



EMOS Board

Meeting No 7

1 December 2017

**European Commission - Eurostat
BECH (Auchan building)
Meeting room A4/45
5, rue Alphonse Weicker
2721 Luxembourg**

Meeting Summary

EMOS Doc. 129/2017

1. Welcome and adoption of the agenda

The Chair welcomed the participants to the meeting, which could be seen as a “hand-over meeting” in order to facilitate exchange of experience, knowledge and ideas between the incoming and outgoing/continuing members as well as discussing long term ambitions and objectives of EMOS with Eurostat.

The agenda was adopted after adding four points under Any Other Business:

2. Introduction of the Board (tour de table) and recent developments

The participants introduced themselves briefly in a "tour de table", please see list of participants in Annex 1. The EMOS Board consists of 14 members. These are

- 6 from universities appointed in a personal capacity
- 5 from National Statistical Institutes (NSIs)
- 1 from a National Central Bank (NCB)
- 1 from the European Statistical Advisory Committee (ESAC), and
- 1 from Eurostat acting as Chair.

The new EMOS Board 2018-2020 was composed following a call for candidates in May, 19 applications were received. The profiles matched the sought criteria of proven competence in official statistics and management experience. The selection was based on ensuring gender and geographical balance of the candidates as well as continuity in the Board by proposing to reappoint six current members for a second term.

The Chair recalled the governance structure and mandate of the Board: the European Statistical System Committee (ESSC) is the highest decision making body. The mandate of the Board is to assist the ESSC in developing the project, especially awarding of the EMOS label to and quality monitoring of the EMOS Master programmes; meeting learning and development needs in official statistics (the ESS, ESCB and ONAs); and exchange of experience and good practices in the area of EMOS.

Since the last Board meeting in March, work focused on carrying out surveys in order to finalise the report to assess the EMOS project and recommend actions for further developments to the ESSC in its meeting of 16 November 2017. EMOS strengths include linking theory with practice – often in the form of internships. EMOS also fosters collaboration between official statistics producing institutions and the Universities and forms young and well educated statisticians to be recruited by the statistical authorities. In order to improve the project further, the success of EMOS depends largely on the commitment of the ESS, ESCB, and ONAs to promote collaboration with the universities and increase awareness about EMOS in order to attract new students. Universities also could improve organisation of the internships in advance and communicate EMOS activities better to the students. The ESSC considered the EMOS project to be on the right track and agreed with the recommendations of the EMOS Board to continue implementing the project without introducing major changes to the suggested roadmap 2017-2019.

As to other EMOS activities, the 2017 webinar programme was successfully concluded in June. The next webinars and implementation of a number of other activities were outsourced to the University of Ljubljana, see also item 5. The European Statistical Week in Eurostat took place on 25-29 September 2017 with 11 EMOS students and over 20 participants from the National Statistical Institutes and was highly appreciated.

3. EMOS: way forward

The discussion on level of ambition, main challenges and success factors of the EMOS project was lead by Emanuele Baldacci, Director for Methodology; corporate statistical and IT services in Eurostat. EMOS was seen to be successful in raising awareness about official statistics within academia, reinforcing the collaboration between academia and the NSI/NCB/ONAs and creating a recruitment pool of multidisciplinary young statisticians. For the project to remain successful in the mid- and long term the following aspects should be paid attention to:

Recognition and attractiveness of the EMOS label

Students have high expectations about the EMOS Master which will be challenging but important to live up to. EMOS labelled Masters should be recognised as programmes with high standards and as a good place to study with modern topics and teaching methods. Novelties such as working with new methods and data sources are often attractive to young students and should as such be incorporated in the programmes while maintaining the core elements needed for official statistics. Internships, job opportunities and exchange of students within the network are of prime interest to the students and need to become more visible. Both universities and NSI/NCB/ONAs should do more to promote the EMOS programmes. Featuring EMOS in conferences such as CESS and NTTS would increase the visibility of EMOS.

