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For any question on data and metadata, please contact: [EUROPEAN STATISTICAL DATA SUPPORT](#)

<b>1. Contact</b> <span style="float: right;"><a href="#">Top</a></span>	
<b>1.1. Contact organisation</b>	Eurostat, the Statistical Office of the European Union
<b>1.2. Contact organisation unit</b>	G1: Coordination and infrastructure development
<b>1.5. Contact mail address</b>	European Commission DG Eurostat, Unit G1 L- 2920 Luxembourg

<b>2. Metadata update</b> <span style="float: right;"><a href="#">Top</a></span>	
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## 3. Statistical presentation

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### 3.1. Data description

The EuroGroups Register (EGR) is the central statistical business register of Eurostat and the European Union (EU) and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) countries' statistical authorities (NSA). EGR is used to exchange data with the national statistical business registers according to the provisions of the European Regulation 2019/2152 Annex IV and of the European implementing Regulation 2020/1197 Annex IX. The EGR is part of the EU statistical infrastructure and has been built up to better capture globalisation effects as well as for improving the consistency of national statistics on cross border phenomena. The EGR contains information about the control structures of [Multinational enterprise group](#) (s), their constituent [Legal unit](#) (s) and corresponding [Enterprise](#) (s), having at least one [Legal unit](#) located in the EU or EFTA country. It provides the statistical authorities of the EU and EFTA countries with yearly population frames of MNE groups.

EGR provides harmonised information on:

- groups, enterprises, legal units
  - identification,
  - demographic events,
  - stratification parameters,
  - control and ownership information,
  - and economic variables.

The EGR is a database for statistical use only and it is restricted to users of EU and EFTA NSAs, EU National Central Banks (NCB) and the European Central Bank (ECB).

The purpose of the EGR is to offer to statistical users a tool for coordinating frame population, to derive consistent statistical output with an improved quality in measuring global activities of European enterprises part of multinational enterprise groups.

### 3.2. Classification system

Classification systems and main code lists used in the EGR are as follows:

- Statistical classification of economic activities in the European Community ([NACE Rev. 2](#));
- European System of Accounts ([ESA 2010](#));
- List of 2-digit country codes (ISO 3166-1);
- List of legal forms of the legal units;
- Currency codes (ISO 4217).

### 3.3. Coverage - sector

The EGR frames cover units, which wholly or partially, exercise an economic activity comprising the offer of goods and services on a given market and contributing to the gross domestic product (GDP).

In addition, non-market services contributing to the GDP, as well as direct and indirect holdings of active legal units shall be regarded as economic activities for the purposes of business registers.

Economically inactive legal units are part of an enterprise only in combination with economically active legal units.

### 3.4. Statistical concepts and definitions

The main statistical concepts and definitions used for the final EGR frame are as follows:

**EGR final frame**

Eurostat shall make annually a copy that reflects the state of the EuroGroups Register at the end of the cycle including all units active at the end of the reference year and keep that copy for at least 30 years for the purpose of analysis

**Active unit**

A statistical unit is considered to have been active during the reference period, if in said period it either realized positive net turnover or produced outputs or had employees or performed investments.

A legal unit can be legally or administratively active without any economic activity, when the inactive legal unit is part of an enterprise in combination with economically active legal units.

Holding assets and/or liabilities shall also be regarded as an economic activity.

**Frame reference year**

Reference dates of all variable in the final frame refers to the reference year t, reflecting the final picture of the EGR of the reference year t

**Global group head**

The global group head (GGH) of an enterprise group is the parent legal unit that is not controlled either directly or indirectly by any other legal unit. The subsidiary legal units of a subsidiary legal unit are considered to be subsidiaries of the parent legal unit.

**Global decision centre**

The global decision centre (GDC) of an enterprise group is the unit where the enterprise group level's strategic decisions are taken. A group may have several decision-making centres or several units dedicated to a particular internal function, for example accounting or human resources.

However, the decisions about the group are made only in the GDC. The GDC may be the GGH or another legal unit under the GGH.

**Ultimate Controlling Institutional unit**

The ultimate controlling institutional unit (UCI) of a foreign affiliate means the institutional unit higher up a foreign affiliate's chain of control that is not controlled by another institutional unit.

