

ESTAT Annual Work Programme for 2016 – Annex 3A:

OVERALL PRIORITIES

1. POLITICAL AND LEGAL CONTEXT

The annual European statistics work programme for 2016 (referred to below as the AWP) was drawn up with the following priorities in mind:

Achieving the objectives laid down in the *European statistical programme for 2013-17*¹ and implementing the *multiannual financial framework for 2014-2020*.² The AWP will also take account of the findings of the *intermediate progress report to the European Parliament and the Council on the implementation of the European statistical programme for 2013-17*.³

Supporting key Commission policies,⁴ particularly the 10 priorities defined in the political guidelines⁵ for 2015-2020.

Supporting priorities highlighted in the Council conclusions⁶ on EU statistics of 8 December 2015, with particular reference to economic governance in the euro area and the EU as a whole.

Following up action initiated by the *Communication on the production method of EU statistics: a vision for the next decade*⁷ and the updated *European Statistical System (ESS) Vision 2020*,⁸ with an extended scope covering key areas such as users' needs, quality, data sources, processes, dissemination and communication.

Implementing the *Commission's Communication to the EP and Council 'Towards robust quality management for European statistics'*,⁹ including a preventive approach to the verification of government finance statistics with a view to reinforcing economic governance.

Implementing the initiative entitled *Europe 2020 strategy*¹⁰ on smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, the *GDP and beyond*,¹¹ the follow-up to the *Stiglitz-Sen-Fitoussi Report on the measurement of economic performance and social progress*¹² and the statistical aspects of the *Rio+20 Conference outcome document 'The future we want'*.

Implementing the *"Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development"*¹³, including a global indicator framework for the goals and targets

Implementing the *Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 on European statistics*¹⁴ and the *Commission Decision (2012/504/EU)*¹⁵ on Eurostat, which defines

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 COM(2015) 309 final

⁴ http://ec.europa.eu/atwork/key-documents/index_en.htm.

⁵ http://ec.europa.eu/about/juncker-commission/docs/pg_en.pdf.

⁶ <http://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-15003-2015-INIT/en/pdf>

⁷ COM(2009) 404 final, 10.8.2009 (referred to in what follows as the *Communication on the production method of EU statistics*).

Agreed at the ESS Committee meeting of 15.05.2014 (doc No ESSC 2014/21/7a/EN).

<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/ess/about-us/ess-vision-2020>

⁹ COM(2011) 211 final.

¹⁰ Communication 'Europe 2020 — A strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth', COM(2010) 2020 final, 3.3.2010 (referred to as the *Europe 2020 Strategy* in the rest of the document).

¹¹ Communication of the Commission 'GDP and beyond — Measuring progress in a changing world', COM(2009) 433 final, 20.8.2009 (referred to in what follows as the *Communication on GDP and beyond*).

¹² [Report on the Measurement of Economic Performance and Social Progress, J.E. Stiglitz, A.Sen, J. -P. Fitoussi, 2009](#) (referred to in the rest of the document as the *Stiglitz-Sen-Fitoussi Report*).

¹³ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/topics/indicators>

¹⁴ OJ L 123, 19.5.2015, p. 90–97

Eurostat's role and responsibilities within the Commission as regards the development, production and dissemination of statistics.

Complying 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 reuse of public sector information*.

2. PRIORITIES FOR 2016

The AWP 2016 implements the 2013-17 European statistical programme (ESP).¹⁶ All the activities and outputs set out in the detailed description of planned activities will therefore contribute to achieving the programme's specific objectives.

2.1 Strategic alignment on EU priorities

The table below shows how the main plans for 2016 will support the 10 political priorities of the Commission (indicated in column 1).

The second column presents European statistics with specific relevance to each priority; core statistics used in many policy areas (such as GDP or population) are not repeated under each priority.

The third column presents projects for new or improved statistics. Some of the projects planned relate to more than one priority.