Employability

While in some countries EMOS graduates find jobs easily, in others employment after graduation is hampered by budgetary constraints of the potential employers (mainly producers of official statistics) or by a low number of students in the EMOS labelled programmes. Managing students' expectations takes thus different measures in different countries. NSI/NCB/ONAs ought to promote EMOS as an advantage in vacancy notices. Universities should ensure that their placement services are well aware of employment opportunities within official statistics. Also, alumni networks could help in monitoring and showcasing employability or for retraining purposes.

Fostering EMOS network of universities and producers of official statistics

EMOS contributes to harmonising methodologies for official statistics at European level by delivering on a common set of learning outcomes. The network should facilitate the development of common teaching materials such as a comprehensive text book on official statistics with concrete exercises. More attention should also be paid to cross fertilising of statistical fields with other faculties such as computer science and economics. The network could also make better use of opportunities provided by Horizon2020 and Erasmus+. NSIs/NCBs/ONAs need to ensure access to real data sources for study and research purposes. Eurostat should be closely and early on involved in designing the follow-up R&D Framework Programme 9 (FP9) in order to incorporate statistical domains beyond 2020.

Master theses, internships and study visits

Close collaboration between the NSI/NCB/ONAs and universities is needed in order to identify relevant topics for master theses and find the right match among students. Ideally, Master theses are connected to internships. Internships outside the sphere of official statistics will need to be further discussed. Activities such as study visits and webinars are to be continued both for learning and visibility purposes.

4. Orientations for the future

In line with the ESSC opinion, the implementation of EMOS will continue without major changes and the third call for applications can be launched in spring 2018. The Board had a lively discussion whether the next call should primarily aim at increasing the number of universities and geographical coverage of the network or focus on ensuring the quality of the programmes. Ideally, both aspects would materialise in the next call, but in order to safeguard the value and credibility of the EMOS label, quality and excellence of the Master programmes was deemed essential.

In the long term, the EMOS project should also seek to harmonise curricula of the different EMOS Master Programmes. As a starting point, EMOS Masters are built on already existing master programmes. The choice is based on the recommendation from the feasibility study in 2013 as creating and accrediting a fully new curriculum would take a long time and be costly. Universities would not invest in such a project without certainty that it has sufficient market value.

For the next call for applications the following is to be taken into account when preparing the guide and application forms:

Learning outcomes are to remain largely the same, applicants should be encouraged to include in their programmes elements addressing rapidly changing statistical production methods. More concrete wording of the learning outcomes could help designing relevant courses.

Application forms – guide for applicants: The documents of the last application exercise remain largely relevant but should explain more clearly that universities are not required to build entirely new master programmes in order to qualify for the EMOS label. Instead of asking CVs of the professors, focus should be on explaining their experience relevant to official statistics. A question should also be added about the contact details of their collaborator(s) in NSI/NCB/ONAs. The applicants need to explain clearly how they intend to reach the learning outcomes and a matrix of offered courses should indicate which learning outcomes they address. While the call is open, the applicants are likely to ask for clarifications which could lead to publishing a Frequently Asked Questions and Answers (FAQ) on the EMOS homepage.

Road map: The call should be announced ahead of the 6 March workshop and published shortly after with a closing date in May/June. During the evaluation process, time to ask questions and clarifications from the applicants needs to be incorporated. Quantitative criteria such as number of ECTS must be clearly met. The Board should agree on the recommendations in September/October in view of preparing the ESSC documents by the end of the year for award of the label in the February 2019 ESSC meeting. Extension of labels awarded in 2015-2016 expiring in 2019-2020 is scheduled for the annual reporting in autumn 2018.

