

Introduction to the European Statistical System (ESS)

Eurostat B2
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A statistical information system

- A statistical information system is an information system oriented towards the collection, storage, transformation and distribution of statistical information.
- https://stats.oecd.org/glossary/



 L'Organizzazione per la cooperazione e lo sviluppo economico – in inglese Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development



Content of the presentation

- Introduction to the European Statistical System (ESS)
- Main governance bodies in the ESS
 - European Statistical System Committee (ESSC)
 - Partnership Group (PG)
 - DGINS Conference
- ESS website



European Statistical System (ESS)



- Partnership between Eurostat and the national statistical authorities
- Defined in European Statistics Regulation EC 223/2009

Member States collect and process the national data



Eurostat processes the received data and disseminates European official statistics



Regulation 223/09 on European statistics

- ESS is legally recognised and defined for the first time
- Establishes the ESS Committee (<u>Art 7</u>)
- Introduces concept of collaborative networks (Art 15)
- Introduces European approach to statistics (Art 16)



The European Statistical System Reg. 223/2009

Introduces the statistical principles (Art 2)

Professional independence	
Impartiality	
Objectivity	
Reliability	
Statistical confidentiality	
Cost effectiveness	

- ESS Committee (Art 7)
- Eurostat's role: coordination of statistical activities



Data Democracy

- A Data Democracy describes a methodological framework of values and actions that benefit and minimize any harm to the public or the typical user.
- Public Data, Open Data, Official Data
- Public data is the data that exists everywhere else. This is information that's freely available (but not really accessible) on the web. It is frequently unstructured and unruly, and its usage requirements are often vague....are they Official?
- Open data is data that can be freely used, re-used and redistributed by anyone - subject only, at most, to the requirement to attribute and sharealike.



Official Statistics

- Official statistics are statistics (are they DATA?) published by government agencies or other public bodies such as international organizations as a public good. They provide quantitative or qualitative information on all major areas of citizens' lives, such as economic and social development, living conditions, health, education, and the environment.
- Official statistics are statistics disseminated by the national statistical system, excepting those that are explicitly stated not to be official.
- https://stats.oecd.org/glossary/



Stop! A question: What is the difference between Data and Statistics?

- In regular conversation, both words are often used interchangeably. In the world of libraries, academia, and research there is an important distinction between data and statistics.
- Data is the raw information from which statistics are created. Put in the reverse, statistics provide an interpretation and summary of data.
- https://libguides.lib.msu.edu/c.php?g=96631&p=626754





What do I need to know about my topic before I start looking for statistics?

No matter the subject statistics are limited by both **time frame** and **geography**.

- **Time:** Are you looking for information about a single point in time? Do you want to look at changes over time? Do you need historical information? Current information?
- Be prepared that the most current statistics may actually be a year or more old! There can be multiple year lags before some information is released depending on how often the information is collected, the time it takes to process and crunch numbers, and the public release schedule.
- **Geography:** Geographical areas can be defined by political boundaries (nations, states, counties, cities) or statistical boundaries (mainly Census geography such as metropolitian statistical areas, block groups, or tracts).



Finding data: start by defining your topic

Be specific about your topic so that you can narrow your search, but be flexible enough to tailor your needs to existing sources.

Identify the Unit of Analysis

This is what you should be able to define:

- **#1 Who or What?** Social Unit: This is the population that you want to study. People, Organizations, Commodities, Things..
- #2 When? Time: This is the period of time you want to study.
- **#3 Where?** Political boundaries, Statistical geography (NUTS-Degurba-Eurostat)



Search strategies

Search Strategy #1: Search in a Data Archive

Search Strategy #2: Identify Potential Producers

- Government Agencies: The government collects data to aid in policy decisions and is the largest producer of data overall.
- Non-Government Organizations: Many independent noncommercial and nonprofit organizations collect and publish data that supports their social platform. IMF, UN, WHO, OECD, FAO, WB...
- Academic Institutions: Academic research projects funded by public and private foundations create a wealth of data.
- Private Sector: Commercial firms collect and publish data as a paid service to clients or to sell broadly. GOOGLE...