Commission priority	Relevant European statistics	Main projects planned (project code or name in brackets) ¹⁷
A New Boost for Jobs, Growth and Investment	<p>Europe 2020 indicators and globalisation indicators</p> <p>Accounting frameworks: national accounts including GDP, environmental economic accounts, productivity, gross value added, investment and employment by industry, balance of payments.</p> <p>EU regions; regional accounts</p> <p>Business demography (incl. high-growth enterprises), structural business statistics, international trade in goods and services</p> <p>High-tech industry and knowledge-intensive services, Community Innovation Survey, R&D</p> <p>Employment and unemployment, unemployment rate, job vacancies, labour costs, earnings</p> <p>Farm structure statistics</p>	<p>Growth and productivity accounts, statistics on competitiveness (GPA)</p> <p>Full International and Global Accounts for Research in Input-Output Analysis (FIGARO)</p> <p>Development of entrepreneurship indicators, further work on quarterly and regional indicators related to business demography (ESI)</p> <p>2016 Labour Force Survey module on young people on the labour market, output available in 2017/2018 (Youth)</p> <p>Contribute to the development of indicators to measure the 2030 Agenda's Sustainable Development Goals, including for monitoring at European Level (SDI)</p> <p>Strategy for agricultural statistics towards 2020 and beyond (511)</p>
A Connected Digital Single Market	<p>Digital agenda for Europe</p> <p>Information society (enterprises, households and</p>	<p>Impact of ICT, innovation and R&D on employment and growth (R&D-ICT-imp)</p>

¹⁵ Commission Decision (2012/504/EU) of 17 September 2012¹⁵ on Eurostat.

¹⁶ Regulation (EU) No 99/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 January 2013.

¹⁷ The description of each project is available in the annex, 'List of activities and outputs'.

	<p>individuals), ICT sector</p> <p>Intellectual property rights, telecommunication services</p>	<p>Big data project (BIGD)</p>
<p>A Resilient Energy Union with a Forward-looking Climate Change Policy</p>	<p>Energy dependence, security of supply and energy efficiency; energy prices</p> <p>Energy balance sheets, share of energy from renewable sources</p> <p>Annual production, trade, energy transformation and consumption, monthly energy supply and oil stocks</p> <p>Early CO2 emission estimates, air emissions accounts</p> <p>International trade in goods</p>	<p>Proposal for a Regulation on electricity and natural gas price statistics (748)</p> <p>Development of CHP statistics under the Energy Efficiency Directive (715)</p> <p>Investigate scenarios to produce early estimates of energy balances [year+8 months] for all MS and EU aggregates (751)</p> <p>Further disaggregation of final energy consumption for a specific sector [industry] (751)</p> <p>Extension of energy statistics to all current Energy Community contracting parties (NRG-A, NRG-M, NRG-Price)</p> <p>Development of climate change-related statistics (EnvClimCh)</p>
<p>A Deeper and Fairer Internal Market</p>	<p>Structural business statistics</p> <p>Production of manufactured goods, trade in goods</p> <p>Income and living conditions (incl. employment and social policy indicators)</p> <p>Annual government finance (incl. taxes and tax indicators)</p> <p>Agricultural prices, animal production, crop production</p> <p>Transport statistics, trade in services</p>	<p>FRIBS: Development of integrated legal framework and implementation requirements for European business statistics (575)</p> <p>Developing indicators to support analyses of workers' mobility, migration and integration and of vocational training (PopMobil)</p> <p>Develop a common EU concept for Labour Market Area (533)</p> <p>Design and implementation of a new, fully integrated approach to future agricultural statistics (511)</p>
<p>A Deeper and Fairer Economic and Monetary Union</p>	<p>Principal European Economic Indicators</p> <p>Scoreboard of indicators of the Macroeconomic Imbalance Procedure (MIP), balance of payments and international investment positions</p> <p>Prices: HICP</p> <p>Annual and quarterly national accounts, Annual Government Finance, government deficit and debt, EDP</p> <p>Employment and unemployment</p> <p>Income and living conditions (incl. social policy indicators, material deprivation, wellbeing)</p> <p>Social protection</p>	<p>Development and implementation of quality assurance system for MIP statistics (668)</p> <p>Revised HICP framework regulation (464)</p> <p>Feasibility study for EU/EA GDP flash estimate at t+-30 (456)</p> <p>Reinforced Role of Social Indicators (RRSI)</p> <p>Redesign of SILC: timeliness, flash estimates, regional coverage, development on revised material deprivation, methodologies for advanced estimations of risk of poverty (556)</p> <p>Development work for better integration of income, consumption and wealth statistics (ICW)</p> <p>Modernisation programme to improve the efficiency and quality of social statistics, framework regulation (SocMod)</p> <p>Continued work towards harmonised European Public Sector Accounting Standards (EPSAS) to support fiscal transparency and comparability. EPSAS would also support deepening the internal</p>

