



European  
Commission

# Management Plan 2021

ESTAT

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## INTRODUCTION

Eurostat's mission is to provide high-quality statistics for Europe. To this end, Eurostat develops and promotes standards, methods and procedures that allow the cost-effective production and dissemination of European statistics. Eurostat's work is governed by professional independence, impartial treatment of all users, objectivity, reliability, statistical confidentiality and cost-effectiveness.

Eurostat is the statistical authority of the European Union and a Directorate-General of the Commission. It ensures the development, production and dissemination of European statistics according to the rules and statistical principles laid down in Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 on European statistics. The roles and responsibilities of Eurostat within the internal organisation of the Commission, as regards the development, production and dissemination of statistics, are further defined in Commission Decision 2012/504/EU on Eurostat of 17 September 2012.

The management plan 2021 is the second one of the new Strategic Plan 2020-2024, which describes the objectives of Eurostat for the next five years. In 2020-2024, Eurostat will contribute to the general objective "Modern, high-performing and sustainable European Commission" by delivering on its mission and modernising the way it works.

To translate the general objective into concrete plans, Eurostat has set three specific objectives that will guide its work in 2020-2024:

- Eurostat remains the trusted point of reference for statistics and data on Europe, necessary for better policies, decisions and public debate in the European Union.
- Eurostat better meets user needs for relevant, timely and high-quality statistics, in particular by continuing to foster partnerships and by embracing innovative data sources and technologies.
- Eurostat better communicates and better promotes European statistics and facilitates their use by policy-makers, citizens, businesses, researchers and the media.

These objectives are implemented through annual management plans that describe key initiatives, outputs and targets for the year they refer to. The current plan covers the year 2021. It represents Eurostat contribution to the implementation of the Commission work programme for 2021 'A Union of vitality in a world of fragility'.

The year 2020 has been a stressed test for Eurostat and its partners in the European Statistical System with the severe difficulties in the data collection caused by the Covid-19 outbreak. At the same time, the unprecedented health and economic crisis has shown clearly than ever the importance of timely, relevant and reliable official statistics that is comparable across the countries. To respond to the emerging demands and overcome the difficulties with reduced or often missing primary data, the national statistical authorities

and Eurostat have turned to new data sources and new innovative techniques. In 2021, the efforts should continue to leveraging the results in that context. Eurostat focus will be twofold. First, to continue providing data and statistics needed for policy-making and public debate to overcome the adverse effects of Covid-19 outbreak and support the economic and social recovery. Second, to deliver on the Commission headline ambitions and to continue to be the trusted reference point for data and statistics in building a fairer, healthier, greener and more digital Europe.

## **PART 1. Delivering on the Commission's priorities: main outputs for the year**

### **A. Statistics and data to support the recovery from the COVID-19 crisis**

In 2021, Eurostat will focus its efforts on continuing to be the trusted reference for statistics and data, necessary for policy-making and public debate during the recovery from Covid-19 and for shaping the Europe of tomorrow. In this way, Eurostat will contribute to the achievement of **specific objective 1 of the Strategic Plan 2020-2024**.

The president of the Commission Ursula von der Leyen presented in her State of the Union speech on 16 September 2020 her vision for a Europe that comes out stronger from the COVID-19 crisis and leads the way towards new vitality, to build the world we want to live in. Eurostat will fully support this vision with its work. In particular, Eurostat will contribute to the NextGenerationEU financial instrument that supports the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and investment in the green and digital transitions. It will do so by providing statistics of highest quality relevant to the COVID-19 crisis, to the European Green Deal (climate, energy, transport, etc.) and to digitalisation (e.g. Trusted Smart Statistics initiative).

The **European Statistical Recovery Dashboard**, containing monthly and quarterly indicators from a broad range of statistical areas that are highly relevant **for monitoring economic and social recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic**, will be launched by the end of 2020 and will be published monthly in the course of 2021. The Dashboard will be improved in terms of functionality, timeliness and coverage based on development of indicators and user feedback.

Replying to the new policy measures introduced by the EU and national governments to mitigate the economic and social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, Eurostat will continue providing **timely guidance regarding the correct implementation of accounting rules**, ensuring a harmonised recording of similar policy measures across EU Member States.

In particular, Eurostat will **monitor the accounting consequences of the implementation of the Recovery and Resilience Facility (the RRF)**, which is an instrument to be implemented via the EU budget, aiming at mobilising investment and frontloading financial support in the first years of post COVID-19 recovery. Member States will be able to benefit from the RRF funds on the basis of their recovery and resilience plans. Additionally, Eurostat will monitor the implementation of the initiatives Support to mitigate Unemployment Risks in an Emergency (SURE) and Pan-European Guarantee Fund (PEGF), set up at European level. Finally, Eurostat will establish detailed reporting tables with the aim of monitoring the correct statistical recording of the national measures introduced by Member States to tackle the economic effects of the pandemic as well as of

ensuring the application of the statistical rule to the RRF associated flows.

## **B. Statistics and data to support the policies and public debate on the Commission six headline ambitions**

President von der Leyen's political guidelines present a framework for our common work, drawing on the common ideas and priorities that unite us. They lay down the work of the European institutions around six headline ambitions for Europe, all of which Eurostat contributes to with its activities.

### **A European Green Deal**

High quality **statistics on agriculture, environment, fisheries, transport, energy, water and for regions and cities** will continue to be produced to support the overhauling of the relevant climate and energy legislation and preparation of the "Fit for 55 Package" of new legislative initiatives, the implementation of Europe's circular economy action plan, the EU biodiversity strategy and the Farm to fork strategy. Work on enriching and improving timeliness of energy and transport statistics will accelerate the response to the changing information needs, related to energy performance of buildings, energy taxation and smart and sustainable transport.

The **modernisation of agricultural statistics** will continue with two initiatives linked to regulatory simplification that will increase the quality and relevance of statistics. **A new legal proposal for statistics on the input to and output from agriculture (SAIO)** and **an amendment of the economic accounts for agriculture (EAA)** are scheduled to be submitted in early 2021. The implementation of the **Integrated Farm Statistics (IFS)** will continue and the implementing act for the 2023 data collection be prepared for adoption. To ensure financing of the IFS data collections in 2023 and 2026, an amending act will be proposed. An **update of the pesticides statistics regulation** annex will increase the relevance of these statistics for users.

