



55th ESGAB meeting

Friday 18 May 2018

Minutes

Doc ESGAB 2018/58

The Secretariat



Brussels, 24 May 2018

Minutes

55th Meeting of the European Statistical Governance Advisory Board (ESGAB)

Expert Group *X02147*

18 May 2018

1 Place Madou, Brussels

1. Introduction and approval of the agenda

The draft agenda (Doc. 2018/26) was presented by the Chair and agreed.

2. Nature of the meeting

The meeting was a non-public meeting of six members of ESGAB, two observers from Eurostat and the Secretariat.

3. ESGAB's assessment of the implementation of the Commission's Commitment on Confidence in Statistics

ESGAB members discussed version 2 of the draft Opinion on the implementation of the Commission's Commitment on Confidence in Statistics, which had been distributed prior to the meeting.

The Secretariat will revise the draft Opinion according to the discussion and will circulate the updated version for comments by ESGAB members by 25 May.

4. Meeting with the Malta Statistics Authority (MSA)

Prof. Albert Leone Ganado (MSA Chairman), Mr. Joseph Bonello (Secretary of the MSA Board) and Mr. Etienne Caruana (Acting Director General of the Maltese NSO) had a dialogue with the Board, to exchange views on the implementation of the European Statistics Code of Practice in Malta and on the proposed changes to the Maltese legal framework for official statistics. MSA is also visiting countries such as Ireland and the Netherlands to discuss these issues.



ESGAB welcomed the opportunity to learn more about the future of Maltese statistical legislation and discussed the possibility of organising a meeting with all ESGAB-like bodies existing in EU countries.

5. Rules of Procedure

Following the comments and suggestions made during the March meeting, a revised text of the Rules of Procedure (prepared by the Secretariat) was discussed by ESGAB.

The Board endorsed the updated Rules of Procedure, which will be published on the ESGAB website.

6. Information from Eurostat on recent developments in the ESS

- Meeting of the ESS Committee on 17 May

Eurostat presented the main items discussed by the ESSC on 17 May. The Board noted the information provided and asked that the Committee's opinion on the European Statistical Programme beyond 2020 be circulated.

In addition, Eurostat invited a member of the Board to attend the 2018 DGINS Conference which will discuss the topic "New statistical opportunities and production models deriving from digitalisation of societies and Big Data". The Conference will take place on 10th (afternoon) and 11th (full day) of October in Bucharest, Romania.

- ESSC workshop on the next round of peer reviews on 22-23 May 2018

Eurostat informed ESGAB about the agenda of the ESSC workshop on the next round of peer reviews which will be held in Sofia, on 22-23 May 2018, in collaboration with the Bulgarian Presidency and organised under the responsibility of the High-Level Group on Quality. The documents and conclusions of the workshop will be sent to the Board as soon as they are available.

- Digital Single Market Package

Eurostat briefed the Board about the adoption, on 25 April 2018, of the third Data Package. It includes the Communication "Towards a common European data space" which addresses the issue of access to private sector data for public interest purposes (with a list of key principles on business-to-government (B2G) data sharing) and a guidance document on sharing private sector data (a 'how to' check-list presenting the models, the legal and practical considerations as well as the technical means to establish B2G collaboration with many examples taken from the statistical field).



- ESGAB Recommendation 2017/8

Eurostat informed ESGAB about the follow-up to the Board's Recommendation 2017/8 stating that "Member States should give further consideration to extending the coordination role of NSIs to include national statistics, in addition to European statistics, to support the credibility of official statistics in general."

While this recommendation is clearly addressed to Member States, to raise awareness of it, during the meeting of the Resource Directors' Group (RDG) in April 2018 Eurostat invited NSIs to clarify the situation in their respective countries as regards the NSI's coordination of national statistics. In addition, Member States in which the NSI already has the coordinator role for the production of national statistics were invited to share their experiences and good practices in this respect.

The members of the RDG had a rich exchange regarding their respective NSI's coordination role for European and national statistics. Several members took the floor to present the situation in their own country, stressing that it works well in practice and their role as coordinator is respected even when it is not explicitly enshrined in law. Overall, awareness of this issue and of ESGAB's recommendation exists. NSIs are fulfilling the recommendation as much as possible within their respective mandate and as far as possible within their resource constraints.

7. Annual Report

The Chair recalled the reasons for postponing the release of this year's report to the beginning of 2019: to cover the whole calendar year and to stress the independence of ESGAB by decoupling its report from the Commission's statistical package.

Members subsequently discussed the structure and content of the annual report for 2018.

A teleconference (instead of a physical meeting) may be organised on 5 July to discuss the first impressions from the input received. Subsequently, members will provide first draft contributions for the annual report by end of July.

8. AOB

- Ensuring a wider dissemination of ESGAB press releases/Opinions

Members have agreed that, when the forthcoming Opinion on the Commission's Commitment on Confidence in Statistics is published on the website, a summary of the Opinion would be published as well.

Eurostat agreed also to tweet a quote from the ESGAB's Chair on that same day.



- Remaining Greek Court decisions

Eurostat confirmed that no further cases have been closed since October 2017. It will keep ESGAB informed about any new developments.

- Meeting with the French Statistical Authority in September 2018

Further to the French Statistical Authority's request to meet ESGAB, and because the Spring period was very busy for the Board, it had been agreed to do so at its September meeting.

The Secretariat will send to ESGAB members the Authority's annual report in English. In addition, Eurostat will compile and send to ESGAB a list of existing national authorities, with a description of the relevant governance structure within the respective national statistical system.

- Q2018 Conference

The Chair will present an ESGAB paper at the Q2018 conference in Kraków, in June, as part of a session on Code of Practice/statistical governance issues. The paper will be titled "The revised Code of Practice – A new opportunity for European statistics" and is planned to be presented on 27 June afternoon, under Session 39 of the Conference, to be chaired by Mariana Kotzeva.

- Farewell to Pieter Everaers

This being Pieter Everaers' last ESGAB meeting, the Chair thanked him for his contribution to the Board's work and to the development of the ESS, and wished him all the best in his future endeavours.

List of participants

Members

Mr Enrico Giovannini (Chair)
Mr Bart De Moor
Ms Mireille Elbaum
Mr Jaume Garcia
Ms Frances Ruane
Mr Algirdas Šemeta



Excused: Mr Kai Carstensen

Observers

Ms Mariana Kotzeva (Eurostat)

Mr Pieter Everaers (Eurostat)

Secretariat

Ms Cristina Pereira de Sá