		market (capital market), growth and investment (485)
EU-US Free Trade Agreement	Foreign direct investment International trade in services, International trade in goods Globalisation indicators Services trade by enterprise characteristics	Developing the area of global value chains and production of improved indicators on economic globalisation (GVC)
Area of Justice and Fundamental Rights	Gender and discrimination, gender pay gap. Crime and criminal justice Health and safety at work	Improvement of data quality; extension of the data collection to other areas of crime where possible, with breakdowns following the different stages of proceedings and demographics, methodological development for a survey on gender-based violence supported by JUST (Crime) Study on possibility of provision of mobility figures for EU citizens (PopMobil)
Towards a New Policy on Migration	Asylum & Managed Migration (incl. Residence Permits and Enforcement of Immigration Legislation, Dublin on countries' asylum responsibilities) Demography and migration Labour Force Survey 2014: ad-hoc module on migrants' employment	Population statistics: quality and methodology improvement (PopMeth) Indicators to support integrated analyses of workers' mobility, migration, and integration (PopMobil)
A Stronger Global Actor	Enlargement and ENP: eastern and southern countries High-income countries, Global Statistical System Sustainable development indicators	Cooperation programmes for enlargement countries - Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (230)
A Union of Democratic Change	Official statistics: Collection and production of data in line with very demanding quality criteria while ensuring the privacy of data providers and the confidentiality of the information they provide. A fully documented and freely available methodology backed up by professional independence. Professional, impartial and transparent dissemination.	Transparency through dissemination projects and open data (401, DIGICOM)

2.2 Strategic alignment on the European Statistical System (ESS) Vision for 2020

The priorities for 2016 will help implement the "European Statistical System Vision 2020", agreed at the meeting of Directors-General of the National Statistical Institutes (DGINS) held in September 2014.

Dialogue with **users** of European statistics; a major step in 2016 will be the adaptation of the Europe 2020 indicators stemming from the review of the EU strategy for 2015-2020. With DIGICOM a new ESS Vision project will be launched focusing on user analysis, branding and developing innovative and shareable products and tools, in close cooperation with users.

The ESS will implement the **quality** chapter of the Vision. For example, in implementing the European Statistical System Vision Implementation Projects (ESS.VIP), extending the quality framework of the code of practice to the whole organisation, and it may prepare for a second revision of the European Statistics Code of Practice. The ESS will continue to provide high-quality statistical input for an enhanced Stability and Growth Pact and Macroeconomic Imbalances Procedure. The main priorities will be continuing to verify the data reported, monitoring the correct implementation of the new European System of National and Regional Accounts (ESA 2010) and continuing to develop a robust system for monitoring the quality of the statistics used for the macroeconomic imbalances scoreboard.

New data sources complement the existing ones and help the ESS to improve the quality of its products: the ESS will start developing new methods and tools integrating geospatial and administrative data into the production of European statistics. Eurostat will coordinate work on Big Data for Official Statistics, with a particular focus on exploring related legal, privacy and security issues. It will also support the functioning of a European branch of a UN initiative for Global Geospatial Information Management.

To improve **the efficiency of statistical processes**, work will be done on building capabilities and improving infrastructure, particularly as regards standardisation, the technological environment and data exchange. To modernise and improve the timeliness of social statistics, a proposal for a framework regulation on integrated European social statistics, covering the collection of microdata from households and individuals, will be presented to the Commission for adoption, after having consulted the European Statistical System Committee (ESSC).

