

Procedure file

Basic information	
COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) Regulation	2011/0459(COD) Procedure completed
European statistical programme 2013-2017	
Amended by 2013/0249(COD) Amended by 2016/0265(COD) Repealed by 2018/0231(COD)	
Subject 8.60 European statistical legislation	

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	ECON Economic and Monetary Affairs		17/01/2012
		S&D SCICLUNA Edward	
		Shadow rapporteur	
		PPE GAUZÈS Jean-Paul	
		ALDE IN 'T VELD Sophia	
		Verts/ALE GIEGOLD Sven	
		ECR FORD Vicky	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	BUDG Budgets		29/02/2012
	ECR EPPINK Derk Jan		
EMPL Employment and Social Affairs		19/01/2012	
	PPE KÓSA Ádám		
ENVI Environment, Public Health and Food Safety	The committee decided not to give an opinion.		
REGI Regional Development	The committee decided not to give an opinion.		
FEMM Women's Rights and Gender Equality	The committee decided not to give an opinion.		
Council of the European Union	Council configuration Transport, Telecommunications and Energy	Meeting 3213	Date 20/12/2012
European Commission	Commission DG Eurostat	Commissioner ŠEMETA Algirdas	

Key events			
17/01/2012	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		
19/06/2012	Vote in committee, 1st reading		
27/06/2012	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading	A7-0218/2012	Summary
12/12/2012	Results of vote in Parliament		



12/12/2012	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading	T7-0497/2012	Summary
20/12/2012	Act adopted by Council after Parliament's 1st reading		
15/01/2013	Final act signed		
16/01/2013	End of procedure in Parliament		
09/02/2013	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2011/0459(COD)
Procedure type	COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Regulation
	Amended by 2013/0249(COD) Amended by 2016/0265(COD) Repealed by 2018/0231(COD)
Legal basis	Treaty on the Functioning of the EU TFEU 338-p1
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 159
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	ECON/7/08389

Documentation gateway

Legislative proposal		COM(2011)0928	21/12/2011	EC	Summary
Document attached to the procedure		SEC(2011)1623	21/12/2011	EC	
Document attached to the procedure		SEC(2011)1625	21/12/2011	EC	
Committee draft report		PE486.047	22/03/2012	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE487.949	21/05/2012	EP	
Committee opinion	EMPL	PE483.792	31/05/2012	EP	
Committee opinion	BUDG	PE487.893	04/06/2012	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A7-0218/2012	27/06/2012	EP	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T7-0497/2012	12/12/2012	EP	Summary
Draft final act		00065/2012/LEX	15/01/2013	CSL	
Commission response to text adopted in plenary		SP(2013)111	13/02/2013	EC	
Follow-up document		COM(2015)0309	24/06/2015	EC	Summary
Follow-up document		SWD(2019)0423	25/11/2019	EC	Summary

Additional information	
National parliaments	IPEX
European Commission	EUR-Lex
Final act	
Regulation 2013/99 OJ L 039 09.02.2013, p. 0012 Summary	

European statistical programme 2013-2017

PURPOSE: to establish a European statistical programme 2013-2017.

PROPOSED ACT: Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council.

BACKGROUND: the current Community Statistical Programme, adopted by a European Parliament and Council Decision No 1578/2007/EC and covering the period from 2008 to 2012, is the seventh of its kind. In recent years the European Statistical System has been faced with a number of challenges.

- (1) the need for European statistics has been constantly increasing, and this trend is unlikely to change in future.
- (2) the nature of statistics has changed evidence-based decision making requires statistics that meet high quality criteria linked to the specific purposes they are serving, and there is an increasing need for complex multidimensional statistics supporting composite policy areas.
- (3) due to the appearance of new actors on the information market, including those providing information in nearly real time, the priority for the ESS in future is high quality and, in the case of short-term statistics, timeliness in particular.
- (4) budget constraints at both national and European level as well as the need to further reduce the burden on enterprises and citizens make the situation even more challenging.

