation of ISCO08.
- Improve the coverage and quality of the annual earnings and labour cost data.
- Reach agreement on a set of indicators to supplement the ILO unemployment rate.
- Continue improving coverage and quality of the LMP (labour market policy) data collection.

2.2 NEW WORK

- Launch a Task Force to review the experience gained with LFS ad hoc modules.
 - Prepare the report to the EP and the Council on the implementation of the Regulation on the Labour Cost Index (450/2003).
 - Finalise arrangements for the collection of the 2010 Structure of Earnings data.
 - Assess the feasibility of collecting annual job vacancy statistics with more structural detail.
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1.3 Education

Theme 1.03 Education and lifelong learning

1. Description

These statistics include the production of statistical information on education and lifelong learning via specific data sources on education and training systems, vocational training in enterprises and adult learning. This information is supplemented with relevant information coming from other ESS sources which are not specific to education, covering such areas as outcome of education, human capital, education and social inclusion or transition from school to working life.

Indicators produced are used in benchmarking exercises such as the structural indicators, the follow-up of the report on the concrete future objectives of the education and training systems (Education and Training 2010 and its follow-up Education and Training 2020 ("ET 2020")), the European Employment Strategy, benchmarking the European Research Area, the social agenda and sustainable development. Cooperation within the Commission is established with DG EAC, DG EMPL, DG RTD and the JRC (CRELL — Centre for Research on Education and Lifelong Learning). Cooperation with other international organisations (Unesco Institute for Statistics, OECD, ILO), with specialised EU agencies (European Training Foundation — ETF, Cedefop) as well as with the Eurydice information network established by DG EAC is developed and established.

2. Work Programme for 2010

2.1 ONGOING WORK

- Ensure the regular production and dissemination of UOE data on education systems and the related metadata with their envisaged extensions.
- Continued work towards adoption of the Commission Regulation on statistics on education and training systems covering the 'UOE' data collection.
- Finalisation of the preparation of the CVTS4 survey (continuing vocational training survey), including the revision of the framework and implementing legal acts.
- Finalisation of the preparation of the AES survey (adult education survey), including the revision of the framework and implementing legal acts.
- Continue to consolidate the methodology and the production process for data on educational attainment coming from the LFS, SILC and other European social surveys (in relation to the core social variables implementation referred to in theme 1.12) as well as for data on lifelong learning collected by the LFS.
- Continue the contribution to the revision of the International Standard Classification for Education (ISCED) in cooperation with the OECD and Unesco (ISCED revision under the responsibility of the Unesco Institute of Statistics).
- Process and disseminate the data on transition of young people to the labour market (coming from the EU-LFS ad hoc module 2009).
- Prepare and launch an ESSnet project on lifelong learning accounts.
- Preparatory work on statistics on Special Educational Needs (SEN) pupils in the framework of the UOE data collection.
- Development work on student mobility statistics: further methodology and data studies

2.3 SIMPLIFICATION AND BURDEN REDUCTION

- In the revision of the CVTS recommendations and the related acts, the existence of new data sources will be taken into consideration in order to adapt the demands for data from enterprises.

3. Work to be carried out by other DGs involving data collection from Member States

Several data collections are initiated or promoted by DG EAC in the field of skills measurements: language skills, learning to learn skills, civic skills, adult skills, innovation and creativity skills. None of these collections has a statistical legal basis.

4. Planned new legislation

Possibly a very limited-scale revision of Regulation 1552/2005 on the continuing vocational training survey.

1.4 Health

Theme 1.05 Health and safety

1. Description

Based on Regulation (EC) 1338/2008 of 16 December 2008 concerning Community statistics on public health and health and safety at work, activities will be continued to develop, collect, analyse and disseminate a consistent set of statistics on  public health as the statistical element of health information required by the second programme of Community action in the field of health 2008-2013 and the further Health Strategy, and (ii) health and safety at work in order to meet the needs of the Community strategy on health and safety at work 2007-2012. The main focus will be on quality improvement for the different sets of indicators, on preparatory work for implementing measures for the framework regulation and on providing data for health and safety indicators as part of the structural, sustainable development social inclusion, and the European Community Health Indicators (ECHI). This refers in particular to the core set (ECHI short list) and progressively their regional elements, to the streamlined indicators portfolios of the Open Method of Coordination (OMC) for the area of health care and long-term care, as well as to other indicator sets such as the contextual indicators on disability and social integration. Cooperation with Member States in the area of public health will enter into a new dimension by strengthening the partnership on public health as an ESS network.

2. Work Programme for 2010

2.1 ONGOING WORK

- Cooperation with Member States on public health statistics via ESSnet Public Health in order to improve data quality and arrive at more complete dissemination of data and indicators in the area of public health.
- Collecting experience from the first implementation to prepare an implementing regulation on the EHIS (European Health Interview Survey). Processing and analysis of the first EHIS data to be submitted to Eurostat in 2009- 2010 and cooperation in the Budapest Initiative.
- Continuation of the System of Health Accounts (SHA) joint questionnaire and methodological revision of SHA together with the OECD and the WHO.
- Continuation of a data collection on non-expenditure health care data and development of a Joint Questionnaire together with the OECD and the WHO.
- Preparation for the implementation of the special survey module on disability and social integration of disabled people.
- Continuation of pilot data collections and developments of the methodology for data collection on morbidity.
- Implementing measures on causes of death (COD) and preparation of implementing measures on accidents at work statistics.
- Dissemination of the data of the LFS ad hoc module 2007 on accidents at work and work-related health problems.
- Improvement of the coverage (target population as well as phase 3 variables on causes and circumstances) for ESAW (European Statistics on Accidents at Work) and the consolidation of EODS (European Occupational Diseases Statistics) in new Member States and candidate countries.
- Methodological improvement on automated coding — COD.

2.2 NEW WORK

- Analysis of MORB (morbidity) pilot data.
- Revision of EHIS with a view to the second round.
- Implementation of the NACE Rev 2 classification and preparation for the ISCO 2008 revision in the ESAW and EODS data collections and dissemination.
- Improving the quality of ESAW data by defining and implementing the corrections for under-reporting.
- Follow-up of the IDB (Injury Database) and INTEGRIS (Integration of European Injury Statistics) projects.
- Preparation of the implementation of the 2011 LFS ad hoc module on employment of disabled people.

2.3 SIMPLIFICATION AND BURDEN REDUCTION

- Joint data collection on health care data together with the OECD and the WHO.

3. Work to be carried out by other DGs involving data collection from Member States

For some areas in the field of public health, data such as injuries and regional health statistics are collected directly by DG Health and Consumer Protection (DG SANCO), through actions which are not directly steered by Eurostat, under the Programme of Community action in the field of health 2008-2013. Eurostat will, where relevant and possible, provide technical support on the follow up these projects, such as by examining the possibility to launch an ESSnet.

The European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (Eurofound) will continue the development of an observatory of working conditions in Europe. Eurofound will also launch its 5th European Survey on Working Conditions.

The European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA) will continue to develop its Risk Observatory on new and emerging risks. The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) coordinates collections of data on communicable diseases at Community level. Data on key indicators on drugs are collected by the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA), and work is coordinated with Eurostat.

5. Planned new legislation

Adoption of two implementing measures (COD and ESAW) for Regulation 1388/2008.

1.5 Income and consumption

Theme 1.09 Food safety

1. Description

Work on food safety statistics will continue in order to obtain statistical indicators for monitoring food safety within the EU. Cooperation will be continued with DG AGRI, stepped up with DG SANCO and developed with other Commission departments where relevant, such as DG FISH, DG ENV and DG TRADE, and with the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), the European Centre for Disease Control (ECDC) and the World Health Organisation (WHO).

2. Work Programme for 2010

2.1 ONGOING WORK

- Continue updating the controls database and improve the quality of the data, including the documentation on definitions and sampling strategies used by the countries.
- Define at EU level, with the support of a task force to be created, the content (variables) to be collected in the area of organic production and farming.
- Analyse the data obtained on food quantities from the Household Budget Survey with a view to possibly publishing them.
- Update the FOOD domain of New Cronos with up-to-date data and also examine the possibility of including data on food-borne diseases

collected by the ECDC.

2.2 NEW WORK

- Analyse the results of the 2009 call for tenders for a survey module to collect missing data on food consumption.

2.3 SIMPLIFICATION AND BURDEN REDUCTION

- Give priority to the use of available data such as the Household Budget Survey.
- Continue developing the common terminology (definitions, classifications) used to collect data on control and monitoring activities in order to help the countries develop their own data management systems (administrative sources) for collecting and storing data on control and monitoring activities.
- Continue cooperating with other collectors of data in the field (DG SANCO, and the Food and Veterinary Office (FVO) in particular, and the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)).

3. Work to be carried out by other DGs involving data collection from Member States

- Detailed data on specific issues such as monitoring of pesticide residues, zoonoses, etc. are currently collected by DG SANCO and/or the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and sent to Eurostat.

Theme 5.08 Consumer protection

1. Description

Following efforts in recent years to regularly produce together with DG SANCO a panorama publication 'Consumers in Europe: Facts and Figures', higher priority will be given to consumer policy by Eurostat in line with the needs expressed in the Single Market Review. Eurostat will therefore step up its efforts to support DG SANCO in monitoring markets from the consumers' perspective by contributing to data collection for the Consumer Markets Scoreboard. Eurostat will continue giving support and advice on statistical methodology. Priority is given to the development of information on detailed price levels.

2. Work Programme for 2010

2.1 ONGOING WORK

- Support on statistical methodology.
- Implement and produce results from an experiment relating to a module on consumer empowerment.
- Coordinate Eurostat contribution to the consumer scoreboard.
- Development of a NACE/COICOP conversion table.

2.2 NEW WORK

- Broaden the detailed prices data collection on a step-by-step basis (conditional on the Price Conference to be held in October 2009)
- Work on consistency between the different existing classifications (COICOP/HICP, COICOP/PPP and COICOP/HBS).

1.6 Social protection

Theme 1.07 Social protection

1. Description

The ongoing work on the ESSPROS project includes collecting quantitative and qualitative data on the core system and on the numbers of beneficiaries of pensions. Implementation of ESSPROS data collection in the new Member States is a priority objective in future years. Another important challenge in terms of medium-term strategy is the launching and evaluation of the pilot data collection on net social benefits. If results are positive, the module on net social benefits will be implemented from 2011. The analytical use of social protection data is to be strengthened by producing user-oriented analyses and improving online dissemination. This medium-term strategy can only be achieved through closer cooperation with policy users, Member States and other international organisations (OECD and ILO in particular).

2. Work Programme for 2010

2.1 ONGOING WORK

- Collect and validate the 2008 ESSPROS data (quantitative and qualitative data of the core system, data on pension beneficiaries) in accordance with EP and Council Regulation No 458/2007 and disseminate through New Cronos, PDF or mini-web.
- Publish the ESSPROS data in the form of two Statistics in Focus on selected ESSPROS topics and as a contribution to the Joint Report on Social Inclusion and Social Protection to be presented to the Spring 2011 Council.
- Prepare two EU quality reports on the core system and on pension beneficiaries.

2.2 NEW WORK

- Prepare a synthesis for decision by the ESSC in February 2010 for a regular data collection on net social benefits from 2011.
- Draft a Commission Regulation on net social benefits (restricted scope).
- Development/maintenance testing of technical aspects of the database.

5. Planned new legislation

- Commission Regulation (implementing Regulation No 458/2007) on net social benefits.

1.8 Justice and crime

Theme 1.10 Crime and criminal justice

1. Description

Work on a system of European statistics on crime and criminal justice follows the strategy set out in the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council and the European Economic and Social Committee 'Developing a comprehensive and coherent EU strategy to measure crime and criminal justice: An EU Action Plan 2006-2010' (COM(2006) 437).

2. Work Programme for 2010

2.1 ONGOING WORK

- Extend the collection of data on police-recorded crime, police numbers and prison population, up to reference year 2008.
- Restructure available metadata relating to crime and criminal justice systems corresponding to latest information obtained from Member States.
- Follow up activities of the DG JLS Expert Group on data needs, develop methodologies for providing required indicators and implement where possible.

2.2 NEW WORK

- Analyse results of testing EU victimisation module in most Member States.
- Collaborate with international organisations on further development of crime classification system.

2.3 SIMPLIFICATION AND BURDEN REDUCTION

- Discussions with the United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and possibly other actors — European Sourcebook, Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA), European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Abuse (EMCDDA), etc. — concerning the frequency and coverage of European data collections on crime.

Theme 1.11 Discrimination

1. Description

Based on the outcome of the discussions in 2009 with the Directors of Social Statistics (DSS), actions will continue, initially on further methodological work to establish statistics for measuring equality and progress in combating discrimination. In addition, a first set of indicators could be defined (together with the Expert Group established by DG EMPL) and disseminated from available data; testing and translation of a pilot survey (module) on experienced discrimination could be started.

2. Work Programme for 2010

2.1 ONGOING WORK

- Examination of the quality of available data and of actions launched/ongoing on equality statistics with a view to establishing a first (pilot) data collection.

2.2 NEW WORK

- Defining and disseminating a first set of indicators from available data.
- Preparatory work for the translation and testing of a pilot survey on experienced discrimination.

1.9 Culture

Theme 1.04 Culture

1. Description

This theme covers all statistics related to culture and cultural industries. The work of the ESSnet-culture set up in 2009 will contribute to the development of this field. The definition of cultural domain prepared by the EC LEG-Culture and adopted by the SPC in 1999 needs updating, also in connection with the new proposed framework for cultural statistics in preparation by Unesco. A methodology identifying cultural employment by crossing economic sectors and occupations should be revised, taking into account recent revisions of NACE and ISCO. The methodological work concerning cultural participation continues, taking into consideration new cultural practices related to the use of ICT. More methodological work has to be done in the domain of expenditure on culture and, mainly public expenditure and financing of culture where specific administrative data collection could be envisaged. Economic statistics on cultural industries are available from the EU-Structural Business Statistics database but the coverage of this sector is very limited; new data sources for this theme should be explored. Statistics on cultural provision need more harmonisation.