The impact assessment of **European fisheries statistics (EFS)** and a new legal proposal linked to regulatory simplification in that domain will be submitted by end 2021 (five current regulations could be merged into one new).

To respond to several new data needs stemming from the European Green Deal, a review of climate change related statistics will be undertaken. In addition, the **European environmental economic accounts will be upgraded** in a first step by means of a delegated act so as to improve timeliness and updating the lists of characteristics, and in a second step by proposing additional environmental topics, such as forests, water, ecosystems and environmental subsidies. The monitoring framework for the circular economy will be updated as announced in the Commission Circular economy action plan. **Waste statistics** will be modernised to take into account new legislation, to contribute to

**improved circular economy monitoring** and to contribute to the monitoring of progress towards the sustainable development goals (SDGs).

Detailed guidance will be provided to Member States on **waste statistics**, and in particular on the compilation of packaging waste statistics. Eurostat will collect the first reference data for the new own resource based on plastic packaging waste not recycled and will continue upgrading statistics in the context of the European Green Deal. A programme of information visits related to the new plastics based own resource will be prepared, with first visits being foreseen in 2021.

### **An economy that works for people**

In the context of the **European Pillar of Social Rights**, Eurostat will remain closely associated with possible further developments in 2021. All data under Eurostat remit will be updated regularly and disseminated on the Eurostat website, in order to remain the trusted reference for statistics and data necessary to elaborate the Action Plan to implement the European Pillar of Social Rights in 2021.

The relevance of **labour market data** is high on the policy agenda of the Commission, especially in a COVID-19 context. The new Labour Force Survey (LFS) under regulation 2019/1700 will be implemented from 2021, improving relevance, timeliness and comparability of labour market information (especially employment and unemployment). To measure the COVID-19 impact, Eurostat will increase the dissemination of quarterly **labour market data**, accompanied with additional indicators relevant in the COVID-19 crisis. Preparations will also be launched for a new regulation on business-based labour market statistics (labour costs, earnings and job vacancies) in order to move towards more relevant and timely data, using better administrative data sources. This would include starting an impact assessment in 2021.

2021 will be the first year of the implementation of Regulation (EU) 2019/1700, aiming at **better integrating social statistics**. More comparable data will be gradually made available through this Regulation, with higher quality and timeliness, allowing better cross-domain analyses, especially in the context of labour market, living conditions, lifelong learning, consumption, health, use of information and communication technology and time use. It will also play an important role in the context of equality policies and inclusive green deal.

In 2021, Eurostat will make available data on occupational diseases as part of Experimental statistics, thus responding to a high political need of information regarding occupational safety and health. Eurostat and Member States will continue working closely together with DG EMPL to expand further coverage of data enabling computation of new comparable indicators.

Social protection statistics will be further strengthened by increasing their timeliness for the main expenditure indicators, and by broadening the coverage of data on beneficiaries

of social benefits.

Eurostat and Member States joined efforts to improve the statistical output on productivity measures by ensuring proper methodological developments to be done in cooperation within the ESS and with international organisations and users. It is planned that Eurostat and several national statistical institutes will publish **new comparable indicators on labour and capital productivity** at the end of 2021. While Eurostat's labour productivity indicators will be enriched with breakdowns by industry and by regions, the publication of capital productivity indicators will take place for the first time.

Ensuring the continuous provision of high quality statistical information on European businesses, and in particular of timely statistics on short-term business developments (on industry, construction, services and wholesale and retail trade) and international trade will remain among the key priorities in the area of European business and trade statistics, also in the recovery phase of the COVID-19 crisis. The first additional data due under the provisions of the EBS (European Business Statistics) Regulation (2019/2152) with respect to short-term business statistics on services as well as on bankruptcies and registrations of businesses will become available in 2021. This will further complete the information needed for measuring the economic impact of the COVID-19 outbreak.

In 2021, the following acts will be prepared and expected to be adopted that are related to the EBS Regulation: one implementing act and one delegated act in the area of international trade in goods statistics (mainly related to the new compulsory customs data exchange (CDE) in the area of extra-EU trade in goods statistics) and one implementing act specifying the requirements for the 2022 reference year for information and communication technologies with respect to enterprises. In addition, a **structured approach to analyse and address asymmetries, mainly in intra-EU trade**, will be developed.

The implementation of the **European Profiling programme** as of 2021 will contribute to the provision of high quality information on the group structure of the Multinational Enterprise Groups (MNEs) in the EuroGroups Register by delineating enterprises in a consistent way and will also facilitate better insights into the performance of MNEs and their impact on European economy.

There is a new initiative planned, the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EU) No 549/2013 and repealing 15 legal acts in the field of national accounts. The **European System of Accounts 2010** (ESA 2010) needs to be updated, to include the newly agreed international classification of individual consumption by purpose (COICOP 2018), and to allow for improvements expected by users, in terms of transmission deadlines, internal consistency of data and a limited amount of new data requirements. The initiative would also repeal 15 legal acts adopted in the context of regulations corresponding to the European System of Accounts 1995, which is no longer applied. The initiative will increase the relevance of ESA 2010 to the most recent



international recommendations and facilitate the data compiler to achieve a higher degree of consistency across the different tables of the European System of Accounts, improve the transmission deadlines, align requirements across data tables and include voluntary data series in the programme.

Key **macroeconomic indicators and data on national accounts, balance of payments, consumer prices, real estate prices, purchasing power parities and statistics for administrative purposes regarding own resources, remunerations and pensions** will continue to be produced. The data publications will follow the established release calendar and will continue to address any measurement challenge that arises in the context of the COVID-19 crisis and the recovery from it.

