

Wiesbaden memorandum

(as adopted by the ESSC on 28th September 2011)

New conceptual design for household and social statistics

The DGINS

CONSIDERING

1. The EU treaty (art 3): well being, free movement, full employment, social progress, equality between women and men, combating social exclusion and discrimination being fundamental objectives
2. The general growing policy needs for social data and the current drivers: GDP and beyond, Europe 2020 with 3 of the 5 headlines targets in the social field, the Stiglitz-Sen-Fitoussi recommendations and recent user requests (migration, security, disabilities)
3. The need for social statistics to be more flexible and responsive to new requests in the mid to long term as already stated in the Malta Declaration and the Sofia Memorandum as well as to the result of the sponsorship on measuring progress of societies
4. Standardisation, taking into account the diversity of production processes in Member States, based on communication 404 and the common ESS strategy as adopted in May 2010
5. The current budget cuts faced by the ESS members.

The DGINS

1. Acknowledge the utmost importance of ensuring the continuing relevance of social statistics in order to provide evidence for political decision making
2. Underline that currently and in the future requests for new or improved social statistics will keep growing. Therefore, the ESS has to strengthen the capacity for reaction and adaptation

3. Agree that, whilst maintaining high quality standards, efficiency gains in the production of social statistics together with prioritisation would be the optimal way to address the emerging needs in times of resource constraints
4. Agree that joint progress towards a common architecture for European social statistics is the appropriate strategy
5. Agree in particular that
 - a. Social statistics should be based on reliable and up-to-date sampling frames of individuals or dwellings
 - b. better access to administrative data, re-use of existing data and access to new data sources are areas to be developed at national and EU level
 - c. the core social surveys providing data (including microdata) on persons and households should be streamlined
 - d. Additional and less frequent micro-data collections should complement these core social surveys
6. Underline that central components of the architecture of European social statistics will have to be implemented in a standardised way in order to ensure overall efficiency
7. Agree that further efforts at ESS level are necessary to improve the statistical measurement of quality of life and the living conditions of subgroups of the population (including children, migrants and the elderly)
8. Stress the need for better information on time use and household budgets in terms of coverage and comparability, and the importance of strengthening the links between social statistics and national accounts
9. Acknowledge that, to meet users needs, the development of a modern architecture for social statistics needs substantial investments and appropriate funding from European and national levels
10. Agree to integrate the findings of the Wiesbaden DGINS conference into the implementation of the EU Multi Annual Statistical Work Programme and call on the group of Directors of Social Statistics (DSS) to drive the modernisation process.