Cooperation with the Unesco Institute for Statistics is very important in this area. The Council of Europe, the OECD and many international organisations in the cultural domain are also interested in collaboration.

2. Work Programme for 2010

2.1 ONGOING WORK

- Follow-up of the ESSnet launched in 2009, in the fields of methodological development and experimental data production on the economic and social impact of culture

2. Economic Statistics (Eurostat)

2.1 Macroeconomic statistics

Theme 5.01 Statistics for business cycle analysis

1. Description

With EMU now in full swing, the availability of an effective system of business cycle statistics has become a reality. Further efforts are now necessary to consolidate results achieved and to improve them in order to monitor the cyclical situation in the euro area, in the European Union and in major economic partners. Reliable business cycle analysis strongly depends on the availability and quality of infra-annual statistics. Eurostat is actively working to further improve the quality and the coverage of Principal European Economic Indicators (PEEIs, COMM/2002/661) and to enhance their visibility. Traditional compilation approaches will be supplemented by sophisticated statistical and econometric techniques in order to increase the timeliness, length, frequency and reliability of PEEIs. Eurostat will continue increasing data readability and interpretability by supplying analysts, economists and policy makers with sophisticated statistical analysis. Eurostat will also step up its efforts in defining and maintaining a statistical framework for the assessment of the cyclical situation. Work in 2010 will focus on the construction of new high-frequency macroeconomic indicators and on improving the statistical framework for business cycle analysis to supply a better service to economists and analysts. Key priorities in 2010 will be: (1) integrating traditional methods with more sophisticated econometric techniques; (2) strengthening harmonisation by defining new guidelines and implementing seasonal adjustment guidelines for short-term statistics; (3) defining a comprehensive statistical framework for euro-area and European Union business cycle analysis to facilitate real-time economic assessment; (4) monitoring and assessing PEEIs.

2. Work Programme for 2010

2.1 ONGOING WORK

- Finalisation and follow-up of the implementation of common policies within the ESS for the compilation of Principal European Economic Indicators in key areas such as seasonal adjustment, revision, estimation and back calculation. The priority will be monitoring implementation of the already endorsed ESS seasonal adjustment guidelines.
- Improvement of Euroindicators/PEEIs special topic: improvement of the selected PEEIs webpage, online analysis and comparative tables, new thematic pages, online bibliographies and publications (Newsletter, Selected Readings, State of Affairs, PEEIs Quarterly quality report).
- Regular production and improvement of Eurostatistics analytical content.
- Monitoring Euro-IND quality (with particular attention to Principal European Economic Indicators) and developing new quality measures for time series and database (synthetic quality indicator).
- Regular updating and design of a dissemination strategy for the new Euroindicators real-time database as regards revision analysis and real-time simulation.
- Finalisation of the testing exercise for flash estimates, back calculation and monthly indicator of economic activity (Euromind) as well as coincident turning points indicators by means of sophisticated statistical and econometric techniques (whenever possible in collaboration with production units) and decisions on their dissemination.
- Regular production and design of a dissemination strategy (in cooperation with DG ECFIN) for a statistical assessment of the euro-area business cycle situation: growth cycle estimates, turning points dating and detection.
- Support Eurostat sectoral units, Commission DGs, and Member States in their activity to improve and analyse Principal European Economic Indicators, including training activities and tools development.
- Organisation of the 6th Eurostat Colloquium on Modern Tools for Business Cycle Analysis.

2.2 Economic accounts

Theme 2.01 Annual economic accounts

1. Description

Annual national accounts play a fundamental role in the examination of many key policy questions for the European Union. They provide key economic and monetary policy indicators and basic information for the own resources system, the regional and structural funds, the excessive deficit procedure, and the growth and stability pact. The data are used by the Commission and the European Central Bank (ECB), as well as by national governments, social partners, financial markets, economic analysts and other institutional and private users. Annual national accounts also constitute the basis for many structural indicators required by the European Council. As well as providing a wealth of detail, the annual economic accounts provide a solid framework and benchmark for quarterly estimates (Theme 2.02) and calculation of own resources (Theme 2.05).

Harmonised data are compiled and transmitted by all Member States in accordance with the European System of Accounts (ESA95), which is the EU version of the world-level System of National Accounts. Data are transmitted by EU Member States to Eurostat in accordance with the transmission programme set out in Annex B to the ESA Regulation.

2. Work Programme for 2010

2.1 ONGOING WORK

- Continue to have satisfactory discussions on the SNA at international level as required. Pursue work on implementation of the SNA.

- Pursue work on the revision of ESA 95, including the drafting of new chapters and discussions in the various groups.
- Assess quality of implementation of ESA 95, including, in particular, improved price and volume measures in national accounts, development of satellite accounts and supplementary tables and drawing conclusions for future work.
- Ensure complete and timely availability of national accounts data, ensure production and dissemination of EU/EA accounts data.
- Ensure complete and timely availability of sector accounts data, ensure production and dissemination of EU/EA sector accounts data.
- Ensure complete and timely availability of supply, use and symmetric input-output tables; improve quality of data with a view to consistency among the tables and with corresponding national accounts data.
- Ensure complete and timely availability of regional accounts data.
- Progressively integrate parts of the EU KLEMS project in the ESS.

2.2 NEW WORK

- Preparatory actions for the implementation of NACE Rev 2 in national accounts.
- EU KLEMS full implementation in the ESS — follow-up of the Ecofin EU KLEMS implementation plan.
- Preparatory work for the implementation of a harmonised revision policy.

5. Planned new legislation

- Draft proposal for a new European Parliament and the Council Regulation on the ESA.

Theme 2.02 Quarterly accounts

1. Description

Quarterly national accounts play a fundamental role for economic analysis in general and in particular for the definition of economic policies by governments and by the Commission and for the monitoring of the single currency by the European Central Bank. Quarterly national accounts and quarterly sector accounts figures are also relevant for other institutional users, private users and financial markets. Particular attention is paid to the compilation of EU/EA (euro area) aggregates, which are very important for comparisons with the economies of the US and Japan. To meet user needs, great importance is attached to quality, coverage, timeliness and punctuality and to the full integration of the new Member States. Harmonised data are compiled by all Member States in accordance with the European System of Accounts (ESA95), which is the EU version of the world-level System of National Accounts. They are transmitted by EU Member States to Eurostat in accordance with the transmission programme set out in Annex B to the ESA Regulation and associated regulations. The transmission programme is now defined in European Parliament and Council Regulation 1392/2007.

2. Work Programme for 2010

2.1 ONGOING WORK

- Ensure complete and timely availability of quarterly national accounts data, ensure production and dissemination of EU/EA quarterly accounts data.
- Ensure complete and timely availability of quarterly sector accounts data, ensure production and dissemination of EU/EA quarterly sector accounts data.
- Coordinate release dates with Member States.
- Improve quality of quarterly national accounts and quarterly accounts for institutional sectors, in particular seasonal adjustment and volume measures.
- Improve the overall coherence of the accounts, in particular within EA accounts, between main aggregates, sector accounts and the input/output framework.

2.2 NEW WORK

- Improve timeliness and availability of key short-term national accounts indicators for monitoring the statistical consequences of the financial and economic crisis — in particular flash estimates of GDP and employment.
The extension of inter-institutional cooperation for exchanging and using administrative data is envisaged.
- Preparatory actions for the implementation of NACE Rev 2 in national accounts.

Theme 2.05 Monitoring own resources

1. Description

National accounts data play a prominent role in calculating the contributions by the Member States to the EU budget. For the VAT-based 'third' resource, Member States' VAT receipts are adjusted using detailed national accounts data to correct for the fact that countries do not all apply the harmonised EU VAT rules, having different rates and coverage of products. Every year, Member States provide a detailed VAT declaration including the calculation of several adjustment factors based on national accounts. In cooperation with DG BUDG, Eurostat carries out a detailed verification of the figures and the calculations. Gross National Income (GNI, formerly Gross National Product — GNP) constitutes the basis for allocating the GNI-based 'fourth' resource. Together with the GNI Committee, Eurostat verifies the reliability, comparability and exhaustiveness of the data provided each year by countries. Together, the VAT-based and the GNI-based resources represent about 80 % of EU budget receipts.

2. Work Programme for 2010

2.1 ONGOING WORK

- Finalise analysis and assessment of new EU-15 inventories of changes in sources and methods for compiling GNI.
- Finalise analysis and assessment of EU-10 inventories of sources and methods for compiling GNI.
- Analyse and assess EU-2 inventories of sources and methods for compiling GNI.

- Carry out GNI missions in the Member States.
- Carry out more direct verification of the data provided in the annual GNI questionnaires.
- Verify declarations for VAT-based resource for about 11 countries (chosen by DG BUDG).

2.3 Business statistics

Theme 3.01 Annual business statistics

1. Description

Structural Business Statistics (SBS) contain detailed data covering all business activities, broken down to the 4-digit level of the NACE Rev 2 activity classification, by size classes and by regions (2-digit NUTS). A large number of variables are provided. The recast of the Regulation adopted in 2008 has 2008 as its first reference year. The medium-term strategy is to achieve full implementation in all Member States of the new requirements in the Regulation regarding services statistics and business demography, assure the quality of the data, re-engineer methods and sources for the data collection and carry out the prioritised pilot studies set out in the Regulation.

Inward FATS comprise a number of characteristics for the structure and activity of foreign affiliates in the reporting country that are needed for evaluating the extent of globalisation of the EU economy and the effectiveness of the internal market. The medium-term strategy will focus on full implementation of the requirements of the FATS Regulation and completing the pilot studies.

Prodcom covers production statistics in value and volume of about 3 900 products defined in an annually revised Prodcom list. Its medium-term strategy will be oriented towards quality improvements with emphasis on completeness of EU aggregates as well as further methodological harmonisation.

2. Work Programme for 2010

2.1 ONGOING WORK

- Ensure the implementation of Regulation No 295/2008 including the new requirements as well as the implementation of NACE Rev 2. Process the data collected from Member States and candidate countries. Maximise the completeness of EU aggregates.
- Ensure the implementation of the requirements of the new FATS Regulation and the Recommendations Manual (on inward FATS). Process the data collected from Member States on inward FATS, including information from the first quality reports.
- Collect 2009 Prodcom data in line with the Prodcom Regulation. Promote harmonisation of national methodologies.
- Set up the 2011 Prodcom list.
- Continue implementing the pilot actions in the framework of the SBS Regulation and the FATS Regulation and plan further application of the flexible module of the SBS Regulation. If pilot actions prove the feasibility of the data collection, proceed with the necessary measures for implementation.
- Contribute to the entrepreneurship indicator programme.
- Improve transmission and validation tools and carry out the quality action plan for SBS.
- Process statistics on steel industry collected from Member States under Regulation 48/2004.

2.2 NEW WORK

- Implement Council and EP Decision 1297/2008 (MEETS), implement the Commission Decision on the financing for 2010. Support the data collection on access to finance in the framework of the first application of the flexible module of the SBS Regulation No 295/2008. Collect and validate the data of the access to finance survey
Create ESSnets in line with objectives 2 and 3 of MEETS on consistency in the area of business statistics and data warehousing.

2.3 SIMPLIFICATION AND BURDEN REDUCTION

- Implement Council and EP Decision 1297/2008 (MEETS).
- Implementation of the SBS Recast Regulation, which introduces some simplifications, such as the deletion of some variables, reducing the frequency of other variables and the possibility for Member States to use 'Contribution to European totals only' (CETO) flags. The latter allow countries to flag data of insufficient quality so that they are not disseminated at national level, whereas they are included in the calculation of the EU totals. This should allow countries to limit the sample sizes and therefore reduce the burden on enterprises.

Theme 3.02 Short-term business statistics

1. Description

Short-term business statistics (STS) comprise monthly and quarterly economic indicators, such as the index of industrial production, output prices, construction production and retail trade turnover, for the Member States, the EU and the euro area. The indicators cover eight out of nineteen Principal European Economic Indicators (PEEIs) and almost half of Eurostat's regular News Releases. These data are closely followed by economic analysts in the Commission and the European Central Bank, as well as in national governments and in the private sector and financial markets.

The constant requirement is to make the data rapid but reliable while at the same time limiting the statistical reporting burden on enterprises. Historically, such short-term statistics are mainly related to manufacturing and construction; in the years ahead the main challenge is to develop and consolidate the short-term data on service activities.

2. Work Programme for 2010

2.1 ONGOING WORK

- Timely production of existing indicators and their publication.
- Investigating and improving the reliability, accuracy and comparability of STS indicators.

2.2 NEW WORK

- Prepare introduction of new variables (Commission Regulation 329/2009).
- Prepare report to EP and Council, as required by Reg. 1165/98, Art. 14.

2.3 SIMPLIFICATION AND BURDEN REDUCTION

- STS is an active participant in the MEETS programme.

2.4.1 Agriculture, forestry, fisheries

Theme 4.01 Agricultural production

1. Description

Agricultural statistics entail relevant data on both crop and animal production. Crop production statistics cover, on the basis of existing legislation and the one adopted and to be published in 2009, agricultural land use, wine supply balance sheets and data on production for cereals, (ii) other main field crops and (iii) fruits and vegetables. Supply balance sheets for other crop products and data on flowers and ornamental plants are collected under gentlemen's agreements. In addition, crop statistics also cover structural data on orchards and vineyards regulated under specific EU legislation. Animal production statistics cover, on the basis of existing legislation, livestock surveys as well as meat, milk and poultry statistics. Both crop and animal production statistics not only play a key role in the design, implementation and monitoring of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) but also contribute to ensuring food and feed safety/security in the European Union. These data are then used by the European and national authorities, third countries' administrations, stakeholders, scientists and the general public for policy making, risk management, market analysis, production forecasts, research, information, etc.

