Eurostat Annual Work Programme 2017 — Annex 3A

OVERALL PRIORITIES

1. POLITICAL AND LEGAL CONTEXT

The European statistics annual work programme for 2017 (the AWP) was drawn up to achieve the following priorities:

Achieve the objectives laid down in the *European statistical programme 2013-17*[1] and implement the *multiannual financial framework 2014-2020.*[2]

Support key Commission policies,[3] in particular the 10 general objectives defined in the political guidelines[4] for 2015-2020.

Support the priorities highlighted in the Council conclusions[5] of 8 December 2015 on EU statistics, with particular reference to the economic governance in place in the euro area and in the EU.

Pursue actions launched by the *Communication on the production method of EU statistics: a vision for the next decade*[6] and the updated *European Statistical System Vision 2020 (ESS Vision 2020),*[7] with an extended scope covering other key areas such as users' needs, quality, data sources, processes, and dissemination and communication.

Implement the *Commission's Communication to the European Parliament and the Council 'Towards robust quality management for European statistics',*[8] including a preventive approach to the verification of government finance statistics with a view to reinforcing economic governance.

Implement the *Europe 2020 strategy*[9] *on smart, sustainable and inclusive growth* and the *GDP and beyond* initiative,[10] and the follow-up to the *Stiglitz-Sen-Fitoussi Report on the measurement of economic performance and social progress*[11] and the statistical aspects of the Sustainable Development Goals[12] of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Implement the revised *Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 on European statistics* and the *Commission Decision (2012/504/EU)*[13] *on Eurostat*, which defines the role and responsibilities of Eurostat within the internal organisation of the Commission, as regards the development, production and dissemination of statistics.

Comply with the *Commission Decision of 12 December 2011 on the reuse of Commission documents* and *Directive 2013/37/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 June 2013 amending Directive 2003/98/EC on the re-use of public sector information.*

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[1]   Regulation (EU) No 99/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 January 2013.
[2]   http://ec.europa.eu/budget/mff/index_en.cfm.
[3]   http://ec.europa.eu/atwork/key-documents/index_en.htm.
[4]   https://ec.europa.eu/priorities/sites/beta-political/files/juncker-political-guidelines_en.pdf.
[5]   http://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-15003-2015-INIT/en/pdf.
[6]   COM(2009) 404 final, 10.8.2009 (the *Communication on the production method of EU statistics*).
[7]   Agreed in the ESS Committee meeting on 15 May 2014 (doc No ESSC 2014/21/7a/EN).
[8]   COM(2011) 211 final.
[9]   Communication 'Europe 2020 — A strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth', COM(2010) 2020 final, 3.3.2010 (the *Europe 2020 Strategy*).
[10]   Communication of the Commission 'GDP and beyond — Measuring progress in a changing world', COM(2009) 433 final, 20.8.2009 (the *Communication on GDP and beyond*).
[11]   Report on the Measurement of Economic Performance and Social Progress, J.E. Stiglitz, A. Sen, J.-P. Fitoussi, 2009 (the *Stiglitz-Sen-Fitoussi Report*).
[12]   http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/.
[13]   Commission Decision (2012/504/EU) of 17 September 2012 on Eurostat.

2. PRIORITIES FOR 2017

The AWP 2017 is the final AWP implementing the European statistical programme (ESP) 2013-17. As a consequence, all the actions and outputs included in the detailed description of the various objectives will help achieve the specific objectives of the ESP.

2.1 Strategic alignment with EU priorities

This table shows how the main Eurostat plans for 2017 will support the Commission's priorities. It covers European statistics that will be produced as well as projects for new or improved statistics.

Commission priorities	Relevant European statistics[14]	Main projects planned[15]
1. A New Boost for Jobs, Growth and Investment	Europe 2020 indicators National Accounts including GDP, productivity, gross value added, investment and employment by industry, balance of payments EU regions; regional accounts Business demography (including high-growth enterprises), structural business statistics, international trade in goods and services Statistics on high-tech industry and knowledge-intensive services, Community Innovation Survey, R&D Globalisation indicators Statistics on employment and unemployment, quarterly flows, unemployment rate, job vacancies, labour costs, earnings Education and adult learning	Growth and productivity accounts, statistics on competitiveness, resource efficiency and the circular economy Development of entrepreneurship indicators, further work on quarterly and regional indicators related to business demography Implementation of 2017 Labour Force Survey module on self-employment, publication of 2016 module on young people on the labour market Coordination of indicator work and development of conceptual approaches Smart statistics — implications of the internet of things on official statistics Regulatory framework for social statistics Impact of ICT and R&D on employment and growth Integration of statistical and geospatial information Work on annual flows Start regular production of statistics on the collaborative economy and improve the quality of existing data collections
2. A connected Digital Single Market	Digital agenda for Europe (primary data and indicators) Information society (enterprises, households and individuals), ICT sector	Impact of ICT, innovation and R&D on employment and growth

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[14]   Selection based on the Annex 'Catalogue of products'.
[15]   Selection based on the Annex 'List of activities and outputs'.

