

Implementation of standard reference metadata for indicators - the ESMS Indicator Profile (ESMS-IP)

The Euro SDMX Metadata Structure (ESMS) is the metadata structure used for reference metadata in the ESS. Around 350 ESMS files are currently maintained and disseminated by Eurostat and more and more national reference metadata flows are also being converted to the ESMS structure. The ESMS documents the statistical business process with regard to data production, dissemination and data quality. The use of this SDMX compliant standard report structure improves the quality of the ESS reference metadata and decreases the resources needed (also through the use of the ESS Metadata as shared service).

The assessment of quality of selected policy indicators within indicator sets, including the Europe 2020 indicators and the sustainable development indicators, was done up to now using specific metadata files: the quality profiles (QP).

Based on the work of an internal technical group it has been decided that the standard ESMS structure should be used also for documenting the two/three-dimensional statistical indicator tables. Thus on an indicator level the previously used quality profiles (QP) and the existing reference metadata files (ESMS files) are now merged into one single file, called ESMS-IP. With the implementation of the ESMS-IPs the QPs will be discontinued and they will be gradually replaced by ESMS-IPs.

This harmonises further the Eurostat reference metadata production and dissemination and leads to internal resource savings through the use of statistical standards (=the ESMS) and shared services (=the ESS Metadata Handler).

To highlight the quality assessment within the ESMS structure, a quality box was added at the top of the ESMS template summarising the grading of the main quality dimensions of the indicator (overall accuracy, geographical and over time comparability). It provides a guidance for the use and the analysis of the indicator and gives input to the selection processes of any new indicator sets.