Special attention is devoted to statistical relevance, timeliness and accessibility of data with a view to satisfying current and potential needs of users. Besides this, a considerable effort is undertaken to ensure accuracy through quality checks aimed at detecting and eventually correcting observed errors in the data. To make sure data is of high quality, appropriate validation procedures, placed between the collection and the dissemination of data, are continuously being implemented and reviewed. Several validation tools (e.g. AGRIS, eDAMIS/Webforms, Building Blocks) play an increasingly important role in the system of data processing and need to be further integrated and developed in close cooperation with other Eurostat departments.

2. Work Programme for 2010

2.1 ONGOING WORK

- Achievement of the implementation of the new eDAMIS web form system for data collection and pre-validation, taking into account the MS contributions.
- Processing and validation of agricultural production statistics with public dissemination of the data within one month after the agreed transmission deadline.
- Preparation of publications (i.e. Pocketbook, DiFs and SiFs).
- Bilateral cooperation with DG AGRI, following established partnership agreements.
- Bilateral and multilateral cooperation under the auspices of the Working Groups on Crop and Animal Production Statistics and cooperation with other international organisations
- Implementation of new legislation on crop and animal statistics.

2.2 NEW WORK

- Approval in cooperation with the members of the Working Party of empirical definitions for the elaboration of agricultural production statistics.
- Improvement of the quality and harmonisation of the data, collection and evaluation of methodological inventories.
- Draft Regulation of the EP and of the Council concerning permanent crop statistics.
- Development of IT tools for crop and animal data handling.

2.3 SIMPLIFICATION AND BURDEN REDUCTION

- With a view to reducing the burden on respondents and at the same time ensuring data quality, under the new Regulations for crop and for livestock and meat statistics, Member States may decide to use administrative sources for the compilation of this data.
- In 2010, the data collection, validation and dissemination system is expected to be further streamlined through automation of clerical operations such as data validation and the possible replacement of FAME (production database) by a more efficient system.
- Towards simplified legislation on orchards and vineyards (through a proposal for a Parliament and Council Regulation concerning permanent crop statistics).

3. Work to be carried out by other DGs involving data collection from Member States

- DG AGRI is the lead DG under Regulation (EC) No 1234/2007 and Commission Regulation (EC) No 617/2008. These legal acts require the Member States to send their data on the activity of hatcheries, trade in chicks and structure of hatcheries to both DG AGRI and Eurostat.

5. Planned new legislation

- Proposal for a Parliament and Council Regulation concerning permanent crop statistics. Implementing acts on animal and crop statistics; Commission decisions on derogations.

Theme 4.02 Agricultural structures

1. Description

Statistics on agricultural structures include the Farm Structure Surveys (FSS) as well as the Survey on Agricultural Production Methods (SAPM). This statistical information plays a key role in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the CAP. The EU farm structure surveys are the backbone of the agricultural statistical system. They provide micro-data on the agricultural labour force, land use, livestock, equipment and non-agricultural activities and they are the statistical basis for collection of information on land use, livestock and agricultural income. The farm typology processed in the FSS is the key used in the farm accountancy data network.

2. Work Programme for 2010

2.1 ONGOING WORK

- Agricultural Census carried out in all Member States except ES, EL, PT (planned in 2009); Survey on Agricultural Production Methods to commence in several countries.
- Preparation of the Data Processing System for treatment of the data from the Agricultural Census and from the SAPM.
- Collect Standard Output coefficients from the countries.
- Redesign of the tables to be published in the Eurostat Reference database.
- Provide Member States with further advice and explanations on the Farm Structure Survey methodology, including the SAPM.
- Disseminate the results of the Farm Structure Surveys and respond to specific information requests from Commission departments and other interested parties.
- Participate within the IPA framework in the set-up of the Farm Structure Surveys in the respective countries.

2.3 SIMPLIFICATION AND BURDEN REDUCTION

- In the decade 2000-2010, three sample surveys have been launched, while in the decade 2010-2020, two FSS sample surveys are so far planned.

Theme 4.03 Land use and land cover

1. Description

Land cover and land use are of high importance in defining and evaluating common agricultural and environment policies. The aim is to provide comparable and harmonised statistical information on land cover and land use in the EU to meet the data needs of the Commission, the EEA and others, by setting up an integrated system for land cover/use statistics in Europe. This objective will be met by harmonising and integrating national land cover/use statistics and — at European level — by using the LUCAS data and other European-level data sources. The objective is to set up area frame surveys for the provision of coherent and harmonised statistics on land use and land cover, (ii) information on agriculture, (iii) information on the environment, landscapes and sustainable development, (iv) ground evidence for calibration of satellite images, (v) a register of points for specific surveys (such as soil, biodiversity etc.) and (vi) for the core European in-situ data collection network.

2. Work Programme for 2010

2.1 ONGOING WORK

- Achievement of LUCAS 2009 survey.
- Analysis of LUCAS 2006 and 2009 data.
- Follow-up of the study on LUCAS photos and data.
- Setting up the central LUCAS database and preparing the centralised data input for the next LUCAS rounds.
- Dissemination and promotion of LUCAS data.

2.2 NEW WORK

- Preparing legal basis for LUCAS as a follow-up for the LUCAS strategy.
- Setting up an integrated system for land cover/use statistics including issuing grants to the MS for data harmonisation.
- Preparations for the next LUCAS survey in 2012 including an ad hoc module with potential new data needs expressed by stakeholders.

Theme 4.04 Agricultural accounts and prices

1. Description

Economic Accounts for Agriculture (EAA) and agricultural price statistics (APS) play a key role in the design, implementation and monitoring of the common agricultural policy (CAP) as well as in the evaluation of the impact of the CAP on the economic and financial situation of the agricultural community. The national EAA data are covered by legal acts while regional EAA and APS data are collected through gentlemen's agreements. EAA, Agricultural labour input (ALI) and Unit values data are collected and disseminated annually; price indices are reported quarterly and annually; absolute prices annually; agricultural land prices and rents annually.

Special attention is devoted to statistical relevance, timeliness and accessibility of data with a view to satisfying current and potential needs of users. Besides this, a considerable effort is undertaken to ensure accuracy through quality checks aimed at detecting and eventually correcting observed errors in the data. To make sure data are of high quality, appropriate validation procedures, placed between the collection and the dissemination of data, are continuously being implemented and reviewed. Several validation tools (e.g. AGRIS, eDAMIS/Webforms, Building Blocks) play an increasingly important role in the system of data processing and need to be further integrated and developed in close cooperation with the countries and other Eurostat departments.

2. Work Programme for 2010

2.1 ONGOING WORK

- EAA data collection and validation (annual data).
- APS data collection and validation (annual and quarterly data).

- Harmonisation of the concepts and definitions used by the MS (EAA and APS).
- Continue providing support in response to user requests and dissemination unit requests.

2.2 NEW WORK

- Land prices and rents data collection in line with the EU target methodology.
- Technical assistance to projects which may arise in connection with agri-monetary statistics.

Theme 4.05 Forestry statistics

1. Description

For this theme Eurostat will continue to cooperate extensively with international bodies (FAO, UNECE and ITTO) in the use and development of the Joint FAO/ECE/Eurostat/ITTO Forest Sector Questionnaire (JFSQ), with which annual data on wood and wood-derived products are collected worldwide, thus avoiding any duplication of effort. The responsibility for collection and management of the data is shared; Eurostat is responsible for the replies of the EU countries and the EFTA countries. These data are the basis for international comparisons and are provided on request to the Commission departments, in particular DG Enterprise, DG Environment and DG Agriculture, to the work on the EU Forest Action Plan 2007-2011 and to the Ministerial Conference for the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE). They also provide some of the indicators needed for the sustainable management of forests and primary wood-based industries, work which needs to be further developed in the future.

2. Work Programme for 2010

2.1 ONGOING WORK

- Collect data on production of and trade in wood and wood-derived products (reference year 2009) by 30 October 2010.
- Disseminate statistics for 2009 via the free dissemination database, Data in Focus, Statistics in Focus and other products.
- Collect 2008 economic data for forestry and logging under the Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting for Forests (IEEAF) exercise.
- Disseminate IEEAF data.
- Provide data for projects under the EU Forest Action Plan 2007-2011 (lead: DG Agriculture).

Theme 4.06 Fisheries statistics

1. Description

The work programme in fisheries statistics will concentrate on adaptations necessary to meet the data requirements of the revisions of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP). The further integration of the various aspects of the CFP (resource management, sustainability of fisheries, structural policy, socio-economic impact and market policy) might extend the range of data required, especially concerning data on employment and supply balance sheets for fisheries.

Special attention is devoted to the redesign of the fisheries statistical database. The new design moves away from a global system of management of fisheries statistics to a system which is more focused on the needs expressed by users and of higher quality. With revised uses for fisheries statistics and aiming at higher performance of data handling, there is a need to develop a more efficient and higher-quality data environment and to ensure a decrease in the workload for data providers.

2. Work Programme for 2010

2.1 ONGOING WORK

- Processing of submissions of catch, landings and aquaculture statistics regulated under specific EU legislation.
- Updating of the Statistical Register of fishing vessels (April).
- Cooperation in development of sustainability indicators for fisheries.
- Preparation of publications (i.e. Pocketbook, DiFs and SiFs) on fisheries statistics.
- Bilateral cooperation with DG MARE following the Memorandum of Understanding.
- Bilateral and multilateral cooperation in the framework of the Working Group on Fisheries Statistics and cooperation with other international organisations.

2.2 NEW WORK

- Reorganisation of the FISH database processing system.
- Implementation of the new legislation for landings and aquaculture statistics.
- Development of data on employment in fisheries sector and on supply balance sheets for the fisheries sector.

2.3 SIMPLIFICATION AND BURDEN REDUCTION

- The catch and landings legislation will be rationalised together with DG MARE legislation on data collection and control regulations.
- In the course of 2010, eDAMIS (Electronic Data files Administration and Management Information System) ad hoc format files will be developed for fisheries data received by Eurostat.

5. Planned new legislation

- Possible amendments to the catch legislation.

Theme 4.07 Agri-environmental statistics

1. Description

The aim of agri-environmental statistics is to develop and maintain a system of agri-environmental indicators for monitoring the integration of environmental concerns into the CAP. The work is based on the conclusions drawn in Commission Communication COM(2006) 508 and the subsequent comments from the Agriculture and Fisheries Council. A memorandum of understanding has been drawn up between DG AGRI, DG

ENV, JRC, Eurostat and the EEA to ensure that already available data are fully used and to pool the different skills and resources of these partners, with the long-term objective of setting up a system for and collecting data on the relationship between agriculture and the environment to assess the impact of agricultural policy decisions on the environment. The Commission Communication identified three short-term objectives: (a) consolidating the selected set of indicators, (b) extending the coverage to the new Member States and (c) correcting existing weaknesses. Efforts need to focus on the conceptual and methodological improvement of these indicators and on collection of the necessary data or better access to existing data, in particular at regional level and concerning the use of inputs in agriculture.

2. Work Programme for 2010

2.1 ONGOING WORK

- Analyse the direct and indirect data needs linked to farms for setting up the agri-environmental indicators and the subsequent consequences for the agricultural statistics systems; follow up the contract from 2009 on the issue.
- Follow up the pilot projects on input statistics (fertiliser and water use) of the pilot studies launched in 2008 in the Member States and suggest ways forward on how to best create the statistics needed.
- Prepare implementation of the Regulation concerning statistics on pesticides (transmission file).
- Update the fact sheets on the agri-environmental indicators where Eurostat is in the lead for the indicators where new data are available.
- Follow up and continue the work on pesticide risk indicators.
- Set up a database for the agri-environmental indicators.
- Support Member States in their work on agri-environmental indicators, collect and compile available data.

3. Work to be carried out by other DGs involving data collection from Member States

- The agri-environmental indicators that are not yet fully developed will be improved as agreed in work programmes set up according to a memorandum of understanding between DG AGRI, DG ENV, JRC, Eurostat and EEA. Each partner will collect data through their own systems, as agreed in the memorandum.

5. Planned new legislation

- Implementation of the Regulation concerning statistics on pesticides.

2.4.2 Energy

Theme 3.03 Energy

1. Description

Europe's future depends on a secure, affordable and ecologically sustainable energy supply. The EU and the Member States pursue a number of policies addressing the security of supply (in particular of oil and gas), (ii) the environmental impact of energy use and (iii) the energy internal market (including competition in network industries).

This theme aims to provide the EU with a high-quality statistical service in the field of energy, addressing these policy concerns. Regular work involves the compilation of annual energy balance sheets and of structural information on the energy system, (ii) the follow-up of energy commodity short-term trends and (iii) the compilation of prices of certain energy carriers. Development work is aimed at improving the quality of the system, in particular its coverage, better addressing new policies/technologies.

Priority EU/national policies and technologies such as energy efficiency, combined heat and power, renewable energy sources, energy-environment integration, carbon emission inventories, effectiveness of competition in network industries, are also covered.

2. Work Programme for 2010

2.1 ONGOING WORK

- The Energy Statistics Regulation (ESR) 1099/2008 will be implemented, collecting and disseminating annual and monthly statistics on energy commodities.
- The Price Transparency Directive (PTD) 2008/92 will be implemented, collecting and disseminating electricity and gas prices.
- Monitoring of and reporting on specific EU energy policies (renewable energy sources, energy dependency, energy efficiency, combined heat and power).
Follow-up of needs arising from EMOS.
- Contribution to the EU greenhouse gas inventory report, submitted to the UNFCCC, as provided for in Decision 280/2004/EC.
- Upgrade of the IT infrastructure, enhancing integration with national production systems.
- Implementation of pilot surveys on energy consumption in households, in response to energy efficiency/renewable energy policies and ESR requirements.