As a response to user needs for more indicators on globalisation, Eurostat has developed experimental **intra-EU supply, use and input-output tables (FIGARO tables)**. The data launch will be followed by a future annual regular production in spring 2021. FIGARO aims to be the reference point for national and international organisation in terms of analysis of trade, globalisation, socio-economic, macro-economic and environmental policies for European Union countries. The key aspect of the inter-country input-output tables is to interlink each of the EU economies with another and with non-EU partners. The tables provide indicators like for example global value chains, economic growth, employment embedded in EU exports and carbon footprints. In 2021, regular production of high quality **Excessive Deficit Procedure (EDP) and Government Finance Statistics (GFS)** will continue forming the essential basis for fiscal monitoring in the EU. In particular, it is essential for monitoring the statistical implications of the Stability and Growth Pact and it is crucial for the proper functioning of the EU fiscal surveillance framework.

Eurostat will continue **methodological developments in public finance statistics** leading to better and more harmonised statistics in that area that is essential for the fiscal monitoring in the EU, in particular for monitoring the statistical implications of the Stability and Growth Pact.

Eurostat will be closely involved with other Commission services **contributing to the EU Economic governance review and aiming to strengthen the economic and fiscal surveillance framework**. It will also strengthen its capacity to provide early clarification of the statistical rules applicable to various types of public investment and related instruments in line with rules applicable to national accounts and transparency requirements.

## **A Europe fit for the digital age**

The **digital technologies** are profoundly changing our daily life, our way of working and doing business. High quality statistics on the digital performance of Europe's enterprises and societies is essential for the monitoring of Europe's digital transformation, and thereby serves EU policy-making. Eurostat will carry on producing such statistics, including about

human capital (ranging from internet user skills to advanced skills), the use of the internet (from the citizens' use of the internet to online transactions) and digital competiveness (from e-commerce to the use of artificial intelligence). Eurostat will annually adapt the European surveys on digitalisation in order to keep abreast of the fast changing digital technologies and their applications.

### Promoting our European way of life

The relevance of **population statistics and demography data** is high on the policy agenda of the Commission, in the context of ageing society and shrinking working age population. Preparations will be launched for a new regulation on the issue in order to move towards more frequent data, using better administrative data sources. This would include starting a back-to-back evaluation and impact assessment in 2021. Furthermore, work on the implementation of the **2021 population and housing census** in the EU will continue. Data collections for the reference year 2021 will start nationally, including for the purpose of the first reporting of geocoded data to a 1 km<sup>2</sup> grid.

In relation to the New Pact on Migration and Asylum, more detailed, timely and harmonised **asylum and managed migration statistics** will start to become available in 2021. Work towards the full implementation of the amended Regulation (EU) No 862/2007 will continue and include granting temporary derogations from the data transmission requirements, improvements in the national compilation systems to address the derogations and launching voluntary pilot studies to test the feasibility of new data collections or disaggregations. By July 2021, Eurostat will prepare a draft report on the quality of asylum and managed migration statistics for adoption by the Commission in accordance with Article 12 of Regulation (EU) No 862/2007.

In the domain of income and living conditions, in addition to the annual data collection, a large multidimensional approach will be implemented starting in 2021 with data collection on children's living conditions and health. Data on the impact of the COVID-19 on income and benefits, distance schooling, working from home, access to health care and mental health will be also collected. Preparation for further years will include regulations for rolling modules on health, disability and quality of life as well as housing conditions and difficulties and energy efficiency. The preparation of the implementing act for the consumption domain will be launched, with the aim to be adopted in 2022.

In the area of health, two new implementing regulations are being prepared to be adopted in 2021. Based on the first one, the annual data collection on health care facilities, human resources and utilisation will be strengthened and covered for the first time (to replace Implementing Regulation (EC) No 1338/2008). The second one, covering annual health care expenditure statistics and ensuring its continuity, will replace the existing Commission Regulation (2015/359).



Considering the ageing population and the growing need for data, Eurostat and the Member States will work together to improve availability of the statistical data on long-term care,

as regards health and social components, in order to facilitate the analyses of affordability and availability trends.

### A stronger Europe in the world

Eurostat will continue to drive and **contribute to the setting of international statistical standards, new metrics and methodologies** also in partnerships with international organisations. This would allow ensuring comparability of statistics across the globe and promoting EU values by bringing EU experience.

Eurostat will continue **fostering partnerships and providing assistance** to partners in enlargement countries, countries falling under the European Neighbourhood Policy, and in Africa, especially through regional cooperation and dedicated programmes of statistical capacity.

General objective: A modern, high-performing and sustainable European Commission		
<i>Specific objective: Eurostat remains the trusted point of reference for statistics and data on Europe, necessary for better policies, decisions and public debate in the European Union.</i>		<i>Related to spending programme: European statistical programme 2021-2027</i>
<b>Main outputs in 2021:</b>		
Initiatives linked to regulatory simplification and burden reduction		
Output	Indicator	Target
Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on statistics on agricultural input and output (SAIO) PLAN/2020/6583 	Legislative proposal adopted by the Commission	Q1/2021
Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on European fishery statistics, repealing Regulation (EC) No 1921/2006, Regulation (EC) No 762/2008, Regulation (EC) No 216/2009, Regulation (EC) No 217/2009 and Regulation (EC) No 218/2009 PLAN/2020/6889 	Legislative proposal adopted by the Commission	Q4/2021
Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and the Council amending Regulation (EU) 549/2013 and repealing 15 legal acts	Legislative proposal adopted by the Commission	End of 2021
Preparation of the actions for the new regulation on European statistics on population	Evaluation and impact assessment launched	Q2 2021
Commission Implementing Decision granting derogations to certain Member States from the application	Decision adopted by the Commission	Q1 2021