Once the outcomes of the two ESS.VIP projects dealing with statistics on trade within the EU are available (i.e. the SIMSTAT pilot project and the Redesign of Intrastat project), the ESSC will evaluate the cost-efficiency and added value of the various options for redesigning Intrastat, including microdata exchange for statistics on trade within the EU, and decide on the future strategy. In the framework of the ESS.VIP ESBRS, the EuroGroupsRegister and its integration with national statistical business registers will be strengthened to provide quality information for the analysis of the structure and competitiveness of the enterprises belonging to multinational groups.

As regards **dissemination and communication**, the development work of re-engineering and reuse of the Eurostat dissemination chain will continue. Reasons for this include the need to make more sophisticated services available and to meet international statistical standards. Eurostat will work further on to ensure the dissemination of statistical datasets via the European Union Open Data Portal and in formats that are, to the extent possible, open so as to promote the reuse of public sector information. The ESS.VIP DIGICOM will support these developments. It includes further deliverables pertaining to statistical literacy and data visualisation.

2.3 Priority-setting

The National Statistical Institutes and Eurostat will continue to face serious resource constraints in 2016. The reduced resources available for producing statistics need to be balanced against the increasing need for European statistics to support new and existing European policies (according to information from hearings with Commission DGs). Accordingly Article 6 of the Regulation establishing the European statistical programme for 2013-17 states: '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.' Prioritisation is conducted according to the ESS priority-setting process approved by the ESS Committee (ESSC) in November 2011¹⁸ and revised in November 2012¹⁹.

¹⁸ Document No ESSC 2011/11/2b.

2.4 Priorities for 2016 by detailed objective of the European statistical programme

QUALITY STATISTICAL INFORMATION TO SUPPORT EU POLICIES

This part of the work programme implements ESP's objectives 1 and 4:

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.

2016 priorities: The statistical measures underlying the Europe 2020 strategy for 'smart, sustainable and inclusive' growth and the measurement of progress, wellbeing and sustainable development will continue to create challenges for the ESS's capacity to produce relevant statistics for developing and evaluating EU policies. The ESS needs to provide statistical indicators at European, national and regional levels to enable the Europe 2020 strategy, its headline targets and flagship initiatives to be monitored. They include resource efficiency, sustainability, employment, research and development, innovation and the digital agenda for Europe, energy, climate change, education, environment, social protection and progressively population at risk of poverty and social exclusion.

The Europe 2020 strategy is currently under review, and one of the ESS's top priorities in 2016 will be adapting to any changes that may ensue. In particular, the Commission has strongly underlined the importance of social indicators to support its key priorities: growth and job creation; skills and investing in human capital, mobility and reducing poverty and social exclusion. Social indicators are set to take on an increasingly important role in EU policymaking and monitoring, and should therefore be considered on an equal footing with macroeconomic indicators. Environmental indicators will also need to be developed or improved to monitor progress on the circular economy.

Developments as regards indicators of material deprivation and learning mobility will be analysed and indicators of resource efficiency further improved. Work on GDP and beyond road map will be based on the new action plan developed in 2015, further completing the 'quality of life' indicators introduced in 2013 with the results of the SILC ad-hoc module on wellbeing. Other priorities will be producing indicators based on data from environmental accounts and developing indicators to measure the 2030 Agenda's worldwide Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and targets.

¹⁹ Document No ESSC 2012/15/5b/EN.

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.*

2016 priorities: The ESS will support EU economic governance by continuing to provide high-quality statistical input to an enhanced Stability and Growth Pact and Macroeconomic Imbalances Procedure, in particular for the European Semester. The main focus will be on reinforced monitoring to ensure that the new European System of National and Regional Accounts (ESA 2010) and the sixth edition of the Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual (BPM6), including their data transmission programmes, are correctly implemented, with regard to compliance and quality. Work to develop a robust quality monitoring system for statistics for the macroeconomic imbalances scoreboard will continue. As regards government finance statistics, verification will be based on ESA 2010, the Manual of Government Deficit and Debt and the Regulation 479/2009 (the regulation governing EDP statistics).

Building on the progress achieved in 2015 towards introducing European Public Sector Accounting Standards (EPSAS), in 2016 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.

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.*

2016 priorities: Verification work on statistics used for administrative purposes will continue. A new GNI verification round, to be conducted in a substantially shorter cycle than in previous rounds, is due to start.