2.2 NEW WORK

- Collect statistics on nuclear fuel cycle, based on recently developed approach.
- Methodology for reviewing present system and for the compilation of statistics on energy use in the Services Sector, as stipulated in the ESR.
- Methodology and collection of statistics on ambient energy in line with the ESR and Renewable Energies Directive.
- Updating of ESR to respond to the requirements of the Council Decision on strategic oil stocks.
- Follow-up of legislative acts on security of gas supply.

- Study on better use of ESR statistics in the preparation of the EU greenhouse gas inventory report.
- Methodology and collection of statistics on sustainable biofuels — in line with ESR and Renewable Energies Directive.

2.3 SIMPLIFICATION AND BURDEN REDUCTION

- The Energy Statistics Regulation will be continuously evaluated with the aim of keeping the burden low while responding to policy needs.

2.4.4 Transport

2.4.5 Tourism

Theme 3.04 Transport

1. Description

Community transport statistics are required to support the Community transport policy. A White Paper and its mid-term review ('Keep Europe moving — Sustainable mobility for our continent') set out the EU action programme on transport policy. Community transport statistics should constitute a comprehensive transport information system, including above all data on flows of vehicles, passengers and goods, but also on infrastructure, equipment, mobility, safety, enterprises, investments and employment. A key objective will be to measure the contribution of each mode of transport, used alone and in combination with others, to the global figures. It will be necessary to consolidate structural, sustainable development, modal split, energy and environmental impact indicators, and to develop indicators of quality and performance for all modes of transport. The increasing trends to optimise the high cost and investment in transport infrastructure will create more needs for statistics on them. Transport is also an important part of Community regional and environmental policies. The former will increase demands for spatially broken-down data on transport networks and flows. Taking into account the growing awareness of climate change, and the significant impact of transport on this, more and more work will be required to measure the emission of greenhouse gases and other pollutants, as well as the evolution of passenger behaviour regarding transport, particularly in European cities. The Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) is very important for competitiveness and growth. Transport statistics should provide specific information on the development of the TEN-T infrastructure and on the services it provides.

2. Work Programme for 2010

2.1 ONGOING WORK

- Implement the full acquis with a complete set of data for reference year 2009 available by December 2010, and adopt the necessary implementation measures under committee procedure.
- Produce data on transport infrastructure, equipment, enterprises, safety, etc. and other information complementary to the legal data collections, through the regular use of the Common Questionnaire to be accessed on the internet.
- Achieve systematic updating and improvement of the quality of regional transport data, based both on the annual voluntary survey (via internet) and on the legal data collections.
- Consolidate and further develop methodology and production for structural indicators, sustainable development indicators, modal split indicators and environmental impact indicators.
- Consolidate the development of the Community data collection on road traffic measurement (road vehicle*kilometres).
- Consolidate the dissemination of transport statistics by the regular and timely uploading of Eurostat's free dissemination site and the production of publications in accordance with Eurostat's publication programme.
- Continue the development of the Transport Information System (TRIS) project, which aims to modernise and integrate the various workflows of the existing processes.

2.2 NEW WORK

- According to decision taken end-2009, start developing a Community project on the assessment of co-modality, logistics and performance indicators in freight transport modes, on their own and in combination.
- According to decision taken end-2009, start extending the scope of existing data collection on aviation statistics.
- Start producing transport safety statistics built on data collection(s) performed by transport safety agencies, and on the CARE database for road accidents.

2.3 SIMPLIFICATION AND BURDEN REDUCTION

- According to decisions taken until end-2009 at technical level, the modernisation of the existing maritime transport statistics Directive may imply some simplifications. Other potential simplifications may derive from opportunities offered by new ICT services (for example 'e-maritime').
- The reflection phase on maritime transport statistics is conducted by a Task Force involving several Member States already active in the field, in order to fine-tune the resulting burden on the others.
- The reflection phase on aviation statistics is conducted by a Task Force involving several Member States motivated and experienced in the field, in order to fine-tune the burden resulting from the likely extension of the data collection.
- Discontinuation of the data collection on rail safety (to be replaced by operational data collected by ERA, the European Railways Agency).
- Programme of evaluation of transport processes in 2010: maritime transport statistics, inland waterway transport statistics.

3. Work to be carried out by other DGs involving data collection from Member States

- DG TREN manages the CARE database on road accidents, for which the data are collected under Council Decision 93/704/EC. DG TREN intends to modernise and extend (to non-inland modes of transport) Regulation 1108/70 on an accounting system for expenditure on infrastructure in respect of inland modes of transport.

5. Planned new legislation

- Start revising Regulation 91/2003 on rail transport statistics in order to discontinue the data collection on rail safety, improving the quality of rail data and extending the data collection according to some user needs.
Start revising Regulation 437/2003 on statistical returns in respect of the carriage of passengers, freight and mail by air in order to define the possible extension agreed with the Member States end-2009.
The changes in legislation agreed in the framework of the Task Force established in order to modernise maritime transport statistics will be gradually submitted under the appropriate legislative procedure.
Deliberations on the viability of exempting or simplifying the data collection for the smallest Member States with regard to Regulation 1172/98 on road freight transport statistics while maintaining overall data quality and completeness.

Theme 3.05 Tourism

1. Description

Tourism is an important economic activity in the European Union with great potential for contributing to higher employment. It comprises a wide variety of products or services and destinations and many different stakeholders are involved with highly decentralised areas of competence, often at regional and local levels.

Currently, statistics are collected on the supply of and demand for tourist accommodation, as well as on participation in tourism and tourism behaviour of EU residents. The legal basis for this data collection (Council Directive 95/57, the related Commission Decisions of 9 December 1998 and 10 December 2004, and Council Directive 2006/110) are being updated in order to ensure the quality of the data collection in terms of relevance, comparability, completeness and freshness of the data. A renewed legal act is scheduled to be adopted in 2010. Further, statistics on tourism employment and on indicators related to sustainable and competitive tourism are compiled using existing statistics.

2. Work Programme for 2010

2.1 ONGOING WORK

- To produce high-quality publications.
- To submit for adoption in 2009 a Commission proposal for a Regulation concerning Community Statistics on Tourism to the European Parliament and Council, updating and revising Council Directive 95/57/EC.
- Prepare implementing measures as regards quality reporting and transmission format.
- To enrich the tourism statistics available through usage of data from other Eurostat sources, especially as regards tourism employment or sustainability and competitiveness of tourism in Europe.
- Following the 2008-2009 Eurostat project on Tourism Satellite Accounts, foster the implementation of TSA in the Member States (outside the legal framework).
- To improve cooperation with the relevant international organisations as well as with candidate, neighbourhood and Mediterranean countries.
- Organisation of an International Forum on Tourism Statistics.

2.2 NEW WORK

- Drafting of a methodological manual for tourism statistics, in close cooperation with the Member States.
- ESSnet on automated data collection from tourist accommodation establishments.
- Developing implementing measures regarding data transmission on same-day visits, possibly with pilot studies.

2.3 SIMPLIFICATION AND BURDEN REDUCTION

- ESSnet on automated data collection from tourist accommodation establishments.

5. Planned new legislation

- Regulation (EC) of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning Community statistics on tourism, to be submitted to the Council and Parliament in the course of 2009 (adoption unlikely in 2009) .

2.4.6 Banking, insurance, financial statistics

Theme 2.03 Monetary and financial statistics

1. Description

Monetary and financial indicators include important monthly, quarterly and annual statistics such as interest rates and exchange rates. Eurostat's role is to collect these data, largely from international organisations, and to publish and present them in a timely and suitable way for the benefit of users. Financial accounts cover the financial transactions and stocks of all sectors in the economy.

2. Work Programme for 2010

2.1 ONGOING WORK

- Receive, process, validate and publish monetary and financial indicators.
- Receive, process, validate and publish annual financial accounts data.
- Publish Statistics in Focus on selected topics and other publications.
- Discuss selected methodological issues with countries and other data providers.

2.5 Government finance, fiscal and public sector statistics

Theme 2.04 Government finance statistics

1. Description

Government finance statistics cover financial and non-financial data relating to the expenditure, revenue and financing of government. These data are reported on a quarterly and annual frequency to Eurostat, are validated and published, and are usually the subject of Statistics in Focus and other publications. Eurostat has the central role in the assessment of debt and deficit data in the context of the Excessive Deficit Procedure (EDP), and to this end works closely with Member States to ensure the quality and methodological soundness of these data.

2. Work Programme for 2010

2.1 ONGOING WORK

- Carry out six-monthly assessment of debt and deficit data of Member States, and provision of these data.
- Update the ESA95 Manual on Government Deficit and Debt.
- Discuss selected methodological issues with Member States and provide bilateral advice.
- Carry out statistical assessment of candidate countries.
- Develop inventories of sources and methods for deficit and debt statistics.
- Carry out regular EDP dialogue missions to Member States.
- Receive, process, validate and publish annual and quarterly government finance statistics (Tables 2, 9, 11, 25, 27, 28 of the ESA95 transmission programme).
- Publish Statistics in Focus on all relevant annual and quarterly government finance statistics (see above).
- Collaborate with DG TAXUD to produce an annual publication on tax structures.
- Complete the production and publication of detailed (COFOG level II) data for government expenditure by function.

2.3 SIMPLIFICATION AND BURDEN REDUCTION

- Development of tools to aid Member States' validation before data transmission.

2.6 International trade and balance of payments

Theme 2.07 Trade in goods

1. Description

Statistics on international trade in goods comprise data on trade between the Member States (Intrastat) and data on trade with non-member countries (Extrastat). The statistical information is of essential importance for European economic and trade policies as well as for the analysis of market developments of individual commodities. The statistics contain detailed data broken down by reporting Member States and partner countries, by commodities according to the Combined Nomenclature and SITC, by mode of transport and by type of preference in the case of imports. The development work concentrates on making available to users harmonised statistics which meet the requirements in terms of quality and timeliness and which are relevant and matched to users' needs, including new needs arising in the framework of EMU and the changing international environment. The concepts and methods are adapted so as to integrate statistics on international trade in goods into the general statistical system at Community and international level and to respond to changes in the administrative environment. At the same time methodological principles and tools based on the latest technological advances are developed with the objective of minimising the reporting burden on businesses and enhancing data quality. The data are collected, processed and disseminated in accordance with the provisions laid down in Community legislation (Extrastat and Intrastat Regulations). The Modernised Customs Code, which shall apply at the latest on 24 June 2013, will allow lodging customs declarations (and then providing statistical data) through centralised clearance or self-assessment by authorised traders. The implementation of the new Extrastat Regulation will therefore imply appropriate mechanisms for the exchange of information between economic operators, customs and statistical authorities in such cases.

2. Work Programme for 2010

2.1 ONGOING WORK

- Publish each month the main intra- and extra-EU and euro-area aggregates via Releases (on average 48 days after the reference month) and more detailed intra and extra trade statistics via Bulletins. Publish the Annual Yearbook, the Pocketbook and at least four Statistics in Focus during the year.
- Make available in the Comext database monthly detailed data and metadata (raw data, seasonally adjusted data, unit value indices, qualitative information, classifications and relationships among them, methodological comments) from the 27 Member States, EFTA, cooperation programmes and data from third countries and international organisations. Recent evolution of nomenclatures (CPA2008, NSTR) and new related data derivation will be taken into account. An expanded range of services to data users (simplified/advanced and on-line/web interfaces; new functionalities and improved support for users) will be provided in Comext.
- Implementation of new Extrastat and amended Intrastat Regulations adopted in 2009.
- Update the methodological documentation on statistics relating to the trading of goods. Further develop the implementation guidelines for the Intrastat legislation
Participate in the revision of the concepts and definitions of international merchandise trade statistics of the United Nations.
- Develop proposals for the upcoming new cooperation programmes. Renew the compliance database for the candidate countries. Ensure corrective maintenance and user training for Eurotrace.
Follow the implementation of cooperation programmes in the field of external trade statistics for the candidate countries and third countries, such as: MEDCOMEXT III and the Instrument for Pre-Accession Activities 2008-2009.
- Implementation of XT-NET EDIT with standard validation rules, corrections and estimations at Eurostat and Member States level.
- Annual data collection on trade by enterprise characteristics, for example by activity sector or by size class, will continue. Data will be published through the Eurostat website and SiFs. Methodological guidelines will be prepared.

- New legal provisions on quality reporting and assessment will be implemented. Individual assessment reports on each Member State and an annual summary quality report will be prepared. Guidelines for methods and practices affecting quality will be prepared. Intra-EU asymmetries will be monitored and analysed at detailed level. A new reconciliation round to solve the most important asymmetries will be launched. The quality of detailed data will be analysed and reported through the mirror outlier detection system.
- Ensure the maintenance of the Eurotrace package.

2.2 NEW WORK

- In the framework of the MEETS programme, which will run for 5 years, and in line with the new strategy contained in the Communication on re-engineering the production systems of European statistics, continue financing studies on analysis and implementation of the modernisation of Intrastat, on linking trade and other business statistics and on the implementation of new Extrastat legislation in the Member States.
 - Develop implementation guidelines for the Extrastat legislation.
 - Implementation of XT-NET ASSIST for the communication and follow-up of quality problems between Eurostat and Member States and among Member States.
- ### **2.3 SIMPLIFICATION AND BURDEN REDUCTION_***
- Although in the preparatory and implementation phases of objectives 201 and 202 the actions might increase the burden on Member States, the aim is a significant reduction of burden on both Member States and reporting enterprises

Theme 2.08 Trade in services and balance of payments

1. Description

An information service of high quality is required to implement EU policies on competitiveness and growth, solidarity, economic and social cohesion, external projection and sustainable development. Other relevant policies are enlargement, the Commission's bilateral relations, the management of regional agreements and the completion of the internal market. The following statistics are of crucial importance here: international trade in services; (ii) foreign direct investment; (iii) foreign affiliates (FATS); (iv) balance of payments (BoP) of the EU; (v) BoP of candidate countries; (vi) BoP of the European institutions; and (vii) remittances. Key customers are the ECB and Commission departments dealing with trade policy, economic monitoring and external relations. Member States' BoP compilers are also customers for the EU institutions' BoP. Ensuring the consistency of the BoP with national accounts and foreign trade is crucial. Harmonised implementation of new international standards in the EU will be coordinated and monitored. Work will be pursued in the years ahead — through the implementation of the BoP Regulation — to ensure that Member States keep on providing good-quality data to Eurostat and the ECB. It is also strategically important to implement the new Regulation on foreign affiliates statistics. Key methodological activities are carried out in active cooperation and coordination with international organisations such as the ECB, the IMF, the OECD and the WTO.

