



EUROPEAN
STATISTICAL
SYSTEM

European Statistical System

Structure

What ?

The ESS is a partnership between:

- * the Community statistical authority which is the Commission - Eurostat
- * the national statistical institutes
- * other national authority responsible in each MS to collect, develop and divulgate statistics.
- * The partnership also include EEA and EFTA countries

Legal background

- * [REGULATION \(EC\) No 223/2009](#) OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 11 March 2009
- * as amended by:
- * Regulation (EU) 2015/759 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2015
- * and as implemented by:
- * Commission Regulation (EU) No 557/2013 of 17 June 2013 implementing Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council on European Statistics as regards access to confidential data for scientific purposes and repealing Commission Regulation (EC) No 831/2002. (1)

Regulation 223/2009

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

This Regulation establishes a legal framework for the development, production and dissemination of European statistics

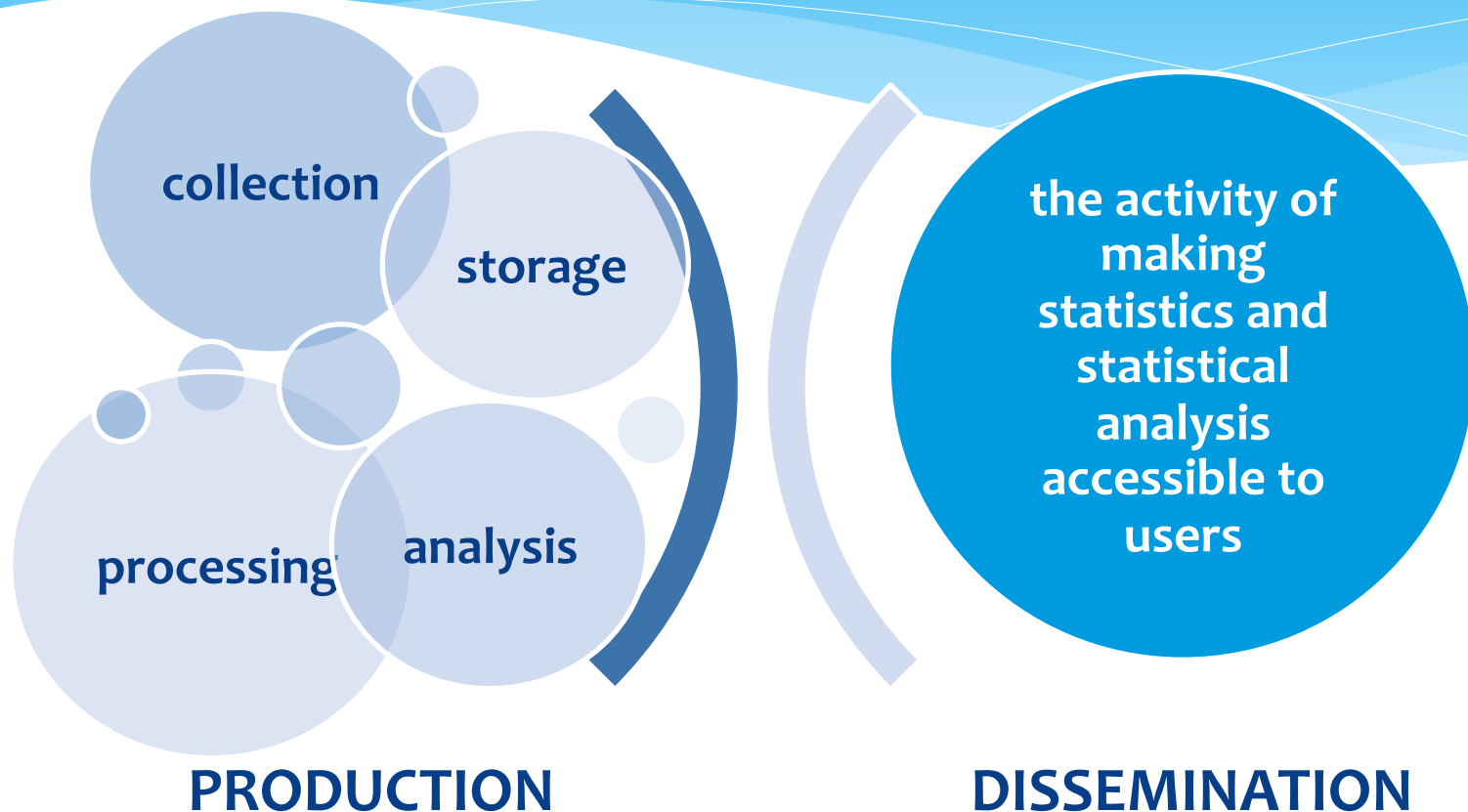
STATISTICS

- quantitative and qualitative, aggregated and representative information characterising a collective phenomenon in a considered population

DEVELOPMENT

- the activities aiming at setting up, strengthening and improving the statistical methods, standards and procedures used for the production and dissemination of statistics as well as at designing new statistics and indicators

Regulation 223/2009



Statistical principles

- a. professional independence*
- b. impartiality*
- c. objectivity*
- d. reliability*
- e. statistical confidentiality*
- f. cost effectiveness*

a. professional independence

It meant that:

statistics must be developed,
produced and disseminated in an independent manner,
particularly as regards the selection of techniques,
definitions, methodologies and sources to be used,
and the timing and content of all forms of
dissemination,
free from any pressures from political or interest groups
or from Community or national authorities, without
prejudice to institutional settings, such as Community or