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.*

2016 priorities: In line with the 2014 ESS Riga Memorandum, 'Towards better measurement of the globalised economy', work will continue to improve the indicators and statistical information available on economic globalisation and global value chains for EU decision-makers and the public. The basis for this is an internationally agreed framework for measuring global value chains and ESS experience with microdata linking.

The EuroGroups Register will be further strengthened to provide quality information for analysing the structure and competitiveness of the enterprises belonging to multinational groups, as it influences technological spillovers, access to international markets, economies of scale, market power, managerial capacity and innovation. Further action will be taken to improve statistics on international services trade by enterprise characteristics and for the four modes of supply.

Once an appropriate methodology has been developed, existing data will be used to compile experimental EU multi-country input-output tables. As a second step, the feasibility of establishing a regular production process will be assessed.

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.

2016 priorities: In view of the economic crisis, it is more important than ever to have high-quality macroeconomic indicators, to improve our understanding and analysis of economic fluctuations and structural developments and provide a sound basis for policymaking. Work to improve the underlying statistics will therefore continue, taking into account the annual ECOFIN conclusions on statistics.

The prime objectives will be to produce data to the highest standards, including reinforced compliance and quality monitoring, improved validation tools and techniques and work towards lifting national derogations from the ESA transmission programme. Work will continue to extend (a) the coverage of data on growth, productivity and competitiveness available to users and (b) consideration of the policy use of indicators for measuring economic and social performance. Regarding tax gap evaluation, ways of encouraging the exchange of information between national tax authorities and NSIs will be explored.

The Commission's key priorities are growth and job creation, reducing poverty and social exclusion, improving skills and investing in human capital and mobility. In line with these, the social indicators should assist in reinforcing the EU and EMU's social dimension in the context of the European semester, the macroeconomic imbalances procedure, and analysis of the social impact of macroeconomic policies.

This means that there is a growing 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. Efforts to deliver seasonally adjusted key LFS quarterly indicators will contribute to better interpretation of more timely information in the European Semester context. Efforts to provide information on statistical reliability of SILC and LFS results will continue or be undertaken. Initial methodological developments will be carried out to develop links with National Accounts in the area of Social Protection, Health and Education.

5. Environmental sustainability

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

2016 priorities: Work in this area will focus on the recently adopted set of environmental accounts modules (accounts for energy flow, the environmental goods and services sector and environmental protection expenditure). It will follow the European strategy for environmental accounts for 2014-2018 adopted by the ESSC in 2014. Key activities will include developing timely indicators derived from the accounts, publishing analytical results based on the integrated economic-environment accounting framework and work towards developing new environmental accounts modules.

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).

2016 priorities: There is a big demand for business statistics to support the decision making process and help the public and businesses in Europe understand the impact of a wide range of EU policies. This is why progress towards an integrated framework for business and international trade statistics which can guarantee high quality and which remains relevant in a globalised world is a strategic

priority for the ESS. Work will therefore continue in 2016, under the Commission's REFIT Programme, on the common Framework Regulation Integrating Business Statistics (FRIBS), the aim being to improve the integration and consistency of European business statistics.

In keeping with the 2014 ESS Riga Memorandum 'Towards better measurement of the globalised economy', this includes steps towards strengthening statistical business registers and improved compliance with the 1993 Statistical Units Regulation, i.a. through profiling. Further efforts will be made to improve the coverage of statistics on the services sector, including international trade in services and infra-annual business statistics, to redesign tourism statistics and to continue re-engineering the exchange and production processes/systems for business and trade statistics. In addition a further streamlining of enterprise-based labour variables with social statistics is envisaged.

Developments in ICT, innovation and research statistics will be revisited in the context of the renewed Europe 2020 strategy. Work on revising the Frascati and Oslo Manuals, comprising statistical guidelines on concepts, definitions, classifications and measurement approaches for collecting and interpreting data, will be continued.

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.

2016 priorities: Social indicators to support the Commission's key priorities are considered extremely important. Accordingly, social statistics are being modernised along the lines promoted by the DGINS in Wiesbaden in 2011 and this process will be accelerated in 2016. The aim is to improve responsiveness to users' needs, timeliness, quality and efficiency. Social statistics must move towards a level of robustness and timeliness that will fully support the policy agenda.