of Regulation (EC) No 862/2007 on Community statistics on migration and international protection		
Other important outputs		
Output	Indicator	Target
Monthly release of European Statistical Recovery Dashboard	Timely release of the Dashboard according to the release calendar	End of 2021
In the COVID-19 pandemic context, Eurostat is reacting with prioritised and streamlined data collections to follow the accounting consequences of the economic measures taken by EU governments in order to tackle the economic effects of the pandemic, as well as the recording of RRF flows	Summary table on the COVID-19 measures' impact	End of 2021
An update of the monitoring framework for the circular economy is due by Q4 2021 as announced in the Commission Circular Economy Action Plan which is part of the European Green Deal	Monitoring framework updated	Q4 2021
Regulation of the European Parliament and the Council amending Regulation (EU) 2018/1091 on integrated farm statistics as regards the financial framework for the period 2021-2027	Legislative proposal adopted by the Commission	Q2/2021
Implementation of the Integrated Farm Statistics (IFS) regulation (regulatory work and technical implementation)	Adoption of the implementing act for IFS 2023	Q4 2021
Regulation of the European Parliament and European Council amending Regulation (EC) No. 138/2004 on the economic accounts for agriculture in the Community	Legislative proposal adopted by the Commission	Q1/2021
Updating the annex of Regulation (EC) No 1185/2009 concerning pesticide statistics	Commission Regulation adopted	Q3/2021
Upgrading the European environmental accounts: Delegated act based on Regulation 691/2011 Art 3(3) to adapt them to the needs of the European Green Deal	Delegated act adopted	Q4 2021
First transmission of plastic packaging waste statistics according to the definitions for the plastics-based own resource	Datasets transmitted by Member States	Q2 2021
Regular production of high-quality statistics on agriculture,	Data disseminated according to schedule	End of 2021

environment, fisheries, transport, energy, water and for regions and cities		
Delivering on the scoreboard of indicators associated to the European pillar of social rights	Data are updated as soon as available	100% update of the new data within 5 days of availability
Delivering better quarterly labour market data	Publication of data at Q + 90 Quarterly detailed press release Quarterly update of statistics explained	Publication of data, press release and at least 2 statistics explained at Q+90 at the latest
Increasing number of countries releasing social protection expenditure main indicators at T+10 months from T+22	Main indicators to be published for 21 Member States (14 in 2020)	Coverage up to 80% of countries available (50% in 2020)
Additional indicators on labour and capital productivity	40 indicator series disseminated, including breakdowns by economic activity, regions and assets	End of 2021
Regular and increased (COVID-related) dissemination of business and trade statistics, in particular Principal European Economic Indicators (PEEIs) (short term indicators on industry, on construction, on services, on wholesale and retail trade; international trade in goods)	Business and trade statistics are disseminated according to the Eurostat release calendar	Dissemination of the existing PEEIs and new experimental statistics in line with the legal requirements in place and the published Eurostat release calendar, i.e. monthly for monthly PEEIs and quarterly for quarterly PEEIs
EBS Regulation 2019/2152 foresees the increased dissemination of statistics also relevant in the context of the COVID-19 crisis: bankruptcies and registrations of businesses and service production indicators	Business and trade statistics are disseminated according to the Eurostat release calendar (for the EBS requirements)	Official Quarterly bankruptcies and registrations of businesses disseminated, in line with the EBS legal requirements starting to apply in 2021
	Experimental indicators disseminated	Experimental monthly indicators on services (turnover and production) for certain COVID-19 relevant NACE disseminated in 2021
Implementation of the European business statistics (EBS) Regulation (regulatory work and technical implementation)	Adoption of the information and communication technologies implementing act for reference year 2022 Adoption of the delegated act for customs and tax authority information Adoption of the implementing act for modalities of data provision and exchange of customs data Finalisation of the technical preparatory work related to the two new compulsory micro-data exchanges in the area of trade in goods statistics, i.e. the	End of Q3 2021  Q3 2021  Q3 2021  Q4 2021

	<p>micro-data exchange (MDE) related to intra-EU trade in goods statistics and the customs data exchange (CDE) related to extra-EU trade in goods statistics</p> <p>Structured approach to analyse and address asymmetries, mainly in intra-EU trade, in the context of the MDE, developed</p>	Q4 2021
Provision of high quality information on Multinational Enterprise Groups in the EuroGroups Register and through European Profiling	High quality business and trade statistics are disseminated according to the Eurostat release calendar	Production of the annual EGR frame by March 2021
Regular production of high-quality statistics on national accounts, balance of payments, consumer prices, real estate prices, purchasing power parities and statistics for administrative purposes	Data disseminated according to schedule	End of 2021
First time release of intra-EU supply, use and input-output tables (FIGARO)	<p>Publication of time series 2010-2018</p> <p>Development of five new globalisation related indicators</p>	<p>Q2 2021</p> <p>End of 2021</p>
Regular production of Excessive Deficit Procedure (EDP) and Government Finance Statistics (GFS)	Dissemination/publication according to the Eurostat release calendar	End of 2021
Continuous methodological developments in public finance	<p>Timely statistical reply to policy needs.</p> <p>More harmonised EDP/GFS data on statistical recording of government interventions to mitigate the economic and social impact due to the COVID-19 pandemic</p>	End of 2021
Provision of high quality statistics on digitalisation through the survey on the use of ICT and e-commerce in enterprises and the use of ICT in households and by individuals	ICT statistics are disseminated in Eurostat's dissemination database, accompanied by news items and Statistics Explained articles	<p>Dissemination of data for survey year 2020 in January 2021</p> <p>Dissemination of data for survey year 2021 in January 2022</p>
Further development of partnerships with international organisations (IOs) in developing international standards to ensure comparability of statistics across the globe	Administrative Arrangements with international organisations that are Eurostat key partners are reviewed and signed	By the end of 2021
Eurostat will contribute to the setting of international statistical standards and promote EU values	Common EU positions will be established before the annual meeting of the UN Statistical Commission	By the end of March 2021
Fostering partnerships and providing assistance to partners in enlargement countries, countries falling under the European	Successful running of dedicated programs of statistical cooperation – IPA, STEP and PANAFII programs	By the end of 2021

### C. Better meeting user needs by fostering partnerships and embracing innovative data sources and technologies

To achieve the strategic **specific objective 2**, an enhanced process of the **priority-setting mechanism** in the European Statistical system will be piloted. The mechanism is centred around users' demands and is to be implemented for different statistical domains. In 2021, a pilot domain review on **climate change related statistics** will be carried out with the active involvement of the European Statistical System Committee (ESSC).

Under the **Trusted Smart Statistics initiative**, Eurostat will continue seizing the opportunities provided by new technologies and new data sources, especially those originating from the digitalisation of society and the economy. This will result in improving official statistics portfolio along key quality dimensions: better timeliness, finer granularity, improved cost-effectiveness, and more transparency. This initiative is gradually providing the ESS with capabilities that are essential for adapting the official statistics to the digital era.

