



62nd ESGAB meeting

Thursday, 20 June 2019

Minutes

Doc ESGAB 2019/46

The Secretariat



Brussels, 16 July 2019

Minutes

62nd Meeting of the European Statistical Governance Advisory Board (ESGAB)

Expert Group X02147

20 June 2019

1 Place Madou, Brussels

1. Welcome and adoption of the agenda

The draft agenda (Doc. 2019/35) was presented by the Chair and agreed.

2. Seminar with ESGAB-like bodies and NSIs

ESGAB members discussed the outcome of the event and agreed that it was a good opportunity for both NSIs and ESGAB-like bodies to meet and discuss common issues.

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

Bucharest Memorandum on Trusted Smart Statistics

Eurostat presented the Trusted Smart Statistics Strategy, whose aim is to give strategic orientation and prioritise actions preparing the ESS for using new data sources. This is all the more so important, as the response rates for traditional surveys are falling rapidly. Several challenges regarding the use of multi-source data were identified: NSIs often have little influence on those sources and respective quality; Big Data is very efficient for giving information on big trends, but its use for statistics is less straightforward, especially for the measurement of phenomena like quality of life.

In terms of governance, Eurostat would take the lead, but there is a need for close cooperation with the NSIs.

Eurostat explained that they would like to have progress on concrete actions in the near future. The goal is to have success stories for people to follow. Work is ongoing on specific areas such as the Time Use Survey or Household Budget Survey.



'DGs informal workshop on collaborative economy'

Eurostat explained that this workshop was a brainstorming exercise meant to give full recognition to this phenomenon and to agree on how to respond to increasing user demands for official statistics on collaborative economy.

4. Challenges regarding the census

In order to develop the 2021 census programme, Eurostat has been assisted by the Task Force on 'Future EU censuses', composed of experts coming from approximately 20 NSIs. The Task Force discussed intensively with users to identify their needs. The conclusions were that users would like to have geographically referenced data, information on a standard one-kilometer square grid, more detailed information on migration (e.g. education level), more timely data (even if it is less detailed), and a more frequent census data.

Eurostat explained that the four implementing legal acts needed for the 2021 census have already been adopted by the Commission. Similar to the 2011 census, a "census hub" online interface will be put in place for the 2021 census in order to cope with the huge amount of data. Work on fixing the census hub for the 2021 exercise is well advanced.

In the 2021 census round, administrative data will be much more used than in the previous rounds.

Eurostat identified the challenges for post-2021 census:

- Data coming from administrative sources – all countries are moving towards the statistical use of administrative sources and Regulation 223/2009 allows the NSIs to access them. However, this is a sensitive issue and in practice, NSIs have limited influence regarding administrative data despite existing legal instruments. Eurostat has developed a programme (VIP ADMIN) aimed at helping countries to use administrative data to a greater extent.
- Difficulties with certain variables – the information needed for some census variables, such as current activity status or education attainment, may not be available from the administrative sources. For this reason, for the post-2021 data, this information will be included in the initial annual collection of population data.

The Chair enquired whether there will be an exchange of microdata between countries to avoid duplication. He underlined that the move to administrative data may reduce drastically the capacity of the ESS to produce reliable data on migration. ESGAB members added that since administrative data sometimes come from tax registers and rules may change, this could jeopardise the exercise.



ESGAB recognises the importance of the census for the ESS and will dedicate a chapter of the Annual report to this topic.

5. Topics for the 2019 Annual Report

The Chair proposed that this year's Report focuses on the monitoring of the ESGAB recommendations. The main "special topics" to be covered by the report are: governance (based on the results of the Seminar with the ESGAB-like bodies) and the census. The report could also feature the topic of globalisation, depending on the results of the DGINS Conference to take place in October.

6. Next meeting

The next ESGAB meeting is scheduled for 11 September, in Brussels.

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List of participants

Members

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

Observer

Mr Gallo Gueye, (Eurostat)

Secretariat

Ms Delia Bistreanu
Ms Cristina Pereira de Sá