2. Work Programme for 2010

2.1 ONGOING WORK

- Ensure maintenance and continue improving the production of statistics on international trade in services, foreign direct investment, workers' remittances and balance of payments, including the development of BoP of the EU institutions (monthly, quarterly and annual) and FATS; metadata in the database and in the publications will continue to be improved and completed.
- Data required under the BoP and FATS Regulations will continue to be monitored through the quality reports approved by the BoP Committee and SPC.
- Guarantee the functioning of the BoP Committee, including all necessary comitology procedures.
- Enhance quarterly and annual balance of payments statistics of the EU institutions and quarterly BoP of the EU, to satisfy the requirements of the Quarterly Sector Accounts Regulation.
- Ensure the implementation of the FATS Regulation and the 'Recommendations Manual' (on outward FATS).
- Participate in Commission and international work on developing the methods and data collection on workers' remittances.
- Enhanced cooperation with National Accounts, Foreign Trade Statistics and the ECB for greater statistical consistency. Steer and follow up the implementation of technical groups' recommendations: rest of the world account; direct reporting; foreign direct investment; reconciliation with external trade; asymmetries monitoring.
- Monitor coordinated and harmonised implementation of the IMF Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual and of the new OECD Benchmark Definition of Foreign Direct Investment.
- Contribute to Eurostat's cooperation programme with third countries regarding compilation and dissemination of statistics on trade in services and foreign direct investment.

2.2 NEW WORK

- Promote work on increasing consistency between BoP and trade statistics and between BoP/travel and tourism statistics through MEETS projects.
- Organise workshops facilitating exchange of experience and good practices leading towards implementation of new international standards.
- Explore possibilities for compiling trade in services data using VAT-related information (MEETS).
- Investigate BoP-related statistical issues in relation to quantifying the impact of the economic turmoil.
- Guarantee smooth functioning of the FDI Network by facilitating exchange of data on FDI transactions (joint initiative by Eurostat and DG Statistics of the ECB).

2.3 SIMPLIFICATION AND BURDEN REDUCTION

- The MEETS projects will analyse synergies between BoP and trade on the one hand and BoP/travel and tourism on the other. Possible use of common surveys, avoidance of duplication, exchange of results will lead to a reduction of burden for national compilers.
- In order to share the burden, Eurostat provides Member States with monthly balance of payments data of the European Union institutions. The Member States use these data in compiling their national balance of payments statistics (and their contributions to the EU and euro-area aggregate).

2.7 Prices

Theme 2.06 Prices

1. Description

The Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices (HICP) is the key inflation indicator for the conduct of euro-area monetary policy by the European Central Bank (ECB) and for the assessment of convergence. Three important aims are to improve HICP quality in the medium term through the adoption of further minimum standards, to develop house price indices for housing and owner-occupied housing and to make available detailed price statistics for single market monitoring, the food prices monitoring tool and for assessing consumer outcomes (the Consumer Market Scoreboard).

Purchasing Power Parities (PPPs) are necessary for the allocation of structural funds by the Commission (DG REGIO). The PPP process is laid down in European Parliament and Council Regulation 1445/2007 (the PPP Regulation). The strategy is to enhance data quality by improving the data handling and production process of PPPs (in particular with the PPP database and related tools) as well as Member States' sources and methods.

The specific indicator, the correction coefficients, and the pension contribution rate are requested by the Commission for the annual adjustment of the salaries of officials of the Community institutions.

2. Work Programme for 2010

2.1 ONGOING WORK

- Produce, quality-check and further develop HICP monthly data and HICP flash estimates, including the necessary further development of HICP at constant tax rates (due to be implemented in 2009) and HICP administered prices.
- Owner Occupied Housing (OOH) and dwelling price indices.
- Development of detailed information on prices.
- Develop and follow up the implementation of standards on quality adjustment and sampling and weighting.
- Extend HICP communications to promote the HICP.
- Monitor the compliance of national indices with HICP standards with follow-up as required.
- Produce PPPs for 2009 and revised PPPs for 2007 and 2008.
- Carry out two consumer goods price surveys, two capital goods surveys and surveys of expenditure weights and of data on non-market services and dwelling services.
- Undertake assessments of countries' sources and methods for PPPs.
- Bring in full operation and ensure successful management of the PPP database.
- Implementation of PPP Regulation 1445/2007.
- Improve methodology for construction PPPs.
- Produce correction coefficient and annual adjustment.
- Produce pension contribution rate, forecast and liability for pensions and health care.

2.2 NEW WORK

- DG ADMIN project on intra-EU correction coefficient.
- Eurostat/IOS-OECD/UN project on world correction coefficient.

5. Planned new legislation

- HICP implementing regulations, such as concerning HICP sampling, replacement and aggregation practices.

2.9 Science and technology

Theme 5.06 Science, technology and innovation

1. Description

Statistics on science, technology and innovation (STI statistics) mainly cover R&D statistics, including statistics on government budget appropriations and outlays on R&D (GBAORD), innovation statistics (based on the Community innovation surveys — CIS), patent statistics, statistics on human resources in science and technology (HRST statistics), statistics on the careers of doctorate holders (CDH statistics) and statistics on high-tech industries and knowledge-based services. The regular activities consist of data production based on the Commission Regulations or other agreements and involvements and of related methodological work.

2. Work Programme for 2010

2.1 ONGOING WORK

- Ensure the regular production and dissemination of STI data and the related metadata with their envisaged extensions.
- Finalise and disseminate the results of CIS 2008.
- Complete the CIS 2010 instructions.
- Launch the CDH 2009 data collection.
- Improve the measurement of the internationalisation of R&D.
- Increase the data volume, quality and data output of patent statistics (in using PATSTAT).

2.2 NEW WORK

- Improvement of classifications used for high-tech and knowledge-intensive services (KIS).

3. Work to be carried out by other DGs involving data collection from Member States

- Several projects initiated by DG RTD on (investigating the) deepening of the breakdown of the R&D data involve Member States' active participation.
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3. Environment and multi-domain statistics (Eurostat)

3.1 Environment

Theme 5.03 Environment statistics and accounts

1. Description

The main objective of environment statistics and accounts is to establish comprehensive, reliable and relevant statistics, accounts and indicators for developing, implementing and monitoring the Community's environmental policy, in particular the sixth Environment Action Programme (6th EAP), its thematic strategies and the environmental dimensions of the EU Sustainable Development Strategy (SDS) as well as the Lisbon Strategy. The four main policy areas identified by the 6th EAP are climate change; nature and biodiversity; environment and health and quality of life; natural resources and waste. The Treaties and subsequently the 6th EAP also emphasise the need to continue the process of integrating environmental concerns into all relevant policy areas and ensure better and more accessible information on the environment for policy makers, businesses, citizens and other stakeholders.

Work on the collection, validation and dissemination of environmental data and the development of indicators will be harmonised in the framework of the Environmental Data Centres (DCs) for Natural Resources, Products and Waste, as agreed by the Group of Four (Directorate-General Environment, European Environment Agency — EEA, Joint Research Centre — JRC and Eurostat) in 2005. They are intended to act as "information hubs" and to be the first contact points for information on each of the related policies. At international level, Eurostat actively contributes to the harmonisation of methodologies and statistics on the environment through the Inter-secretariat Working Group on Environment Statistics (IWG-ENV), through cooperation with the OECD and in environmental accounts through the United Nations Committee of Experts on Economic-Environmental Accounting (UNCEEA) and the 'London Group'.

2. Work Programme for 2010

2.1 ONGOING WORK

- Implement and adapt the Waste Statistics Regulation.
- Operate and further develop the Waste Data Centre.
- Set up the Environmental Data Centres on Natural Resources and Products.
- Collect and/or disseminate data for Air Emission Accounts, Environmental Protection Expenditure, Environmental Taxes, Material Flow Accounts.
- Ensure the adoption by the EP and the Council of a legal basis for European environmental accounts.
- Streamline existing and new environmental indicators.
- Update SIs and SDIs based on environment statistics.
- Improve selected environmental statistics and indicators.
- Support data centres set up and managed by partner institutions (JRC and EEA), in particular as regards their common IT infrastructure.
- Manage the chemical risk indicators set in the framework of the REACH baseline study.

2.2 NEW WORK

- Together with DG ENV, coordinate the implementation of actions arising from the Communication "GDP and beyond".
- Ensure better dissemination of environmental statistics through the data centres, new publications and improved databases and websites.
- Launch a first data collection on Environmental Goods and Services Sector based on the pilot data collection done in 2009.
- Develop estimation methods based on nowcasting techniques for the main EU-27 aggregates in different modules of environmental accounts.

2.3 SIMPLIFICATION AND BURDEN REDUCTION

- Development of the Environmental Data Centres.
- Development of a 'Clearing House' for Environmental Indicators.

5. Planned new legislation

- EP and Council Regulation on European Environmental Accounts.
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3.2 Regional and small area statistics

Theme 4.08 Rural development and maritime policy statistics

1. Description

The Commission's rural development policy has become the second pillar of the CAP. The Commission departments, in close cooperation with Member States, have defined a list of indicators which address the three main objectives for rural development policy: improve the

competitiveness of agriculture and forestry; improve the environment; enhance the quality of life in rural areas and promote diversification of economic activities through measures targeting the farm sector and other rural actors. Eurostat undertakes the compilation of the statistics used for these indicators, based entirely on data already available either in the Member States or within Eurostat. In addition, Eurostat works with other Commission departments and Member States to develop new indicators of rural development within the EU.

DG REGIO published its Green Paper on Territorial Cohesion on 6 October 2008 (COM(2008) 616 final), from which it is clear that additional data will be required at NUTS3 level. Close cooperation with the unit responsible for regional statistics has therefore to be ensured. Further synergies between the rural development and territorial cohesion activities have to be identified to maximise the use of available data.

In 2007, the Commission put forward the main elements of a new European integrated maritime policy, including its founding principles and main objectives, the required governance framework and appropriate tools for integrated policy-making (COM(2007) 575). One of the key actions set out in the proposal is the improvement of socio-economic data for maritime sectors and maritime regions. Good-quality information is required to monitor and assess the EU maritime policy and its programmes, to provide contextual information for sustainable coastal and ocean development, and to understand the linkages between socio-economic activities and the environment. In consultation with other Commission departments, Eurostat manages the development of a harmonised statistical database that brings together relevant regional and national statistics from different statistical domains.

2. Work Programme for 2010

2.1 ONGOING WORK

- Prepare a dedicated site devoted to rural development and maritime statistics in Eurostat's public database.
- Launch the rural data collection exercise for 2010 based on existing data sources
- Further develop the rural indicators framework, especially taking into account new needs expressed by DG REGIO.
- Carry out a regular update of the relevant data using official data published on the websites of the NSIs.
- Elaboration of statistical publications devoted to rural development and maritime sectors and regions.

2.2 NEW WORK

- Test the use of data collected in the framework of European harmonised surveys (e.g. LFS, ICT usage).

Theme 5.04 Regional and urban statistics

1. Description

The EU is committed to improving social and economic cohesion in the EU, which is the main objective of Cohesion Policy. It promotes growth by mobilising underutilised resources and reducing regional social and economic disparities. Since 1988, the Commission has put in place an integrated policy for social and economic cohesion within which regional statistics play an essential role in the decision implementation process: the eligibility of zones under regional objectives is determined on the basis of socio-economic criteria with respect to certain thresholds; financial allocations to Member States are decided objectively on the basis of statistical indicators. In addition, evaluation of the impact of Community policies at regional level and the quantification of regional disparities are possible only with access to extensive regional- and urban-based statistics.

A number of departments within the Commission make use of data at municipality level for the drafting, implementation and evaluation of the policies for which they are responsible, in particular regional, competition, transport and agricultural policy. The nomenclature for local administrative units is a core item for the Commission's spatial infrastructure.

2. Work Programme for 2010

2.1 ONGOING WORK

- By September, disseminate regional information in the form of a yearbook as a companion to the web.
- Update thematic data in the REGIO domain of NewCronos.
- Prepare the next round of NUTS revisions.
- Improve section dedicated to regional and urban statistics on Eurostat's website
- Start annual data collection.

2.2 NEW WORK

- Launch third exhaustive Urban Audit data collection.
- Start regular collection of regional government expenditure statistics.
- Create a database with (partly confidential) NUTS level 3 data, to be used as building blocks for specific aggregations such as rural areas or urban areas.

Theme 5.05 Geographical and local information

1. Description

A large number of departments within the Commission make use of geographical information systems for the drafting, implementation and evaluation of the policies for which they are responsible. Moreover, geographically located information is becoming even more important as a source for statistics and analyses, presenting great potential both for developing new statistics and for illustration and communication purposes. This trend will become increasingly evident in the next few years as technology advances and data become more extensively available. Eurostat, as manager of the Commission's reference database, must meet this challenge.

Eurostat, in association with the JRC and DG ENV, will continue to support the implementation of INSPIRE following the adoption of the Directive. This covers infrastructure and drafting of specific regulations as envisaged in the programme but also the initiation of operational and decision-making support (in particular the continuing work of the INSPIRE committee). Cooperation in the framework of the GMES and SEIS initiatives will also be continued.