Eurostat keeps maintaining the **high quality of ESSC meetings and conclusions**.

The Trusted Smart Statistics initiative will be further implemented through a number of flagship projects focused on the use of new data sources. For example, regarding **collaborative economy** in 2021, following the concluded agreements with four internet platforms about the provision of data (for compiling statistical indicators on short-term accommodations), Eurostat will aim at setting up a **regular data production and further explore the development of additional indicators in collaboration with the Member States**.

In 2021, Eurostat will also continue with the set up the Web Intelligence Hub platform based on the new EC Data platform. It will implement new technologies and solutions enabling Eurostat to harness new data sources. This solution is being built on cloud infrastructure and services set up and maintained by DG DIGIT.

To bring Europe closer to citizens and regions, Eurostat will make more use of georeferenced data by systematically integrating and mainstreaming geospatial information into statistical production and collecting more geospatial data. This will allow for more detailed regional and local level statistics in areas such as demography, economy, energy, transport and agriculture.

In order to take full advantage of the existing digital solutions and new data sources, in 2021, Eurostat will further engage with data owners in both the private and public sectors,

as well as with other stakeholders, such as researchers and academics. These partnerships should facilitate access to data for statistical purposes, the integration of data from multiple sources and use of the latest technologies in compiling official statistics. Eurostat will also contribute to the implementation of the European Strategy for Data.

Eurostat will deploy a complete range of measures to ensure enhanced policy coordination, partnership activities within the European Statistical System and with external parties, and international co-operation on statistical matters. Eurostat will continue to implement its international cooperation strategy and enhance statistical cooperation with international organisations (the United Nations, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, the International Monetary Fund, the International Labour Organisation, and the World Bank). Updating the administrative arrangements on statistical cooperation with several international organisations that are key partners of Eurostat will be completed in the course of 2021. The cooperation will aim to drive the setting of European and international statistical standards, and promote EU values and the principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice. Eurostat will strive for ESS common positions in international fora. There is also a close and longstanding cooperation between the European Central Bank and Eurostat as regards the production of economic and financial statistics, with the objective of ensuring the necessary coherence in the production of European statistics.

Eurostat's commitment to quality will be key to remain the trusted point of reference for statistics and data on Europe. Eurostat is committed to quality as expressed in the principles of the European statistics Code of Practice. The **third round of European Statistical System (ESS) peer reviews** will start and the first reviews for nine member States as well as Eurostat will be carried out in 2021. The third round of ESS peer reviews will contribute to the achievement of the specific objective 2 of Eurostat by assessing the adherence of ESS partners to the principles of European statistics Code of Practice. In order to inform the public and relevant stakeholders, a communication campaign around the peer reviews will be launched. Additionally, the implementation of another round of Eurostat's internal **quality reviews of statistical processes and outputs** will contribute to the achievement of the objective by assessing and suggesting improvements to the quality of processes and outputs.

To produce the outputs mentioned above in order to achieve what is planned under specific objectives 1 and 2, Eurostat depends on the data provided by the Member States. This is the most important external factor which can affect the production of European statistics. Continuous efforts are needed to maintain data delivery from Member States so as to avoid influence on the timeliness and completeness of European statistics. In this respect, the impact of the persistent COVID-19 crisis will continue in 2021. The crisis has affected particularly surveys based on face-to-face interviews and the collection of data from enterprises. The ESS is taking up these challenges while facing an increased demand for data, especially short term statistics linked to the crisis.



The development of new or improved statistics and the dissemination of statistics under specific objective 3 could be impacted in a similar way, if some Member States would not be able to participate in such developments. Member States' capacity to deliver data affects the quality and punctuality of the European statistics disseminated by Eurostat. However, Eurostat has been taking measures to face that possibility, including by using alternative data sources and new statistical methods, as well as developing guidelines and methodological notes.

<b>General objective: A modern, high-performing and sustainable European Commission</b>		
<i><b>Specific objective:</b> Eurostat better meets user needs for relevant, timely and high-quality statistics, in particular by continuing to foster partnerships and by embracing innovative data sources and technologies.</i>		<i>Related to spending programme: European statistical programme 2021-2027</i>
<b>Main outputs in 2021:</b>		
<b>Other important outputs</b>		
<b>Output</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>
ESS review on climate change related statistics	Report to ESS Committee	Q4 2021
The co-operation with research communities and qualified professionals in the fields of relevance for Trusted Smart Statistics (e.g. web intelligence and nowcasting) will be strengthened	Successful organisation of European Big Data hackathon	Q1 2021
	European Statistics Awards programme launched	Q3 2021
High-quality ESSC meetings and conclusions	Percentage of participants assessing the overall quality of the meetings/conclusions as very good or good	≥ 75%
Collaborative economy: regular production and exploring the development of further indicators	Set up a regular production of indicators	End of 2021
Pilot implementation of EC Data platform	The Eurostat Web Intelligence Platform, i.e. an IT infrastructure for the ingestion and processing of web data sources (web pages, web API, etc.), is operational and used for compiling online job advertisement data and piloting new workflows	80%
Nine peer reviews of Member States and EFTA countries and the peer review of Eurostat started and for some of them peer review reports available	List of recommendations from the peer reviews is available for all 9 peer reviews in Member States and EFTA countries and the peer review of Eurostat	End of 2021
Communication campaign on ESS	Numbers of contacts made	5.000

peer reviews is launched, to be concluded in 2023	during the campaign in 2021	
A total of 8 centralised quality reviews and 14 decentralised quality reviews will be implemented in 2021 and reported on	Availability of 22 quality review reports and corresponding improvement actions are encoded in PMR	End of 2021

#### D. For enhanced communication and reuse of European official statistics

In 2021, Eurostat will contribute to **specific objective 3** to better communicate and promote European statistics and facilitate their use by policy-makers, citizens, businesses, researchers and the media by a number of initiatives and deliverables.