**Number of persons employed**

Number of persons employed is defined as the total number of persons who work in the unit, including wage-earners and self-employed persons (i.e., working proprietors, partners working regularly in the unit and unpaid family workers) as well as persons who work outside the unit but who belong to it and are paid by it (e.g., sales representatives, delivery personnel, repair and maintenance teams). It excludes manpower supplied to the unit by other enterprises, persons carrying out repair and maintenance work in the unit on behalf of other enterprises, as well as those on compulsory military service.

**Turnover**

Turnover comprises the totals invoiced by the observation unit during the reference period, and this corresponds to market sales of goods or services supplied to third parties. Turnover also includes all other charges (transport, packaging, etc.) passed on to the customer, even if these charges are listed separately in the invoice. Turnover excludes VAT and other similar deductible taxes directly linked to turnover as well as all duties and taxes on the goods or services invoiced by the unit. Reduction in prices, rebates and discounts as well as the value of returned packing are not taken into account.

Income classified as other operating income, financial income and extraordinary income in company

accounts is excluded from turnover.

### **Total assets**

The total assets refers to the sum of the balance sheet items at the end of the accounting period. It covers economic assets, which are divided into financial and non-financial assets.

### **Principal activity**

The principal (or main) activity is the activity that contributes most to the total value added of a unit under consideration. Ideally, the principal activity of the unit should be determined with reference to the value added to the goods and services produced, by applying the top-down method. The top-down method follows a hierarchical principle: the classification of the unit at the lowest level of the classification must be consistent with the classification of the unit at higher levels. The principal activity so identified does not necessarily account for 50 % or more of the unit's total value added.

In the European Union the classification of principal activity is determined by reference to NACE Rev. 2, first at the highest level of classification and then at more detailed levels (top-down method). More information on statistical concepts and definitions relevant to the statistical business registers could be found in the [EBS methodological manual for Statistical Business Registers \(2021 edition\)](#).

## **3.5. Statistical unit**

The statistical units maintained in the EGR are defined in accordance with [Regulation \(EEC\) No 696/93](#) on the statistical units for the observation and analysis of the production system in the Community.

The EGR frame contains the following units:

### **Legal units**

Legal units include:

- legal persons whose existence is recognised by law independently of the individuals or institutions that may own them or are members of them;
- natural persons who are engaged in an economic activity in their own right.

### **Enterprise**

The enterprise is the smallest combination of legal units that is an organizational unit producing goods or services, which benefits from a certain degree of autonomy in decision-making, especially for the allocation of its current resources. An enterprise carries out one or more activities at one or more locations. An enterprise may be a sole legal unit.

### **Enterprise group**

An enterprise group is an association of enterprises bound together by legal and/or financial links. A group of enterprises can have more than one decision-making centre, especially for policy on production, sales and profits. It may centralize certain aspects of financial management and taxation. It constitutes an economic entity, which is empowered to make choices, particularly concerning the units, which it comprises.

### **Multinational enterprise group**

A multinational enterprise group is an enterprise group that has at least two enterprises or legal units located in different countries. In business statistics also term 'global enterprise group' is used.

## **3.6. Statistical population**

The EuroGroups Register shall be the authoritative source for the ESS as a register population for

business statistics requiring the coordination of cross-border information related to multinational enterprise groups.

The EGR offers coordinated [frame population](#) that enables European national statistical authorities to derive consistent statistical output in measuring global activities of European enterprises part of multinational groups.

The EGR final frame comprises the following units: **Multinational enterprise group** having at least one legal unit located in EU and EFTA countries, and their **Legal units** and **Enterprises**.

Multinational enterprise group's information can be used for statistics related to globalisation, as foreign affiliates statistics (FATS), foreign direct investment (FDI) statistics, intra-group trade statistics, contributions of multinational groups to international trade, balance of payments (BoP), national accounts (NA), gross national income (GNI) statistics, science, technology and innovation, structural business statistics (SBS), etc.

The EGR frame population for [Inward FATS](#) provides information on:

- [Enterprise\(s\)](#) [resident](#) in a country which are under [control](#) of an [Institutional unit](#) not [resident](#) in the same country. In the EGR, the country of foreign control is reflected by the UCI residency country code or by the country of the Global Group Head (GGH) abroad when UCI is not available.