2. Work Programme for 2010

2.1 ONGOING WORK

- Maintenance of the GISCO database.
- Development of INSPIRE Directive Implementing Rules.
- GI support to Eurostat and Commission DGs.
- INSPIRE implementation in the Commission.
- Development of the INSPIRE European geoportal.
- Operation of the secretariat of the INSPIRE regulatory committee.
- Grid-based data projects in cooperation with Commission and NSIs.
- Contribution to GMES, SEIS.

2.2 NEW WORK

- Operation of the INSPIRE European geoportal.

3.3 Multi-domain statistics and indicators

3.3.1 Living conditions, poverty and cross-cutting social issues

Theme 1.06 Distribution of incomes and living conditions

1. Description

Statistics on the distribution of income and on living conditions are based on two data sources: HBS and EU-SILC. EU-SILC, the reference data source for EU statistics on income and social exclusion in all EU countries and in Iceland, Norway, Switzerland and Turkey, will be used to compute the indicators included in the Annual Progress Report on the Lisbon Strategy to the spring European Council (structural indicators) and the overarching Laeken and pensions indicators used in the streamlined Open Method of Coordination (OMC) on social protection and social inclusion. Development work on material deprivation, housing and labour transition indicators is of key importance. Focus in the medium term is on extending the geographical coverage of EU-SILC to candidate countries and on its consolidation. EU-SILC has a potential to contribute to the implementation of the Commission communication "GDP & beyond".

2. Work Programme for 2010

2.1 ONGOING WORK

- Issue data on food consumption from the Household Budget Surveys 2005 round for a selection of countries.
- Ensure the coordination of the data collection of the HBS 2010 round.
- Disseminate the 2009 SILC cross-sectional data on Eurostat website by end December 2010.
- Disseminate the cross-sectional (2008) and longitudinal (2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008) users' databases (UDBs) to researchers in March and August 2010 respectively.
- Ensure the adoption by the November ESSC of the SILC Commission Regulation on the 2012 list of target secondary variables.
- Produce EU quality reports covering both cross-sectional and longitudinal components (intermediate 2008 report and final 2007 report).
- Produce the relevant indicators for the 2011 Spring Report, for the 2011 Joint report on social inclusion and social protection (JSISP).
- Publish several Statistics in Focus as well as a monograph publication using SILC data.

2.2 NEW WORK

- Open the repository database with metadata information.
- Organise an international Scientific Conference in Warsaw, presenting various research projects based on EU-SILC.
- Further develop indicators in the fields of housing and labour transitions
- Study the potential contribution of SILC to the actions listed in the communication "GDP & beyond".

Theme 1.12 Other work in the field of demographic and social statistics

1. Description

This theme includes five distinct cross-cutting modules in social statistics: social reporting, gender statistics, youth statistics, the European Programme of Social Surveys (EPSS) and harmonisation of the core social variables.

In the field of social reporting, Eurostat is and will remain an active co-author together with DG EMPL of the report 'The social situation in the European Union'. In addition to a holistic view, this report has a special focus from one edition to another. Eurostat also produces the statistical pocketbook 'Living conditions in Europe'.

The aim of gender statistics is to describe women's and men's different roles in society. A gender perspective should be integrated in all statistics on individuals. The strategy is to increase data collection by sex, to develop gender statistics, and to increase the effort to have a more extensive presentation of gender statistics.

The political interest in young people is growing. With the Commission's new Youth Strategy (2010-2018) adopted in April 2009, there is a strong focus on evidence-based youth policy. In this context, the need for solid statistical and sociological data and analysis becomes obvious. At EU level harmonized statistical data are numerous but should be better exploited. Eurostat will therefore make the existing data sources on youth more accessible and user-friendly on its online database.

The EPSS project is a three-year rolling programme of all social surveys. It aims to rationalise the existing household surveys and to reinforce the general social statistical infrastructure so that Eurostat is in a better position to answer new Commission demands.

The aim of harmonising the core social variables is to implement in each EU social survey a limited set of common variables in order to allow more cross-sources analysis.

The EPSS and the core social variables are cornerstones of a long-term re-engineering of social statistics.

2. Work Programme for 2010

2.1 ONGOING WORK

- Conduct the 2010 LFS ad hoc module on reconciling work and family life.
- Continue dissemination of gender-related information across all domains.
- Finalise the 2010 edition of the social situation report in the European Union.
- Continue implementing the core social variables, in close liaison with the national coordinators and the survey specialists.
- EPSS: preparation and adoption by the ESSC of the three year 2013-2015 rolling programme in November 2010.

2.2 NEW WORK

- EPSS: development of ad hoc legal basis (temporary measures based on Article 14 of the Statistical Regulation for survey modules).
- Development of the survey module on EDSIM.
- Development of the survey module on victimisation.
- Development of a strategic framework for social statistics beyond the rolling programme (EPSS).

3.3.3 Information society

Theme 5.07 Information society

1. Description

Statistics on the information society are a vital basis enabling European policy makers to follow structural changes in the economy and monitor the general uptake of information and communication technologies (ICT) within European societies. The high political priority of these statistics is demonstrated by the inclusion of indicators on the information society among the structural indicators, as well as the decision to monitor progress towards the i2010 goals through a system of benchmarking indicators, which have been renewed in 2009. The main legal basis for action is Parliament and Council Regulation (EC) No 808/2004 concerning Community statistics on the information society and its annual implementing measures. The Regulation was amended in 2009 and will cover the provision of statistical data until 2019. It has provided a framework for developing a flexible system of collecting statistics on the information society. Cooperation with other international organisations will continue to improve consistency of methods and indicators for better comparability of data at international level. New methodology (e.g. on measuring ICT expenditure and investment and other evolving ways of electronic communication) will be implemented and current methodology will be improved in this rapidly changing area. Concerning the ICT supply side, work on the definition of a conceptual framework and the collection of statistics on the ICT sector from other statistical domains will continue. Depending on newly defined priority areas within the post-i2010 benchmarking process, new indicators for monitoring topics of special interest will have to be developed.

2. Work Programme for 2010

2.1 ONGOING WORK

- Make available the results of the two Community surveys 2009 on the usage of information and communication technologies (ICT) in enterprises and in households on the free dissemination database of Eurostat (bulk of results by February) and in a series of paper publications by December 2010.
- Follow up the execution of the two Community surveys 2010 on ICT usage in enterprises and in households with a view to making available data for post-i2010 benchmarking indicators and structural indicators by November 2010.
- Finalise the set of implementation modules for the 2011 surveys by March 2010 as required by Article 8 of Regulation (EC) No 808/2004, and update the Methodological Manual concerning information society statistics by June 2010 (Article 5): the special modules will be e-skills and e-government.
- Collect a set of indicators for measuring ICT expenditure and investment
Provide timely data on telecommunication statistics.
- Provide timely data on the performance and the competitiveness of the ICT sector from existing sources.
- Provide data on postal services from existing sources and from a specific data collection via national regulatory authorities (in close cooperation with DG MARKT).

2.2 NEW WORK

- Define and test new modules on ICT usage in enterprises and in households related to the post-i2010 benchmarking framework. Eurostat will contribute as actively as possible to the ongoing discussion concerning post-i2010 to ensure that the leading role official statistics has had in the past as the main important data source is maintained and improved.

2.3 SIMPLIFICATION AND BURDEN REDUCTION

- Project: assessment of ICT impact on productivity of enterprises by linking data from different sources (MEETS project).

3. Work to be carried out by other DGs involving data collection from Member States

- Collection of indicators on eGovernment (supply side) and size of ICT sector by DG INFSO.

5. Planned new legislation

- Commission Regulation implementing Regulation 808/2004 concerning Community statistics on the information society.

3.3.6 Sustainable development

Theme 5.02 Lisbon strategy and sustainable development

1. Description

Key policy areas likely to shape the development of the EU in the coming years include two overarching and complementary strategies: while the goal of the Lisbon Strategy is for the EU to 'become the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world capable of sustainable economic growth with more and better jobs and greater social cohesion', the Sustainable Development Strategy (SDS) concerns the continuous improvement of quality of life, both for current and for future generations, through reconciliation of economic development, social cohesion and protection of the environment. Eurostat produces and disseminates indicators to monitor these two strategies, namely the structural indicators (SIs) for the Lisbon Strategy are used to underpin the Commission's analysis in the annual progress report to the European Council, and (ii) the sustainable development indicators (SDIs) range across the multiple factors affecting quality of life, including environmental, social, economic and governance issues, and underpin the six-monthly monitoring report on the Sustainable Development Strategy. Those sets of indicators have been discussed and agreed at political level. Eurostat aims to continuously monitor, improve and review these indicators in order to be in line with evolving policy requirements and communications (in particular the "GDP and beyond" Communication and the Stiglitz-Sen report).

Recent developments in the world's economy have led to a need to monitor globalisation (mostly exchanges and links between EU and non-EU countries) and the well-being of people in addition to GDP. Two new sets of 'long-term' indicators are being developed or should be developed to satisfy this need: Globalisation Indicators (GIs) and Well Being Indicators (WBIs), both in close coordination with other international activities such as those of the OECD.

2. Work Programme for 2010

2.1 ONGOING WORK

- Maintain and improve the SI, SDI and GI sets in terms of data availability and timeliness (quality profiles), in line with policy developments.
- Improve the user-friendliness of the SI, SDI and GI dedicated sections on the Eurostat website and respond to users' requests, including further documentation of data quality
- Prepare the statistical contribution to the Lisbon annual progress report.
- Foster and follow actively technical and research projects connected to SIs, SDIs, GIs and WBIs.

2.2 NEW WORK

- Put in place Well Being Indicators.
- Prepare Statistics in Focus publications.

3.3.7 Climate change

3.4 Yearbooks and similar compendia

Theme 6.06 Information and dissemination

1. Description

The information and dissemination function can be split into the following activities: (i) content management, operation and further development of the Eurostat internet site, which is increasingly important for the dissemination of data, methodological information and publications. The internet has become the main dissemination tool for Eurostat. The Eurostat site contains a series of subprograms for accessing statistical data in Eurostat reference databases and visualising it in user-friendly forms. The site is integrated into the Commission's Europa site; (ii) user support through cooperation with national statistical institutes (NSIs), financially assisted by Community grants. A team in Eurostat ensures coordination and cooperation with Eurostat's statistical production units; (iii) assistance to production units in the preparation of publications. Eurostat has different types of publications, mainly Statistics in Focus (SiF)/Data in Focus (DiF), Statistical Books, and Pocketbook publications. A publication programme guides the publication process. The assistance covers design, layout, printing, and validation. In this function Eurostat works closely with the Publications Office; (iv) preparation of compendium publications in cooperation with Eurostat production units. The compendium publications provide overviews of the various statistical domains covered by Eurostat; (v) administration of access to microdata for research purposes; (vi) the dissemination. This function is coordinated with the members of the European Statistical System through the Dissemination Working Group via the exchange of best practices and common projects.

2. Work Programme for 2010

2.1 ONGOING WORK

- Ensure content management, monitoring and web-mastering of the Eurostat internet site.
- Continue to improve the Eurostat internet site and the integrated database extraction and statistical data visualisation tools to make access to Eurostat statistics and related information more functionally rich and easier to use.
- Assist the Eurostat production units in implementing the Publication Programme 2010 in close cooperation with the Publications Office.
- Produce the programme of compendium publications as agreed in the Publication Programme 2010.
- Consolidate and enlarge the Statistics Explained electronic publication.
- Cooperate with NSIs in providing support to external users on Community statistics.
- Coordinate the dissemination function across the European Statistical System through cooperation in the Dissemination Working Group.
- Manage access to microdata for researchers (ECHP, LFS, CIS, EU-SILC, SES, etc.)
- Continue work on a Eurostat electronic publication archive in cooperation with the Publications Office.
- Continue cooperating with the Commission's communication networks and commercial and non-commercial redistributors.

2.2 NEW WORK

- Review the financing of external user support with the potential option to place the financing on a service contract basis.
- Intensified cooperation with NSIs in the dissemination function to be determined by the Dissemination Working Group, where applicable within the framework of the sponsorship agreement.
- Design and develop further visualisation tools for presenting statistical data in a user-friendly way.
- Define the Publication Programme 2011 taking into account Eurostat's statistical priorities.
- Prepare first publications with new technology (XML publishing and Statistics Explained).

4. Methodology of data collection, processing, dissemination and analysis (Eurostat)

4.1 Metadata

Theme 6.05 Data and metadata structural definition

1. Description

The activities cover the work on management, standardisation and improvement of structural and reference metadata, putting in place and using the new Eurostat reference databases, further work on improving and implementing the SDMX standards for the exchange of data and metadata, the dissemination of external data other than the data produced by Eurostat and further improving and integrating the Eurostat and national metadata systems.

Many activities are related to work on standardisation and harmonisation of statistical concepts, definitions, code lists, metadata, etc. within Eurostat, the ESS or at wider international level. The work will lead to an improvement of metadata, the statistical data production processes, the Eurostat reference databases as well as the national and the Eurostat metadata systems. The work will contribute substantially to the re-engineering of the production system used for European statistics as laid down as the vision for the next decade. In the medium and longer term this work will also lead to a reduction of the burden on the data or metadata producers at both national and international level.

2. Work Programme for 2010

2.1 ONGOING WORK

- Further harmonise structural metadata (code lists) within Eurostat, the European Statistical System and SDMX and release this harmonised structural metadata.
- Further implement the European standard for reference metadata (Euro SDMX metadata structure) at Eurostat and within the European Statistical System based on the respective Commission Recommendation.
- Further implement the harmonised structural metadata within statistical domains.
- Improve the new reference database Eurobase with additional functionalities.
- Stimulate the improvement of the national metadata systems via better integration and regular monitoring.
- Produce the next version of the SDMX Content-oriented Guidelines and contribute across the board to further SDMX progress.
- Assure the proper functioning of the ESSnet on SDMX.
- Provide Commission internal users with access to Commission external databases.