Eurostat will strive to be more agile and innovative, proactively reaching out to users to ensure effective dissemination and communication of statistics among different stakeholder groups. It will lead by example and promote good practices within the European Statistical System. In particular, Eurostat will implement its recently adopted Dissemination and communication strategy and will:

- be digital by default and phase out printed publications,
- expand its reach across different dissemination channels through regular visually appealing products, responsive interactions with users and carefully targeted promotional activities,
- promote and focus on interactive digital publications with data and statistics related to the Commission headline ambitions,
- expand the range of statistical literacy products available,
- increase statistical literacy among users and the public, through different kinds of articles in Statistics Explained as the key product for presenting our statistics with an analysis aimed at different user groups,
- review the design and content structure of the Eurostat website to be in line with modern user expectations,
- contribute to communication activities on Commission priorities,
- continue to strengthen cooperation with EU National Statistical Institutes in the field of strategic communications,

and develop a joint Eurostat-ESS communication strategy, to raise awareness of the quality of European statistics and, in particular, to include a common approach on communication in a time of crisis.

Eurostat's Social Media presence will be developed further, defining the personality for each of the existing platforms (Twitter, Facebook and Instagram) and considering the possibilities to expand the range of platforms. Building on opportunities offered by the recent move to an all-virtual environment, webinars (online presentations with question/answer sessions) will become part of the regular dissemination in 2021. It is planned to organise around 10 webinars on various statistical topics.

**General objective: A modern, high-performing and sustainable European Commission**

*Specific objective: Eurostat better communicates and better promotes European statistics and facilitates their use by policy-makers, citizens, businesses, researchers and the media.*

*Related to spending programme: European statistical programme 2021-2027*

**Main outputs in 2021:**

**External communication actions**

<b>Output/ Result</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>
Increase Eurostat presence across different dissemination channels	Number of recorded user sessions on the Eurostat website Number of Eurostat followers and engagement rate on social media	16.5 million recorded user sessions Twitter: 175.000 followers, 1,5% engagement rate Facebook: 75.000 followers, 122.000 average monthly engagements Instagram: 10.000 followers
Implement the 2021 Dissemination programme	Degree of implementation	100%
Disseminate flagship publications Key figures on Europe, SDGs, Regional Yearbook	Number of downloads for 2020 and 2021 editions (interactive and pdf)	Key figures Europe: 25.000 SDG : 50.000 Regional yearbook: 30.000
Produce new interactive digital publications	Number of new interactive digital publications	3 new interactive digital publications in 2021
Expand the range and reach of statistical literacy products	Number of views for Statistics Explained articles  Number of views for Statistics 4 beginners section  Number of new Statistics Explained articles and new Statistics 4 beginners articles	Monthly average of 1.5 million views for Statistics Explained articles as a whole Monthly average of 3.000 views for the Statistics 4 beginners section 30 new Statistics Explained articles and minimum 3 new Statistics 4 beginners articles
Review the layout and look, navigation and structure of the Eurostat website	Degree of implementation of the review	50%

**Other important outputs**

<b>Output</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>
Strengthen ESS cooperation in the field of strategic communications	Number of projects proposed by the ESS Task Force on Strategic Communication in the priority communication areas for the ESS  Number of meetings of the ESS Task Force on Strategic Communication	Minimum of 3 projects proposed in 2021  Minimum of 2 meetings to be held in 2021
Joint Eurostat-ESS communication strategy	Draft strategy to raise awareness of the quality of	By the end of 2021

	European statistics, prepared Common approach on communication in a time of crisis, drafted	By the end of 2021
Curated datasets obtained from On line Job Advertisements collected by scraping web pages and web application programming interfaces (APIs) will be produced regularly by the Web Intelligence Hub Platform and will be used for producing a set of experimental statistics	Publication of experimental statistics	Q3 2021
The first workflow collecting data from the web on European Enterprise Group will be piloted	Pilot workflow in web intelligence hub	Q4 2021
New and authoritative methods for processing Mobile Network Operators data will be developed by Eurostat in collaboration with other national statistical institutes	Technical publications describing the proposed methods in the form of technical manuals, technical reports, statistical working papers or scientific papers	Q3 2021
In the domain of trusted smart surveys, critical aspects of compliance with GDPR, IT-security, etc. will have been addressed before initiating proof of concepts for HBS and TUS	Report addressing critical aspects related to application of trusted smart surveys published	Q4 2021

## **PART 2. Modernising the administration: main outputs for the year**

In 2021, Eurostat will implement the Human Resource strategy establishing the overarching link between the business goals, skills and staffing, working culture and actions to respond to the most important HR challenges. In addition, Eurostat will apply the new Commission Gender Equality Strategy, in particular by appointing female Deputies to Directors. 2021 being the first year under the Multi-Annual Financial Framework 2021-2027, where statistics are incorporated in the Single Market Programme, procedures will be aligned and the rules of budgetary governance will be fine-tuned. Eurostat will monitor the implementation of the anti-fraud Action Plan and will support the fight against fraud. In 2021, Eurostat will finalise the roll-out of the new solution for data exchange for all statistical domains and all data providers and will actively contribute to the development of the Digital Commission and the EC data strategy. In line with the Commission's Data Protection Action Plan, Eurostat will put continuous efforts to reach the target of 100% staff attending awareness raising activities by 2024, shifting to online activities because of the COVID-19 crisis. In order to reduce the environmental impact as an employer, Eurostat will actively contribute to become climate-neutral by 2030. The internal EMAS network will continue to promote environmental awareness. Furthermore, Eurostat will nominate EMAS relays in each unit to improve information-sharing and good environmental behaviour.

The internal control framework<sup>1</sup> supports sound management and decision-making. It notably ensures that risks to the achievement of objectives are taken into account and reduced to acceptable levels through cost-effective controls.

Eurostat has established an internal control system tailored to its particular characteristics and circumstances. The effective functioning of the service's internal control system will be assessed on an ongoing basis throughout the year and be subject to a specific annual assessment covering all internal control principles.

### **A. Human resource management**

In 2021, Eurostat will continue to focus on ensuring effective allocation and management of human resources in order to deliver on Commission headline ambitions and statistical priorities. A major output will be a new local HR strategy with a 5-year perspective, consistent with the overall Commission HR strategy in order to ensure the effective management of human resources and to optimise the capacity to deliver on strategic priorities in the future. To ensure that Eurostat is prepared for the challenges caused by the rapidly changing technologies and emerging digital sources, Eurostat will put a particular focus on training, learning and development.

