

EVALUATION / FITNESS CHECK ROADMAP

Roadmaps aim to inform citizens and stakeholders about the Commission's work to allow them to provide feedback and to participate effectively in future consultation activities. Citizens and stakeholders are in particular invited to provide views on the Commission's understanding of the problem and possible solutions and to share any relevant information that they may have.

TITLE OF THE EVALUATION	Evaluation of the Joint Harmonised EU Programme of Business and Consumer Surveys
LEAD DG – RESPONSIBLE UNIT	Directorate-General for Economic and Financial Affairs – Unit A3
INDICATIVE PLANNING (PLANNED START DATE AND COMPLETION DATE)	2022-Q1 to 2022-Q4
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	Website of the Joint Harmonised EU Programme of Business and Consumer Surveys

The Roadmap is provided for information purposes only. It does not prejudice the final decision of the Commission on whether this initiative will be pursued or on its final content. All elements of the initiative described by the document, including its timing, are subject to change.

A. Context, purpose and scope of the evaluation

Context

Under the Joint Harmonised EU Programme of Business and Consumer Surveys (BCS programme) monthly business and consumer surveys are carried out in all EU Member States and the candidate countries. The data gathered provide (quasi real-time) information on various aspects of economic sentiment and the economic situation as perceived by business managers and consumers. They are widely used both inside the Commission and outside (inter alia by the European Central Bank, economic research institutes, etc.).

The surveys are carried out nationally by partner institutes of the European Commission which are selected every four-to-six years on the basis of a call for proposals. The European Commission contributes up to 50% of the eligible costs incurred by the institutes to implement the surveys, which amounts to a total contribution of around 5 million EUR per year.

Purpose and scope

The European Commission is committed to evaluate in a proportionate way all EU spending and non-spending activities intended to have an impact on society or the economy. Evaluation is therefore an essential part of the decision-making process that also supports organisational learning, transparency and accountability and the efficient allocation of resources. The previous BCS programme evaluation was completed in [2012](#).

The planned BCS programme evaluation will cover the period since the last evaluation, i.e. from 2012 to 2021, and have a particular focus on the current design of the programme. It will be supported by a report that will be undertaken by an independent external evaluator. The external evaluator's report will be published along with a staff working document prepared by the European Commission.

B. Better regulation

Consultation of citizens and stakeholders

A wide-ranging consultation strategy will be developed that uses a combination of methods. This will include a targeted consultation of key stakeholders and regular users of data generated by the BCS programme.

Given the precise economic nature of the BCS programme, the targeted stakeholder consultation element of the evaluation will engage bodies with both an informed economic understanding and a wider interest in the surveys. To collect a broad, multi-dimensional picture of the issues surrounding the BCS programme, the targeted stakeholder consultation will include a wide range of organisations representing (economic) policy makers and administrative users (e.g. ministries of finance, central banks, statistical institutes), private users (e.g. macro research departments of commercial banks, business associations), the research community (e.g. university faculties conducting economic research), partner institutes conducting the national surveys on the European Commission's behalf and other relevant stakeholder groups.

Data collection and methodology

The evaluation will harness input from a wide range of different sources, including the last evaluations of the BCS programme in [2005](#) and [2012](#), the results of the targeted stakeholder consultation and the data generated by the BCS Programme alongside statistical data from Eurostat to assess the ability of the survey data to track relevant economic aggregates like gross-domestic product (GDP), industrial production, etc.

The evaluation will assess the effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, coherence and EU added value of the BCS Programme, in line with the European Commission's [Better Regulation Guidelines](#).