



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
EUROSTAT

Directorate B: Methodology; Corporate statistical and IT services
Unit B-1: Methodology and corporate architecture

DIME/ITDG SG 2015

DIME/ITDG STEERING GROUP

24 AND 25 JUNE 2015

Opinions and Actions

Version 9 July 2015 (final)

This document summarises the opinions of the DIME/ITDG SG meeting held on 24 and 25 June 2015, in Luxembourg. In agreement with par 5 of the Mandate of the DIME/ITDG SG, minutes are limited to statements of opinions agreed in the meeting. They are prepared by the secretariat and distributed to the members of the group no later than seven working days following the meeting. Group members should advise the secretariat of any proposed amendments to the minutes within three working days.

Agenda items with conclusions and action points

Agenda DIME/ITDG Steering Group 24th – 25th June 2015 Room A2/139		
Item	Topic	Purpose
1	Opening - Adoption of the Agenda	D
<p>The proposed items were approved with no modification. Among any other business, the following topics were requested to be discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ESTP courses • Public access to DIME ITDG working documents • Minutes of the DIME/ITDG SG 		
2	<p>DIME/ITDG governance</p> <p><i>Context: tuning of the governance structure of DIME-ITDG</i></p> <p><i>Contents: further elaboration on the governance; mandates of WGs (Methodology, Standards, IT and Quality);</i></p> <p><i>Target: decision on the finalised governance to be fully operational from 1 January 2016</i></p>	O/F
<p><u>Opinions</u></p> <p>The DIME/ITDG SG agreed on the proposed structure based on three levels (strategic – operational – technical) for the DIME/ITDG governance. In particular, there was:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreement on the new governance to be fully operational from 1 January 2016. After 2 years an evaluation should be conducted to assess its functioning. • Agreement on the permanent nature of the strategic and operational layers while the technical layer can be more flexible according to needs (with the creation of new EGs, TFs, UGs). • Support to the proposed 4 WGs and their respective mandates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Quality WG- reporting to DIME ○ Standards WG - reporting to DIME/ITDG ○ Methodology WG - reporting to DIME ○ IT WG - reporting to ITDG • Support to the proposal of streamlining the reporting line with Task Forces and Expert Groups reporting to Working Groups, and Working Groups reporting to the Directors Groups. • Support to the proposal to change the reporting line for the Task Force on Enterprise Architecture: the TF should report to the Standards WG instead of the joint DIME/ITDG. 		
<p><u>Actions</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Eurostat will produce a finalised version of the document on the basis of the discussion and will send it to the DIME/ITDG for written consultation (July 2015). 2. Eurostat will give consideration to the links between the DIME/ITDG governance and the ESS.VIPs governance (in particular in relation to ESSnets and Centres of Excellence), in the light of the on-going work of the VIG. 		

3. The new governance structure will be taken into account by Eurostat when planning the 2016 meetings of the WGs/EGs/TFs in the DIME/ITDG governance.		
3	<p>ESS Vision 2020 implementation</p> <p><i>Context: follow-up of the ESS Vision 2020 implementation</i></p> <p><i>Contents: ESS Vision 2020 portfolio structure; role of DIME and ITDG</i></p> <p><i>Target: progress on the ESS Vision 2020 implementation; role and progress of supporting frameworks.</i></p>	O/F

Opinions

The DIME/ITDG SG took note on the progress on the ESS Vision 2020 implementation and of the Portfolio related activities. The discussion focused in particular on:

- Deployment costs and associated minimum requirements: the need to specify what deployment costs mean; to collect information also at country level; to raise awareness that deployment actions change according to the implementation options chosen in the different projects.
- Project governance: expected action by the VIG to specify the role of the different bodies in project governance (steering group, director groups, ...).

Actions

- Eurostat will continue to keep the DIME/ITDG informed on the progress in the implementation of the ESS Vision 2020.