3. A Resilient Energy Union with a Forward-Looking Climate Change Policy	Statistics on energy dependence, security of supply and energy efficiency; energy prices Energy balance sheets, share of energy from renewable sources Annual production, trade, energy transformation and consumption, monthly energy supply and oil stocks Early CO_2 emission estimates, air emissions accounts and energy flow accounts Statistics on international trade in goods Agri-environmental indicators	More detailed statistics on electricity and natural gas prices Indicators on heating degree days and cooling degree days Development of climate change related statistics Monitoring of 2020 strategy energy indicators Early estimates of energy balances Update of the energy balances methodology Further disaggregation of the statistics on final energy consumption Improving reporting of Combined Heat and Power data and starting a new reporting process on the District Heating Future Energy Information System Update of energy questionnaires
4. A Deeper and Fairer Internal Market with a Strengthened Industrial Base	Structural business statistics Statistics on the production of manufactured goods, trade in goods Labour market conditions, income and living conditions (including employment and social policy indicators) Annual Government Finance (including taxes and tax indicators) Statistics on agriculture and fisheries Transport statistics, trade in services	Further developing indicators to support analyses of worker mobility, migration and integration and on skills, vocational training and adult learing Framework Regulation Integrating Business Statistics: Development of integrated legal framework and implementation requirements for European business statistics Design and implementation of a new fully-integrated approach for future agricultural statistics Development of entrepreneurship indicators Modernisation Economic Accounts for Agriculture Implementation of a redesigned and modernised Intrastat system Modernisation of Prodcom statistics Modernisation and integration of the Transport Information System Streamlining and simplification of European fishery statistics
5. A Deeper and Fairer Economic and Monetary Union	Principal European Economic Indicators Scoreboard of indicators of the Macroeconomic Imbalance Procedure (MIP), balance of payments and international investment positions Harmonised Indices on Consumer Prices (HICP) Annual and quarterly national accounts, Annual Government Finance statistics, government deficit and debt data, EDP data Employment and unemployment statistics	Implementation of quality assurance system for MIP statistics Modernisation of the HICP production system Redesign of Survey on Income and Living Conditions: timeliness, flash estimates, regional coverage, development on revised material deprivation, methodologies for advanced estimations of risk of poverty, improving low work intensity indicators Redesign of the Labour Force Survey Development work for better integration of

	Income and living conditions (including social policy indicators, material deprivation, well-being) Social protection statistics EU/EA GDP flash estimate at t+-30 Statistics on health	income consumption and wealth Reinforced Role of Social Indicators (RRSI) Improving timeliness and relevance of social protection statistics (links with national accounts) Regulatory framework for social statistics Final dissemination of five-yearly European Health Interview Survey
6. A Reasonable and Balanced Free Trade Agreement with the U.S.	Statistics on foreign direct investments Statistics on international trade in services and in goods Globalisation indicators Statistics on trade in services by enterprise characteristics Statistics on foreign direct investments	Full International and Global Accounts for Research in Input-Output Analysis Developing the area of global value chains and production of improved indicators on economic globalisation
7. An Area of Justice and Fundamental Rights Based on Mutual Trust	Statistics on health and safety at work Gender and discrimination, gender pay gap Crime and criminal justice	Gender and discrimination statistics
8. Towards a New Policy on Migration	Statistics on asylum and managed migration Demography and migration statistics EU population and housing census Labour Force Survey data	Population statistics quality and methodology improvement – estimation methodology Asylum, managed migration and migrant integration Design and implementation of 2021 and post-2021 censuses of population and housing EU population and housing census: harmonisation and expanding the use of administrative data Development of Labour Force Survey (LFS) regulation, including future LFS module on migrants
9. A Stronger Global Actor	Sustainable development indicators (2030 Agenda's Sustainable Development Goals) Enlargement and ENP-East and South countries High Income countries, Global Statistical System Balance of payments	Cooperation programme to improve statistics in the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) East countries Contribute to development of indicators to measure the 2030 Agenda's Sustainable Development Goals Integrated Global Accounts and Global Production
10. A Union of Democratic Change	Production of European statistics in accordance with very demanding quality criteria while ensuring the privacy of data providers and the confidentiality of the information they provide. A fully documented, freely available and professionally independent methodology. Dissemination of European statistics in a professional, impartial and transparent manner.	Digital communication, user analytics and innovative products (DIGICOM)

2.2 Strategic alignment with the ESS Vision 2020

The priorities of the AWP 2017 and projects to modernise the statistical production system will contribute to implementing the ESS Vision 2020.

The dialogue between users and producers of European statistics will be stepped up in 2017, as the DIGICOM project will encompass a thorough analysis of users' requirements. This analysis will form a basis for innovative dissemination products that are better adapted to users' needs and that communicate European statistics more effectively.

Many projects under the ESS Vision 2020 implementation portfolio will help improve the efficiency of statistical processes and help implement the quality chapter of the Vision. These projects include:

- use of new data sources (Big Data and ADMIN projects);
- modern production processes (extension of the secure network for micro-data exchange – ESDEN); and
- service oriented architecture (SERV); further advancement on the EuroGroups Register and profiling of multinational enterprises (ESBRs).

In the area of dissemination and communication, the DIGICOM project will help improve open data access and continue the work to renovate the Eurostat dissemination chain. This will also provide more sophisticated services and adapt them to international statistical standards. The related horizontal frameworks, such as the coordination of quality aspects (QUAL) and the ESS enterprise architecture and standards, will continue to frame and steer the implementation of the different initiatives.