The [Commission Communication on the production method of EU statistics: a vision for the next decade](#) and the ESS strategy for its implementation¹⁵ address all these challenges by aiming to reengineer

the ways of working in the ESS in order to make it more efficient and flexible. The implementation of this Communication constitutes the core of the proposed European statistical programme.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT: prior to the preparation of this proposal, the users of European statistics, i.e. the Directorates-General of the Commission, the European Central Bank and the European Statistical Advisory Committee, were consulted. In the framework of the impact assessment, after thorough consideration and analysis of the different scenarios, the number of options has been reduced to three:

- Option 1: "zero option" with no European Statistical Programme: the risks related to this option are high because in this case no legal framework for the production of European statistics would exist, so that their quality and the efficiency of statistical production would not be ensured. In these cases statistics would be produced in an uncoordinated way by different producers.
- Option 2: ESP 2013-17 will be a repetition of the CSP 2008-2012: the risks involved in this option are linked to the fact that statistics provided would correspond to partially outdated policy priorities which are produced according to the traditional method, i.e. without taking advantage of the new method of production of European statistics aiming at efficiency gains and quality improvements. The costs of inadequate statistics would be considerable.
- Option 3: a new five-year European Statistical Programme is established: the risks linked to this option are considered to be relatively low as in this case European statistics would be produced under the established legal framework, i.e. the quality of statistics and the efficiency of the production method would be ensured as European statistics would be developed, collected and disseminated in a coordinated way.

LEGAL BASIS: Article 338(1) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU).

CONTENT: the proposal establishes the European statistical programme for the period from 2013 to 2017. The programme provides the framework for the development, production and dissemination of European statistics, the main fields and the objectives of the actions envisaged for the programming period.

The main purpose of European statistics is to underpin the development, monitoring and evaluation of European policies with reliable, objective, comparable and coherent factual information.

The current proposal is consistent with the Unions priorities as statistics developed, produced and disseminated under this programme will contribute to the implementation of the EUs priority policies, such as the Europe 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and other policies addressed in the Commissions strategic priorities for 2010-2014 (i.e. strengthened and integrated economic governance, climate change, growth and social cohesion, peoples Europe and globalisation).

BUDGETARY IMPLICATION: total amount to be borne by the budget of the EU is 299.4 million (current prices) for the duration of the programme from 2013 to 2017, of which 57.3 million is covered by the programming period 2007 to 2013 and 242.1 million by the programming period 2014 to 2017.

European statistical programme 2013-2017

The Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs adopted the report by Edward SCICLUNA (S&D, MT) on the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European statistical programme 2013-2017.

The committee recommended that the European Parliaments position at first reading under the ordinary legislative procedure should be to amend the Commission proposal as follows:

Value-added of the programme: in Members opinion, statistical information must be friendly and accessible, based on uniform standards and common quality assessment criteria, in particular "relevance", "accuracy", "timeliness", "accessibility" and "coherence". It is based on the idea of a reasonable burden-sharing between the EU budget and the Member States' budgets.

Specific objectives of the programme:

- Objective 1: this relates to providing quality statistical information as close to real-time as practicable to support the development, monitoring and evaluation of the policies of the European Union properly reflecting priorities and needs of end users in a cost-effective manner without unnecessary duplication of effort; in particular regarding social and environmental statistics, which are not yet on an equal footing with economic indicators; as well as the production and provision of more reliable statistics on public debt, including solid data on contingent liabilities;
- Objective 2: this involves implementing new methods of production of European statistics aiming at efficiency gains and quality improvements, such as gender disaggregated data starting from the collection stage, and ensuring comparability;
- Objective 4: this new objective seeks to ensure that delivery of statistics is kept consistent throughout the whole duration of the programme, provided that this does not interfere with the priority-setting mechanisms of the European Statistical System;
- Objective 5: the programme should pioneer the development of reliable indicators able to meet the challenges of the 21st century, namely measuring environmental sustainability, quality of life and social cohesion. These should be promoted as a complement to classical economic indicators. Economic activity in the tertiary sector and the social economy should be recorded distinctly.

Independence: since national statistical institutes are part of the European Statistical System, each Member State shall ensure the independence and integrity of its statistical authority. Interference by Member States' governments with the independence of national statistical institutes shall be effectively deterred through appropriate measures.

In the interests of transparency, the Commission (Eurostat) shall disclose publicly its opinion on the quality of national statistics, highlighting and making public any recurrent under-performance of national statistical institutes in as timely a manner as possible.

Transparency: Members call for the following:

- that each Member State shall ensure that its statistical production is established in a standardised manner and is enhanced by internal and external audit mechanisms;
- that the Commission (Eurostat) shall consider how to make its publications, particularly those via its website, more user-friendly to non-professionals and shall allow easy access to complete long-term data series.

