



## **23<sup>rd</sup> Meeting**

# **European Statistical Advisory Committee**

**11 May 2016**

**The Hague**

The Netherlands Institute for Social Research/SCP  
Ministry of Education  
Bolognazaal  
Rijnstraat 50  
2515 XP  
The Hague  
The Netherlands

## **Minutes**

## Minutes of the 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the European Statistical Advisory Committee

11 May 2016

9:00 – 14:30

### Present:

Chair: Ineke Stoop

Members: David Hand, Claudiu Herteliu, Irena Kotowska, Marko Kristof, Ariane König, Asta Manninen, Agnieszka Piasna, Walter Radermacher, Aurel Schubert, Biruta Sloka, Maria João Valente Rosa, Ildefonso Villán Criado, Maurizio Vichi, Thomas Wobben

Observers,  
presenters Mariana Kotzeva, Andrea Scheller

Assistants: Oliver Heiden (to Mr Wobben)

Absent: Hugues Bayet, Axel Borsch-Supan, Alba Bosch Moline, Tasos Christofides, Michael Gold, Ulrike Oschischnig, Frances Ruane, Michael Smyth, Gabriella Vukovich

Secretariat: Heli Lehtimäki, Cristina Pereira de Sá

### 1. Welcome and adoption of the agenda

Ineke Stoop welcomed the members to of The Netherlands Institute for Social Research/SCP, at present housed in the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture. The draft agenda was adopted after changing the order of some agenda points.

### 2. Follow-up from meeting of 29 January 2016

The 29 January minutes had been adopted in a written procedure. Updated action points from the minutes were annexed to the 11 May agenda, which covered the points needing further discussion.

### 3. Feedback from members

Maurizio Vichi and Agnieszka Piasna reported back from recent meetings of the Directors of Social Statistics, the EMOS Board and the DIME/ITDG (for details, please see feedback forms). In forthcoming meetings ESAC wishes to follow-up the issues of Big Data, quality and migration.

ESAC's presence in other ESS Director and expert group meetings was agreed as outlined in Annex 1. Members are kindly requested to report back from the attended meeting shortly after by means of the feedback form (Annex 2).

### 4. ESAC activities

#### 4.1. Indicator workshop in the Hague 10 May 2016

The Workshop on "Indicators: user requirements, methodological issues and communication challenges" gathered some 45 participants providing interesting presentations and discussions. The objective of the meeting was to reflect and advise on different approaches and processes for constructing, using and communicating indicators – particularly European indicators - and to make recommendations in particular from a European users' perspective where appropriate. The event allowed an in-depth discussion about why and how producers of official statistics and, as such, the main producers of indicators - but also how other actors - construct and promote/explain indicators, and about the users' role in this process. The link between theory and practice with case studies was particularly appreciated.

- The first plenary session of the Workshop was designed to guide the audience through general and conceptual aspects of establishing, communicating and using indicators, and related processes.
- In the second plenary session, examples were given of indicator sets established at different levels (EU and at national level) and for different purposes. Special attention was given to quality assurance throughout the production/use cycle.
- The parallel break-out sessions allowed the participants to engage more directly in the discussions and to give their reflections and advice on the processes and outcomes of constructing, using and communicating indicators and in particular on their own role in these processes.
- Finally, in the concluding session the following wishes were put forward:
  - closer collaboration with the media, data retailers and research;
  - more timeliness and economies of scale;
  - need for a reality check of the Code of Practice;
  - need for higher stakeholder inclusion / involvement;
  - better skills and more literacy;
  - good governance and ethics;
  - the statistical infrastructure has to be maintained

For future workshops, participation of stakeholders from EU institutions – especially policy departments – and media could be encouraged. Further discussions on linking statistical work to social sciences and creating a collaborative culture with stakeholders will be needed.

Action: Workshop presentations are to be published on ESAC homepage and rapporteurs are to provide summaries of the sessions to the secretariat.

### 4.2. CESS conference in Budapest on 20 – 21 October 2016

Conference preparations are advancing well, deadline for submission of abstracts is 31 May<sup>1</sup>. ESAC discussed topics<sup>2</sup> to which it intends to contribute, notably issues stemming from the indicators workshop, social statistics, migration, communication and new methods for data analysis. ESAC recommended involving high-level speakers in the opening and closing sessions. In addition, collaboration with the EuroPCom<sup>3</sup> conference could be considered.

Action: members to inform M. Vichi of their proposals asap.

### 4.3. Migration

ESAC has already worked with Eurostat's colleagues on this topic in the past months. It is clear that data on migrants are urgently needed at the moment, therefore estimations and data from registries could be considered as a solution. More details will come from outcomes of the feasibility studies on the definition of 'usual residence'.

In the meantime, work on migration statistics is progressing well in good collaboration with ministries of justice in the Member States. Production is now faster than before; quarterly statistics<sup>4</sup> with break-downs are now available. Also, a conference<sup>5</sup> on refugee statistics organised in collaboration with Eurostat, the Turkish Statistical Office, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and EFTA was held in October 2015. These issues could be further incorporated in the CESS and the upcoming conference on social statistics. ESAC's own workshop (in collaboration with Eurostat) on migration statistics is tentatively scheduled for the autumn of 2017. The representative of Committee of Regions offered to host the event in their premises in Brussels.