A certain number of the ESS.VIPs may enter in their deployment phase following the strategic decisions taken by the European Statistical System Committee (ESSC) in 2016 (SIMSTAT-REDESIGN of Intrastat; VALIDATION). The project on the European system of interoperable statistical business registers (ESBRs) will continue to progress in 2017, in particular on the quality of national business registers and the EuroGroups Register. Work on European profiling will continue to facilitate the analysis of the structure and activities of multinational enterprise groups.

Eurostat will continue implementing the Big Data project as part of the ESS Vision 2020. Initial operational results from the analysis of big data sources which started in 2016 will become available towards the end of 2017. Eurostat will explore additional big data sources from 2017 onwards and prepare for successfully integrating big data into the ESS production process.

Activities will continue in 2017 to put in place a secure exchange of micro-data across the EU through a secure network infrastructure (ESDEN), implement the ESS IT Security Framework and certify the micro-data storage and transmission facilities.

2.3 Priority-setting

In times of serious resource constraints for National Statistical Institutes and Eurostat, only effective priority-setting will ensure that the ESS continues to produce relevant and high-quality European statistics for political decision-making. Article 6 of the Regulation establishing the European statistical programme 2013-17 stipulates that 'Prioritisation shall contribute to the reduction of costs and burdens for new statistical requirements by reducing statistical requirements in existing domains of European statistics and shall be pursued in close cooperation with the Member States'. In 2017, as in previous years, the right balance is needed between the limited resources available for the production of statistics and new needs for European statistics to support European policies (as expressed by Commission DGs in hearings with Eurostat). Demands have so far been prioritised according to the ESS's priority-setting process that was approved by the ESSC in November 2011[16]

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[16]   Document No ESSC 2011/11/2b.

and revised in November 2012.[17] The priority-setting exercise will be strengthened through a new procedure approved by the members of the Resource Directors Group in December 2015. This procedure will make it possible to screen a cluster of selected statistics more deeply based on the following elements:

- EU and national policy user needs;
- the burden on respondents;
- costs and burden of National Statistical Institutes;
- possibilities for reducing burden and costs;
- collecting modes;
- core statistics/ad hoc modules;
- the distribution of workload in National Statistical Institutes over the year; and
- merits.

2.4 Priorities for 2017 by detailed objective of the ESP

QUALITY STATISTICAL INFORMATION TO SUPPORT EU POLICIES

This part of the work programme implements Objectives 1 and 4 of the ESP:

Objective 1: Provide statistical information, in a timely manner, to support the development, monitoring and evaluation of the policies of the Union properly reflecting priorities, while keeping a balance between economic, social and environmental fields and serving the needs of the wide range of users of European statistics, including other decision-makers, researchers, businesses and European citizens in general, in a cost-effective manner without unnecessary duplication of effort.

Objective 4: Ensure that delivery of such statistics is kept consistent throughout the whole duration of the programme, provided that this does not interfere with the priority-setting mechanisms of the ESS.

INDICATORS

1. Europe 2020

ESP detailed objective 1.1: *Provide high-quality statistical information, which should be available in a timely manner, to monitor the implementation of Europe 2020. New indicators shall, to the extent possible, be based on available statistical data.*

2017 priorities: The statistical measures underlying the Europe 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and the measurement of progress, well-being and sustainable development will continue to create challenges in terms of the ESS's capacity to produce statistics that are relevant for monitoring, developing and evaluating EU policies. The ESS must deliver statistical indicators at European, national and regional levels to support the monitoring of the Europe 2020 strategy, its headline targets and flagship initiatives. The indicators cover in particular:

- resource efficiency;
- sustainability;
- employment;
- research and development;
- innovation and the digital agenda for Europe;
- energy;
- climate change;
- education;

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[17] Document No ESSC 2012/15/5b/EN.

- the environment;
- social protection; and
- population at risk of poverty and social exclusion.

Developments will focus on requirements for statistics arising from the 10 priorities of the Juncker Commission. In particular, the Commission has strongly underlined the importance of social indicators to support its key priorities of creating growth and jobs, reducing poverty and social exclusion and boosting skills and mobility. The key indicators must be consistent over time, i.e. be free of breaks, and quarterly indicators seasonally adjusted.

Work will be continued to develop faster indicators and estimates on income, poverty and inequalities, indicators on material deprivation and learning mobility will be analysed and work will start on improving low work intensity household indicators. The indicators on resource efficiency will be further improved. Work on the 'GDP and beyond' road map will be based on the new action plan developed in 2015. It will encompass better information on income, consumption and wealth and further complete the indicators' set on quality of life. More data on quarter-to-quarter labour market flows will be produced with the availability of additional breakdowns, and work on annual flows will be reinforced. The improvements to asylum and managed migration statistics follow the policies stemming from Commission priority 'Towards a European agenda on Migration'. The production of indicators based on the data available from environmental accounts will also be a priority, as will work to develop the indicators to measure the implementation of the 2030 Agenda's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by the EU. Environmental indicators will also need to be developed or improved to monitor progress on the circular economy.