national institutional or budgetary provisions or
definitions of statistical needs

(REGULATION (EU) 2009/223)

a. professional independence

It means that:

statistics must be developed,
produced and disseminated in an independent manner,
particularly as regards the selection of techniques,
definitions, methodologies and sources to be used,
and the timing and content of all forms of
dissemination,
*and that the performance of those tasks
is free from any pressures from political or interest groups
or from Union or national authorities*

(REGULATION (EU) 2015/759)

b. impartiality

c. objectivity

It means that:

statistics must be developed, produced and disseminated in a **neutral manner**,
and that all users must be given equal treatment

statistics must be developed, produced and disseminated in a **systematic, reliable and unbiased manner**;

it implies the use of professional and ethical standards, and that the policies and practices followed are **transparent** to users and survey respondents

d. reliability

It means that:

statistics must measure as **faithfully**,
accurately and
consistently as possible the reality
that they are designed to represent
and implying that scientific criteria are used for the
selection of :
sources, methods and procedures

e. statistical confidentiality

It means that:

the protection of confidential data
related to single statistical units
which are obtained directly for statistical purposes
or indirectly from administrative
or other sources
and implying the **prohibition of use**
for **non-statistical purposes**
of the data obtained and
of their unlawful disclosure

f. cost effectiveness

It means that:

the costs of producing statistics must be in proportion to the importance of the results and the benefits sought, that resources must be optimally used and the response burden minimised. The information requested shall, where possible, be readily extractable from available records or sources

What does it imply ?

Principles

- a. professional independence*
- b. impartiality*
- c. objectivity*
- d. reliability*
- e. statistical confidentiality*
- f. cost effectiveness*

