

## ESS agreement

### **2014 Pilot data collection on learning mobility via household surveys (both mobility in initial vocational education and training and general youth mobility)**

#### **1. Introduction**

The present document has to be regarded as a European Statistical System (ESS) agreement within the meaning of Article 14(1)(c) of Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2009 on European statistics<sup>1</sup>. According to that Article the European statistical programme can be implemented by individual statistical actions that are decided by means of an agreement between the national statistical institutes (NSIs) or other national authorities and Eurostat.

To guarantee a sufficient level of transparency, clarity and certainty in the development, production and dissemination of European statistics, this Agreement is in writing.

The national authorities participating to this Agreement are listed in the annex. Participants acknowledge this Agreement as a valid instrument for ensuring the statistical action that it foresees and are committed to its full implementation. It specifies the list of variables on learning mobility to be collected in 2014 in a free national vehicle (household or individual survey).

The action is financed via the Lifelong Learning Programme.

The 2014 pilot data collection on learning mobility responds to the policy needs expressed in the conclusions of the Council of Ministers of Education, Youth, Culture and Sport held on 29 November 2011 as concerns the monitoring of:

- 1) the benchmark on mobility in initial vocational education and training (IVET mobility), as well as
- 2) youth learning mobility in general.

The Council also invited the European Commission to *"...work with and support the Member States, in particular with the help of Eurostat, to improve the availability of relevant indicators and statistics during the period up to 2020. In doing so, the best possible use should be made of the statistical data and household surveys available, with a view to minimising administrative burdens and costs"*. Finally the Council invited the Commission to *"...report back to the Council by the end of 2015, with a view to reviewing and, if necessary, revising the European benchmark on learning mobility."*

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 87, 31.3.2009, p. 164

## 2. Variables

National authorities participating in the ESS agreement should opt for one of the two following options:

- Option 1 (two variables): allows providing data on IVET mobility only;
- Option 2 (five mandatory variables: two variables needed for option 1 and three variables on youth mobility in general, as well as three optional variables on duration of the stay abroad): enables a quantification of youth learning mobility in general (including IVET mobility).

*N.B. The codes for the variables included in the "Filters" column below refer to Annex III to Commission Regulation (EC) No 377/2008 on the EU-LFS<sup>2</sup>. If another survey vehicle is used for the 2014 pilot data collection, similar variables have to be available.*

### **OPTION 1: Variables to capture only learning mobility in IVET**

Variable name	Codes	Label	Filters	Justification
<b>QUALVOC</b>	1 2 Blank 9	<b>Having vocational qualification from ISCED level 3</b> Yes No No answer Not applicable	AGE 18-34 HATLEVEL <sup>(1)</sup> = 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8	This variable is necessary as a filter to select IVET graduates
<b>IVETMOB</b>	1 2 Blank 9	<b>Stay abroad for learning purposes for at least two weeks during vocational education at ISCED level 3 (including apprenticeships)</b> Yes No No answer Not applicable	AGE 18-34 (HATLEVEL=3 and HATVOC <sup>(2)</sup> =1) or QUALVOC=1	Reference population for IVET benchmark

### **OPTION 2: Variables to capture general youth learning mobility**

Variable name	Codes	Label	Filters	Justification
<b>QUALVOC</b>	1 2 Blank 9	<b>Having vocational qualification from ISCED level 3</b> Yes No No answer Not applicable	AGE 18-34 HATLEVEL <sup>(1)</sup> = 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8	This variable is necessary as a filter to select IVET graduates

<sup>2</sup> Commission Regulation (EC) No 377/2008 of 25 April 2008 implementing Council Regulation (EC) No 577/98 on the organisation of a labour force sample survey in the Community as regards the codification to be used for data transmission from 2009 onwards, the use of a sub-sample for the collection of data on structural variables and the definition of the reference quarters. (OJ L 114, 26.4.2008, p. 57)