The EGR [frame](#) population for [Outward FATS](#) contains:

- The [resident Institutional unit](#) that [controls affiliate\(s\)](#) in another country. In the EGR the domestic controlling institutional unit is reflected by UCI or GGH (when UCI is not available) in the domestic territory.

### 3.7. Reference area

The [Reference area](#) of the EGR is the world, although the main interest is the area of EU and EFTA countries. Multinational enterprise groups active exclusively outside the EU and EFTA are not of interest to the EGR.

### 3.8. Coverage - Time

The EGR frames are available from [Reference year](#) 2008 onwards.

EGR frames for reference years 2008 to 2011 were produced based on the EGR system version 1.0 and using commercial data as basis, that has been validated by NSIs.

EGR frames for reference years 2012 and 2013 were produced during the transition from EGR system version 1.0 to EGR system version 2.0. The input process was based on system version 2.0; the throughput and output processes were based on system version 1.0. Data basis were national statistical business registers of EU MSs and EFTA countries.

The EGR frame for reference year 2014 is the first frame produced in EGR system version 2.0. From EGR frame 2015 onwards, the annual frames are produced in EGR system version 2.0.

### 3.9. Base period

Not applicable.

## 4. Unit of measure

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The economic variables on employment are recorded in absolute figures.

Monetary variables are expressed in units for enterprises and in millions for enterprise groups. The corresponding [Currency](#) code is indicated.

## 5. Reference Period

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The reference period for the EGR final [frame](#) reflects the picture of 31 December of the given reference year.

The latest EGR final frame consists of the final annual master frame for the 2020 reference year.

The economic variables (number of employees, turnover and economic activity) refer to the 2020 reference year.

## 6. Institutional Mandate

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### 6.1. Institutional Mandate - legal acts and other agreements

The content of the EGR final frame for 2020 reference year is defined according the following EU Regulation:

- [Regulation \(EC\) No 177/2008](#) establishing a common framework for business registers for statistical purposes.

The Regulation (EU) 2019/2152 on European business statistics repeals Regulation (EC) No 177/2008 from 1 January 2021 and the first reference year for EGR under EBS regulation is 2021, its frame will be released in March 2023.

#### Annexes:

[Regulation \(EC\) No 177/2008](#)

### 6.2. Institutional Mandate - data sharing

The legal framework setting up the procedures for EGR data exchanges are defined in:

- [Regulation \(EC\) 192/2009](#) implementing Regulation 177/2008 establishing a common framework for business registers for statistical purposes, as regards the exchange of confidential data between the Commission (Eurostat) and Member States.
- [Regulation \(EC\) 1097/2010](#) implementing Regulation 177/2008 establishing a common framework for business registers for statistical purposes, as regards the exchange of confidential data between the Commission (Eurostat) and central banks.

## 7. Confidentiality

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### 7.1. Confidentiality - policy

According to Article 11(1) of Regulation (EC) No 177/2008, confidential data transmitted to the Commission (Eurostat) by the appropriate national authorities shall be flagged as confidential in accordance with national legislation.

In order to ensure a consistent record of data, the Commission (Eurostat) shall, exclusively for [Statistical purpose](#) (s), transmit to the appropriate national authorities of Member States other

than the reporting country, data concerning [Multinational enterprise group](#) (s) and their constituent units, including [Confidentiality](#) flags, when at least one [Legal unit](#) of the group is located in the territory of that Member State.

The same policy refers to the data exchange between the Commission (Eurostat) and the EFTA countries.

## 7.2. Confidentiality - data treatment

EGR data are stored by the Commission (Eurostat) and by the national statistical authorities (NSAs) in the EU MSs and EFTA countries in a secure area with restricted and controlled access.

The transmission of the EGR data is done in an encrypted form and by electronic means via the Commission (Eurostat) single entry point for exchange of confidential data [eDamis](#).

EGR data and metadata are exchanged in electronic form between the appropriate national authorities and the Commission (Eurostat). The transmission format is conforming to international SDMX data and metadata exchange standards specified by the Commission (Eurostat).

## 8. Release policy

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### 8.1. Release calendar

The EGR final frame is released in T+15 months.