In this context, a proposal for a framework regulation on integrated European social statistics, covering the collection of microdata from households and individuals, is to be presented to the ESSC and for adoption by the Commission. The framework regulation will enable implementation of the results of the ongoing Labour Force Survey (LFS) and Survey on Income and Living Conditions (SILC) review processes and will cover other surveys, such as the Adult Education Survey (AES) and the European Health Interview Survey (EHIS). It will help improve consistency and further harmonisation of variables and modules.

A plan for modernising population statistics will also be developed, including a renewed strategy for population and housing censuses after the 2021 census round, and a more harmonised population definition based on in-depth methodological work. Legislation (implementing provisions) for the 2021 census round will be developed, building on the experience of the 2011 census round.

The use of administrative data will be promoted in the context of modernising social statistics. The objective is to support the use of administrative data, their quality assessment and the use of appropriate sampling frames, including sharing good practice and lessons learned on the use of administrative data and cooperation with data owners. The ESS.VIP ADMIN project should help in that context.

The ESS will work to improve coverage of the multidimensional agenda of poverty and social exclusion, including regional poverty indicators, and the description of flows and transitions, particularly as regards the risk of poverty and exclusion and in the labour market. The production and methodological development of high-quality data and of indicators in the context of the mid-

term review of the '2020 Education and Training' strategy and new requests in the area of health and social protection statistics will also be very high on the agenda in 2016.

Data on the various dimensions of the quality of life will be made more readily accessible and their quality improved, in accordance with the recommendations of the Sponsorship Group on Measuring Progress, Wellbeing and Sustainable Development. Action will be focused on analysing joint distributions for income, consumption and wealth. In particular, two strands of work will be further developed:

- (a) better links between national accounts and microdata, and
- (b) gradual integration of the wealth dimension in ESS social statistics.

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.

2016 priorities: Improving the ESS's role in integrating geospatial and statistical data will remain a priority. Eurostat will continue to support the functioning of a European branch of a UN initiative for Global Geospatial Information Management (GGIM) and synergies between the statistical and geographical communities.

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

2016 priorities: To support evidence-based policymaking, especially as regards the 'circular economy', quality aspects and expanding the scope of waste statistics will remain a priority. Eurostat will focus particularly on further improving the quality, methodology and timeliness of the different waste streams of waste statistics and will continue to contribute to work on food waste. It will also continue to contribute to work in the area of ecosystems and biodiversity (including ecosystem accounting), will advance climate change-related statistics, and will continue to improve and streamline water statistics. The data centres on waste and natural resources will be further improved.

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

2016 priorities: Efforts will continue in 2016 to optimise and adapt energy statistics to provide statistical support to the Energy 2020 strategy. In line with the Commission's 'European Energy Union' priority, there will be a particular focus on statistics on energy consumption, energy efficiency, renewable energies, energy dependence, and security of supply. Quality and timeliness will be a priority as regards developing, compiling and publishing the respective energy-related indicators. Cooperation with other organisations that collect energy statistics will be stepped up.

Energy statistics will also be needed to support the 2030 policy framework for the climate and energy, which is designed to make the EU economy and energy system more competitive, secure and sustainable. European statistics will contribute to a study on energy prices and costs, requested by the European Council, for which a specific data collection may be necessary. A new legal act on electricity and natural gas price statistics proposed in 2015 and due to be examined by the Council and Parliament in 2016, takes account of these needs.

The ESS will continue to develop and produce statistics to assess progress towards quantitative targets set in the 2011 Transport White Paper on emissions from transport, volume and performance of transport and passenger mobility. Based on the developed Guidelines on Passenger Mobility and harmonised indicators, a pilot data collection exercise is foreseen in 2016. In addition, the guidelines on the compilation of intermodal statistics at national level using the 'German Approach' will be applied when collecting intermodal indicators as part of a pilot project. In the context of modal split indicators, the development of methodologies for territorializing freight volumes carried across borders by road, rail, inland waterways, air and sea and a differentiation of the transport activity in all transport modes by distance class will continue and will be extended to 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.*

2016 priorities: Following the EU strategy for Land Use/Land Cover, the LUCAS 2015 survey results will be published. A comprehensive range of regional and urban data will be provided to support EU cohesion policy, the Urban Agenda initiative, rural development and maritime policy. A new regulation on the delimitation of geographical regions will be submitted for co-decision.