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<sup>1</sup> [Communication C\(2017\)2373 - Revision of the Internal Control Framework](#)

Eurostat will strive to maintain the gender balance achieved among senior and middle managers. The ambition is to achieve the target for the first time female middle managers appointed in 2021. Eurostat will make full use of its allocated quota as regards the Female Talent Development Programme in 2021.

Furthermore, Eurostat will encourage team leaders to develop further their people management skills via the existing courses offered. Eurostat will closely follow up the results of the 2021 Commission Staff Survey and will decide on specific improvement actions. It seems that the management of the pandemic and its impact on staff and working environment will remain one of the major HR challenges for 2021. The pulse surveys run until summer break 2020 have shown that there has been a growing percentage over time of respondents who have answered positively as regards coping with the situation and over three quarter of respondents felt well supported by their management. If this situation continues, it is important to keep this positive attitude of staff and management over time towards dealing with the challenging work circumstances stemming from the pandemic.

Eurostat will continue its internal communication policy and to inform its staff on ongoing developments in business and all HR related issues. On Eurostat’s Intranet page ‘Cybernews’, there is a daily set of news articles. Also, in close cooperation with HR Business Correspondent, articles are drafted to inform staff about HR issues, including those dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic.

In addition, Eurostat publishes the analyses of the corporate Pulse surveys. This communication policy will be continued in 2021.

**Objective:** Eurostat employs a competent and engaged workforce and contributes to gender equality at all levels of management to effectively deliver on the Commission’s priorities and core business

**Main outputs in 2021:**

<b>Output</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>
An established HR strategy, aligned to the priorities of the DG, comprising work force planning and recruitment, staff development, as well as learning and development	Strategy defined with stakeholders and approved by senior management	Adopted in early Q2 2021
Gender Equality at all management levels by the end of 2024	Number of first female appointments to middle management positions Nomination of Deputies to the Directors (55% female representation)	Two in the period 2020-2022, one remaining Once all Directors are appointed in 2021
Boosting staff engagement and staff commitment	Percentage of staff declaring in staff survey that they feel well supported	70% feeling well supported

2021 target for the indicator coming from the SP2020-2024:

Indicator	Target
Eurostat staff engagement index	75%

## B. Sound financial management

Eurostat's operational budget aims at implementing the Programme for Single Market, competitiveness of enterprises including SMEs, and European statistics 2021-2027, in line with the multi-annual framework and in accordance with the Financial Regulation and related rules. Eurostat puts in place key processes for ensuring an efficient and effective budget planning and monitoring, the processing and controlling of transactions to ensure their legality and regularity, support to internal and external users and related reporting. Eurostat also develops initiatives for simplifying its financial management and adapting the control system to current and future changes in its legal and operational environment.

Work on simplifying procedures and shifting towards completely paperless workflows, including the introduction of additional domains (Audit) of the financial cycle within eGrants and eProcurement will continue throughout the year, to reduce the administrative burden for both Member States and the Commission, also contributing to reduce the overall cost of control.

**Objective:** The authorising officer by delegation has reasonable assurance that resources have been used in accordance with the principles of sound financial management and that cost-effective controls are in place which give the necessary guarantees concerning the legality and regularity of underlying transactions

### Main outputs in 2021:

Output	Indicator	Target
Effective controls: Legal and regular transactions	Risk at payment	remains < 2 % of relevant expenditure
	Estimated risk at closure	remains < 2 % of relevant expenditure
Effective controls: Safeguarded information	Number of incidents recorded regarding data integrity in the reception and transmission of information, including the web site	<=1
Efficient controls	Time-to-pay	95% of payments (in value) on time
Economical controls	Overall estimated cost of controls	decreases from 12.08% of funds managed

## C. Fraud risk management

Eurostat will monitor the implementation of the anti-fraud Action Plan, concentrating its efforts mainly on achieving the strategic objective of improving awareness among staff to strengthen Eurostat’s anti-fraud capacities and maintain an efficient collaboration with OLAF. In view to support the fight against fraud Eurostat will participate in the FPD network in order to improve the quality and completeness of data retrieved and the analysis of fraud detection methods.

The anti-fraud exercise is integrated in Eurostat’s reporting; regular reporting is ensured in the Annual Activity Report and through the internal control reports, which include a specific section on anti-fraud/OLAF investigations, which are issued twice a year and addressed to the Commissioner.

**Objective:** The risk of fraud is minimised through the application of effective anti-fraud measures and the implementation of the Commission Anti-Fraud Strategy (CAFS)<sup>2</sup> aimed at the prevention, detection and correction<sup>3</sup> of fraud

### Main outputs in 2021:

Output	Indicator	Target
Increased awareness of anti-fraud measures	Nr. of anti-fraud awareness raising event organised	2 events
	Participation in FPDNet meetings	Attend all FPDNet meetings organised by OLAF
Follow up of OLAF’s investigations	Report with status on anti-fraud to Commissioner delivered	Twice per year

2021 target for the indicator coming from the SP2020-2024:

Indicator	Target
Percentage of actions of the Anti-fraud Action Plan implemented as planned in the year	100%

## D. Digital transformation and information management

To advance in digital transformation, in 2021, Eurostat will start implementing the IT strategy that will drive the digital transformation for the following years. In this year, it will finalise the roll-out of the new solution for data exchange for all statistical domains and all

<sup>2</sup> Communication from the Commission ‘Commission Anti-Fraud Strategy: enhanced action to protect the EU budget’, COM(2019) 196 of 29 April 2019 – ‘the CAFS Communication’ – and the accompanying action plan, SWD(2019) 170 – ‘the CAFS Action Plan’.

<sup>3</sup> Correction of fraud is an umbrella term, which notably refers to the recovery of amounts unduly spent and to administrative sanctions.



data providers (Edamis 4).

Eurostat will also continue modernising its legacy solutions, by completing the transition of the statistical domains that were using OLAP technologies to other supported platforms and to replace the non-supported Coldfusion applications by other solutions supported by DIGIT. As part of its IT rationalisation effort, Eurostat will launch in 2021 an in-depth analysis of the existing statistical production systems, aiming to produce a mid-term roadmap for their rationalisation.