### 8.2. Release calendar access

Information on release calendar is communicated to the EGR correspondents in the respective NSAs in the EU Member States and EFTA countries.

### 8.3. Release policy - user access

EGR data are released to users in the national statistical institutes (NSI) of the EU MSs and EFTA countries exclusively for statistical purposes. Members of the European System of Central Banks (ESCB) also have access to EGR data explicitly for the statistical purpose to ensure the quality of the multinational enterprises (MNE) information in Europe. A specific authorisation procedure is applied according to the register legislation.

EGR data are not accessible to the general public.

Accessing EGR data is further restricted to information of those MNE groups, when at least one legal unit of a MNE group is located in the territory of the country of that NSI or NCB. The EGR user thus can access country specific sub-population of the total EGR population via the EGR FATS and EGR IM user interfaces or by downloading EGR data via eDamis.

## 9. Frequency of dissemination

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The EGR final frame is released annually.

## 10. Accessibility and clarity

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### 10.1. Dissemination format - News release

Not applicable.

## 10.2. Dissemination format - Publications

Eurostat publishes an experimental statistics article on the [Multinational enterprise groups and their structure](#). The article presents some aggregated statistics based on the EGR data.

The experimental statistics article is available at Eurostat [Statistics Explained website](#)

## 10.3. Dissemination format - online database

The **EGR FATS and EGR IM user interfaces** allow statistical users to consult and to download the EGR data via online applications. EGR FATS and EGR IM applications are accessible to all NSIs in the EU and EFTA countries and to the ESCB members.

## 10.4. Dissemination format - microdata access

The micro-data exchange of confidential data on multinational enterprise groups and on the statistical units belonging to those groups shall take place, exclusively for statistical purposes, between EU Member States and EFTA countries and the European Commission (Eurostat).

## 10.5. Dissemination format - other

Not applicable.

## 10.6. Documentation on methodology

[European business statistics methodological manual for statistical business registers – edition 2021](#) outlines the methodology to be used for the national statistical institutes.

Public available descriptions and references to methodological documents are available in [EuroGroups register - Statistical business registers - Eurostat \(europa.eu\)](#) and in [Statistics explained](#).

EGR users from NSAs and NCBs find more detailed information on the [EGR wiki](#) (restricted access).

## 10.7. Quality management - documentation

Public available information on the EGR, its data, methodology, quality management is available on the [Eurostat website](#).

Information on ESS Data Quality Programme for statistical business registers is available on [CIRCABC](#).

EGR producers in the NSIs and statistical users in the NSIs and NCBs find more detailed information on EGR process, methodology, quality indicators can consult on [EGR wiki](#) (restricted access).

# 11. Quality management

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## 11.1. Quality assurance

EGR quality management is based on a set of coordinated procedures between the business registers team in national statistical institutes and in Eurostat.

### Quality management in the EGR input domain

The quality of the data files sent by national statistical institutes is validated twice:



- Business registers team in national statistical institutes must validate data files before sending them to Eurostat, according to the rules provided
- Eurostat process validates the received data using Input Hall (Conval and Struval validation tools).

### **Quality management in the EGR throughput domain**

The quality of the EGR data during the process is checked by Eurostat and validated by NSIs under request. When errors are identified, Eurostat corrects them or if necessary notifies the respective business register team of the NSI.

### **Quality management in the EGR output domain**

The final EGR frame is validated by Eurostat before dissemination.

Monitoring data quality in the EGR output domain is only one essential part to assure the EGR quality as the entire quality of the EGR cannot be tackled in isolation but it strictly depends on the process and on the quality of the input data sent by the national statistical business registers (NSBR). Therefore, the management of the EGR quality is embedded in the data quality programme (DQP) for statistical business registers in Europe.

## **11.2. Quality management - assessment**

The EGR 2.0 system calculates quality indicators on the input files - **input indicators**; on the EGR data processing - **throughput indicators**; and on the EGR output files - **output indicators**.

The EGR **input quality indicators** measure the completeness and consistency of the NSI input files (legal units, relationships, enterprises, enterprise groups). All input indicators are calculated by Eurostat based on the quality of the NSIs delivery to the EGR. Eurostat monitors the input indicators during the process and contacts the NSIs where problems are detected. Thresholds are defined as minimum criteria for acceptance of input data.