Variable name	Codes	Label	Filters	Justification
<b>IVETMOB</b>	1 2 Blank 9	<b>Stay abroad for learning purposes for at least two weeks during vocational education at ISCED level 3 (including apprenticeships)</b> Yes No No answer Not applicable	AGE 18-34 (HATLEVEL=3 and HATVOC <sup>(2)</sup> =1) or QUALVOC=1	Part 1 of overall mobility indicator = IVET mobility with reference population for IVET mobility benchmark
<b>SECMOB</b>	1 2 Blank 9	<b>Stay abroad for learning purposes for at least two weeks during lower, upper secondary or post-secondary non-tertiary formal education (ISCED levels 2-4)</b> Yes No No answer Not applicable	AGE 18-34	Part 2 of overall mobility indicator = other mobility within formal education at ISCED 2-4, e.g. current IVET students (not yet graduated) or students and graduates in/from general secondary education
<b>TERMOB</b>	1 2 3 Blank 9	<b>Stay abroad for learning purposes for at least two weeks as part of tertiary education</b> for the following reasons: 1 Following a complete tertiary education programme (diploma mobility) 2 Following studies or traineeship rendering credit points for a tertiary education programme being followed in the home country (credit mobility) 3 No stay abroad No answer Not applicable	AGE 18-34 HATLEVEL=5-8 or EDUCLEVEL=5 <sup>3</sup>	Part 3 of overall mobility indicator = mobility during tertiary education
<b>OTHERMOB</b>	1 2 Blank 9	<b>Stay abroad for non-formal education or other learning purposes (e.g. languages courses, voluntary service)<sup>4)</sup></b> Yes No No answer Not applicable	AGE 18-34	Part 4 of overall mobility indicator = mobility for purposes other than formal education

Variable name	Codes	Label	Filters
<b>DURSECMOB (optional)</b>	1 2 3 4 Blank 9	Duration of the stay abroad as part of lower secondary/upper secondary or post-secondary non-tertiary education <sup>5)</sup>  Between 2 weeks and 3 months 3 months to 6 months Between 6 months and 1 year More than one year No answer Not applicable	SECMOB=1
<b>DURTERMOB (optional)</b>	1 2 3 4 Blank 9	Duration of the stay abroad as part of tertiary education <sup>5)</sup>  Between 2 weeks and 3 months 3 months to 6 months Between 6 months and 1 year More than one year No answer Not applicable	TERMOB=1 or 2
<b>DUROOTHERMOB (optional)</b>	1 2 3 4 5 Blank 9	Duration of the stay abroad for other learning purposes <sup>5)</sup>  Less than 1 week Between 1 week and 2 weeks Between 2 weeks and 3 months 3 months to 6 months More than 6 months No answer Not applicable	OTHERMOB=1

*Notes:*

- 1) *HATLEVEL corresponds to the EU-LFS and AES variable 'Highest educational level successfully completed', coded in ISCED 2011 from 2014 onwards.*
- 2) *Variable on the orientation of the educational attainment level, derived from existing data collection as proposed for the implementation of ISCED 2011 from 2014. HATVOC=1 corresponds to vocational programmes completed.*
- 3) *EDUCLEVL corresponds to the EU-LFS variable on the level of current education (if EDUCSTAT=1 or 3). EDUCLEVL=5 corresponds to the students of ISCED level 5 (not yet graduates).*
- 4) *More guidelines and examples will be provided in the explanatory notes (available in 2013).*
- 5) *In case the interviewee has been abroad within the same type of learning mobility more than once, the length of the stay for the longest period abroad should be given.*

### 3. Quality requirements and reporting

#### 3.1. Relevance

The 2014 pilot data collection on learning mobility aims at delivering a first set of comparable data needed to monitor and analyse the progress towards the objectives (benchmark and indicator) set by the Council.

The benchmark on IVET mobility is defined as follows: “By 2020, an EU average of at least 6% of 18-34-year-olds with an initial vocational education and training qualification should have had an initial VET-related study or training period (including work placements) abroad lasting a minimum of two weeks, or less if documented by *Europass*”. Option 1 of the ESS agreement addresses only the policy needs for the IVET benchmark.

As concern the indicator on youth learning mobility in general, it “... should be developed in the context of formal as well as non-formal learning, with a view to the possible extension of the learning mobility benchmark to include, at some future date, youth learning mobility taking place in any settings”. Option 2 of the ESS agreement addresses the policy needs for both the IVET benchmark and the general youth mobility indicator.

In line with these policy needs, the aim of the 2014 pilot data collection on IVET mobility and on the general youth mobility is to answer the following questions:

- How many graduates with vocation qualification aged 18-34 have experienced learning mobility during their IVET studies?
- How many young people aged 18-34 people have experienced any type of learning mobility? and, in particular:
- How many students and graduates from tertiary education had a period of studies abroad?

The administrative data on IVET mobility collected by the competent national agencies are not complete and refer only to current students (annual data on number of participants, mainly in the EU programmes, like Leonardo da Vinci). The benchmark on IVET mobility is constructed in terms of graduates what requires data from a household or individual survey.

#### 3.2. Accuracy

The first aim of the 2014 pilot data collection on IVET mobility is to assess the level of the benchmark at EU-27 level. The minimum sample size requirement for the 2014 pilot data collection on IVET mobility should correspond to the sample size currently used in the Adult Education Survey<sup>3</sup>. Any increasing of this minimum sample size would allow a better accuracy of the collected data and derived indicators.