The ESS will adapt high-quality agriculture, fisheries and forestry statistics to specific needs stemming from the review of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and Fisheries Policy (CFP) as well as environmental policies. Action will include setting up new legal frameworks based on the Strategy for Agricultural Statistics for 2020 and beyond. Efforts will be made to reduce the burden on respondents by rationalising, simplifying and optimising data collection and validation and by making efficient use of existing data sources, especially administrative data.

The Strategy takes a two-step approach: priority will be given to preparing and implementing a new farm survey system based on core, module and satellite surveys, after which the integration process will be extended to other areas of agricultural statistics. Following new data needs expressed by DG AGRI and other interested DGs notably concerning land prices and rents, production of eggs for consumption, and supply balance sheets for seven main grain products, investigations will continue on how such new data needs can be fulfilled. Work will continue to further improve and streamline forestry statistics.

NEW METHODS OF PRODUCTION OF EUROPEAN STATISTICS

This part of the work programme implements the ESP's objective 2: 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.*

2016 priorities: The Commission report to the Parliament and the Council on the 2014-2015 peer reviews will be presented in the first quarter of 2016. The amendments to Regulation 223/2009 on European statistics will be implemented.

Preparations could be launched for a possible second revision of the European Statistics Code of Practice, taking into account the experiences of the second round of ESS peer reviews. The Quality chapter of the ESS Vision 2020 will be on-going, with the implementation of the QUAL framework and by extending the quality framework of the Code of Practice's quality framework to the whole organisation, where appropriate. The Spanish national statistical institute, INE, is to host the Q2016 conference.

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.*

2016 priorities: The Commission will focus on ensuring that progress is being made towards achieving the objectives of the five-year programme. Given the resource constraints currently prevailing throughout the ESS, these aims can be met only through assertive priority setting and simplification. Further analysis, discussions and decision-making on setting priorities will be based on the 'catalogue' of ESS statistical products and related cost/merits. Under the programme, cost-

benefit analysis of projects is to be beefed up, especially for projects implementing the ESS Vision 2020, and as regards assessment of the costs of European statistics in Eurostat and the Member States.

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.

2016 priorities: Efforts to modernise the way statistics are produced will continue in 2016 on the basis of the principles set out in the ESS Vision 2020 and the actions identified in the related implementation strategy. The ESS Vision 2020 implementation portfolio, through its enabling projects, will provide the basis of the infrastructure for producing European statistics: better analysis of user requirements (DIGICOM project, use of new sources (Big Data and ADMIN projects), establishment of an ESS quality approach (QUAL framework), modern production processes (data exchange network – ESDEN), service-oriented architecture (SERV) and communication (DIGICOM).

Further work on the renovation of the Eurostat dissemination chain, also in the view of making more sophisticated services available and bringing it into line with international statistics standards. The related frameworks (e.g. ESS enterprise architecture, standards and quality) will continue to frame and steer prioritisation among the various initiatives.

Upon the outcomes of the two ESS.VIP projects related to the intra-EU trade statistics (i.e. the SIMSTAT pilot project and the Redesign of Intrastat project), the ESSC will evaluate the cost-efficiency and added value of the various options for redesigning Intrastat, including microdata exchange for statistics on trade within the EU. It will then decide on the future strategy.

In 2016 the ESS.VIP ESBRS project will start to pilot the implementation of the ESSnet developments concerning the quality of national business registers and the EuroGroups Register, including the integration of profiling information. The establishment of a Centre of Excellence on Profiling is envisaged.

Eurostat will continue to coordinate work on Big Data for Official Statistics by implementing the ESS action plan and Roadmap 1.0 adopted by the ESSC in September 2014 and the business case adopted in May 2015.

