

ACTION PLAN UNDER THE FRAMEWORK PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

OBJECTIVE

The Joint Harmonised EU Programme of Business and Consumer Surveys is designed to gather information on the state of the economies in the EU Member States and in the candidate countries so as to be able to compare their business cycles for Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) management purposes. It has become an indispensable tool in the EMU economic surveillance process, as well as for general economic policy purposes.

The Programme involves specialised bodies/institutes carrying out one or more opinion surveys in the **28 EU Member States**, and **in the candidate countries** on a joint financing basis, more specifically in the following areas:

- Industry
- Investment
- Construction
- Retail trade
- Services sector
- Consumers

The Commission also organises *ad hoc* surveys on topical economic issues. These *ad hoc* surveys are by definition more occasional and are carried out in addition to the monthly surveys, using the same established samples as the monthly surveys, to obtain information on specific economic policy issues.

The partner shall carry out the **survey(s) in the area(s) and in the country** as stipulated in article I.1.1.2 of the framework partnership agreement.

SURVEY TIMING AND REPORTING OF RESULTS

Survey name	Number of activities / size classes to be reported	Number of aggregates to be reported	Number of questions to be asked monthly	Number of questions to be asked quarterly
Industry	68 / -	15	7	9
Investment	6 / 6	2	2 questions in March/April 4 questions in October/November	
Construction	3 / -	1	5	1
Retail trade	5 / -	3	6	-
Services	37 / -	1	6	2
Consumer	23 categories	1	14	3

- The monthly surveys must be carried out in the first two to three weeks of each month. The results of the business surveys must be e-mailed to the Commission in accordance with the calendar that will be included in the grant agreement; the deadline is generally five working days before the end of the month and the publication of results by the Commission is generally on the second-last working day of the month. In accordance with the calendar that will be included in the grant agreement, the deadline for the delivery of consumer survey results is generally seven working days before the end of the month, day on which the Commission publishes the Flash Consumer Confidence Indicator for the EU and euro area. The consumer survey results per country are published together with the publication of the business survey results (see above).
- The quarterly surveys must be carried out in the first two to three weeks of the first month of each quarter (January, April, July and October) and the results must be e-mailed to the Commission in January, April, July and October in line with the deadlines for the respective monthly survey results (see above).
- The six-monthly surveys of investment in manufacturing must be carried out in March/April and October/November and the results must be e-mailed to the Commission in April and November in accordance with the calendar that will be included in the grant agreement, generally at least five working days before the end of the month.
- In the case of *ad hoc* surveys, the beneficiary must undertake to adhere to the specific timetables laid down for them.