

67th ESGAB meeting

Wednesday, 6 May 2020

Minutes

Virtual meeting

Doc ESGAB 2020/49

The Secretariat



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67th Meeting of the European Statistical Governance Advisory Board (ESGAB)

Expert Group X02147

6 May 2020

Virtual meeting

1. Welcome and adoption of the agenda

The draft agenda (Doc. 2020/20) was adopted.

2. Information from Eurostat on recent and future developments in the ESS

Ms Kotzeva informed ESGAB members that Eurostat and the ESS have continued to successfully execute their mission to provide high quality statistics and data on Europe despite the challenges brought by the Covid-19 outbreak. The demand for official statistics has increased but the NSI, together with Eurostat, found innovative ways to respond swiftly to the new needs.

On 8 April 2020, Eurostat has launched a dedicated page on its website, called [“COVID-19 - Support to Statisticians”](#). In this section, Eurostat shares guidelines, methodological notes and practical solutions that have been developed to tackle statistical issues generated by the Covid-19 outbreak.

Ms Kotzeva said that Eurostat, together with the Member States, put together a list of the most pressing issues that the ESS is facing and possible solutions to solve them. For example, the NSIs faced very low response rates to surveys due to the confinement. Consequently, they had to rely on imputations and data from alternative sources.

At the beginning of the crisis, the focus was on managing this unexpected situation but now the ESS can focus on the recovery and lessons learned from the crisis.

ESGAB members agreed that the 2020 Annual Report will include a chapter on the response of the ESS to the Covid-19 crisis.

Ms Kotzeva underlined that official statistics will be needed more and more in the recovery phase and the ESS will be ready to deliver.

Referring to the improvement actions to be implemented by the NSIs following the latest round of peer reviews, one ESGAB member reiterated that they should be weighed against their



importance. Ms Kotzeva agreed that, while this is not currently the case, it would be a good idea to analyse and classify these actions according to their importance.

Ms Kotzeva updated ESGAB members on the recently signed working arrangements between Eurostat and the cabinet of Commissioner Paolo Gentiloni. The text highlights the professional independence of Eurostat and shows the commitment of the Commissioner to uphold it.

3. Preparation of Eurostat's peer review

The ESGAB member who is part of the ESS Task Force on Peer Reviews informed the others on the discussions and decisions taken until now.

ESGAB members indicated that the list of stakeholders to be interviewed has to be discussed and agreed as soon as possible.

4. Next meeting

The next ESGAB meeting will take place on 24 June.

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List of participants

Members

Mr Enrico Giovannini (Chair)
Mr Algirdas Šemeta
Mr Priit Potisepp
Ms Mireille Elbaum
Ms Frances Ruane
Mr Bart de Moor

Excused

Mr Kai Carstensen

Observers

Ms Mariana Kotzeva (Eurostat)
Mr Eduardo Barredo Capelot (Eurostat)

Secretariat

Ms Delia Bistreanu