The **throughput indicators** or key process indicators (KPIs) measure the changes of source data during the EGR data processing, via the transformation area until the consolidation area. Data on legal units, relationships, enterprises and enterprise groups are monitored and throughput quality indicators calculated by Eurostat. The throughput indicators are checked during the process and Eurostat reacts on eventual problems occurred in the process flow. Where needed, concerned NSIs are contacted during the EGR production cycle.

The EGR **output quality indicators** are calculated for measuring the completeness of the EGR output data, as they are disseminated in EGR FATS application.

EGR quality indicators (input, throughput, output) are available on the EGR FATS and EGR IM (restricted access).

## **12. Relevance**

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### **12.1. Relevance - User Needs**

The EGR provides harmonised information on multinational enterprise groups and their enterprises in the EU and EFTA countries. The statistical users can use EGR coordinated frame populations to derive consistent statistical output with an improved quality in measuring global activities of European enterprises that are part of multinational enterprise groups. Multinational enterprise groups'

information is used for statistics related to globalisation, such as Statistics on foreign affiliates (FATS), Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), Gross National Income (GNI), etc.

The EGR country specific frames are used as a basis for European profiling of the largest and most complex multinational enterprise groups in the EU.

EGR information may also be used for quality checks, as a secondary source or for deriving statistics on multinational enterprise groups, etc.

### 12.2. Relevance - User Satisfaction

In 2017, Eurostat conducted first SBR user consultation survey addressing users and potential users of the national statistical business registers (NSBR) and the EuroGroups Register (EGR). The second SBR user survey was opened for contributions by statistical users between November 2019 and March 2020.

2020 SBR survey results show that the EGR is widely used and users consider that its quality had been significantly improved in the recent years. The EGR data are used mostly in Economic globalisation domain (35%) and Economy and finance (25%). Most of the respondents (71%) stated that they currently use EGR data for the production of official statistics at national level.

The results of the SBR User Survey 2020 are available on [CIRCABC](#).

### 12.3. Completeness

The completeness of EGR final frame is annually assessed by Eurostat. The EGR assessment results are provided to EU Member States and EFTA countries and presented at the Statistical Business Registers Working Group (SBR WG).

## 13. Accuracy

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### 13.1. Accuracy - overall

The accuracy of the EGR final frame is evaluated in collaboration between NSIs and Eurostat. The NSI compare, at micro-level, the Ultimate Controlling Institutional units (UCIs) of the Multinational enterprise groups from the EGR final frame with their data from FATS surveys. Eurostat compiles the results of the comparison results sent by the NSI the second half of the year after FATS data for the same reference year is released.

### 13.2. Sampling error

Not applicable.

### 13.3. Non-sampling error

Not applicable.

## 14. Timeliness and punctuality

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### 14.1. Timeliness

The EGR final frame is produced and released to its users at T+15 months.

## 14.2. Punctuality

The EGR final frame is delivered on time without delays.

## 15. Coherence and comparability

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### 15.1. Comparability - geographical

EGR frame allows geographical comparability of information on MNE groups provided by countries. The units provided by countries are based on harmonised statistical units defined in Council Regulation (EEC) No 696/93 and the MNE groups information is comparable across the countries.

### 15.2. Comparability - over time

EGR frames for reference years 2008 to 2011 are comparable as the process was based on the EGR system version 1.0 by using commercial data as basis.

EGR frames for reference years 2012 and 2013 are comparable as were produced during the transition from EGR system version 1.0 to EGR system version 2.0. The input process was based on system version 2.0; the throughput and output processes are based on system version 1.0. Data basis were national statistical business registers of EU MSs and EFTA countries.

The EGR frame for reference year 2014 is the first frame produced in EGR system version 2.0. From EGR frame 2015 onwards, the annual frames are comparable to the previous/following EGR frames.

### 15.3. Coherence - cross domain

The EGR frame provides harmonised information on the multinational enterprise groups active in the EU MSs and EFTA countries.

Statistical users can use EGR as a coordinated frame population in order to derive consistent statistical output, with an improved quality in measuring global activities of European enterprises that are part of multinational enterprise groups.

EGR 2.0 allows comparability of EGR 2020 data to previous reference years (backwards to 2014). Continuity of legal units, enterprises and multinational enterprise groups exists in the system.