5. Workshop and webinars 2018

Mojca Bavdaž presented the draft programmes for the workshop in Ljubljana 6 March and upcoming webinars in January – June 2018. Both programmes were published online after the Board meeting: [Workshop 6 March 2018](#) and [Webinars 2018](#)

Action: Mojca Bavdaž to consult the Board with a revised workshop programme for the title, poster sessions and volunteers for charring sessions. Secretariat to identify a speaker from the Commission DG Research & Innovation to cover Horizon2020.

6. Any Other Business

Collaboration within Erasmus+

Maurizio Vichi presented a list of activities which can be funded under Erasmus+ to enhance partnerships among Universities and National Statistical Institutes on the implementation of innovative knowledge and practices and joint activities. The issue is to be raised in the upcoming workshop.

EMOS diploma supplement/certificate

In some countries, like in Italy, use of diploma supplements is very restricted. The equivalent "certificate" was reviewed by Maurizio Vichi by adding more details about the EMOS programme, Internships and Master Theses. The Certificate is also formally signed and stamped. **Action:** Board's approval to be sought in a written procedure.

Statistics Committee of ESCB

Robert Kirchner invited input from the Board members in view of the Statistics Committee (STC) of the European System of Central Banks (ESCB) taking place in Frankfurt on 13 December 2017.

ECAS 20-22 February 2018

François Coquet informed the Board about European Courses in Advanced Statistics (ECAS) Statistical Disclosure Control for Official Statistics taking place at ENSAI – Campus de Ker Lann, Bruz, France. Participation for EMOS Students is free of charge. Website: <http://ecas.ensai.fr/>

NTTS 2019

The Board agreed to act as selection committee for organising a competition of EMOS Master Theses for the next NTTS conference. A short summary in English is mandatory. The winner(s) would gain a possibility to attend the NTTS free of charge and present their theses. **Action:** Secretariat to agree on details with NTTS organisers.

7. Next meeting

The Chair thanked the outgoing members for their active and professional contribution for the past three years. The next meeting will be held on 5 March in Ljubljana, Slovenia.

Participants to handover meeting of EMOS Board on 1 December 2017

PARTICIPANT	INSTITUTION	TERM	COUNTRY
Annika Näslund	Chair, Eurostat		
François Coquet	National School for Statistics and Information Analysis (ENSAI)	New	FR-Uni
Claudiu Herteliu	Bucharest University of Economic Studies (also ESAC member)	New	RO-Uni
Monica Pratesi	University of Pisa	New	IT-Uni
Mojca Bavdaž	University of Ljubljana	2 nd term	SI-Uni
Ralf Munnich	University of Trier	2 nd term	DE-Uni
Maurizio Vichi	La Sapienza University of Rome (also ESAC member)	2 nd term	IT-Uni
Gindrute Kasnauskienė	Vilnius University	Outgoing	LT-Uni
Áron Kincses	Hungarian Central Statistical Office	New	HU-NSI
Bojana Radojevic	Statistical Office of Montenegro	New	ME-NSI
Jacek Kowalewski	Central Statistical Office of Poland	2 nd term	PL-NSI
Kees Zeelenberg	Statistics Netherlands	2 nd term	NL-NSI
Robert Kirchner	Deutsche Bundesbank	2 nd term	DE-NCB
Heli Lehtimäki	Secretariat, Eurostat		

Excused

PARTICIPANT	INSTITUTIONS	TERM	COUNTRY
Elisabetta Carfagna	University of Bologna	New	IT-Uni
Eilish O_Sullivan	CSO Ireland	New	IE-NSI
Faiz Alshail	Statistics Finland	Outgoing	FI-NSI
Maria-Pia Sorvillo	ISTAT	Outgoing	IT-NSI
Daniela Stefanescu	NSI Romania	Outgoing	RO-NSI
Pedro Simões Coelho	University of Nova Information Management School (Lisbon)	Outgoing	PT- Uni
Csilla Obadovic	University of Sopron	Outgoing	HU-Uni
Alain Trognon	Rennes 1 University	Outgoing	FR-Uni