2. Economic governance

ESP detailed objective 2.1: *Develop new and enhance existing statistical information relevant for Union decision-makers and the public at large in relation to the strengthened and integrated economic governance of the Union and the surveillance cycle integrating the Stability and Growth Pact and the economic policy.*

2017 priorities: The ESS will support the economic governance of the EU by continuing to provide high-quality statistical input for an enhanced Stability and Growth Pact and Macroeconomic Imbalances Procedure, in particular for the European Semester. The main focus will be on monitoring more closely the correct implementation of the European System of National and Regional Accounts (ESA 2010) and the sixth edition of the Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual (BPM 6), and on checking the compliance and quality of their data transmission programmes. The ESA 2010 derogations granted to Member States which are due to expire in 2017-2020 will be strictly followed. The development of a robust quality monitoring system for statistics for the macroeconomic imbalances scoreboard will continue. A quality assessment process for ESA 2010 will be pursued. Government finance statistics will be verified on the basis of ESA 2010, the Manual of Government Deficit and Debt and Regulation (EC) No 479/2009, which is the regulation governing the EDP statistics.

Building on the progress achieved in 2016 towards introducing European Public Sector Accounting Standards (EPSAS), in 2017 technical work on the EPSAS framework and standards will be taken forward alongside support measures to increase public sector accounting maturity in EU Member States. EPSAS aims to enable efficiency and effectiveness in public finance to help deepen the internal market (capital market), and provide a boost to investment. Given the challenge and the potential impact of EPSAS at local and regional level in some Member States, emphasis will be on engaging local and regional authorities in EPSAS discussions.

ESP detailed objective 2.2: *Provide Union decision-makers with reliable statistics and indicators for administrative and regulatory purposes and for monitoring specific Union policy commitments.*

2017 priorities: Verification work on statistics used for administrative purposes will be pursued, notably with a new GNI verification round, the cycle of which will be substantially shorter than in previous rounds.

3. Economic globalisation

ESP detailed objective 3.1: *Enhance the indicators and statistical information available on economic globalisation and global value chains for Union decision-makers and the public at large.*

2017 priorities: In line with the 2014 Riga Memorandum 'Towards better measurement of the globalised economy', work will continue on further enhancing the indicators and statistical information on economic globalisation and global value chains that are available to EU decision-makers and the public. These indicators and statistical information is based on an internationally-agreed framework for measuring global value chains and ESS experience of micro data linking. This will also involve work on the international sourcing of business functions.

The EuroGroups Register will be further strengthened to provide quality information which can be used to analyse the structure and competitiveness of the enterprises belonging to multinational groups, as it influences technological spill overs, access to international markets, scale economies, market power, managerial capacity and innovation. Work on European profiling will continue in order to facilitate the analysis of the structure and activities of multinational enterprise groups.

Further initiatives will be carried out to improve statistics on the international trade in services, broken down by enterprise characteristics.

Work will continue to extend the coverage of data on growth, productivity and competitiveness that are available to users. New statistical needs that may emerge from the competitiveness boards will be addressed, in particular in relation to the quality of data. Experimental EU/EA inter-country input-output tables will be compiled after developing an appropriate methodology and by reusing available data. As a second step, the feasibility of establishing a regular production and dissemination process will be assessed. This work will be conducted in cooperation with international agencies such as the OECD and the UN to ensure that the EU tables are included in the global ones.

ACCOUNTING FRAMEWORKS

4. Economic and social performance

ESP detailed objective 4.1: *Supplement measurement of economic performance by different dimensions of globalisation, the quality of life, access to goods and services, environmental sustainability, health, well-being, social cohesion and social inclusion. Develop a framework for the analysis of globalised production.*

ESP detailed objective 4.2: *Provide key macroeconomic and social indicators and Principal European Economic Indicators (PEEIs) as a coherent set of indicators addressing the Union and global statistical data requirements and adjust PEEIs to meet evolving users' needs.*

2017 priorities: As the economic crisis has made it more necessary than ever to have high-quality macroeconomic indicators in order to better understand and analyse economic fluctuations and structural developments and to appropriately underpin policy making, improvements to the underlying statistics will continue. The prime objectives will be:

- data production in accordance with the highest standards, including re-enforced compliance and quality monitoring;
- improved validation tools and techniques; and

- work to lift national derogations from the ESA transmission programme.

In line with the Commission's key priorities of creating growth and jobs, reducing poverty and social exclusion and boosting skills and mobility, the social indicators should assist in reinforcing the social dimension of the EU and EMU in the context of the European Semester, the macroeconomic imbalances procedure and the social impact analysis of the macroeconomic policies. This considerably reinforces the need for more timely social statistics, in particular on inequalities, poverty and social exclusion. Significant efforts will be made to improve the availability of data in these fields. Work to develop links with the framework of national accounts in the areas of social protection, health and education will continue in order to progressively increase the consistency and timeliness of data compiled for these three domains, with a view to supporting integrated socio-economic analyses. Review and further develop statistics on skills, vocational training and adult learning (including on adult skills), and follow-up the recommendations of inter-service technical group on statistics for skills and human capital.

5. Environmental sustainability

ESP Detailed objective 5.1: *Provide environmental accounts and climate change-related statistics, taking into account international developments in this area.*

2017 priorities: Work will focus on the first obligatory data transmission of the new set of environmental accounts modules (accounts for energy flows, the environmental goods and services sector and environmental protection expenditure) and will follow the European strategy for environmental accounts 2014-2018 adopted by the ESSC. It will also focus on developing timely indicators derived from the accounts, publishing analytical results based on the integrated economic-environment accounting framework and developing new environmental accounts modules. Climate change related statistics will be advanced, including by further developing links with air emissions accounts and energy accounts and further improving cooperation with compilers of greenhouse gas inventories.