In 2021, Eurostat will continue fostering Commission-wide cooperation, participating actively in different corporate initiatives, such as the qualified electronic signature for a paperless administration, as well as the implementation of the different collaborative solutions provided by DIGIT to move forward the Digital Workplace of the future.

Eurostat is contributing to the development of the Digital Commission and the EC data strategy. Building upon its broad experience of data and metadata standardisation, Eurostat will continue contributing actively to the creation of a comprehensive Commission data catalogue and to the definition of corporate reference data management policies. Eurostat institutional support services will continue to offer training to EU institutions staff about the usage of official statistics. Eurostat will also continue efforts to standardise the exchange of data and metadata within the ESS through the implementation of the SDMX and SIMS standards.

The target of 100% staff attending awareness raising activities on data protection compliance by 2024 will require continuous efforts in 2021. The provision of regular training for newcomers and presentations for middle and senior management will be continued. Due to the ongoing restrictions resulting from the COVID-19 crisis, which currently appear to be carried into 2021, the focus was shifted to online activities. Among those, regular articles in the intranet of Eurostat about data protection issues as well as an appearance of the DPC in the “HUM” meeting, bringing together all management levels of Eurostat, will be given a high priority. A report to the Directors’ meeting (DM) of Eurostat is also planned for 2021.

The actions for compliance with the Commission's Data Protection Action Plan (C(2018) 7432 final) will be continued in 2021, starting with the awareness raising activities mentioned above. Compliance with obligations concerning record keeping, procedures for data subject rights and allocation of resources for compliance will remain a high priority, with a view to further improving the high compliance standard achieved in 2020.

**Objective:** Eurostat is using innovative, trusted digital solutions for better policy-shaping, information management and administrative processes to forge a truly digitally transformed, user-focused and data-driven Commission

### Main outputs in 2021:

Output	Indicator	Target
New modern data exchange infrastructure	Percentage of transmissions received using EDAMIS 4	100%
Modernisation of legacy applications	All domains from OLAP migrated to other production systems. Coldfusion applications migrated to a supported technology. Analysis of the statistical production systems	70%
Implementation of ESS standards for the exchange of reference metadata and quality reports	Percentage of mandatory data transmissions covered by reference metadata and quality reports based on the SIMS standard	90%
Implementation of corporate principles for data governance for Eurostat's key data assets	Percentage of Eurostat's key data assets for which corporate principles for data governance have been implemented	85%

2021 target for the indicators coming from the SP2020-2024:

Indicator	Target
Degree of implementation of the digital strategy principles by the most important IT solutions:	
Eurostat production systems	56%
EDAMIS	94%
Dissemination chain	92%
Percentage of staff having attended awareness raising activities on data protection compliance	75%

## E. Sound environmental management

The European Green Deal, one of the headline ambitions of the von der Leyen Commission, commits the Commission (and therefore Eurostat) to reduce its environmental impact as an institution and as an employer. Eurostat will actively contribute to the comprehensive action plan with the objective of the Commission becoming climate-neutral by 2030.

The European Commission implements the Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) to improve its environmental performance. Although DG HR coordinates the system Commission-wide, EMAS Correspondents work in each DG to raise environmental awareness and promote environmentally sound behaviour in their respective DGs.

Eurostat created one of the first intra-DG EMAS networks in the Commission. This EMAS

network (currently composed of around 40 members) intends to raise environmental awareness among Eurostat’s staff. After bringing waste recycling bags to all kitchenettes in BECH and setting up an office supplies bring and borrow point, the EMAS network will continue to promote environmental awareness. In particular, awareness raising will focus on areas like energy, paper or water usage, waste reduction and recycling, green procurement, emissions reduction by promoting telework (the increased shift towards working from home will result in tangible GHG emission savings), public transport and videoconferencing, etc. The active contribution of staff will be promoted in 2021 through different channels. Eurostat will aim to set up a network of EMAS relays in each Eurostat’s unit, to improve information-sharing and good environmental behaviour.

To make more efficient use of available resources and to decrease the ecological footprint, Eurostat will encourage meetings via videoconference and other digital tools where possible.

In line with the Commission paperless policy, only the Flagship publications and the Key Figures series will have a limited printed edition with the possibility for user to request a printed copy. There will also be a limited number of prints for the calendar and leaflets for promotional purposes. All other publications will remain digital only, in html and pdf format.

**Objective:** Eurostat takes full account of its environmental impact in all its actions and actively promotes measures to reduce the related day-to-day impact of the administration and its work

**Main results and outputs in 2021:**

Output	Indicator	Target
Eurostat’s staff aware of EMAS on a regular basis through Cybernews	Number of EMAS announcements sent through Cybernews	19
Eurostat’s staff actively proposes measures to reduce the related day-to-day impact of the administration and its work	Number of environmental suggestions received through the ESTAT EMAS network, the ESTAT EMAS mailbox or the EMAS Correspondent mailbox	10
Printed publications	Number of printed copies of publications	Less than 3.000 prints for Flagship publications 25.000 prints for calendar (A0 format)

**F. Example(s) of initiatives to improve economy and efficiency of financial and non-financial activities**

Example of financial activities:

In the framework of paperless workflows and also as a response to the pandemic situation, Eurostat is gradually replacing blue ink signatures in its contract management by electronic

signatures. The replacement of handwritten signatures consists in avoiding physical exchange of files and allowing remote working processes. Electronic signatures are expected to reduce the duration and the administrative cost of the concerned workflows. The effectiveness of this change will be measured as a reduction in time to sign contracts.

As a next step to improve economy and efficiency in grant management, Eurostat will maintain the general use of unit costs for eligible personnel cost, the flat rate financing of indirect costs based on eligible personnel cost and the management of these grants within eGrants. Doing so, Eurostat will endeavour to further decrease the 'time to grant' from the closing date of the call.

Example of non-financial activities:

Building on COOL, the process and format of news releases will be modernised. The news release modernisation project planned for 2021 has two main aims: to develop a digital workspace for creating and disseminating news releases, thus reducing manual work and increasing security, and to improve the output format of news releases to make them more flexible, interactive, visual and accessible. The project will increase the economy of news release preparation by automating parts of the process and thus saving about 15% of work input.