#### 3.3. Timeliness and Punctuality

Aggregated data for the 2014 pilot data collection should be delivered by 31 March 2015, with the objective for Eurostat to publish indicators by June 2015.

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<sup>3</sup> Please see: 1) for AES sample size requirements: [http://circa.europa.eu/Members/irc/dsis/edtcslibrary?l=/working\\_groups/aes\\_tf/reference\\_documents/aes\\_2011\\_manual&vm=detailed&sb=Title](http://circa.europa.eu/Members/irc/dsis/edtcslibrary?l=/working_groups/aes_tf/reference_documents/aes_2011_manual&vm=detailed&sb=Title) and 2) about Eurostat calculations of the sample size required to capture IVET and general youth mobility: [http://circa.europa.eu/Members/irc/dsis/edtcslibrary?l=/working\\_groups/unesco\\_collection\\_1/20120125-27\\_international/sample\\_requirements&vm=detailed&sb=Title](http://circa.europa.eu/Members/irc/dsis/edtcslibrary?l=/working_groups/unesco_collection_1/20120125-27_international/sample_requirements&vm=detailed&sb=Title)

### **3.4. Accessibility and Clarity**

Data and metadata will be available on the on-line database on Eurostat's free website.

### **3.5. Comparability**

National authorities participating in this ESS agreement will endeavour comparability of data through the use of the explanatory notes elaborated by the Task-Force on Learning Mobility.

### **3.6. Coherence**

Not applicable (there is no comparable data available at EU level).

### **3.7. Quality reporting**

National authorities participating in the ESS agreement should provide a quality report in the format elaborated by the Task-Force on Learning Mobility which is based on the quality criteria mentioned in point 3 and is fully in line with the actual ESS standards on quality reporting.

## **4. Data sources**

The 2014 pilot data should be collected via an individual or household survey (free national vehicle) with the following requirements:

- Minimum sample size as described in section 3.2 above;
- Availability of the following variables for cross-tabulation: sex, age, educational attainment (as defined in section 5);
- Data should be collected in 2014.

## **5. Proposed format for the transmission of data files**

Data are to be transmitted in the form of aggregated data files for the whole population aged 18-34 as follows:

- As for Option 1: a flat file including the following variables (cross-tabulations): country, year (2014), QUALVOC, IVETMOB, sex, age group (18-24, 25-34) and educational attainment (three broad ISCED levels: at most lower secondary, upper secondary or post-secondary not tertiary, tertiary), with weighted and un-weighted values;
- As for Option 2: a flat file including the following variables (cross-tabulations): country, year (2014), QUALVOC, IVETMOB, TERMOB, OTHERMOB, DURSECMOB (if included), DURTERMOB (if included), DUROTHERMOB (if included), sex, age group (18-24, 25-34) and educational attainment (three broad levels), with weighted and un-weighted values.

Data are to be grossed up to usual population figures by sex and age (weighted values) and should be accompanied by relevant recommendations to avoid the publication of results based on limited sample (e.g. LFS usual publication thresholds).

## **6. Data transmission procedure**

### **6.1. Data flow**

Data are to be transmitted in flat files (CSV format) via the single entry point (eDAMIS).

### **6.2. Confidentiality measures**

Not applicable.

## **7. Financing provisions**

This ESS agreement will be implemented by the participating national authorities. They may be subject to a financial support (only for Option 2) from the Lifelong Learning programme, in application of individual grant agreements to be concluded between the Commission and the participating national authorities. The implementation of Option 1 of this ESS agreement could also be subject to a financial support from the Commission if the action is combined with the foreseen action on learning mobility in higher education (1<sup>st</sup> mobility benchmark).

## Annex

### List of participating national authorities

#### Option 1:

EE Statistics Estonia  
LV Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia  
LU Service Central de la Statistique et des Etudes Economiques  
NL Central Bureau of Statistics  
PL Central Statistical Office  
SK Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic

#### Option 2:

BE Direction générale Statistique et Information économique  
BG National Statistical Institute  
CZ Czech Statistical Office  
EL Hellenic Statistical Authority  
ES Instituto Nacional de Estadística  
FR Institut National de la Statistique et des Etudes Economiques  
IT Istituto Nazionale di Statistica  
LT Statistics Lithuania  
HU Hungarian Central Statistical Office  
AT Statistik Österreich  
PT Instituto Nacional de Estatística  
RO National Institute of Statistics  
SI Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia  
SE Statistics Sweden