DATA

6. Business

ESP Detailed objective 6.1: *Increase the efficiency and effectiveness of statistical production processes. Provide high-quality statistics on key areas where enterprises are the centre of interest, such as business statistics, short-term indicators, their investment in human capital and skills, international transactions, globalisation, internal market monitoring, R&D and innovation, and tourism. Special attention should be paid to the availability of data in high value-added industrial or services sectors, in particular in the green, digital or social economy (such as health and education).*

2017 priorities: Since there is high demand for ESS business statistics to support the decision-making process, but also to help European citizens and businesses to understand the impact of a large number of EU policies, a strategic priority for the ESS is to make progress in establishing and implementing an integrated frame for business and international trade statistics that can guarantee high-quality output and remain relevant in a globalised world. Consequently, work with the co-legislators to finalise the draft Framework Regulation Integrating Business Statistics, which aims to improve the integration and consistency of European business statistics, will continue in 2017. This forms part of the Commission's REFIT Programme.

In response to the 2014 Riga Memorandum 'Towards better measurement of the globalised economy', work continues to strengthen statistical business registers and improve compliance with the Statistical Units Regulation of 1993, for example through profiling.

Further efforts will be put into enhancing the coverage of statistics on the services sector, including the international trade in services and intra-annual business statistics, and into re-engineering and

standardising the exchange and production processes/systems for business and trade statistics. Work on streamlining the production requirements for ICT surveys and on developing a stronger conceptual framework for a flexible statistical data collection will continue.

As the Collaborative Economy is a growing segment of the digital economy, efforts will be put to start a regular production of statistics in this area and to improve the quality of existing data collections.

In the context of the renewed Europe 2020 strategy and the Commission's 10 priorities, the links between R&D, innovation, ICT and other statistics will be further explored, with particular attention on inputs and incentives on one hand and outputs on the other. Relevant implementation measures will be considered for R&D statistics, subject to the finalisation of the Frascati Manual. The work to revise the Oslo Manual comprising statistical guidelines on concepts, definitions, classifications and measurement approaches for collecting and interpreting innovation data will continue.

7. People's Europe

ESP detailed objective 7.1: *Provide statistics on key areas of social policy where the citizen is the centre of interest, such as well-being, sustainability, social cohesion, poverty, inequalities, demographic challenges (in particular population ageing and migration), the labour market, education and training, including childhood education, adult learning, vocational training and learning mobility of young people, culture, physical activity, quality of life, safety, health, disability, consumption, free movement and the internal market, mobility of young people, technological innovation and new lifestyle choices. Those statistics shall be disaggregated by gender where appropriate, for groups that are of special interest to social policy makers. Priorities shall be set in accordance with Article 6.*

2017 priorities: Social statistics must move towards a level of robustness and timeliness that will fully support the policy agenda. The modernisation of social statistics along the lines promoted by the Directors General of the National Statistical Institutes in Wiesbaden in 2011 will be accelerated in 2017. This will improve responsiveness to user's needs, timeliness, quality and efficiency and reflect the high importance attached to social indicators to support the Commission's key priorities.

In this context, discussions on a proposal for a draft framework regulation on integrated European social statistics that covers the collection of micro-data from households and individuals should take place. The framework regulation will make it possible to implement the Labour Force Survey and the Survey on Income and Living Conditions review processes and will cover other surveys such as the Adult Education Survey and the European Health Interview Survey. It will help to ensure enhanced integration between surveys, consistency with other data sources and consistency with international standards, including the relevant ILO resolutions.

A plan to modernise population statistics will be developed. It will include a renewed strategy for population and housing censuses after the 2021 census and a more harmonised population definition based on in-depth methodological work. The implementing measures for the 2021 census round will be developed in the light of experience in the 2011 census round.

The use of administrative data will be promoted to facilitate the modernisation of social statistics and the implementation of censuses in 2021 and beyond, in particular through the ADMIN project. The objective is to support the use of administrative data as input to robust sampling frames and quality assessment, including exchanges of good practices and cooperation with data owners.

The ESS will work to improve the timeliness of social indicators in order to respond to requests from major users. Improvements will include:
- earlier delivery of statistics on income and inequality;
- the development of advanced estimations;
- better coverage of the multidimensional agenda of poverty and social exclusion, including regional poverty indicators;
- revised material deprivation and improved low work intensity houesholds indicators; and

- a better description of the flows and transitions, in particular the risk of poverty and exclusion and in the labour market.

Work on migration statistics will be given priority, with particular emphasis on migrant integration (including integration in the labour market), and on the issue of asylum seekers. Labour mobility data will be further developed, but using existing data sources.

The production and methodological development of high-quality data and of indicators for the 'Education and Training 2020' strategy and new requests in the area of health and social protection statistics will also be very high in the agenda. In accordance with the recommendations of the Sponsorship Group on Measuring Progress, Well-being and Sustainable Development, the availability and quality of data on the different dimensions of quality of life will be further improved. Actions will focus on the analysis of joint distributions for income, consumption and wealth. In particular, two strands of work will be further developed:
- better links between national accounts and microdata; and
- gradual integration of the wealth dimension in the ESS social statistics.