JM additional slide



Search strategies

Search Strategy #3: Turn to the literature:

Unfortunately, citation of research data is often incomplete. Sometimes the best you will get is the title of the data set used, but check to see if the data or a related publication are cited and follow it up. Don't commit this fallacy when you publish, cite your data.

Search Strategy #4: Statistics lead to Data:

Where does the statistic you find come from? Can you track it down to the source survey or other data set?

Search Strategy #5: Ask for help!!!!!

JM additional slide



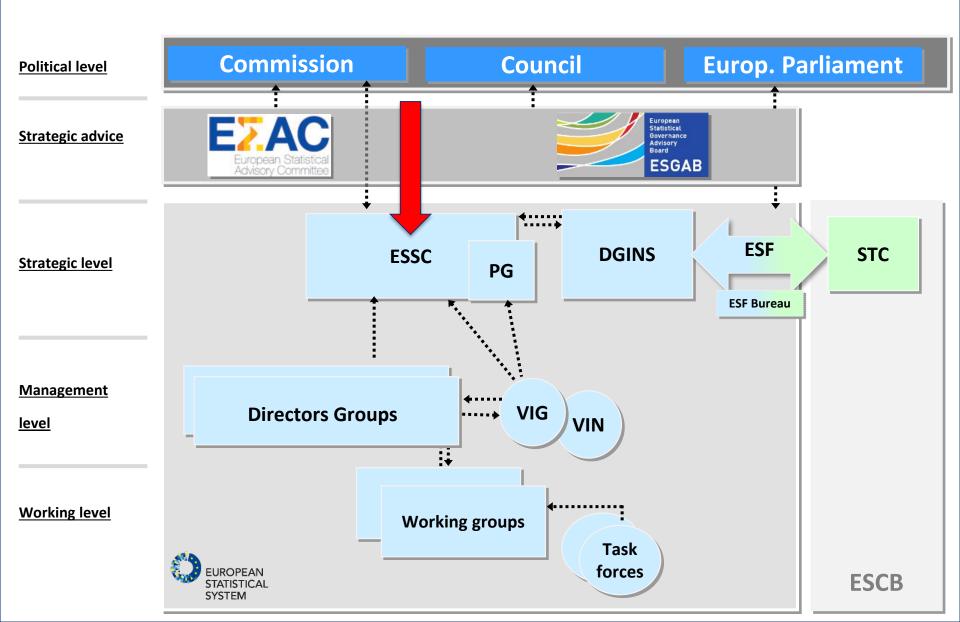
A Data Democracy breaks down into at least six principles:

- The average end user can access information in any digital format.
- Nonspecialists should be able to gather and analyze data or engage in self-service without requiring outside help, specifically from IT.
- Individual private data needs to be protected, as decreed by the General Data protection regulation
- Data Quality is a must
- Technologies play an important part in empowering nontechnical people in a Data Democracy.
- Data Ethics need to guide Data Democracies.



The European Statistical System governance bodies

Statistical governance structure





The European Statistical System Committee (ESSC)



At the heart of the ESS, established by Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 of the EP and Council of 11 March 2009 on European statistics

Article 7 of the Regulation lays down its task: The Committee "shall provide professional guidance to the ESS for developing, producing and disseminating European statistics..."



The ESSC – who takes part?

- Eurostat and representatives of Member States
- EFTA countries' National Statistical Institutes



• Observers e.g. ECB, OECD, UNSD ...