Role of Eurostat (funding): an amendment stipulates that the Commission shall ensure an appropriate level of technical support for those national statistical institutes which are unable to produce statistics of the required quality due to temporary unavoidable circumstances.

The financial allocation for the Programme may also cover expenses pertaining to any assistance and expertise given to Member States to help them meet research constraints and major methodological obstacles.

Evaluation and review: no later than 31 December 2016, the Commission may, if appropriate, after consulting the European Statistical System Committee, submit to the European Parliament and to the Council a proposal for the extension of the programme for 2018 to 2020, while respecting the Regulation laying down the multiannual financial framework 2014 to 2020.

European statistical programme 2013-2017

The European Parliament adopted by 613 votes to 22, with 30 abstentions, a legislative resolution on the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European statistical programme 2013-2017.

Parliament adopted its position at first reading under the ordinary legislative procedure. The amendments adopted in plenary are the result of a compromise reached between the European Parliament and the Council and are as follows:

Value-added of the programme: according to the amended text, statistical information must be friendly and accessible, based on uniform standards and common quality assessment criteria, in particular "relevance", "accuracy", "timeliness", "accessibility", "consistency" and comparability.

Specific objectives of the programme: bearing in mind the available resources both at national and Union level as well as the response burden, the following specific objectives shall be pursued:

- 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 ;
- A new Objective 4 is introduced: 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.

The objectives of the programme shall be achieved through close and coordinated cooperation in the ESS. The programme shall:

- include the development of appropriate instruments resulting in enhanced quality, a greater flexibility of the ESS and the increased ability to satisfy users' needs in a timely manner;
- pioneer the development of reliable indicators able to meet the challenges of the 21st century, namely measuring environmental sustainability, quality of life and social cohesion, and record economic activity in the tertiary sector and the social economy.

Independence and transparency: European statistics shall be produced in a professionally independent and transparent manner. The national statistical institutes and the Union statistical authority (Commission (Eurostat)) shall ensure that, through their professional independence, European statistics comply with the Code of Practice. They shall:

- aim to reinforce an institutional and organisational environment which promotes the coordination, effectiveness and credibility of national statistical authorities and the Commission (Eurostat) producing and disseminating European statistics;
- place emphasis on the needs of users;
- serve the needs of Union institutional users and seek to develop statistics which serve a wide range of users of European statistics, including other decision makers, researchers, businesses and European citizens in general; and
- cooperate with statistical bodies at international level in order to promote the use of international concepts, classifications, methods and other standards, in particular, with a view to ensuring more coherence and better comparability at global level.

In line with Members wishes, each Member State shall endeavour to ensure that its statistical production processes are set up in a standardised manner and are enhanced, to the extent possible, by audit mechanisms.

In the interest of transparency, the Commission (Eurostat) shall:

- where appropriate, disclose publicly its assessment on the quality of national contributions to European statistics as part of the quality reporting and compliance monitoring exercise.
- consider how to make its publications, particularly those which are accessible via its website, more user-friendly to nonprofessionals, and shall allow easy access to complete data series and include intuitive comparative graphs in order to give more added value to citizens.

Statistical priority-setting: the programme shall ensure statistical initiatives underpinning the development, implementation and monitoring of current Union policies and shall provide statistical support for important requirements resulting from new Union policy initiatives.

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.

Financing: the Union financial envelope for the implementation of the programme for 2013 is set at EUR 57.3 million, covered by the programming period 2007 to 2013.

Not later than three months after the adoption of the multiannual financial framework for the years 2014-2020 (MFF 2014 to 2020), the Commission is invited to submit to the European Parliament and to the Council a legislative proposal introducing the financial allocation for the period 2014 to 2017.

Administrative and technical assistance: an amendment stipulates that the programme's financial allocation may also cover technical assistance and expertise provided to Member States which are unable to produce certain European statistics or statistics of the required quality due to specific circumstances.

Evaluation and review: the Commission shall, after consulting the ESSC, submit an intermediate progress report on the implementation of the programme to the European Parliament and to the Council by 30 June 2015.

No later than 31 December 2016, the Commission may, on the basis of the intermediate progress report referred to in paragraph 1, and after consulting the ESSC, submit to the European Parliament and to the Council a proposal for the extension of the programme for the period from 2018 to 2020, while complying with the MFF 2014 to 2020.