ESS standards (for data, metadata, validation services, etc) will be implemented in more and more areas of European statistics. These standards and shared services will also be made available to the ESS and within the European Commission. The ESSC will decide whether to launch a second phase of the ESS.VIP VALIDATION to make further progress towards an ESS validation policy based on VTL (Validation and Transformation Language) as a standard ESS syntax for describing validation rules.

Efforts to ease secure exchange of EU data will continue in 2016 with the establishment of a framework for IT security within the ESS and access facilities in the Member States.

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

After the work executed by the Task Force on Cooperation Models, activities will focus on setting up the building blocks (including legal, financial and organisational aspects) needed to establish innovative and flexible cooperation models within the ESS.

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.

2016 priorities will take into account the ESS Vision 2020 in the area of dissemination and communication that foresees:

- stepping up dialogue between users and producers of statistics,
- promoting European statistics as a brand, to maintain public trust,
- extending and continuously adapting the range of ESS dissemination products to new technologies, through intensive collaboration among ESS partners and by setting up a data pool of European statistics based on a solid data warehouse approach.

A new ESS Vision project is to be launched (DIGICOM) on the basis of the conclusions of the task forces launched in 2015 on 'Data visualisation and infographics' and 'Statistics explained', and the various proposals put forward by Member States. The project will focus on user analysis and branding and the development of innovative and shareable products and tools, in close collaboration with users.

The new generation of the Eurostat website (Site 5) put in place in 2014 will continue to be improved and work to re-engineer the dissemination chain (linked to ESS.VIPs and cross-cutting Work Package on ESS data warehouse) will continue. A benchmarking exercise will be carried out for site 5. Given the rapid changes in IT technology, a study will be conducted to assess potential portal products and services to replace site 5.

Eurostat will continue its efforts to disseminate the statistical datasets available via the EU Open Data Portal (<http://open-data.europa.eu>). Datasets will continue to be published in formats that are, to the extent possible, open so as to promote the reuse of public sector information. Eurostat data as “open data” will be promoted and supported (e.g. elaboration of StatDCAT-Application Profile). Dissemination products and services, such as publications and user support, will continue to be provided in accordance with Eurostat's priorities.

Enabling access to selected data-sets for scientific researchers will be further developed and implemented as part of project DARA (Decentralised and Remote Access to Confidential Data in the ESS).

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.

2016 priorities: Following the ESSC's favourable opinion in May 2014, implementation of the European Master of Official Statistics will continue in 2016.

Research and methodology activities will be devoted to supporting implementation of the ESS Vision 2020 and modernising statistical areas. Particular attention will be given to the 'statistical' research projects launched under the 'Horizon 2020' research framework programme; they will be followed on a best effort basis.

PARTNERSHIP WITHIN THE EUROPEAN STATISTICAL SYSTEM AND BEYOND

This part of the work programme implements ESP's objective 3: 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.*

2016 priorities: In order to further enhance ESS productivity and its leading role in official statistics worldwide, it will remain a strategic priority to strengthen partnership and governance within the ESS and to step up cooperation with the European System of Central Banks and with European and international organisations involved in producing data for statistical or administrative purposes.

Further steps will be taken to streamline the structure of the ESS, so as to avoid overlaps and reduce burdens. Initiatives will also be continued to strengthen the role of National Statistical Offices as coordinators of national statistical systems.

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.*

2016 priorities: To ensure that good quality data are available to monitor enlargement and European neighbourhood policies, the following will remain strategic priorities: measuring the compliance of candidate countries and potential candidates with European standards in the field of statistics, and supporting both them 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 will support the relevant political processes in the countries concerned.

A new cooperation programme for the ENP South countries is due to get under way with technical advice from Eurostat. It will aim to improve the application of European and international standards in the fields of transport, energy, trade, migration, the labour market and business statistics, and to implement the Code of Practice and quality initiatives.

Finally, to promote and implement statistical advisory and assistance activities in non-EU countries, cooperation with enlargement and European Neighbourhood countries will focus on three main pillars: governance (including the Code of Practice and Quality), generic tools, facilitating regional cooperation, with special emphasis on Africa and supporting the statistics department of the African Union Commission. The pan African programme on statistical cooperation will start its implementation in 2016 with a focus on supporting African integration processes with comparable and harmonised data.