

Tutorial: Dedicated section versus Statistics Explained

Statistics Explained

This tutorial provides an answer to a question often raised by Eurostat author/production units on the distinction between their dedicated section(s) on the Eurostat portal and [Statistics Explained](#) :

- what are the main differences between a dedicated section and [Statistics Explained](#) as dissemination channels?
- which information should be disseminated via a dedicated section and which via Statistics Explained?
- how should they be interlinked?

The answers, elaborated below, can be summarised as follows:

- a dedicated section is a **mini-portal** for a specific statistical topic or policy area, a **set of links** to content stored elsewhere, without content of its own except brief introductions;
- Statistics Explained is an **online publication platform** for **published content** (which may, but need not be also available as paper/PDF): statistical description/analysis and background information, in the form of text accompanied by tables, graphs and maps.

Dedicated section

The defining characteristics of a dedicated section are:

- **no own content** except brief and general introductions where and if needed;
- **portal** = set of links to content elsewhere:
 - data in database, 'most popular' or main tables;
 - metadata (esms files, methodological manuals, ...);
 - downloadable PDF publications;
 - a selection of highly relevant external links (other European Commission sites, OECD, UN, ECB, WHO, ...).
 - and, last but not least, the most relevant part of Statistics Explained (not to its Main page!);
- specific, flexible and **topical** :
- created or taken out again according to policy and users' needs;
 - not necessarily corresponding to stable hierarchy of [statistical \(sub\)themes](#) (although obviously some overlap exists);
 - list of dedicated sections, as a result, changes fairly frequently and is more ad hoc and temporary than the stable statistical themes.

Statistics Explained

The relevant characteristics of Statistics Explained:

- publication platform (both collaboration wiki and dissemination channel) for all Eurostat's **published content** (to a large extent replacing paper-only publications of the past):
 - statistical articles presenting description and analysis of data;
 - background articles on methods, nomenclatures, context, ...;
 - online publications (= briefly introduced table of contents linking to individual articles);
 - glossary items.
 - structured in **statistical themes** :
 - user-oriented nomenclature of dissemination output (to be distinguished from Eurostat's producer-oriented organogram and subdivision in units and teams!);
 - in principle stable and unchanging;
 - at a fairly high and general level (two-level hierarchy, for instance ' [Economy and finance](#) ' subdivided in ' [Balance of payments](#) ', ' [Consumer prices](#) ', ' [Government statistics](#) ', ' [National accounts and GDP](#) ', ...);
 - **linking** to further information (portal, but only as a **secondary** function):
 - in Statistics Explained (*See also* section);
 - on the Eurostat portal (*Further Eurostat information* section: database, main tables, dedicated section, ...);
 - on other websites (*External links* section, also linking to other Commission websites).

Practical guidelines

Taking into account the different nature and functions of a dedicated section versus Statistics Explained, production units organising statistical dissemination on a particular topic should follow these guidelines:

- **no content in a dedicated section** , except for relatively short introductions;

A dedicated section should be an overview and start page where users can access all information on a particular topic which however is stored elsewhere and reached through links.

- **publish commented data and metadata via Statistics Explained** ¹

Use Statistics Explained to publish statistical articles and background articles at different levels of detail, online publications (coherent sets of articles which may be converted to a paper/PDF version) and glossary items defining terms.

- **cross-link** the dedicated section and Statistics Explained at a deep level:

For maximum user value:

- *on the dedicated section page (top left) provide a specific deep link to Statistics Explained: to a theme entry or theme category page (see [overview](#))², to a statistical or methodological topic category, or even to one single article.*
- *in Statistics Explained each article contains a subchapter 'Dedicated section' where a link to the relevant dedicated section(s) is provided.*

Notes

¹Complemented by other content dissemination channels like press releases, derived statistical and methodological PDF publications, online database, main (most popular) tables, metadata files, ...

²Statistical themes with a lot of articles have a [theme entry page](#) , for the others with few pages the alphabetical theme category page is sufficient.