- Meetings 3 times/year: February, May, October
- Chaired by the Director-General of Eurostat



The ESSC agenda – different parts

- 1. Comitology items
- 2. Opinions
- 3. Discussion
- 4. Reports to the Committee
- 5. Any Other Business

ESSC 2019/40/EN - 2019

DRAFT AGENDA

40^{TH} MEETING OF THE EUROPEAN STATISTICAL SYSTEM COMMITTEE (ESSC)

98TH EEA CONFERENCE

LUXEMBOURG, 16 May 2019

Room: Ampère STARTING: 09H30

	Time	Duration
Introduction by the Chair	09h30	5

Comitology items

(in accordance with Council Decision 1999/468/EC or Regulation (EU) No 182/2011)

 Draft Commission Implementing Regulation on uniform conditions for the harmonised application of territorial typologies pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 1059/2003

> In December 2017, Regulation (EU) 2017/2391 of the European Parliament and the Council amending

09h35 ESSC 2019/40/1 5



Comitology Items

What is "Comitology"?



REGULATION (EC) No 452/2008 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 23 April 2008

concerning the production and development of statistics on education and lifelong learning (Text with EEA relevance)

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

the Presidency Conclusions of the Spring 2005 European Council it was stressed that 'human capital is Europe's most

(17) The measures necessary for the implementation of this Regulation should be adopted in accordance with Council Decision 1999/468/EC of 28 June 1999 laying down the procedures for the exercise of implementing powers conferred on the Commission (7).

COMMISSION REGULATION (EU) No 912/2013

of 23 September 2013

implementing Regulation (EC) No 452/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the production and development of statistics on education and lifelong learning, as regards statistics on education and training systems

(Text with EEA relevance)

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Regulation (EC) No 452/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 April 2008 concerning the production and development of statistics on education and lifelong learning (1), and in particular Article 6(1) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Regulation (EC) No 452/2008 establishes a common framework for the systematic production of European statistics in the field of education and lifelong learning in three specified domains to be implemented by statistical actions.
- (2) It is necessary to adopt measures to implement individual statistical actions for the production of statistics on education and training systems as covered by Domain 1 in Regulation (EC) No 452/2008.

sification of Education ISCED 2011 (hereinafter referred to as 'ISCED 2011'), as adopted by the Unesco Member States at their 36th General Conference in November 2011.

- (7) Data collection from administrative and other sources on student mobility at all cycles of study should be improved, in order to monitor progress and identify challenges, as well as to contribute to evidence-based policy making.
- (8) Commission Regulation (EU) No 88/2011 of 2 February 2011 implementing Regulation (EC) No 452/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the production and development of statistics on education and lifelong learning, as regards statistics on education and training systems (2) should be repealed.
- (9) The measures provided for in this Regulation are in accordance with the opinion of the European Statistical System Committee,



Comitology Items

- Implementation of legal acts
- Consult ESSC
- Binding legal acts
- Not: agreements, guidelines etc.
- Qualified majority
 - 55% of the EU Member States, at least 16 delegations
 - Representing 65% of the total population of the EU
 - Blocking minority: 35% of the population, plus one Member State (min. 4 EU Member States)





