



30th Meeting

Wednesday, 17 October 2018

11.00 – 17.15

LfBi – Leibniz-Institut für Bildungsverläufe e.V.

Leibniz Institute for Educational Trajectories

**Wilhelmsplatz 3
Bamberg**

Minutes

ESAC Doc. 2018/47

Minutes of the 30th ESAC meeting
17.10.2018
11.00-17.15

Present:

Chair: Ineke Stoop

Members: Eduardo Barredo Capelot (replacing Mariana Kotzeva), Igor Caldeira (replacing Thomas Wobben), Tasos Christofides, Michael Gold, Claudiu Herteliu, Marko Krištof, Petra Lang, Asta Manninen, Matthieu Méaulle, Tamara Pal (replacing Gabriella Vukovich), Biruta Sloka, Maria João Valente Rosa, Maurizio Vichi, Caroline Willeke, Petr Zahradník

Observer: Lars Svennebye (replacing Volker Täube)

Absent: Axel Börsch-Supan, David Hand, Irena Kotowska, Ariane König, Fulvio Martusciello, Ildefonso Villán Criado,

Secretariat: Cristina Pereira de Sá, Kirsi Mankki

1. Welcome, adoption of agenda

Virtual tour in the Leibniz Institute for Educational Trajectories (LifBi)¹

Prof. Dr. Sabine Weinert, Director of the LifBi, welcomed ESAC to the Leibniz Institute for Educational Trajectories. She presented its short history, structure and third-party projects as well as The National Educational Panel Study (NEPS).

Dr. Daniel Fuß gave a representation on the activities of the institute, focusing on NEPS Data Portfolios, Dissemination of NEPS, NEPS Data usage and Data security.

The secretariat will ask the institute to send the PowerPoint slides presented by Prof. Dr. Weinert and Dr Fuß for further circulation to ESAC. **(Action: secretariat)**

The Chair opened the meeting and thanked the Leibniz Institute for Educational Trajectories for organising it in their premises. She also welcomed a new member, Ms Willeke, representing ECB, to her first ESAC meeting.

The Chair informed ESAC on Mr Cristofides' intention to resign from the Committee after his election as the new rector of the University of Cyprus. He will assume his new duties as from December 2018. The Committee congratulated Mr Cristofides for his future appointment and the Chair thanked him for his commitment and active involvement in the work of ESAC.

As some members had to leave the meeting earlier to attend FENStatS meeting, the Chair proposed to bring forward the items on CESS2018 Conference and on the use of population

¹ <https://www.lifbi.de/en-us/home.aspx>

registers for sample drawing for large cross-European scientific surveys. The revised agenda was then adopted.

2. Outstanding points from previous meetings

It had been agreed at the February meeting that the ESAC draft paper on micro-macro data linking in relation to statistics on income, consumption and wealth (ESAC Doc. 2017/40) would be discussed at the October meeting, once the set of legislative proposals defining future EU spending programmes under the new Multiannual Financial Framework post-2020 were known. The legislative proposals for future spending programmes have been adopted by the Commission and are currently in the hands of the Austrian Presidency for the further legislative process in the Council and the European Parliament. As the process has not yet finished, the draft paper will be discussed on the basis of a more mature legislative proposal at a more advanced stage in February 2019. **(Action: secretariat)**

A new dialogue with the ESGAB Chair will be organised only next year, after the publication of the ESGAB annual report 2018, either at the ESAC meeting in February or in June. **(Action: secretariat)**

The secretariat will ask that the ESAC paper on “The role of communication in Statistical science and the strategies of communication for statistics users” (ESAC Doc. 2018/18)² be added to the agenda of the ESSC meeting of 7 February 2019. **(Action: secretariat, Eurostat)**

3. ESAC workshop “New perspectives and priorities for EU 2030 Indicators” on 8 June 2018 (ESAC Docs. 2018/30 and 2018/43)

The Chair thanked members who had actively contributed to drafting the workshop report and especially Ms Manninen and Mr Vichi for drafting the ESAC recommendations.