2.2 NEW WORK

- Based on an increasingly operational CVD Metadata Handler, further improve the Eurostat metadata system in integrating harmonised metadata and in linking metadata to data.
- Produce additional Community legislation related to structural metadata.
- Achieve international agreements related to metadata exchange within SDMX and beyond.
- Improve further the Eurostat data and table tree.

2.3 SIMPLIFICATION AND BURDEN REDUCTION

- Harmonisation of structural metadata within the European Statistical system.
- Harmonisation of reference metadata within the European Statistical System.
- Increasing the international metadata exchange.

5. Planned new legislation

- Additional legislation on structural metadata.

4.3.2 Business and agricultural censuses and registers

Theme 3.06 Business registers

1. Description

The objectives of this theme are to harmonise the national statistical business registers (BRs), monitor the quality of the registers and build a register of multinational enterprise groups (MNEs). The theme also covers the definition of appropriate statistical units for observation of the production system in the Community (local units, enterprises and enterprise groups).

The Business Registers Regulation (EC) No 177/2008 requires the exchange of individual data on multinational enterprise groups. This is needed as basic infrastructure for the establishment of a EuroGroups Register (EGR) of MNEs and their constituent units. The EGR is developed in phases. A pilot project for the EGR was carried out in 2006. In 2009 the first EGR production cycle started with coverage of 5 000 MNEs. An extension of the coverage to 10 000 MNEs is planned for 2011 and full implementation should be achieved by 2013.

Measures used to achieve the objectives include implementing legal acts and the maintenance of a recommendations manual giving guidance for the implementation of BRs.

2. Work Programme for 2010

2.1 ONGOING WORK

- Maintain and further develop the IT architecture to manage the EuroGroups Register (EGR) and implement additional IT technology (including decentralised access at MS level) to exchange data with the EGR.
- Maintain and further develop the methodology of the EGR.
- Acquire further private data necessary to manage the EGR and update it through exchange with Member States.
- Ensure adoption of a Commission Regulation on the exchange of MNE data between Eurostat and central banks.
- Maintain the technical specifications in the Recommendations Manual on the basis of the Commission Regulation.
- Report on the implementation of the BR Regulation through the annual survey.

2.2 NEW WORK

- Integrate national central banks and the ECB in the network of the EGR.
- Develop the business model of the EGR network including the requirements at central (Eurostat) and national level.
- Development of the Data Quality management of the EGR.

2.3 SIMPLIFICATION AND BURDEN REDUCTION

- Creation of the EuroGroups Register.
- Maintaining national business registers.

5. Planned new legislation

- Commission Regulation on the exchange of MNE data between Eurostat and central banks.
-

4.5 Dissemination, data warehousing

Theme 8.01 Communication

1. Description

Eurostat's communication policy aims to enable a growing number of EU citizens to be informed about European statistics through the development of Eurostat's relations with the media, to facilitate the exchange of information among all partners of the ESS, and to ensure efficient internal communication.

The role of Eurostat's Press Office is to offer a permanent and professional service to the media in order to disseminate statistical information to EU citizens on a very broad scale and to reinforce the role of Eurostat as the reference source of harmonised statistical data at European level. New communication tools, based on new technologies and in addition to those currently in existence, permit each ESS partner to inform, more broadly and more quickly, all statisticians in the ESS about its activities.

The internal communication strategy aims to guarantee a good corporate spirit, through an information service that also improves the overall efficiency of staff.

2. Work Programme for 2010

2.1 ONGOING WORK

- Prepare news releases on key statistics and increase the scope of statistical topics covered.
- Improve the targeting of Eurostat news releases with particular reference to important international events.
- Further develop contacts with the media by providing tailor-made data extraction and regular key statistics.
- Support the implementation of Eurostat's strategy through communication to staff.
- Increase the reach of Eurostat's intranet.
- Regularly publish Eurostat Info and SIGMA.
- Organise specific information events, such as the Eurostat General Assembly and informal staff meetings.
- Enhance the exchange of information between the members of the ESS through INSItE.

2.2 NEW WORK

- Develop a new intranet compatible with the new IntraCom portal.
 - Develop video-communication.
 - Exchange best practices amongst press offices of the ESS.
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4.6 Statistical confidentiality and disclosure protection

Theme 6.11 Data security and statistical confidentiality

1. Description

Statistical confidentiality is a fundamental principle of Community statistics enshrined in the Treaty (Article 285) and further developed in the new Regulation No 223/2009 on European statistics. It entails a particular duty on the part of Eurostat (and NSIs and other national authorities) to ensure the physical and logical protection of confidential data (statistical disclosure control — SDC) and the harmonisation of principles and

guidelines in this domain. In the new Regulation the Commission is given implementing powers for that purpose.

Commission Regulation (EC) No 831/2002 concerning access to confidential data for scientific purposes aims to satisfy the needs of the scientific community for access to confidential statistical information. Eurostat has to implement the principles set out in this Regulation and to meet the expectations of users. As from entry into force of the Regulation on European statistics, Regulation 831/2002 continues to apply but will eventually have to be replaced to take into account recent legal, methodological and technical developments in this field.

Furthermore, the increase in confidential data available to Eurostat, the methodological/technical progress made, and the need to better harmonise Eurostat practice and to promote knowledge transfer in the ESS will guide methodological activity aimed at providing tools and methods of statistical disclosure control.

Eurostat must also continuously evaluate the Regulations in view of the need to maximise the benefits of confidential data with the aim of increasing the quality of EU statistics and to improve the conditions for access to confidential data while ensuring a high level of protection. For the coming years, the challenge for data security will be to give remote access for better productivity and still ensure confidentiality of the data. Web access to databases will have to be organised and protected to prevent web hacking.

2. Work Programme for 2010

2.1 ONGOING WORK

- Continue all processes to smooth procedures for researchers having access to data covered by Regulation 831/2002 and the amendments thereto.
- Ensure the processing of admissibility requests.
- Support Eurostat units on methodological (statistical disclosure control methods and tools) and legal issues.
- Disseminate and promote the results of the ESSnets related to statistical confidentiality
- Explore the feasibility of simplifying the procedures for supplying data to researchers
- Follow the procedures for replacement of Regulation 831/2002.

2.2 NEW WORK

- Launch the ESSnet on remote access.
- Develop step by step the infrastructure and harmonised processes/methodologies suited to the need to foster the release of EU micro data using the various opportunities (remote access, remote execution, documentation, PUF, AMF, safe centre, cooperation with data archive networks).

4.7 Data analysis

Theme 6.10 Statistical research and methodology

1. Description

Work under this theme aims to promote statistical research in official statistics and to facilitate and guide methodological developments supporting the production of European Statistical System (ESS) official statistics so as to ensure (i) higher efficiency and quality; (ii) less burden, (iii) efficient transfer of research results and methodological developments into standard practices.

It encompasses: (i) monitoring of statistical research projects, with the focus on new tools, methods and techniques, (ii) promotion of statistical research and effective coordination of relevant research activities, (iii) dissemination and exploitation of results from research projects within the EPROS initiative, (iv) proactive support for the transfer of technology and know-how, e.g. through contacts and exploitation events involving NSIs, the scientific community and other organisations, (v) development of the ESSnet facilitation function, (vi) active participation in the preparation of FP7 by allowing statistical research to be involved in the research programmes and by contributing to the negotiation and follow-up of research projects that have statistical components, (vii) emulation of soft collaboration among methodologist networks in the ESS and in Eurostat aimed at sharing good practices and creating common references, and (iv) support and advice to ESTAT production units, DGs and external users in the implementation of statistical processes and the use of standard tools.

The main areas of actions are seasonal adjustment, survey methodology, model-based estimation techniques, data validation, data analysis and visualisation and data integration.

2. Work Programme for 2010

2.1 ONGOING WORK

- Provide efficient support to Eurostat units when striving to improve their statistical processes.
- Create and rationalise knowledge in key domains of official statistics: data analysis, data validation, survey methodology and sampling, data integration, estimation.
- Set up soft collaboration framework and tools for Eurostat (METHnet) and ESS (DIME) methodologist networks for the sharing and identification of good practices and competence management.
- Identify priorities, methodological developments analysing main challenges for future statistics in a global, competitive, technology-driven information world.
- Evaluate FP 7 projects, disseminate results, promote transfer of technology and know-how from FP projects.
- Evaluate research needs of ESTAT units, facilitate and encourage development of FP7 projects.
- Facilitation of ESSnet projects: support, definition and monitoring.
- Ensure support on SA and maintenance of the Eurostat tools for SA.
- Monitor and support the implementation of ESS guidelines on seasonal adjustment in coordination with the Steering Group on SA, high-level group gathering ESCB and ESS bodies.
- Develop and evaluate the pilot project for cooperation between Eurostat and academia.

2.2 NEW WORK

- Implementation of the action plan for collaboration between researchers and official statisticians (CROS).

- Contribute to setting up a methodological competence management system for Eurostat and the ESS.
- Contribute to rationalisation, standardisation and integration of ESS processes and methodologies.
- Prepare and launch cooperative developments through ESSnet or other mechanisms (seminar, taskforce) in prioritised methodological areas.
- Develop standard and portable SA tools enabling the implementation of ESS guidelines on SA.

5. Strategic and managerial issues of official statistics (Eurostat)

5.2 Statistical programmes, coordination within statistical systems

Theme 6.01 Statistical coordination and classifications

1. Description

Statistical coordination covers activities that facilitate and make the production and dissemination of statistics more efficient, and activities to coordinate and promote better use of accounting data for statistical purposes. Statistical metadata are centralised and disseminated through RAMON, the new version of Eurostat's metadata server, which makes available statistical classifications and the relevant correspondence tables, standard code lists, statistical concepts and definitions, legal acts pertaining to statistics and methodological manuals.

The theme also covers the development, updating and implementation of a harmonised set of central statistical classifications such as the European Classification of Economic Activities (NACE), the Statistical Classification of Products by Activities (CPA) and the International Standard Classification on Occupations (ISCO) for the European Statistical System (ESS).

In line with the Commission's better regulation agenda Eurostat will follow up on developments in the area of accounting to strive for better use of accounting data for statistical purposes and for increased comparability of concepts in the areas related to business statistics. Two classifications serve the statistics on trade in goods: the Combined Nomenclature (CN) of commodities and the Geonomenclature of countries.

2. Work Programme for 2010

2.1 ONGOING WORK

- Monitor implementation of the new NACE Rev 2 and CPA 2008.
- Ensure the adoption of Combined Nomenclature (CN) 2011, incorporating the available results of the CN modernisation project.
- Monitor the implementation of ISCO 08.
- Monitor the developments in the area of international/ European accounting standards and their impact on statistics and coordinate the work of the Task Force on accounting and statistics with a view to achieving better consistency of concepts in accounting and statistics.
- Develop a taxonomy of accounting and statistical data and follow up on its results.
- Integrate and improve the Eurostat metadata system using the Eurostat Metadata Handler (comprising the SDMX registry, Ramon, etc.) and based on international standards (such as the Neuchâtel Model).
- Continue contributing to the revision of the International Standard Classification for Education (ISCED) in cooperation with the OECD and Unesco (ISCED revision under the responsibility of the Unesco Institute of Statistics).

2.2 NEW WORK

- Development of a strategy for an update of NACE and CPA.
- Integrate the taxonomy projects into the MEETS programme.

2.3 SIMPLIFICATION AND BURDEN REDUCTION

- Better use of accounting data for statistical purposes by establishing a taxonomy of accounting and statistical data.
- CN modernisation project.
- Actions to facilitate commodity classification (CN) for reporting companies.

Theme 8.03 Management and statistical programmes

1. Description

The main objectives are to provide an efficient management support service that meets the needs of users (Eurostat, the Commission and the ESS) and to ensure that Eurostat initiatives on organisational change contribute effectively to improvements in its performance in conformity with Commission requirements.

This encompasses, in particular (i) the introduction of a global management system supported by the development and implementation of an integrated system for planning, monitoring and reporting, ensuring that Eurostat's statistical work programme process is synchronised and consistent with the Commission's strategic planning and programming (SPP) cycle; (ii) support for implementation of the process improvement methodology and project management methodology, (iii) continued implementation of process, project and risk management, (iv) follow-up of improvement actions and (v) assessment of Eurostat's performance against the internal control standards.

2. Work Programme for 2010

2.1 ONGOING WORK

- Coordinate the preparation of the annual statistical work programme.
- Prepare Eurostat's contribution to the Commission's strategic planning and programming cycle.
- Conduct the annual risk management exercise as part of the preparation of the AMP
- Monitor and coordinate Eurostat's contributions relating to simplification and burden reduction activities.
- Develop and promote process and project management techniques within Eurostat.
- Monitor and report on progress on improvement actions.
- Assess Eurostat's performance against the Internal Control Standards (ICS).

2.2 NEW WORK

- Improve the management systems and increase the efficiency of planning, programming, monitoring and reporting activities
- Launch and coordinate the annual measurement exercise on response burden (and production costs) for business statistics
- Review processes linked to the SPP to make them more effective and less burdensome.
- Preparation of the next Multiannual Programme

2.3 SIMPLIFICATION AND BURDEN REDUCTION

- Annual measurement exercise on response burden (and production costs).
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5.3 Quality frameworks and measurement of performance of statistical systems and offices

Theme 8.02 Quality management and evaluation

1. Description

The theme includes the development, in cooperation with the partners of the ESS, of the policy and measures required to deliver high-quality European statistics: monitoring the implementation of the European Statistics Code of Practice (CoP), promotion of best practices and of benchmarking activities among the partners of the ESS, coordination of quality aspects within the production of statistics, implementation of the quality assurance framework for statistical processes and outputs in Eurostat, and quality awareness raising.

The theme covers in addition all the tasks necessary to carry out the evaluation function inside Eurostat: assessment of the Community Statistical Programme and its different processes and projects, coordination of evaluation activities inside the DG, establishment of the multi-annual evaluation programme, evaluation of statistical areas through rolling reviews, including cost assessments and partner and user surveys.