### 15.4. Coherence - internal

The internal coherence within the EGR frame is largely depending on the quality of NSBRs. Potential shortcomings are addressed by a data quality program for statistical business registers in Europe aiming at:

- harmonise methodologies, statistical units, concepts and processes in the production and dissemination of NSBRs and EGR as far as necessary and possible;
- promote the use of common tools and best practices;
- assess and ensure the quality level by setting and monitoring quality targets.

## 16. Cost and Burden

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EGR data are provided by the national statistical business registers; no burden on enterprises is created.

With the EGR version 2.0 the cost for EGR production has been substantially reduced because acquisition of commercial data is covering a limited number of EU and EFTA statistical units and is focused mainly on the non-EU and non-EFTA units.

## 17. Data revision

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### 17.1. Data revision - policy

Not applicable.

### 17.2. Data revision - practice

Not applicable.

## 18. Statistical processing

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### 18.1. Source data

The sources for the EGR 2020 frame are:

- National statistical business registers of EU MSs and EFTA countries;
- Commercial data source.

### 18.2. Frequency of data collection

The NSIs statistical business registers contribute to the production of the EGR frame by delivering data during the annual EGR cycle:

- to the EGR Identification System (EGR IS). The frequency is annual and data delivery takes place in T + 5 month.
- to the EGR Core application (EGR CORE). The frequency is annual and takes place from T + 10 up to T + 15 months.
- to validate and repair or update the group data in the interactive web interface EGR Interactive Module (EGR IM) to support the repair of multinational group structures – during T+12 and T+14 months with respect to the reference year.

### 18.3. Data collection

The EGR process starts in May (T+5 months with respect to reference data) with gathering data on resident legal units from the national statistical business registers and updating the EGR Identification Service (EGR IS) for reference date T (31 December).

The second action of the EGR process is the delivery of non-resident legal units for identification to the EGR Identification Service (EGR IS) for reference date T (31/12) of the corresponding reference year. This action is performed continuously in the period of July to October (T+7 to T +10 months with respect to reference year) and regards the identification of the foreign legal units of the national business registers in the EGR IS.

The EGR IS appends a LEID number to each EU and EFTA resident and non-resident legal unit identified. The LEID number is the unique identifier, which facilitates the later stages of the EGR process.

The third action is the sending of information on enterprises, legal units and their direct and indirect, control and non-control relationships to the EGR CORE by the national statistical business registers starting in October to middle of November (T+10 to T+11 months with respect to reference data).

Data sets should contain the full coverage, also include the properly identified foreign parents / subsidiaries and variables requested by the Regulation (EC) no 2009/192.

The fourth action is repair of the relationships and update of enterprise data that is performed from December to middle of March (T+12 to T+15 months with respect to reference data) either via input files or within the EGR Interactive Module. At the same time, the enterprise group data delivery is taking place.

After the process of consolidation and any necessary repair actions to the multinational enterprise group structures, the EGR produces the final frame. The groups are delivered to users after requesting for national populations data via the EGR FATS on-line interface that is placed in the secure environment, starting from the end of March (T+15 months with respect to the reference year).

#### **18.4. Data validation**

The EGR data validation process takes place continuously during EGR production process in between T+5 and T+15 months. The national statistical institutes contribute to the validation process at the group structures' in repair phase by delivering relationships and data on enterprise groups to the EGR and also by pre-validate the EGR input file. At Eurostat level, there are performed data quality checks and validation actions at all relevant stages of the EGR production cycle.

#### **18.5. Data compilation**

The EGR data compilation creates the enterprise groups structures by using the information on direct shareholdings and control between pair-wise legal units. An algorithm in the EGR CORE reconstructs the full chain of direct and indirect relationships.

Truncated groups and the domestic control relationships from NSIs that are full authentic store sources are used as a basis for the consolidation of groups. Commercial data are used only for legal units outside the EU and EFTA countries and for those NSIs not being full authentic store sources for the EGR.

#### **18.6. Adjustment**

Not applicable.

### **19. Comment**

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All modules of the EGR system version 2.0 are in production since 2015. There is a continuous improvement of the EGR system and production process aiming to ensure the output quality.

### **Related metadata**

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### **Annexes**

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