Items for Opinion

No voting

 The ESSC agrees on a common statement at the end of the meeting



Items for Opinion

Items for opinion

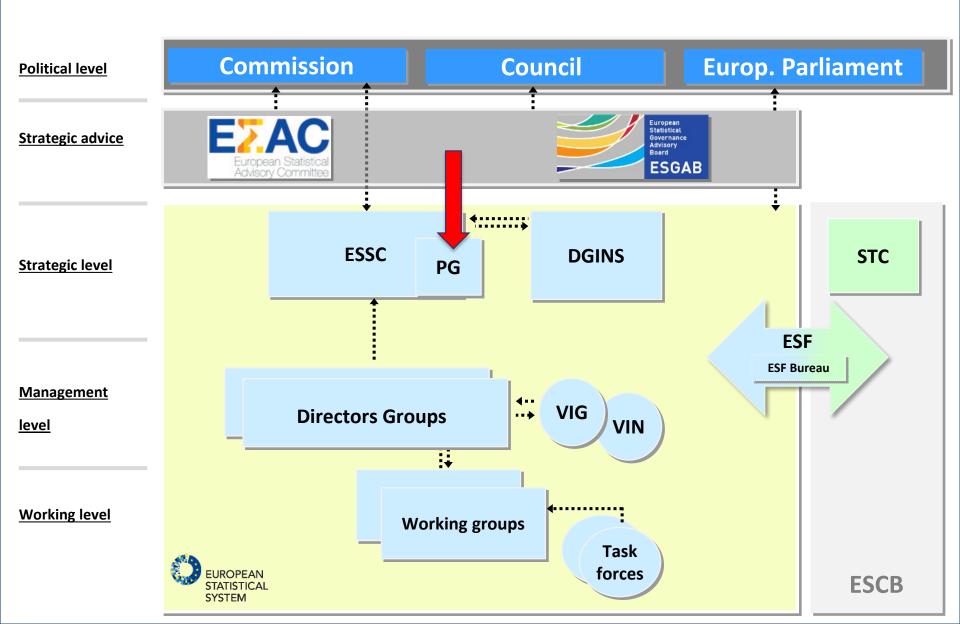
Agenda item ESSC 2019/40/2

Energy Statistics Regulation: amendments

Opinion

- 1. In general, the ESSC supported the draft amendment of the Energy Statistics Regulation.
- Several members appreciated that the opinions of the ESWG and DIMESA have been taken into account.
- A consolidated version of the proposal will be published shortly for a 4-week public consultation, after which it will be submitted to the ESSC for voting under the regulatory procedure with scrutiny.
- Discussions will continue in the context of the relevant expert groups.

Statistical governance structure





The Partnership Group

- Group of Directors General of the NSIs of the ESS
- Mission: to ensure the effective functioning of the ESSC

Main tasks:

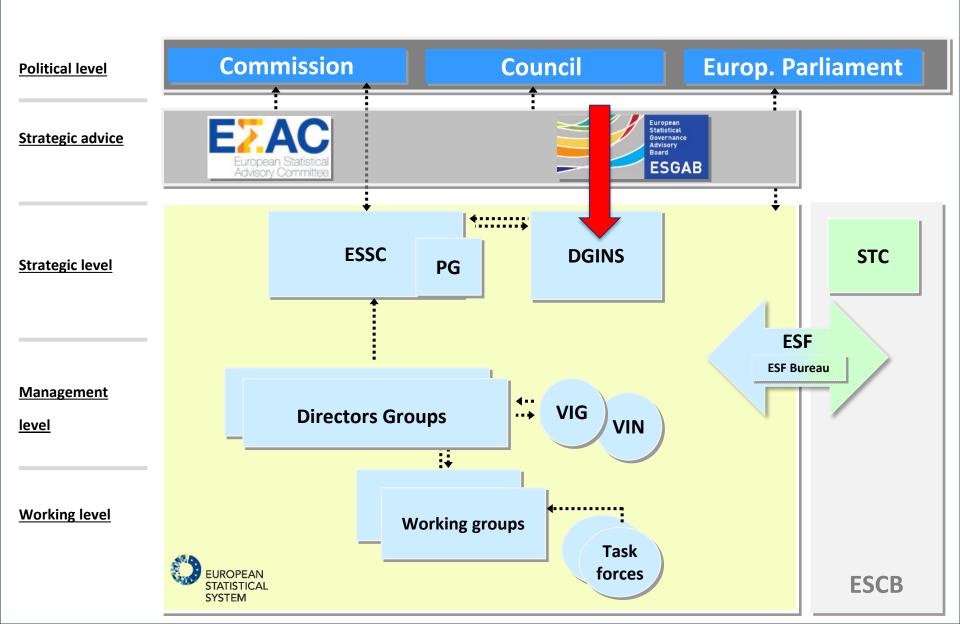
- Facilitate the work of the ESSC, prepare agenda and discussions at strategic level
- Foster cooperation between NSIs
- Strengthen the strategic capacities of the ESS through internal discussions, stakeholder dialogues, etc.