4	<p>Progress on the 6 ESS.VIPs under the remit of the DIME/ITDG: ADMIN, VALIDATION, ESDEN, SERV, BIGD, DIGICOM; consideration on relevant aspects of other ESS.VIPs; new projects and DIME/ITDG involvement</p> <p><i>Context: presentation and discussion of the progress on on-going ESS.VIPs; brainstorming on new projects.</i></p> <p><u>Contents</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Progress report from the 6 ESS.VIPs; - Quality in the ESS Vision 2020 implementation; - ADMIN: learning from impact assessment - Potential ESS.VIP on "modern multi-source and multi-mode data collection" and its relationship with relative ESSnet <p><i>Target: brainstorming on the highlighted aspects</i></p>	O/F
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Opinions

Delegates discussed the progress of the projects directly under the remit of the DIME/ITDG, as well as supporting frameworks and potential new ESS.VIPs. The discussion focused in particular on:

- The role of DIME/ITDG in the governance of the projects and the possibility to articulate it in an effective way in coordination with the corresponding Steering Groups (technical level) and VIG (strategic level).
- The opportunity to find a more agile way to contribute to project implementation/initiation (e.g. sprint session to set-up the business case of new projects).
- The importance of supporting frameworks for the ESS.VIPs deployment as well as to build

the ESS infrastructure, in coordination with global initiatives – standards, quality, enterprise architecture.

- The need to clarify in the project governance the role of ESSnets and Centres of Excellence and, for the relevant project, to map them in the DIME/ITDG governance.
- Setting-up steering committees for ESDEN and SERV (for the latter, use the TF SERV for this role).
- The importance of ensuring the communication and application of the Enterprise Architecture Reference Framework in designing the ESS.VIPs.
- Need to enhance and foster communication at all level on the ESS Vision 2020 implementation and on the ESS Vision 2020 portfolio.
- , Need to further develop and define a common agreed methodology for impact assessment, whenever applicable (based on the feedback received from the ESS.VIP ADMIN evaluation exercise).

Actions

- Eurostat will continue to keep the DIME/ITDG regularly informed about the progress on the ESS.VIPs, notably those under the remit of the DIME/ITDG, and on the progress on supporting frameworks. In particular, DIME/ITDG opinions will be sought for these projects at design stage and for key implementation milestones.
- The Portfolio Management Bureau, under the supervision of the VIG, is setting up dedicated actions to support a structured communication on the ESS Vision 2020 implementation (communication actions, repository, website, newsletter). Most of these actions will be activated during summer 2015.
- Eurostat will consider the set-up of a dedicated steering group for ESS.VIP ESDEN and use the TF SERV to provide guidance on ESS.VIP SERV workplan).
- Eurostat will keep the DIME/ITDG informed about the VIG discussion on the project governance.
- Eurostat will regularly inform the DIME/ITDG on the progress on the work on the impact assessment methodology, as lead by the Resource Director Group and taking into account the various related initiatives (relevant deliverables of the ESSnet on Standardisation, VIG deployment cost exercise).
- New projects: sharing of good practices and methods on multisource/multimode data collection could be supported by the Centre of Excellence on household and individual surveys using multiple modes.

5	<p>Standardisation</p> <p><i>Context: follow-up of the recommendations of the sponsorship on standardisation in view of presenting the report to ESSC in September 2015;</i></p> <p><i>Contents: progress achieved by the TF and by the ESS.net on standardisation; standardisation process</i></p> <p><i>Target: agreement on the finalised report and message to pass to ESSC;</i></p>	O/F
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Opinions

The DIME/ITDG SG expressed a general support for the proposed ESSC document on standardisation. Some suggestions for further improvement include:

- The proposed governance should be aligned with the proposal on DIME/ITDG governance;
- The creation of the Expert Group on Standardisation and, possibly, a Centre of Excellence on Standardisation;
- The revised document should highlight that implementation of standards is not compulsory and the standardisation process is initiated by business driven considerations (also linked to

the decoupling of the adoption of the standard and the agreement where to apply the standard);

- Add examples of areas where standards could be certified;

The first two years of implementation of the proposal should be regarded as a test period: putting the supporting structures in place, fine-tuning the procedure and establishing the exact scope of activities. This will result in an evaluation, including a better assessment of the resource impact.