Taking into account the demographic challenges of ageing and migration, further development work on population projections will be undertaken including annual updates, and to maximise Member States' contributions when formulating and implementing the assumptions.

Work in the field of gender-based violence will be initiated given the progress by the EU and others in adopting the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention) which provides for regular reporting on victims based on population surveys.

8. Geospatial, environmental, agricultural and other sectoral statistics

ESP detailed objective 8.1: *Support evidence-based policy-making by a more flexible and increased use of spatial information combined with social, economic and environmental statistical information.*

2017 priorities: Enhancing the role of the ESS in integrating geospatial and statistical data will continue to be a priority in order to support evidence-based policy making through more flexible and increased use of spatial information combined with social, economic, demographic and environmental statistical data. Eurostat will continue to coordinate the use of geographical data in EU services and to support the functioning of a European branch of a UN initiative for Global Geospatial Information Management and synergies between the statistical and geographical communities.

A comprehensive range of regional and urban data will be provided to support the EU cohesion policy, the Urban Agenda initiative as well as rural development and maritime policy. A new regulation on the delimitation of geographical regions will be submitted for co-decision.

ESP detailed objective 8.2: *Provide environmental statistics to support the policy-making process of the Union.*

2017 priorities: In order to support evidence-based policy making, especially in the area of circular economy, Eurostat will continue to prioritise quality aspects and expand the scope of waste statistics. Eurostat will in particular focus on further improving the quality, methodology and timeliness of municipal waste statistics and will continue to contribute to work in the area of food waste. Eurostat will also continue to contribute to work in the area of ecosystems and biodiversity, in particular the development of ecosystem accounts.

ESP detailed objective 8.3: *Provide energy and transport statistics to support the policies of the Union.*

2017 priorities: The ESS will continue to optimise and adapt high-quality energy statistics to specific needs stemming from the 'European Energy Union' strategy. It will focus in particular on statistics related to energy consumption, energy efficiency, renewable energies, energy dependence and security of supply. The quality and timeliness of the development, compilation and

dissemination of the respective energy-related indicators will be a priority. In particular, more timely early estimates of energy balances will be developed. Furthermore, energy statistics will need to support the 2030 policy framework for climate and energy that aims to make the European Union's economy and energy system more competitive, secure and sustainable. A new regulation on electricity and natural gas price statistics will be implemented enabling a complete, comprehensive energy price system. The system's main objective will be to ensure data are available and adapted to new policy needs of the Resilient Energy Union, and to enforce the Third Energy Package. Furthermore, the ESS will continue developing new statistics which can provide a higher level of detail as regards the final energy consumption broken down by economic sector (transport, industries, services) and main energy uses.

In the framework of the Energy Union, governance cooperation with other organisations involved in collecting energy statistics will be strengthened. The aim will be to reduce the administrative burden of planning, reporting and monitoring obligations for Member States.

The ESS will continue to develop and produce the statistics needed to assess progress in meeting the quantitative targets as regards emissions from transport, volume and performance of transport, and passenger mobility set in the 2011 White Paper 'Towards a competitive and resource efficient transport system'. The pilot data collection exercise based on the Guidelines on Passenger Mobility and harmonised indicators will continue in 2017. In addition, the Guidelines on the compilation of intermodal statistics at national level using the 'German approach' will be used for a pilot collection of intermodal indicators. As regards modal split indicators, work will continue to develop a methodology for territorializing freight volumes transported by all means of transport, broken down by distance class, and will be extended to cover passengers' data.

ESP detailed objective 8.4: *Provide agriculture, fisheries and forestry statistics for the development and monitoring of the Common Agricultural and Fisheries Policies, reflecting key European strategic objectives related to sustainability as well as rural development by carrying out regular activities related to the development, production and dissemination of statistics.*

2017 priorities: The LUCAS 2015 survey results will be published in line with the EU strategy for land use/land cover. Cooperation with EU services using LUCAS data will be increased and a stronger cooperation with national surveys on land use/land cover will be promoted. Particular attention will be given to the use of LUCAS *in situ* data in the context of the work on ecosystems accounting.

The ESS will adapt the high-quality agriculture and fisheries statistics to specific needs stemming from the review of the Common Agricultural Policy and the Common Fisheries Policy. Adapting these statistics will involve setting up new legal frameworks based on the Strategy for Agricultural Statistics 2020 and beyond. The burden on respondents will be reduced by rationalising, simplifying and optimising the data collection and validation processes and making efficient use of existing data sources, especially administrative data, in close cooperation with DG AGRI. The Strategy envisages a two-step approach. The first part of the legal framework covering all micro-data needs, including the agricultural census 2020, will be proposed to the Council and the Parliament in 2017. The second part of the legal framework will cover the needs for tabular data and should be prepared in 2017.

Work to streamline and simplify European fisheries statistics will continue.