Action: Irena Kotowska and Ildefonso Villán Criado to proceed with preparations.

### 4.4. European Statistics Day 20 October

The UN agreed to the reuse of the World Statistics Day logo with a slight European touch. Member States can translate the text of the logo into their national language and use the logo with the text in its entirety. The ESSC will be informed about the main planned actions and launch date of the logo in its meeting on 18-19 May.

The European Statistics Day initiative is to be launched at the occasion of the CESS on 20 October 2016, in Budapest. ESAC expressed its wish to include the day in the official European days.

Action: Secretariat to recirculate the logo and start preparing website dedicated to the European Statistics Day.

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<sup>1</sup> CESS homepage: <http://www.ksh.hu/cess2016/index.html>

<sup>2</sup> From the document discussed in the meeting sessions 2A, 2B, 2D-E, 5, 6A, 7B, 7C

<sup>3</sup> EuroPCom: <http://cor.europa.eu/en/events/europcom/Pages/european-conference-on-public-communication.aspx>

<sup>4</sup> Asylum quarterly report: [http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Asylum\\_quarterly\\_report](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Asylum_quarterly_report)

<sup>5</sup> Conference on refugee statistics, Turkey 2015 <http://www.efta.int/seminars/refugee>

### 4.5. ESAC activities reporting in May ESSC

The Chair<sup>6</sup> will report in the 18-19 May meeting to the ESSC the following topics.

- CESS 2016
- Indicator workshop
- Migration
- European Statistics Day
- GDP and beyond (CoR opinion – see point 5)

### 4.6. ESAC homepage

Andrea Scheller presented the recent changes implemented on the ESAC homepage as agreed in the January meeting.

## 5. Indicators for territorial development – GDP and beyond (CoR)

The own initiative opinion by the Committee of Regions (CoR) and Ms Catuscia Marini (IT/PES), President of the Umbria Region as rapporteur, advocates complementing the GDP - the main indicator used to define the priorities for the next generation of investment plans funded by the EU cohesion policy – with dimensions including environmental quality, social inclusion, employment and education opportunities. The opinion was published in the Official Journal of the European Union C120/16<sup>7</sup> on 5 April 2016.

The opinion notes that the debate on indicators for territorial development - GDP and beyond is political in nature, and should start with a shared and democratic definition of the strategic objectives for current and future generations. The CoR suggests, therefore, with a view to the next programming period beyond 2020, that the European Commission starts as early as possible an in-depth discussion with local and regional authorities on the future goals of these policies and the necessary indicators to measure their progress. It invites the Commission to put forward in this respect a roadmap on GDP and beyond. Such request highlights the need for adequately resourcing the European Statistical System (ESS) in order to provide policy makers with sufficient data for monitoring e.g. implementation of the cohesion policy.

Action: Secretariat to draft a reply to CoR

## 6. Use of ESAC opinions

Eurostat outlined the way ESAC recent opinions have been taken into account. The note<sup>8</sup> is published on ESAC's homepage.

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<sup>6</sup> Secretary's remark: Marko Kristof will replace the Chair, not available on 19 May

<sup>7</sup> OJ C120/16 of 5.4.2016 <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1462957377538&uri=CELEX:52015IR4287>

<sup>8</sup> Note on use of ESAC advice <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/european-statistical-advisory-committee-esac/overview>

### 7. Eurostat update

Extension of the European Statistical Programme 2018-20: the file has been approved by the Impact Assessment Board. It is about to enter the inter-service consultation of the European Commission's Directorate Generals prior to adoption by the Commission and submission of the proposal to the European Parliament and the Council. ESAC supported the increased budget by 29 mio/year which would allow Eurostat and the ESS to invest in developments needed to harness new data sources into statistical production and provide flexibility for fulfilling urgent and new statistical demands of policy makers.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) now comprise 241 SDG indicators for global monitoring. They were approved by the UNSC in New York on 11 March 2016 (230 separate indicators, as 11 appear more than once). Tier classification for data availability and methodological development:

- 98 (41%) Data regularly produced (tier I)
- 50 (21%) Methodology exists but no data (tier II)
- 78 (32%) No international methodology exists (tier III)
- 15 (6%) Currently unrated indicators
- Around 30% available at Eurostat

The ESS quality declaration is set to improve trust in official statistics and the image of the European Statistical System. A communication campaign is intended to accompany the initiative, which is planned to be adopted by the ESS Committee in September.

DIGICOM: please see presentation slides in Annex 3. ESAC participation in the project can take place in two ways: an ESAC representative in the steering committee overseeing implementation of all four work packages, and at work package level.

Action: members to confirm their interest to the secretariat to the following categories:

Steering Group  
WP1 user analytics  
WP2 innovative tools  
WP3 open data dissemination  
WP4 communication and promotion

### 8. Next meeting

19 October 2016, Budapest

#### **Annexes:**

Annex 1: Planning of meetings 2016

Annex 2: Feedback form

Annex 3: DIGICOM presentation slides