Good practices

- * Examples....
- * Examples

The statistical principles set out here above are
further elaborated in

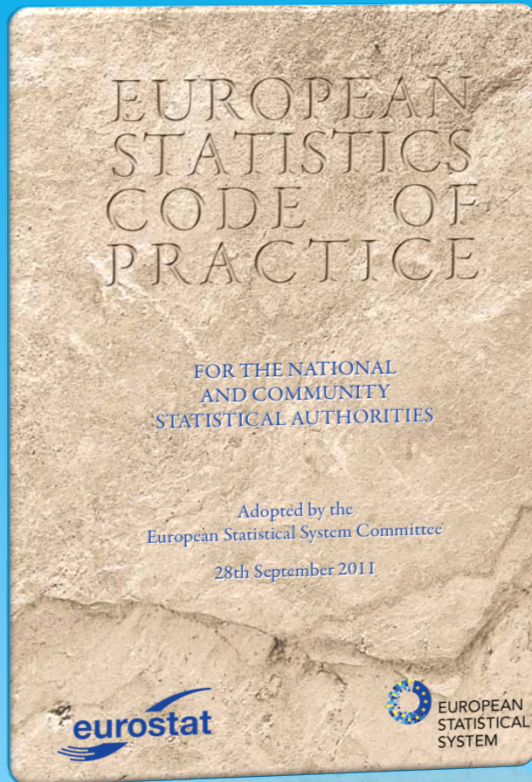
the Code of Practice



The European Statistics Code of Practice

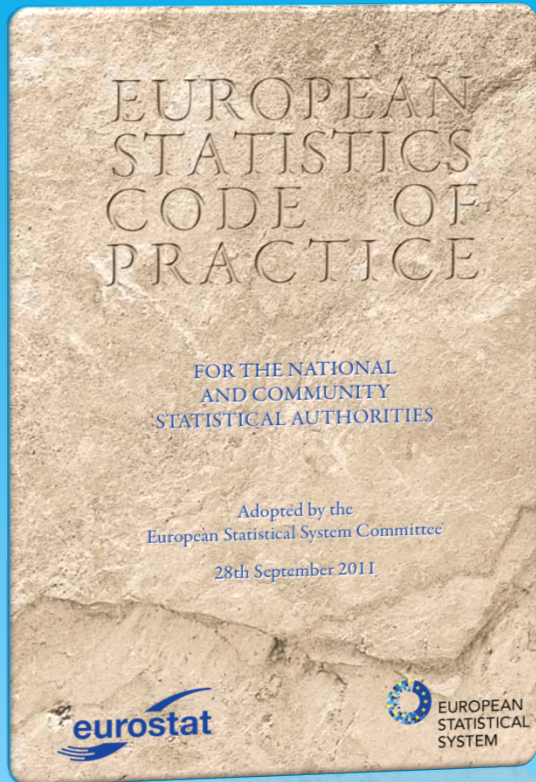
is based on 15 Principles
covering 3 areas, such as:

- 1. the institutional
environment**
- 2. the statistical
production processes**
- 3. the output of statistics**



the institutional environment

- 1 Professional independence
- 2 Mandate for data collection
- 3 Adequacy of resources
- 4 Commitment to quality
- 5 Statistical confidentiality
- 6 Impartiality and objectivity



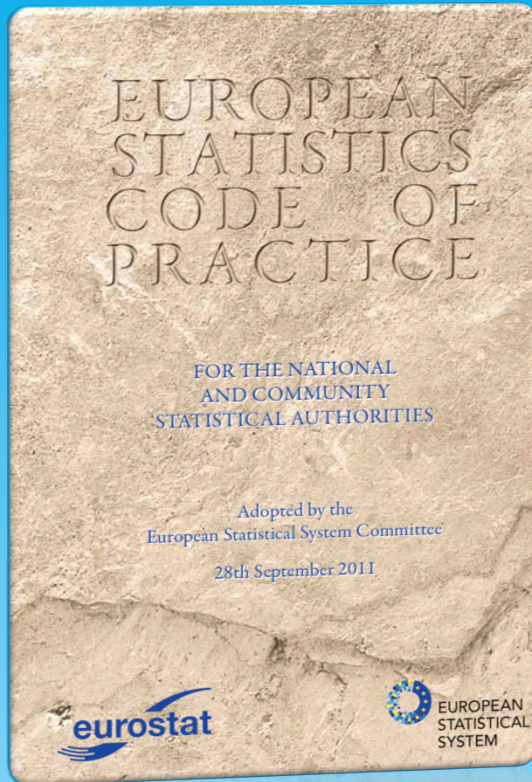
the statistical production processes

7 Sound methodology

8 Appropriate statistica procedures

9 Non-excessive burden on respondents

10 Cost effectiveness



the output of statistics

11 Relevance

12 Accuracy and reliability

13 Timeliness and punctuality

14 Coherence and comparability

15 Accessibility and clarity



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Organisation

The functioning

The ESS functions as a **network** in which **Eurostat's** role is to lead the way in the harmonization of statistics in close cooperation with the national statistical authorities.