NEW METHODS OF PRODUCTION OF EUROPEAN STATISTICS

This part of the work programme implements Objective 2 of the ESP: *Implement new methods of production of European statistics aiming at efficiency gains and quality improvements.*

9. ESS quality management

ESP detailed objective 9.1: *Implement a quality management system in the ESS based on the Code of Practice. Strengthen the sharing of good practices in the implementation of the Code of Practice and ensure that quality reporting is targeting different user needs.*

2017 priorities: Implementation of the Quality chapter of the ESS Vision 2020 will continue. The aim will be to ensure consistency with the common quality framework in the ESS and enrich it where appropriate. The Q2018 conference will be prepared by one of the National Statistical Institutes of the ESS. Work to monitor the follow-up actions of the peer reviews in 2014-2015 will continue as planned, as will implementation of the quality-related amendments to Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 on European statistics. This will focus in particular on quality reporting in accordance with the applicable ESS standard (SIMS) and issues relating to the dissemination of the ESS quality reports. The ESS handbook for quality reports will be updated and the related training organised.

Preparations of a (possible) second revision of the European Statistics Code of Practice could be launched. Where appropriate, this would take into account experience from the second round of ESS peer reviews, the amendment to Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 on European statistics and the implementation of the ESS Vision 2020.

10. Priority-setting and simplification

ESP detailed objective 10.1: *Implement a priority-setting mechanism for the ESS in order to simplify reporting requirements and to adjust to new needs for statistics while taking into account the constraints on the producers, the response burden and the needs of users.*

2017 priorities: Taking into account the persisting resource constraints throughout the ESS, efforts towards priority-setting and simplification will be maintained. Further analysis, discussions and decisions on priority-setting will be based on the 'catalogue of statistical products'. In June 2016, the members of the Resource Directors Group supported the launch of the second phase of the cost assessment of European statistics in the ESS which includes the Other National Authorities and regional offices.

11. Multipurpose statistics and efficiency gains in production

ESP detailed objective 11.1: *Put in place gradually, taking into account costs generated in the ESS by implementation, an ESS business architecture allowing more integrated production of European statistics; harmonise and standardise statistical production methods and metadata; enhance the horizontal (across statistical domains) and vertical (across ESS partners) integration of statistical production processes in the ESS in respect of the principle of subsidiarity; use and integrate multiple data sources; produce multi-purpose statistics. Particular attention will be given to confidentiality issues that will arise with increased use, reuse and exchange of micro-data and administrative records.*

2017 priorities: The modernisation of statistical production will continue in 2017, based on the principles set out in the ESS Vision 2020 and the actions identified in the related implementation strategy. Through its enabling projects, the ESS Vision 2020 implementation portfolio will set the basis of the infrastructure for the statistical production of European Statistics:
- a reinforced analysis of users requirements (DIGICOM project);
- of new sources (Big Data and ADMIN projects);
- establishment of an ESS quality approach (QUAL framework);
- modern production processes (network for data exchange – ESDEN; service oriented architecture – SERV; dedicated business projects);

- communication (DIGICOM project; work to develop and renovate the Eurostat dissemination chain will be continued to make more sophisticated services available and to adapt to international statistical standards).

The related frameworks, such as quality and the ESS enterprise architecture and standards, will continue to frame and steer which of the different initiatives is prioritised. A certain number of the ESS.VIPs may enter in the second phase of implementation following the strategic decisions of the ESSC in 2016 (SIMSTAT-REDESIGN of Intrastat; VALIDATION).

The ESS.VIP ESBRs project will continue to build on the ESSnet results to further develop the quality and interoperability of national business registers and the EuroGroups Register. The business architecture for the ESBRs will be further clarified and work on European profiling will be continued to facilitate the analysis of the structure and activities of multinational enterprise groups.

Eurostat will continue implementing the Big Data project as part of the ESS Vision 2020. Initial operational results from the analysis of big data sources started in 2016 will become available towards the end of 2017. Eurostat will explore additional big data sources from 2017 onwards and prepare the framework conditions for successfully integrating big data in the ESS production process. An innovative study in 2017 will examine the future implications for official statistics as a result of large-scale digitisation of our societies and greater interaction between physical and cyber worlds (e.g. the internet of things).

Work on horizontal issues such as ethics, legal implications, training needs and communication guidelines will also be concluded by the end of 2017. Jointly with other DGs, Eurostat will keep exploring concrete big data applications for policy making, and will actively participate in UN, OECD and other international big data activities.

In the area of Eurostat's reference environment for dissemination, new functionalities and additional services will be provided as part of efforts to renovate and reuse Eurostat's dissemination chain. The code lists used in Eurostat's dissemination chain will be further standardised.

In the area of metadata and standards, progress in implementing reference standards (such as SIMS) at the ESS level is expected to continue. Support services to the single data entry and exchange point EDAMIS will be provided throughout 2017. Particular attention will be given to further implementation of the SDMX data exchange standard and the corresponding construction of domain-level Data Structure Definitions (DSDs).

ESS standards (for data, metadata, validation and dissemination, etc. based on common architecture models) will be implemented in more and more domains of European statistics. These standards and shared services will also be made available to the ESS and the European Commission.

Activities will continue in 2017 to put in place a secure network infrastructure (ESDEN) to ensure the secure exchange of EU data. This will involve implementing, supporting and verifying the framework for IT Security within the ESS members and accrediting their access facilities.

ESP detailed objective 11.2: *Ensure the good functioning and coherence of the ESS through effective collaboration and communication.*

In the context of the implementation of the ESS Vision 2020, innovative and flexible cooperation models within the ESS will be explored and, if possible, put into practice.