The Partnership Group

- Members (10 +2):
 - Elected Chair from a Member State currently Denmark
 - Eurostat's Director General (Vice-chair) and Deputy
 DG
 - The Heads of NSIs of the previous, current and next
 Council Presidencies currently RO, FI, HR
 - Four elected Heads of NSIs currently SP, NL, PL, LV
- Meetings in March, September, December

Statistical governance structure

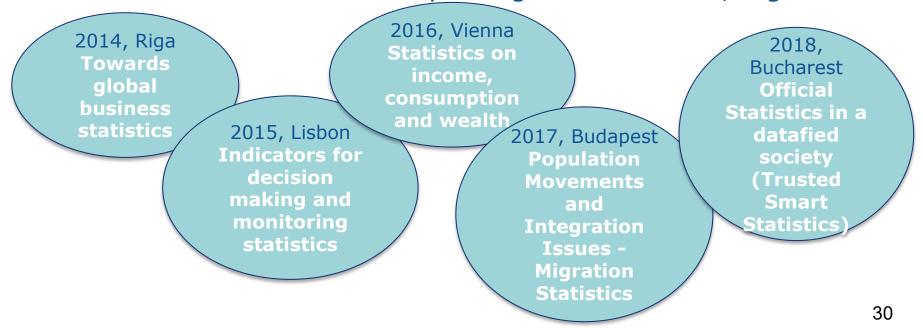




The DGINS Conference



- Annual conference organised jointly by a hosting Member State and Eurostat
- Attended by Heads of NSIs, including enlargement countries
- Discussion on a statistical topic of general interest, e.g.





DGINS 2019

DGINS 2019 BRATISLAVA 9-10 October

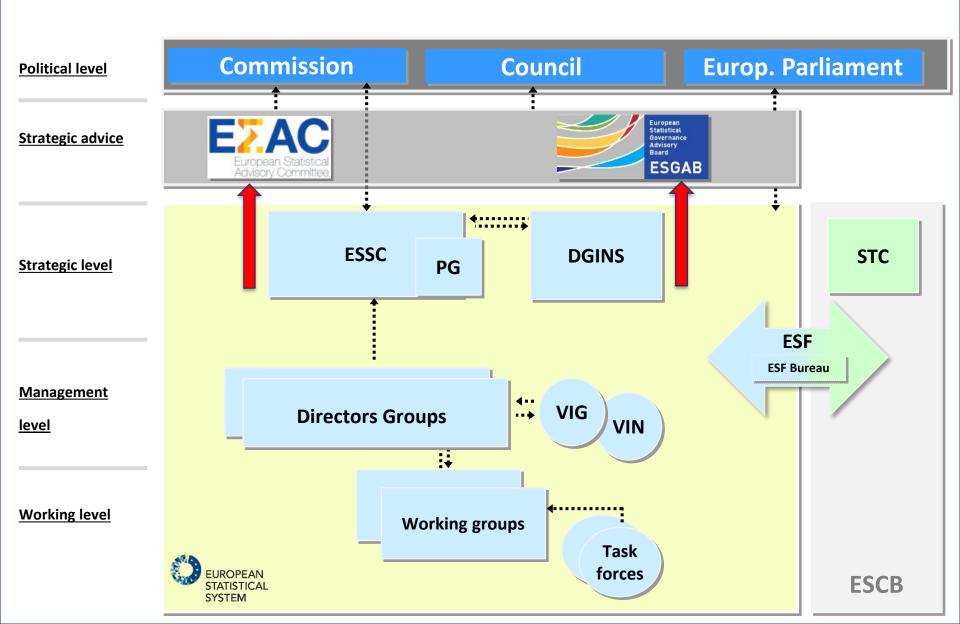
"The statistical implications BRATISLAVA of globalisation"

- Jointly organised by Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic + Eurostat
- Learn more https://www.dgins2019.sk/



Advisory bodies to the European Statistical System

Statistical governance structure





European Statistical Governance Advisory Board (ESGAB)



7 members - nominated by Parliament and the Council

Annual report to EP and Council on compliance with the Code

Opinions on:

- Revision of the Code of Practice
- Communication "Towards robust quality management"

European Statistical Advisory Committee (ESAC)

Members a mix of users, respondents, producers and stakeholders

Opinions and advice:

