



# **81<sup>st</sup> ESGAB meeting**

**Wednesday, 6 April 2022**

Minutes

Virtual meeting

Doc ESGAB 2022/30

The Secretariat



6 April 2022

## Minutes

81<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the European Statistical Governance Advisory Board (ESGAB)

Expert Group *X02147*

6 April 2022

Virtual meeting

### **1. Welcome and adoption of the agenda**

The draft agenda (Doc. 2022/22) was adopted without amendments and the action points from the previous meeting were scrutinised to ensure all follow ups.

The next ESGAB meeting will take place virtually on 5 May. The Chair of the Partnership Group will be invited to a dialogue with the Board on the revision of Regulation 223/2009.

The ESGAB Chair proceeded with making relevant announcements.

He noted that no written comments had been received from members on the internal paper prepared for and presented in the February 21, 2022 meeting of ESGAB on needed amendments of Regulation 223.

He then informed the members that he has participated in the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON) meeting, held on 14 March. He presented the main findings of the ESGAB Annual Report 2021 and answered questions posed by MEPs.

The Chair has also presented the ESGAB Annual Report 2021 to the Austrian Statistical Society on 4 March. The presentation of the report was followed by a lively discussion, focusing on several aspects, such as the lessons learned following the COVID-19 pandemic or statistics on health.

In June, the Chair will participate in the European Conference on Quality in official statistics. He will participate in the session on peer reviews and present the main findings of the ESGAB Annual Report 2021.

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

Eurostat presented the progress report on the implementation of the 3rd round of ESS peer reviews, which was discussed by the ESSC in February. Since February, there had been a few developments: Approximately half of the envisaged peer reviews have been completed. Four



more visits took place (to Ireland, Denmark, Bulgaria and Austria) since February 2022 and three more will follow in June (to Poland, Spain and the Netherlands). So far, the peer reviews exercise has proceeded according to schedule, with seven visits completed last year and seven more taking place in the first half of this year. Due to the lifting of restrictions related to COVID-19, the visits are now in physical format.

On 10 March, Eurostat organised a workshop for the chairs and experts of the peer review teams, which allowed them to exchange views and good practices and to discuss how to further harmonise the national reports.

In July 2022, a second workshop will take place, which will focus on the preparation of the overall peer review report.

Eurostat also informed that there are new and urgent demands for statistics triggered by the Russian military aggression on Ukraine. In order to respond quickly to the new demands, Eurostat initiated a debate within the ESS. The first discussion took place at the Partnership Group meeting, at the end of March. Participants agreed that it is important to act together, in a coordinated manner, in order to be able to provide harmonised data for Member States.

Participants also identified the areas which would require a swift statistical response from the ESS. These would be: population and migration, where there is a need to have timelier statistics on people coming from Ukraine to the EU or on Ukrainians who have been living for some time in the EU; energy and trade statistics, where actions have been undertaken to increase the visibility of these data, by publishing news items, Statistics Explained articles or organising webinars; also methodological guidance may need to be developed regarding the statistical treatment of possible compensation offered by governments to consumers to mitigate the impact of rising prices of energy and other essential goods. These issues will be reviewed by the ESSC in its May meeting.

### **3. Revision of Regulation 223/2009 on European statistics**

With a view to developing its formal view on the revision of Regulation 223/2009, ESGAB invited for this meeting Eurostat to make a presentation to ESGAB on its thinking on the revision of the Regulation 223/2009. In the process, individual members of ESGAB had the opportunity to pose questions and express some views to Eurostat on its current thinking on the subject. It was understood – as has been and is well-established standard practice in similar ESGAB deliberations - that any views expressed were not the formal opinion of ESGAB on the revision of Regulation 223, which is to be provided when ESGAB has completed its information gathering and assessment.

Eurostat indicated that a 12-week public consultation on the initiative to amend Regulation 223 will be launched in June 2022 and the Commission draft proposal for the amendment of the Regulation is planned to be discussed by the ESSC end-October 2022. The adoption of the draft proposal by the Commission is foreseen for the first quarter 2023.

The Chair thanked Eurostat for the detailed presentation.



#### **4. Issue paper on challenges faced by the ESS in a digital world**

ESGAB members will prepare a revised draft and send it to the members for their comments.

#### **5. Next meetings**

The next meeting will take place on 5 May and the meeting in July will be established based on a doodle poll.