12. Dissemination and communication

ESP detailed objective 12.1: *Make the ESS the first data source on European statistics for all users and, in particular, for public and private decision-makers, by providing a high-quality statistical information service based on the principles of free and easy access to European statistics. Intensifying and extending the dialogue between users and producers of statistics to meet user needs for high-quality statistics. An early involvement of users in new developments is key to improving the effectiveness and efficiency of the ESS. Extend and rationalise the range of dissemination products to meet the needs of users using new technologies. Set up a cost-efficient, integrated and secure infrastructure within the ESS for access to confidential data for scientific purposes.*

The 2017 priorities will be strongly linked to the main activities and deliverables of the DIGICOM project. The project anticipates intense collaboration among ESS partners, the reinforcement of the dialogue between users and producers of European statistics, the development of innovative dissemination products adapted to user needs and new technologies, the strengthening of Eurostat re-dissemination policy (open data access) and the promotion and branding of European statistics.

The Eurostat website will continue to be improved and the development work to significantly reengineer the dissemination chain will continue.

As regards publications, Eurostat will further implement a user-friendly dissemination policy by proposing innovative visualisation tools and apps, in particular when releasing its main publications covering cross-cutting themes that are highly relevant for users and EU policy-makers.

User support will continue to be delivered, taking into account the priorities of Eurostat.

Work to grant scientific researchers remote access to selected data sets will be further developed and implemented as part of Eurostat's Remote Access Facility project.

13. Training, innovation and research

ESP detailed objective 13.1: *Satisfy learning and development needs in the ESS based on a combination of training courses and learning and development opportunities. Improve the collaboration between ESS members for the transfer of knowledge and sharing and implementation of best practices and common innovative approaches in the production of statistics. Organise the activities, participation and contribution of the research communities in the improvement of the statistical production chains and of the quality of official statistical information.*

2017 priorities: Following two rounds of calls for applications for the 'European Master in Official Statistics' (EMOS) in 2014 and 2015, the project will focus on further developing collaboration patterns, building the European dimension of EMOS, developing quality assurance mechanisms and collecting lessons learned for the future development of EMOS. The EMOS Board is to be renewed once the current term expires at the end of 2017.

The European Statistical Training Programme will be continued with the aim of further harmonising European statistics and improving their overall quality.

Activities in the research and methodology area will be devoted to supporting the implementation of the ESS Vision 2020 and the modernisation of statistical areas. Particular attention will be devoted to the follow-up of the 'statistical' research projects launched under the research framework programme Horizon 2020. These research projects will be followed on a best effort basis.

PARTNERSHIP WITHIN THE EUROPEAN STATISTICAL SYSTEM AND BEYOND

This part of the work programme implements Objective 3 of the ESP: *Strengthen the partnership within the ESS and beyond in order to further enhance its productivity and its leading role in official statistics worldwide.*

14. Partnership

ESP detailed objective 14.1: *Implement the enhanced ESS governance framework. The objective will be implemented by the implementation of the revision of Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 and Commission Decision 2012/504/EU of 17 September 2012 on Eurostat.*

ESP detailed objective 14.2: *Enhance the coordinating role of the Commission (Eurostat) as the European Union's Statistical Office.*

ESP detailed objective 14.3: *Strengthen the cooperation with the ESCB and the European and international organisations involved in the production of data for statistical or administrative purposes through common projects and coordinated developments. Ensure consistency between Union and international standards.*

2017 priorities: In order to further enhance ESS productivity and its leading role in official statistics worldwide, strengthening the partnership and governance within the ESS will remain a strategic

priority. This will reinforce cooperation with the European System of Central Banks and with European and international organisations involved in the production of data for statistical or administrative purposes.

Work to streamline the ESS structure will be continued with a view to avoiding overlap and reducing burden. In this context, initiatives to enhance the role of National Statistical Offices as coordinators of the respective national statistical systems will be pursued. To this end, arrangements for data transmission will be agreed with the designated Other National Authorities. Furthermore, following the work executed by the Task Force on Cooperation Models, activities will focus on setting up the legal, financial and organisational aspects needed to establish innovative and flexible cooperation models within the ESS.

ESP detailed objective 14.4: *Promote and implement statistical advisory and statistical assistance activities in countries outside the Union in line with the priorities of the foreign policy of the Union, with particular emphasis on enlargement and the European Neighbourhood Policy.*

2017 priorities: In order to make sure that good quality data are available for monitoring the enlargement and revised European neighbourhood policies, it will remain a strategic priority to measure the compliance of the enlargement countries with European standards in the area of statistics and to support both the enlargement and the European neighbourhood countries in their efforts to provide good quality data in accordance with European standards. A panel (meeting structure) on statistics in the framework of the Eastern partnership is operational, holding two meetings per year followed by workshops to support the relevant political processes in the eastern neighbourhood.

A new cooperation programme for the ENP South countries continues to provide technical advice from Eurostat in order to increase the application of European/international standards in the areas of transport, energy, trade, migration, labour market and business statistics, quality management and serving user needs.

Furthermore, to promote and implement statistical advisory and statistical assistance activities in countries outside the EU and the enlargement and European neighbourhood countries, cooperation with other third countries will focus on the three main pillars (governance (Code of Practice, Quality, etc.); generic tools and facilitating regional cooperation) with a specific emphasis on Africa and support to the African Union Commission statistics department. The pan-African programme on statistical cooperation is ongoing and is starting to deliver data to support African integration processes.