Ms Manninen briefly presented the nine recommendations which underline the need for broader collaboration between different stakeholders — academia, statisticians, media and education — in developing indicators in a complex context. They also emphasise the necessity of regular monitoring of indicators over space and time, possibly by setting up a multi-stakeholder working group, and the use of new data sources. Visibility of statistics on the information market should be promoted and increased

The Committee discussed the paper, proposing slight modifications to recommendations 1, 2, 4, 5 and 9 and adding a tenth recommendation referring to regular follow-up of trust in official statistics. Ms Manninen and Mr Vichi will revise the recommendations according to the comments made during the meeting and send an updated document to the secretariat. **(Action: Ms Manninen and Mr Vichi)**

After the revision, the Chair will send a letter to Eurostat proposing to include the discussion of the recommendations on the agenda of the ESSC next year. **(Action: secretariat, Chair)**

² https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/735541/6942269/ESAC+Doc.+2018_28-Strategy-Comm-Users-Stat.pdf/f930e843-6697-4c7d-b1ad-e1c5de746a6a

4. Recent developments - Eurostat

4.1 Single Market Programme (SMP) and European statistical programme (ESP) for the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF)

Eurostat informed ESAC on the current state of affairs regarding the SMP and European statistics framework 2021-2027. European statistics is well covered in the Commission proposal adopted on 7 June 2018, which includes general and detailed specific objectives on European statistics in the next MFF and indicates an earmarked budget of 552 million euros for statistics for the next seven years.

The SMP is being discussed in parallel in two different Council working groups under the Austrian Presidency: Working Party on Competitiveness and Growth (COMPCRO) and Working Party on Statistics (STATIS). In the European Parliament, the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON) will discuss the SMP on 22 October and prepare its opinion for endorsement by end of November. The statistical section is expected to be closed by the Romanian Presidency in the beginning of 2019. The Member States have expressed their disagreement regarding the development of new statistical areas, such as statistics on defense, anti-money laundering, migration, police and security, which would water down the ambition of the programme.

4.2 DGINS conference and ESSC meeting in Bucharest on 10-12 October 2018 (ESAC Doc. 2018/35)

The topic of the DGINS 2018 conference³ was "European path towards Trusted Smart Statistics". This year's conference continued the work started at the DGINS in The Netherlands in 2013. The event focused on new statistical opportunities and production models deriving from digitalisation of societies and Big Data. The three sessions of the conference were:

1. Big data and official statistics: state of play and national experiences
2. Big data and governance paradigms;
3. The European Path towards Trusted Smart Statistics.

The conference conclusions were adopted as 'Bucharest Memorandum on Official Statistics in a Datafied Society'. Directors-General of national statistical institutes and Eurostat agreed to follow up its implementation by adopting ESS action plans and roadmaps by summer 2019 for further integration into the European Statistical Program and the Annual Planning and Monitoring procedure of Eurostat.

The Bucharest Memorandum on Official Statistics in a Datafied Society will be included on the agenda of the ESAC meeting in February 2019 (**Action: secretariat**)

Eurostat briefed ESAC also on the ESSC meeting of 12 October 2018. The Committee gave a positive opinion on six draft implementing acts on farm, energy, natural gas, electricity and social statistics. The most important item for opinion concerned the draft strategic priorities for the Annual Work Programme 2020, where the inclusion of collection of statistics on defence and the harmonised gender based violence survey were discussed. There was a broad agreement

³ <http://www.dgins2018.ro/>

on the strategic priorities for the Annual Work Programme 2020, which will be discussed further at the ESSC meeting in May 2019.