- * Member States collect data and compile statistics for national and EU purposes
- * ESS work concentrates mainly on EU policy areas
- * ESS also coordinates its work with candidate countries, and at European level with other Commission services, agencies and the ECB and international organizations such as OECD, the UN, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

Eurostat

- * Eurostat's mission: to be the leading provider of high quality statistics on Europe.
- * Eurostat is the statistical office of the European Union situated in Luxembourg.
- * Its task is to provide the European Union with statistics at European level that enable comparisons between countries and regions.

Eurostat's historical steps

1953

The Statistics Division for the Coal and Steel Community established.

1958

The European Community founded and the forerunner of Eurostat established.

1959

The present name of Eurostat as the Statistical Office of the European Communities adopted. First publication issued - on agricultural statistics.

1960

First Community Labour Force Survey.

1970

The European System of Integrated Economic Accounts (ESA) published and the general industrial classification of economic activities (NACE) established.

Eurostat's recent steps

2007

Statistical Programme 2008-2012 adopted 2008 European Statistical Governance Advisory Body established to provide an independent overview of the implementation of the Code of Practice in the ESS

2009

New European Regulation governing the statistical cooperation in the European Union was adopted. ESS Committee (ESSC) created, replacing the Statistical Programme Committee.

2011

European Statistics Code of Practice revised, strengthening the professional independence of European statisticians

2012

New Commission Decision regarding the role of Eurostat within European institutions

2013

The currently valid European Statistical Programme 2013-2017 adopted. European Statistical Forum established to govern the statistical cooperation between the ESS and ESCB

2014

'ESS Vision 2020' adopted

Eurostat's role

European economy, society and environment -
Eurostat indicators



ESS Governance

ESSC

- European Statistical System Committee (ESSC) shall provide professional guidance to the ESS for developing producing and disseminating European statistics

Partnership Group

- The Partnership Group is a group of Directors General of the NS of the ESS whose mission is to further the development of the ESS, ensuring the effective functioning of the ESSC

ESGAB

- The aim of the European Statistical Governance Advisory Board (ESGAB) is to provide an independent overview of the ESS as regards the European Statistics Code of Practice

ESAC

- The European Statistical Advisory Committee (ESAC) was formally adopted. The ESAC has 24 members representing users, respondents and other stakeholders of European Statistics

ESF

- The European Statistical Forum (ESF) was created in 2013 as a governance body in the relations between the ESS and the European System of Central Banks (ESCB)

DGINS Conference was acting then as the predecessor of the Statistical Programme Committee (SPC)

ESSC

ESSC measures which the Commission intends to take for the development production and dissemination of European statistics, their justification on a cost-effectiveness basis



The partnership Group

Identify and propose strategic issues

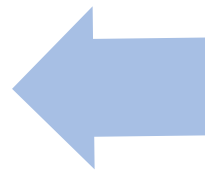
- Assist in co-ordinating the co-operation between National Statistical Systems and Eurostat

Monitor the functioning of the ESSC

- Work in an inclusive way, through information exchange via the Network Group and ensuring that non-members views can be taken into account

Discuss contentious issues

- Channel ideas from ESSC members on the state of co-operation





The [ESGAB](#) advises the Eurostat on

- appropriate measures to facilitate the implementation of the Code of Practice;
- how to communicate the Code of Practice to users and data providers
- on the updating of the Code of Practice



ESGAB prepares an annual report to the European Parliament and the Council on the implementation of the Code of Practice insofar as it relates to the Commission (Eurostat).