European statistical programme 2013-2017

PURPOSE: to establish a European statistical programme 2013-2017.

LEGISLATIVE ACT: Regulation EU No 99/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European statistical programme 2013-2017.

CONTENT: the general objective of the programme is for the European Statistical System (ESS) to continue to be the leading provider of high-quality statistics on Europe.

The programme represents the added value of ensuring that European statistics are focused on the information needed to design, implement, monitor and evaluate Union policies. Statistical information shall be harmonised, comparable, reliable, user-friendly and accessible based on uniform standards and common principles set out in the European Statistics Code of Practice, as adopted by the European Statistical System Committee (ESSC),

Its specific objectives are the following:

- 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 2: implement new methods of production of European statistics aiming at efficiency gains and quality improvements,
- 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, and
- 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.

Statistical governance, independence, transparency and quality: the Regulation stipulates that European statistics shall be produced in a professionally independent and transparent manner. Each Member State shall endeavour to ensure that its statistical production processes are set up in a standardised manner and are enhanced, to the extent possible, by audit mechanisms.

In the interests of transparency, the Commission (Eurostat) shall, where appropriate, disclose publicly its assessment of the quality of national

contributions to European statistics as part of the quality reporting and compliance monitoring exercise.

Statistical priority-setting: the Commission shall, in the preparation of the annual work programmes referred to in Article 9, ensure effective priority-setting and an annual review of, and report on, statistical priorities.

Financing: the Union financial envelope for the implementation of the programme for 2013 is set at EUR 57.3 million, covered by the programming period 2007 to 2013.

Not later than three months after the adoption of the multiannual financial framework for the years 2014-20 (MFF 2014 to 2020), the Commission is invited to submit a legislative proposal introducing the financial allocation for the period 2014 to 2017.

Evaluation and review: the Commission shall, after consulting the ESSC, submit an intermediate progress report on the implementation of the programme to the European Parliament and to the Council by 30 June 2015.

No later than 31 December 2016, the Commission may, after consulting the ESSC, submit to the European Parliament and to the Council a proposal for the extension of the programme for the period from 2018 to 2020, while complying with the MFF 2014 to 2020.

ENTRY INTO FORCE: 09/02/2013.

APPLICATION: from 01/01/2013.

European statistical programme 2013-2017

The Commission presents a report on the implementation of the European Statistical Programme 2013-2017.

The scope of the report is limited to the execution of the European statistical programme in 2013 and 2014. It is structured in five chapters, corresponding to the five criteria to be evaluated – these being effectiveness, relevance, efficiency, European added value and coherence – plus one containing a few high level recommendations.

Effectiveness: since effectiveness is the most relevant criterion for this kind of report, the chapter includes a summary, followed by information on the results achieved so far, corresponding to the structure of the programme, (the three priority areas and sub-areas and their 23 detailed objectives).

The Commission is considered to be well on track to achieving an objective when 75% or more of its indicators are being met. On this basis, the report notes that 17 of the 23 detailed objectives are currently well on track for completion, with only limited difficulties being experienced in relation to the other six, these being (i) economic governance; (ii) peoples Europe; (iii) geospatial, environmental, agricultural and other sectoral statistics; (iv) priority setting and simplification and (v) partnership within the European Statistical System and beyond.

The report also notes that good progress has also been made on the projects related to modernisation. The projects involving collaboration between the members of the European Statistical System showed good results, with the European Statistical System collaboration networks and the European Statistical System vision implementation projects making especially good progress.

At the start of 2015, the European Statistical System Committee agreed to implement the [European Statistical System Vision 2020](#), initially through eight European Statistical System vision implementation projects. Further development of the modernisation projects will depend on the continuous availability of resources for the European Statistical System.

Relevance: the European statistical programme continues to be relevant, as its objectives still correspond to the needs of the EU, and it meets the needs of a number of different categories of users, as shown by several indicators: the increase in the number of website users; the number of times that data published by Eurostat was accessed online and the number of publications downloaded; the steady rise in the frequency of mentions of Eurostat on the internet; the high level of user satisfaction.

The number of parliamentary questions on Eurostats statistics remained at a continual high level, with a particularly large number of questions being asked on statistics relating to the financial crisis.