Further to the revision of the European Statistics Code of Practice in November 2017, the ESSC has undertaken to organise the third round of peer reviews. The Committee discussed the timing, the modalities, the composition of expert teams and the inclusion of Other National Authorities (ONAs) in the next round of peer reviews, concluding that the next round of peer reviews will be organised in 2021-2022. ESGAB will conduct the peer review of Eurostat starting on the second half of 2020. It was also concluded that a Task Force is to be set up with Member States to develop the peer review methodology. Its mandate and a roadmap for the whole process will be debated at the ESSC meeting in February 2019.

4.3 Business Sector Profile (BSP): information on the user test outcomes and next steps

Eurostat updated ESAC on the results of the user test of the Business Sector Profile (BSP), a new output tool for dissemination of European business statistics. Its main focus is on improving the cross-domain visibility of the data.

Users and expert reviewers had been asked to test the preliminary beta version of the tool by the end of June. Based on the feedback received, the tool will be improved aiming at a better look and feel of navigation as well as better coverage of indicators. Users also requested some additional functionalities and recommended to add sub-sector data. Besides feedback from end users, comments were received also from some national statistical institutes (NSIs) who found the BSP useful for their user support, as background information for data compilers, and mentioned the potential of the tool for publications and offering it in the national language. To make the BSP as useful as possible for the business communities, the European trade associations will also be consulted.

During this autumn the tool will be developed further: top manufacturing sectors and a link to a user survey for feedback will be added. The first official version is planned to be launched on the Eurostat website by the end of December 2018. During 2019 some further improvements will be made in the content and functionality and sectors of construction, trade and services will be added. When FRIBS enters into force, the links to the definitions of the indicators in the Statistics Explained glossaries will be updated.

5. Other ESAC activities

CESS2018⁴ and European Statistics Day 2018 (ESAC Doc. 2018/41)

Mr Vichi explained that the CESS conference is devoted to users, producers and methodologists and is meant to be an open space to bring together all the three groups, strengthening the cooperation between them. The characteristics of the conference have been maintained in this 3rd CESS conference by keeping three different topics in the programme to emphasise interests of the different groups.

⁴ <https://www.uni-bamberg.de/en/cess2018/>

Members were encouraged to give feedback to secretariat before the next ESAC meeting on the CESS2018 sessions which they attended, if relevant for users and ESAC. **(Action: members)**

5. The use of population registers for sample drawing for large cross-European scientific surveys (ESAC Doc. 2018/40)

The Chair briefed ESAC about the initiative launched by SERISS (Synergies for Europe's Research Infrastructures in the Social Sciences⁵) proposing the drafting of an opinion, addressed to Eurostat and possibly to the ESSC, in which it supports the access to population registers for sampling in the context of academic and statistical surveys.

Against the background of the Commission funding for large non-official cross-national EU social surveys, ESAC discussed on how far the quality of those surveys can be supported through providing access to representative samples. While access to administrative registers varies across Member States, provision of a sample based on European statistics does not seem possible under the current European legislation (Regulation No 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council on European statistics).

The Chair undertook to continue the discussions of this topic and liaise with Mr Börsch-Supan and Mr Krištof on the next steps, possibly in order to come back to this at the next meeting. **(Action: The Chair)**

6. Feedback from members representing ESAC in Directors' Groups and in other meetings (ESAC Doc. 2018/36)

The Chair and Mr Christofides attended the European Conference on Quality of Official Statistics, Q2018⁶ in Krakow, Poland, on 26-29 June 2018, as members of the Scientific and the Program Committees. They considered the conference very important and relevant for users and recommend ESAC to be actively involved in the future conferences.

Mr Herteliu reported back from the DMES (Directors of Macro-Economic Statistics meeting of 20-21 June 2018 where globalisation, the New Classification of Individual Consumption by Purpose (COICOP) and early employment flash estimates were the main topics on the agenda relevant for ESAC. The members discussed briefly drafting an ESAC support letter to Eurostat regarding the Globalisation Multinational Enterprise (MNE) Group Pilot Exercise aiming to increase the level of MNEs cooperation. The Committee sympathised with the initiative but decided not to draft the letter.

