

Contents

SIGMA THE BULLETIN OF EUROPEAN STATISTICS

produced by Eurostat Editor in chief: Philippe Bautier Editorial team: Lukasz Augustyniak, Beatriz Fernández Nebreda, Annika Östergren Pofantis, Johan Wullt. Published by: Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Luxembourg, 2008 ISSN 1018-5739 © European Communities, 2008 Graphic design by Fotolito 38, Italy © Cover photos: Deutsche Börse, European Commission. Harry Hautumm/PIXELIO (www.pixelio.de), Phovoir. Printed in Belgium Printed on white chlorine-free paper Sigma is available free of charge from: Eurostat, Communication Unit, Bech A4/112, L-2920 Luxembourg Fax (352) 4301 35349 E-mail: eurostat-pressoffice@ec.europa.eu All issues of Sigma can be consulted online at Eurostat's website: http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat

We would like to thank all those who have contributed to this edition of Sigma: Tanya Alexandrova, Christine Ardillac, Luca Ascoli, Roberto Barcellan, Frits Bos, Marco Buti, Julio Cabeca, João Cadete de Matos, Paul Cheung, Sofia Crushovalieva, Marc de Haan, Geoffroy de Schutter, Pieter Everaers, Maria Forgon, Ana Franco, Lena Frej Ohlsson, Enrico Giovannini, Gallo Gueye, Steven Keuning, Mariana Kotzeva, Mikko Koutaniemi, Andreas Krüger, Ingo Kuhnert, Peter Leonhardt, Denis Leythienne, Elisabeth Møllgaard, Mr Nepetsoun, Laurs Nørlund, Eduardo Pereira Nunes, Christian Ravets, Andreas Scheuerle, Hartmut Schroer, John Verrinder, Michel Waeytens, Martin Weale and George Zeitountsian.

The views expressed in *Sigma* are those of the authors, and do not necessarily reflect the official position of the European Commission or the organisations to which the authors belong.

4 Walter Radermacher — New Director-General of Eurostat

What are national accounts?

Inside the national accounts production at Eurostat

Eurostat — Watchdog of European public finances

Revision of European system of accounts begins

National accounts at the heart of EU policies

The future of national accounts

19 Like a house of bricks

Portugal — Proposing an innovative model of national accounts compilation

Supply and use tables —
An indispensable tool for producing reliable national accounts

Regional accounts — Finland leads the way

Production of national accounts in Cyprus

32 Satellite accounts sharpen the focus

Environmental accounts —
A beautiful tool to study
the links between the environment
and the economy

Beyond GDP — The ecological footprint?

EU watchdog forecasts and surveys the economy with data from Eurostat Forecasting future economic challenges

British economist requests more information on data reliability

Challenges of implementing the 2008 system of national accounts worldwide

52 OECD — Unveiling the full potential of national accounts

A journey with no end —
The production of national accounts in Cameroon

Brazil — Measuring a growing economy

Putting the user first —
Sigma meets the President
of the Bulgarian National
Statistical Institute

Tanya Alexandrova — 'Hard work but rewarding'