Efficiency: Eurostat has made efficient use of its resources, both financial and human.

Budget execution in 2013 and 2014 exceeded the targets set in the management plans and the level of participation in projects supported by EU grants was good.

EU added value: the programme supports a continual improvement in the quality of statistics used for the Europe 2020 scoreboard, the development and evaluation flagship initiatives and the EU monitoring of national policies (specifically through the Stability and Growth Pact, the Macroeconomic Imbalances Procedure and the European Semester).

The programme is the main channel through which the EU provides financial support to national statistical authorities, for the production of statistics, the development of new statistics and the implementation of new methodologies, classifications and standards.

Coherence: in 2013 and 2014, the European statistical programme was well coordinated with other EU initiatives in the same field, both other Eurostat programmes, such as the programme for the modernisation of European enterprise and trade statistics, and statistics produced by other Commission Directorate-Generals.

The report contains the following recommendations:

- give particular attention to those objectives where problems have been encountered;
- secure sufficient resources to maintain the necessary level of investment for the modernisation of the production of European statistics ;
- identify and implement projects at EU level which can maximise EU added value (e.g. the EuroGroups register, the Single Market Statistics (SIMSTAT) project, and the work carried out in implementing the European Statistical System Vision 2020.

The Commission presents a report on the implementation of the European Statistical Programme 2013-2020.

With [Regulation \(EU\) 2017/1951](#), the European Parliament and the Council extended the 2013-2017 European statistical programme (ESP) to 2020. It focuses on the main results and progress in implementing the current programme for the period not covered by previous evaluations.

Key initiatives and outputs of 2018 and of the first half of 2019

- In 2018 and 2019, Eurostat continued to support the economic governance of the EU by providing a high-quality statistical service on the excessive deficit procedure (EDP) and Member States underlying government finance statistics.
- Further improvements in the timeliness and availability for all Member States of the principal European economic indicators (PEEIs) has been a Eurostat priority for a number of years. Timeliness targets have been reached for the consumer price indicators. On the availability of PEEIs, most of the indicators are fully available and progress is being made on country coverage for some indicators such as on services producer price indices.
- New initiatives and preparatory work for the future took place on price statistics.
- In January 2018, the Commission adopted the EU monitoring framework for the circular economy and since then Eurostat publishes and maintains the EU monitoring framework for the circular economy in a dedicated website, also including a diagram on material flows in the EU economy.
- The ESS quality assurance framework was revised in 2018-2019 and its final version was endorsed by the ESSC in May 2019. This revised version of the ESS quality assurance framework contains good practices, methods and tools for all principles of the 2017 version of the European statistics Code of Practice.
- A highlight of the first half of 2019 was the launch of the review of the EU statistical classification of economic activities (NACE), broadly supported by the ESSC members.

Conclusions

Overall, the report stated that the implementation of the European statistical programme is progressing well, producing significant results under the programmes different objectives. A final evaluation of the ESP will be performed by the end of 2021.

The two mid-term evaluations of the ESP demonstrated that:

- (i) the current delivery mechanism works effectively;
- (ii) the programme is run efficiently; and
- (iii) is reaching its objectives.

The ESP provides clear EU added value thanks to the harmonised provision of comparable and high-quality data for the EU. However, the evaluations also show the need to ensure adequate resources in the future for the modernisation of the statistical production processes. In addition, Eurostat needs to be able to respond to users growing needs, especially concerning timeliness and coverage of new data for emerging policy needs, while becoming more agile and taking advantage of new technologies.

Future programme

- In June 2018, the Commission adopted the [proposal for a regulation](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the 2021-2027 programme for the single market, the competitiveness of enterprises, including SMEs, and the financing of European statistics. The proposal includes general and detailed specific objectives on European statistics, aiming to ensure their visibility and its cross-cutting character. The programme will in particular underpin the policies of the next multiannual financial framework, and support key initiatives such as the Investment Plan for Europe, the European Pillar of Social Rights, the Energy Union, defence and security, and the structural reform agenda.
- The structure of the future programme has been simplified in order to improve implementation. The new programme will enable more timely and cost-effective production of European statistics, using multiple data sources, advanced data analytics methods and digital technologies to support the design, monitoring and evaluation of EU policies. The programme will also ensure the provision of high-quality statistics as key instruments to enhance transparency and accountability of EU policies.