- Work programmes
- Relevance of European statistics

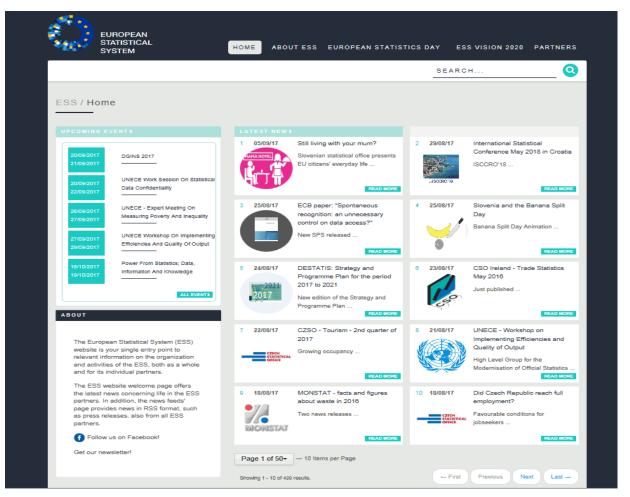
Advisory Committee



The ESS Website

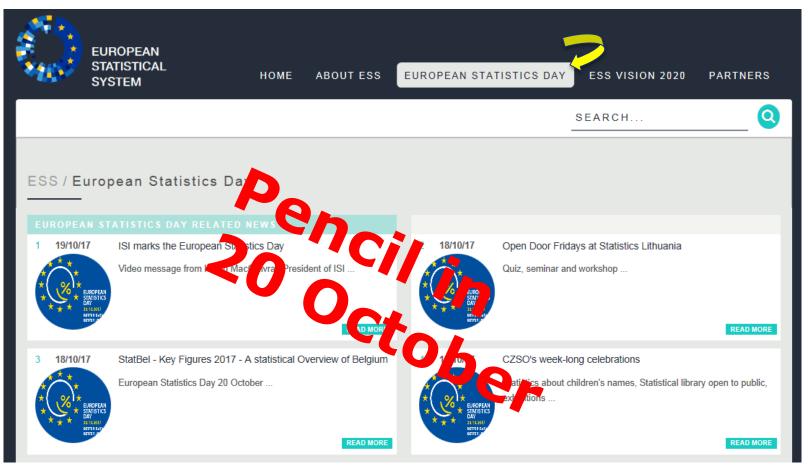


ESS website



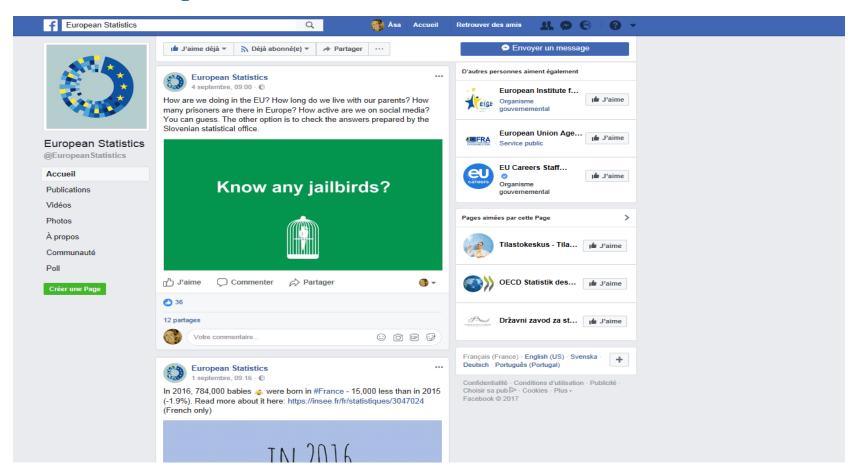


European Statistics Day





European Statistics on Facebook





Questions?

Contact us!

- ESTAT-ESSC DGINS PG@ec.europa.eu
- ESTAT-ESS-WEBSITE@ec.europa
- ESTAT-ESGAB@ec.europa.eu
- ESTAT-ESAC@ec.europa.eu