2. Work Programme for 2010

2.1 ONGOING WORK

- Quality assessments of Eurostat statistical processes including Rolling Reviews and identification of processes with common characteristics.
- Monitoring of Member States' implementation of the European Statistics Code of Practice.
- Mid-term evaluation of the CSP 2008-2012.
- Sponsorship on quality.
- Activities related to promoting the implementation of the Code of Practice and of quality assurance in the ESS.
- Support to Member States in organising the two-yearly Conference on Quality in Official Statistics covering important methodological and quality-related topics for meeting current and future challenges of the statistical business processes of the European Statistical System.
- Assessment of the rolling review methodology.

2.2 NEW WORK

- Update the ESS quality glossary taking into account new quality concepts and definitions of quality and performance indicators for improved assessment of statistical processes and their outputs.

2.3 SIMPLIFICATION AND BURDEN REDUCTION

- In the context of Rolling Reviews, implement users' and partners' surveys.
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5.4 Management and development of human resources

Theme 6.02 Statistical training

1. Description

The European Statistical Training Programme (ESTP) aims to improve the overall quality of European statistics; (ii) raise the qualifications of statisticians in the ESS in order to promote their independence in line with the Code of Practice; (iii) encourage both theoretical and practical learning and development; and (iv) encourage the exchange of best practices, know-how and experience. The ESTP is an essential part of the new ESS Learning and Development Framework.

Eurostat will implement together with the Member States the agreed projects in the new ESS Learning and Development Framework (ESS-LDF). Apart from the ESTP courses, projects cover areas such as competence profiles for European statisticians, e-learning and sharing of experience. Particular emphasis will be placed on providing support through the ESS-LDF for re-engineering the production systems of European statistics. The successful implementation of this programme will only be possible through close cooperation with the members of the ESS.

2. Work Programme for 2010

2.1 ONGOING WORK

- Evaluate the training provided in 2009 under the European Statistical Training Programme.
- Successfully implement the ESTP core programme 2010, including internal and external courses based on a training needs analysis, by the end of the year.
- Establish core ESTP 2011 catalogue publication.
- Successfully coordinate all ESS LDF projects by the end of the year.
- Successfully finalise ex-ante evaluation for competence profiles.

- Successfully provide guidelines for the usage of competence profiles of European statisticians, and successfully secure EFTA's involvement in the ESTP courses from 2011.
- Successfully finalise ex-ante evaluation for the ESS LDF portal.
- Successfully evaluate the replies to the new call for tenders and establish framework contracts for 2011-2014 ESTP courses in the ESS.
- Organise successfully the 2010 Eurostat study visit (European Statistical Week).

2.2 NEW WORK

- Successfully finalise ex-ante evaluation of a project for a European Master's in Official Statistics (together with Methodology and Research Unit).

5.5 Technological resources (including standards for electronic data exchange and data sharing)

Theme 6.03 IT support for statistical production

1. Description

IT systems for statistical production have to provide the users with tools that allow them to fulfil their needs with regard to achieving the highest possible quality of data. This entails: (i) providing timely and relevant support to all users of statistical production systems in Eurostat; (ii) improving the standardisation and harmonisation of IT solutions for data and metadata in the decentralised Eurostat IT model by means of a common architecture; (iii) putting forward proposals for the planning, specification, development, implementation and maintenance of common tools and systems for use in Eurostat's statistical production; (iv) encouraging the exchange of knowledge and know-how regarding systems for statistical production; (v) exploring, through contacts during various meetings and discussions, opportunities for cooperation between Eurostat and members of the ESS on generic statistical software.

2. Work Programme for 2010

2.1 ONGOING WORK

- Implementation of already existing tools such as Building Blocks and complete production systems.
- Support to production units and corrective and evolutive maintenance of systems for statistical production.
- Actively participate in creation of collaborative frameworks within ESS to share the development of specific IT components or their architecture.
- Development of new data processing tools such as Building Blocks.

2.3 SIMPLIFICATION AND BURDEN REDUCTION

- Creation of collaborative frameworks within ESS to share the development of specific IT components or their architecture.

Theme 6.04 IT standards, tools and services for data exchange in the ESS

1. Description

Within the general objective of exploiting advanced statistical information technologies to achieve more business processes in the ESS, this theme centres on the development, maintenance and support of standards, guidelines, tools and services for the exchange of statistical information within the ESS and with its partners. The Single Entry Point will be supported by central and local tools (eDAMIS), enabling monitored transmission as well as uploading of files and online forms, together with automated validation, format conversion and delivery. It also includes the exchange of best practices and the supervision of pilot projects on raw data collection. Other related work areas include the development of metadata applications, management of the Eurostat CIRCA site and promotion of the open source approach to statistical software. The medium-term strategy centres on promoting general use of the Single Entry Point, implementing SDMX (Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange) standards and architecture, and exploiting XML-based standards and tools for interoperability in statistics.

2. Work Programme for 2010

2.1 ONGOING WORK

- Use the Single Entry Point for all regular data and metadata transmissions from Member States, based on standardised formats (GESMES, SDMX) where appropriate.
- Maintain the IT applications used for the Single Entry Point.
- Implement the SDMX (Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange) standards and guidelines for data and metadata exchange, sharing and dissemination.
- Develop IT infrastructure for SDMX implementation.
- Implement a single IT environment for structural and reference metadata.
- Develop the Census Hub to support the transmission and dissemination of statistics from the 2011 census round.
- Provide open-source software for statistics.
- Support exchange of information among Member States on raw data collection technologies and best practices.
- Support the Eurostat CIRCA site, including the introduction of the new version — CIRCABC.

2.2 NEW WORK

- Exploit XBRL and other technologies in national reporting frameworks for business statistics (actions within the MEETS programme, following up the XBRL pilot project).
- Launch an ESSnet for development of the common reference environment for the ESS.

2.3 SIMPLIFICATION AND BURDEN REDUCTION

- Action 201: Exploit XBRL and other technologies in national reporting frameworks for business statistics.
- Actions 103, 104, 105, 106: Data-sharing using SDMX standards, guidelines and architecture.
- Actions 108, 109, 202: Exchange of information among Member States on raw data collection technologies and best practices, and shared development of software according to the common reference architecture for the ESS.

5.6 Co-ordination of international statistical work

Theme 6.08 Statistical cooperation with countries covered by the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP)

1. Description

The activities to be carried out in the field of statistical cooperation with ENP countries aim to: (i) provide an advisory service to external relations DGs, Commission delegations, and national statistical authorities with respect to EU cooperation policies in Eastern and Southern ENP countries, and coordinating Eurostat units' contribution to this work; (ii) coordinate EU efforts to build statistical capacity within the framework of MEDSTAT and ENPI; (iii) gradually harmonise the statistical systems of the ENP countries towards the ESS; (iv) encourage best practices from the ESS to be applied in ENP countries through mutual contacts, training, study visits, workshops, seminars, and attendance at meetings, and (v) collect and disseminate a range of data from the ENP countries.

2. Work Programme for 2010

2.1 ONGOING WORK

- Provide technical assistance to DG AIDCO in the implementation of the MEDSTAT III programme.
- Participate in ENP country subcommittees and steering committees that deal with statistical issues, and provide ad hoc technical advice to DG RELEX and other DGs on the statistical situation within the countries.
- Monitor the progress being achieved by Eastern ENP countries regarding the adoption of EU statistical methods, classifications and standards.
- Data collection of key time series for the ENP countries.
- Dissemination of key time series for the ENP countries.

2.2 NEW WORK

- MEDSTAT country statistical situation reports.
- Global assessment of ENP-East countries.
- Facilitate participation of ENP countries in relevant Eurostat and international seminars, workshops and conferences.

Theme 6.09 International statistical cooperation

1. Description

The purpose of the work carried out in this field is to provide an advisory service to Commission departments and national statistical authorities with respect to EC development and cooperation policies and to coordinate Eurostat units' contribution to this work; and to assist the EC in relations with international organisations and in matters of common statistical interest with non-European regions or countries. This includes services such as: advocating and promoting good governance through statistics in the Community's external relations policy; monitoring and coordinating EU efforts to build statistical capacity in countries outside Europe within the framework of international commitments such as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs); providing advice and expertise to Commission departments, in particular external relations DGs, delegations, and Eurostat units on statistical cooperation concerning the identification, planning, implementation and evaluation of statistical projects or the statistical elements of more wide-ranging development projects; encouraging the application of ESS best practice in non-EU countries through mutual contacts, training, study visits and attendance at meetings; collecting data on non-EU countries obtained from all available sources for use by Commission departments in pursuit of their external relations policies and, subject to agreement with data suppliers, the wider community of users; ensuring that stakeholders are kept adequately informed through efficient communication; representing Eurostat in international organisations; and coordinating Eurostat's relations with Higher Income Countries (HICs) and Russia, in particular implementing the EEA agreement in the field of statistics and the agreement with Switzerland on cooperation in the field of statistics.

2. Work Programme for 2010

2.1 ONGOING WORK

- Provide advisory service for other Commission departments (external relations family, including delegations) and beneficiaries on cooperation programmes with ACP, ALA, Central Asia aimed at building statistical capacity and gradual harmonisation of statistical systems with international methods, standards and classifications.
- Make an effective contribution to advocacy for statistics and international coordination of statistical cooperation activities and the implementation of the Marrakech Action Plan for Statistics through active participation within Paris21 and other international fora.
- Develop and improve thematic areas of international statistical cooperation (guide to international statistical cooperation, MDG/development indicators work, statistical training, etc.).
- Continue transfer of know-how regarding statistical tools (ERETES, Eurotrace) to subregional organisations and user groups.
- Provide updated non-EU country statistics and improve information services on international statistical cooperation (publications, Eurostat's website, knowledge base)
Continue the development of a knowledge base on the current state of play for all regions covered by the unit's responsibility showing the level of statistical capacity in the countries in those regions and EC aid provided/planned in the field of statistics.

- Implement an action plan for raising the profile of the Commission and the ESS in international statistical fora through effective participation in major international meetings.
- Coordinate effectively relations with Higher Income Countries, including EFTA countries, USA, Canada, Russia.
- Coordinate statistical cooperation activities at EU level.
- Keep up constant contacts, exchange information and participate in main meetings of international, regional and sub-regional organisations.
- Provide advice to Eurostat and ESS departments on their relations with international organisations and countries outside Europe.

2.2 NEW WORK

- Analyse the results of a study on the demand for statistical training, make results known to other groups interested (e.g. task teams on training organised by Paris21, Economic Commission for Africa) and investigate possibilities for further action in the fields of census and prices training in Africa.
- Follow up the Luxembourg Recommendations on the implementation of the 2008 System of National Accounts.

2.3 SIMPLIFICATION AND BURDEN REDUCTION

- Increase efficiency of the use of resources of the ESS in its relations with international organisations and in international meetings.
- Improve coordination of EU donors in statistical cooperation in African, Caribbean, Pacific, Asia and Latin American countries, allowing Member States to make their cooperation more efficient.

Theme 8.05 Relations with the ESS, inter-institutional and international relations

1. Description

The theme covers the whole range of activities relevant to Eurostat's position in the Commission structure and its pivotal role in the development of the ESS. The main strategic objective is to ensure coherent development of statistical activities within the inter-institutional structure of the Union and promote partnership between Eurostat and other key international players in Community statistics, with particular regard to legal aspects. The theme also covers managing relations with external users of European statistics. This entails facilitating close and continuous dialogue with external users about their needs, actual usage and priorities for official statistics. In addition, the theme includes providing the secretariat for the European Statistical Governance Advisory Board (ESGAB).

2. Work Programme for 2010

2.1 ONGOING WORK

- participation and contribution to EP Committees discussing statistical legislative proposals.
- Cooperation with Council Presidencies.
- Follow-up of STATIS working group in the Council.
- Advice and follow-up of legislation.
- Organise the meetings of the ESSC.
- Organise DGINS conference.
- Organise ESAC meeting.
- Organise ESAC seminar.
- Provide secretariat service to ESGAB.

5.7 Technical cooperation and capacity building programmes

Theme 6.07 Statistical cooperation with the candidate and potential candidate countries

1. Description

The activities to be carried out in the field of statistical cooperation with candidate and potential candidate countries include (i) preparation for EU membership of candidate and potential candidate countries by aligning their methodologies and practices with the statistical acquis and integrating them into the European Statistical System; (ii) contributions to Commission activities including inputs to the annual progress reports; (iii) inputs to meetings under the structures of the association agreements and the stabilisation and association agreements, provision of data for the enlargement process and the stabilisation and association process; and (iv) accession negotiations regarding the statistics chapter and the statistics component of other chapters.

Cooperation with the candidate and potential candidate countries involves the entire cycle of assistance programmes with programming, tendering, implementation and evaluation. This will continue at a significant level with large cooperation programmes and budgets to manage. Statistical cooperation including the management of large budgets and programmes with the Member States that joined in 2007 (Phare/MBP programmes) will continue until 2010/2011. The cooperation with these new Member States includes support for implementing new statistical acquis, improving the quality of data and full integration into the ESS.

2. Work Programme for 2010

2.1 ONGOING WORK

- Contract technical assistance for implementing the statistical acquis in the candidate and potential candidate countries.
- Implement technical assistance programmes for Bulgaria and Romania and the candidate and potential candidate countries (MBP 2006, IPA 2007 and IPA 2008 programmes).
- Contribute to reporting and monitoring procedures on the compliance of candidate and potential candidate countries with the statistical acquis.
- Support implementation of national cooperation programmes in the candidate and potential candidate countries.

- Contribute to the accession negotiation process for Croatia and Turkey and to the screening process for the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.
 - Contribute to the Commission opinion on new EU membership applications.
 - Conduct full assessments of the statistical systems of candidate and potential candidate countries.
-