Actions

1. Eurostat will produce a new version of the document on the basis of the discussion and will send it to the DIME/ITDG for written consultation (July 2015).
2. Submission of the proposal on the standardisation process and governance to the ESSC in September 2015

6	<p>ESS Enterprise Architecture</p> <p><i>Context: ESS Vision 2020 Enterprise Architecture reference framework</i></p> <p><i>Contents: status of the ESS EA RF</i></p> <p><i>Target: get feedback from the SG; orientation for the finalisation of the ESS EA RF and its role in the ESS Vision 2020 for the approval of the ESS.VIPs; messages to ESSC</i></p>	O
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Opinions

- The DIME/ITDG steering praised the ESS EA TF for the work accomplished and look forward to the final release of the ESS EA RF by 31 August 2015
- The DIME/ITDG drew the attention of Eurostat on the need for aligning and linking the ESS EA RF artefacts with the overarching global standards in view of its adoption
- The DIME/ITDG SG supports actions that strive for the operationalisation of EA (action 2 and 3) and their piloting with projects
- Communication and coaching remains a priority

Actions

- 1) The small EA advisory group with NL, FR and NO will be reactivated to discuss the governance and process for ensure the use of EA in ESS Vision project and to support a proactive communication, including to senior managers.
- 2) The ESS EA TF will finalise the ESS EA RF taking into account the remark on the need for alignment with GSBPM (and GSIM)
- 3) In coordination with the advisory group, Eurostat will start working on the implementing action in particular the piloting of the ESS EA RF use with a project to be defined.

7	<p>SIMSTAT: progress report</p>	I
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Eurostat presented the architecture of the system and the current pilot implementation.

The discussion focused on future development plans of the SIMSTAT system, closely linked to the ESSC decision on continuing the Intra-EU exports micro-data exchange. Comments also touched on system security measures in place and security assessment risks. Eurostat presented briefly the system security scope, the secure hosting infrastructure and the end-to-end data encryption measures enforced.

The DIME/ITDG SG acknowledged the progress achieved and highlighted the need to ensure that

national systems are prepared.		
8	<p>Methodological Network</p> <p><i>Content: ISTAT will present the working modalities of its internal and informal network of methodologist</i></p>	I
<p>ISTAT delegate presented the Italian experience in setting up a network of methodologists and the current working modalities. In ISTAT, about 250 researchers and other employees are actively participating to nine different Centres of Competence. Activities include the organization of an annual workshop, the maintenance of dedicated website with a methodological repository, release of a quarterly newsletter and regular updating of the methodological competency database. ISTAT underlined the crucial role of the Methodological Network for the adoption of standards.</p> <p>The DIME/ITDG SG acknowledged the successful experience within ISTAT. Some MS and Eurostat expressed their intention to launch a similar initiative within their institutions, building on the good practices presented by ISTAT.</p> <p>Eurostat invited MSs to propose topics to be presented at the next meeting, focusing on national experience to be considered good practices.</p>		
9	Conclusions and Opinions drafting, AOB	R
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ESTP: a Eurostat representative from the Training Unit was invited to the meeting to reply questions on the administrative process currently in place for the awarding of ESTP call for tenders. • Public access to DIME/ITDG WG documents: Eurostat reminded that at the state of the art only agenda is made public and it is up to the DIME/ITDG to decide which documents can be made available. Eurostat will make a proposal to make all documents open by default except when explicitly identified not for circulation. It will be discussed at the next DIME/ITDG SG meeting. <p>Tentative date for the next meeting: 18 November 2015; venue: Brussels or Budapest (tentative)</p>		
O=for opinion towards the ESSC; R=reporting to the ESSC; D=for decision; F=for feedback/discussion; I=for information		