7. Update of the 2018-2019 meeting schedule (ESAC Doc. 2018/37)

ESAC Doc. 2018/37 was discussed and the following comments or modifications were introduced:

⁵ <https://seriss.eu/>

⁶ <https://www.q2018.pl/>

Mr Méaulle confirmed his availability to attend the Business Statistics Directors' Group meeting of 13-14 December 2018 and Mr Zachradnik the meeting of Directors of Macroeconomic Statistics on 18-19 December 2018. **(Action: Mr Méaulle and Mr Zahradnik)**

The Chair will attend the ESSC meeting of 7 February 2019 **(Action: The Chair)**.

Mr Méaulle will attend the Directors of Social statistics meeting on 3-4 March 2019. **(Action: Mr Méaulle)**.

As the new ESAC Chair will be appointed only at the June 2019 meeting, Mr Krištof, Ms Vukovich and Mr Täube/Mr Svennebye will agree between themselves who will report from the ESSC meeting of 15-16 May 2019 **(Action: Mr Krištof, Ms Vukovich or Mr Täube/Mr Svennebye)**.

The secretariat will contact Ms König to enquire about her availability to attend the meeting of Directors' Group on Agricultural Statistics (DGAS) on 5-7 June 2019. **(Action: Secretariat, Ms König)**.

Mr Herteliu will attend the meeting of Directors of Macroeconomic Statistics on 18-19 June 2019. **(Action: Mr Herteliu)**

8. DIGICOM study on the branding of Eurostat (ESAC Doc. 2018/38)

Martina Hahn from Eurostat presented the objectives, main findings and recommendations of the ESS branding study "Analysis of user perception and communication of official statistics in the EU", which had been commissioned by Eurostat during 2017-18 in the framework of the ESS Vision 2020 DIGICOM project in order to understand Eurostat's users and non-users as well as their perceptions and needs.

The discussion focused on how to make best use of the numerous findings, including through deeper analysis and further exploitation within the ESS of selected aspects, as well as on possible implementation steps.

ESAC members congratulated Eurostat on this interesting project, which yielded rich insights into the ESS users and non-users landscape. ESAC hopes to be informed about the next steps to be taken at a later stage. **(Action: Eurostat)**

9. Improvement of data quality in short-term business statistics (STS) - Manufacturing: production index, producer price index (ESAC Doc. 2018/39)

To improve the quality of the short term statistics EU aggregate calculated for manufacturing subsectors (NACE 3-4 digit or groups/class level), Mr Gold brought forward a proposal to base estimates on a larger group of Member States, lowering the threshold of countries to be included from 4% to 3% of gross value added. This would also address current inconsistencies within the aggregates for the whole sector. In addition it was suggested to make this current voluntary data collection compulsory in FRIBS.

Mr Krištof and Eurostat clarified that moving from the currently voluntary data collection to a compulsory one would substantially increase the burden on enterprises for collecting this
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information if not already available, as well as the costs of FRIBS. Rather than pursuing a legislative approach, it was thus agreed to continue this exchange in the relevant ESS fora with an aim to stimulate voluntary provision of data by further Member States.

Eurostat informed ESAC that the issue will be discussed at a meeting of the Short-term Statistics Working group (STS WG) on 19-20 November 2018 and proposed that Mr Gold attends that meeting. Mr Gold will contact Eurostat (August Goetzfried) on the possibility to attend the meeting. The secretariat will check whether Mr Gold could be invited to attend the meeting as an ESAC member and whether the unit in charge can reimburse the costs of his participation. **(Action: Mr Gold; Eurostat, secretariat)**

10. Appointment of new members

The Chair briefed ESAC on the state of play of the appointment of new members: the list of proposed members has been sent to the European Parliament and to the Council for opinion, with a deadline of 23 November 2018. The next steps will be to inform the Commissioner and launch the interservice consultation. The term of new members will start in May 2019.

11. 2019 meeting dates

The Chair informed the members that the 2019 meetings will be organised on 1 February, 13 June and 24 October in Brussels.