



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

**Wednesday, 3 April 2019**

Minutes

Doc ESGAB 2019/36

The Secretariat



Brussels, 20 May 2019

## Minutes

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

Expert Group X02147

3 April 2019

1 Place Madou, Brussels

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

The draft agenda (Doc. 2019/22) was presented by the Chair and adopted with the following change: item 7 'ESGAB's rules of procedure' was postponed to the next meeting due to lack of quorum.

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

#### *Statistical dialogue with the European Parliament*

On 25 February 2019, the European Parliament's Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON) held its annual Statistical Dialogue with Eurostat's Director-General, Mariana Kotzeva, as established in Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 on European statistics.

The questions addressed by the Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) to Ms Kotzeva were on statistics concerning Sustainable Development Goals and economic inequalities, as well as the situation in Greece.

#### *'Fake news'*

ESGAB members asked about the actions taken to address 'fake news'. Ms Kotzeva explained that Eurostat is closely involved in the Commission's efforts to fight against disinformation, especially in the running up to the European Parliament elections. There is a European network of fact checkers that works with the Commission. Eurostat's user support and media services provide assistance and support to this network, whenever they need to check data. Eurostat also organises webinars and training for fact checkers.

Ms Kotzeva added that Eurostat launched questionnaires asking NSIs what type of actions they have taken until now and if there is a need for more information from Eurostat. Eurostat is also planning to organise a meeting of the press officers within the ESS, in order to coordinate efforts



to fight ‘fake news’. Currently, Eurostat's most active partners in Member States are the EC Representations.

ESGAB members underlined the need for proactivity and quick reactions whenever ‘fake news’ are spotted.

### *Next round of peer reviews*

As agreed in the ESS Committee meeting on 7 February, an ESS Task Force (TF) has been created to prepare the next round of peer reviews. Following a call for members, the TF will be composed of 17 representatives of national statistical institutes (CZ, DE, EE, ES, IT, LT, LU, HU, MT, NL, AT, PL, PT, SI, FI, SE, LI) and a representative of ESGAB (to be appointed at a later date). The group will be chaired by Eurostat (Mr Eduardo Barredo Capelot). The first meeting of the TF will take place on 14-15 May, back-to-back with the ESSC meeting.

Ms Kotzeva explained that the meeting in May will focus on several key issues: the scope of the peer review exercise, the principles to be covered (also by the self-assessment questionnaires) and the best way to involve the Other National Authorities (ONAs). The proposal prepared by the Task Force will be submitted to the ESSC in October, this year.

The ESGAB members reiterated that the topics that are important for the Board for the next round of peer reviews are the role of stakeholders (in general) and bodies with ESGAB-like functions in Member States.

### **3. Preparation of the event with ESGAB-like bodies**

The ESGAB members discussed the preparation of the seminar with the ESGAB-like bodies. The aim of the seminar is to gather practices from the countries that have ESGAB-like bodies, as well as from those who do not. There was agreement that it would be useful to have input also from those NSIs whose role has been expanded to cover the ESGAB-like function.

ESGAB members decided on the title of the seminar: ‘ESGAB-like functions: learning from countries with ESGAB-like bodies’ and on the agenda. The meeting will start at 10:00 o’clock with introductory remarks from the Chair and Ms Kotzeva, followed by an overview of the current situation in the ESS (presentation by ESGAB members). The morning session will continue with a panel with ESGAB-like bodies, followed by a dialogue with a number of Heads of NSIs. During the afternoon session, participants will be invited to have a 20-minute discussion on relevant topics in this context.



#### **4. Dialogues with NSIs**

ESGAB agreed to invite four Member States for country dialogues, to take place on 20 June in the morning.

#### **5. Topics for the 2019 Annual Report**

The Chair proposed that this year's Report focuses on two issues: governance (stakeholders' survey and ESGAB-like bodies) and a core activity of the ESS (the census). ESGAB, after an in-depth discussion of the topic, agreed on the proposal.

#### **6. AOB - Re-vamping of the ESGAB website**

ESGAB sees the need to modernise its website, and therefore asked Eurostat if there is flexibility to re-design it.

Eurostat confirmed that the system currently used is very advanced and, from a technical point of view, many features can be included (images, video interviews, icons, RSS feeds, and other alert mechanisms). Eurostat underlined that it is important to have a consistent design throughout the website and that the hiring of a graphic designer may be needed.

ESGAB will prepare and send a mock-up layout to Eurostat for comments and suggestions.

#### **7. Next meeting**

The next ESGAB meeting is scheduled for 20 June, in Brussels, back to back with the seminar with ESGAB-like bodies that takes place on 19 June.

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#### **List of participants**

##### Members

Mr Enrico Giovannini (Chair)  
Ms Mireille Elbaum  
Ms Frances Ruane (by phone)  
Mr Algirdas Šemeta

Excused: Mr Bart De Moor, Mr Kai Carstensen, Mr Jaume García (resigned)



Observer

Ms Mariana Kotzeva (Eurostat)

Invited speakers

Mr Tim Allen and Ms Julia Urhausen, Eurostat unit B4 (by phone)

Secretariat

Ms Delia Bistreanu

Ms Cristina Pereira de Sá