For example:

[Statement of the Members of the European Statistical System on their commitment to professional independence of statistical authorities and the credibility of European statistics and on statistics in Greece](#)



ESAC

The ESAC has 24 members representing users, respondents and other stakeholders of European Statistics

The ESAC shall deliver an opinion addressing in :

- ✓ the relevance of the Community statistical programme to the requirements of European integration and development;
- ✓ the relevance of the Community statistical programme in relation to the activities of the Community;
- ✓ the balance as regards priorities and resources between different areas in the Community statistical programme

The ESAC shall deliver a specific opinion on the annual statistical work programme of the Commission, the adequacy of the resources needed to implement the Community statistical programme

- * **The ESF is composed of one representative per Member State from the ESSC and from the Statistics Committee of the ESCB (STC), respectively, one representative from Eurostat and one from the ECB.**
- * The Forum is assisted by a Bureau, which prepares its meetings and monitors its follow-up activities. The Bureau is composed of the two co-Chairs of the Forum (the Chairperson of the ESSC and the Chairperson of the STC), the Chair and the Vice-Chair of the operational platform (the Committee on Monetary, Finance and Balance of Payment statistics, CMFB), two members representing the national statistical institutes and two members representing the national central banks elected by the Forum.

Fields of statistics



General and regional statistics



Economy and finance



Population and social conditions



Industry, trade and services



Agriculture and fisheries



International trade



Transport



Environment and energy



Science and technology

The multi-annual programme

The European statistical programme for the period from 2013 to 2017

Objective 1:

provide statistical information, in a timely manner, to support the development, monitoring and evaluation of the policies of the Union properly reflecting priorities, while keeping a balance between economic, social and environmental fields and serving the needs of the wide range of users of European statistics, including other decision-makers, researchers, businesses and European citizens in general, in a cost-effective manner without unnecessary duplication of effort

Objective 2:

implement new methods of production of European statistics aiming at efficiency gains and quality improvements

The multi-annual programme

The European statistical programme for the period from 2013 to 2017

Objective 3:

strengthen the partnership within the ESS and beyond in order to further enhance its productivity and its leading role in official statistics worldwide

Objective 4:

ensure that delivery of such statistics is kept consistent throughout the whole duration of the programme, provided that this does not interfere with the priority-setting mechanisms of the ESS.

The statistical programme 2015

The list of outputs

Priority Area 01 - EUROPE 2020

Detailed Objective 01.1 Monitor the implementation of the Europe 2020 strategy

Priority Area 02 - ECONOMIC GOVERNANCE

Objective 02.1 Develop and enhance statistics for the economic governance of the EU

Objective 02.2 Provide statistics and indicators for administrative and regulatory purposes and for monitoring EU policy commitments

Priority Area 04 - ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PERFORMANCE

Objective 04.1 Provide macroeconomic accounts and aggregates supplemented by satellite accounts and measures of social performance

Objective 04.2 Provide key macroeconomic and social indicators

Priority Area 05 - ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Objective 05.1 Provide environmental accounts and climate change-related statistics

The statistical programme 2015

Priority Area 06 – BUSINESS

Objective 06.1 Increase the efficiency and effectiveness of statistical production processes and provide statistics on key areas linked to enterprises

Priority Area 07 - PEOPLE'S EUROPE

Objective 07.1 Provide quality statistics on social policy

GEOSPATIAL, ENVIRONMENTAL, AGRICULTURAL AND OTHER SECTORAL STATISTICS

08.1 Support policy-making by the use of spatial information combined with social, economic and environmental statistics

08.2 Provide quality environmental statistics

Objective 08.3 Provide quality energy and transport statistics Provide quality energy and transport statistics

Objective 08.4 Provide quality agriculture, fisheries and forestry statistics Provide quality agriculture, fisheries and forestry statistics

Priority Area 11 - MULTIPURPOSE STATISTICS AND EFFICIENCY GAINS IN PRODUCTION

Detailed Objective 11.1 Put in place a more integrated production system of EU statistics aiming at efficiency gains + (11.2) Ensure the good functioning and coherence of the ESS

Future challenges



**Building the future
of European statistics**