



European
Commission

Annual Activity Report 2022

EUROSTAT

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EUROSTAT IN BRIEF

Eurostat is the statistical authority of the European Union. Its 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 development, production and dissemination of European statistics. Eurostat's activities are governed by professional independence, impartial treatment of all users, objectivity, reliability, statistical confidentiality and cost-effectiveness.

European statistics are developed, produced and disseminated in accordance with the principles enshrined in Article 338 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and further elaborated in Regulation (EC) 223/2009 on European statistics¹, as well as the European Statistics Code of Practice². By providing reliable and comparable statistical information, Eurostat supports evidence-based EU policies and the implementation of the Commission's political priorities³.

Eurostat produces European statistics in partnership with the EU Member States based on harmonised statistical standards, methods, procedures, practices and tools. The Member States' National Statistical Institutes (NSIs) and other national authorities designated to produce official statistics constitute the European Statistical System (ESS). European Economic Area countries and Switzerland participate in the ESS under specific agreements.

Commission Decision (2012/504/EU) defines the role and responsibilities of Eurostat within the internal organisation of the Commission, as regards the development, production and dissemination of statistics. Eurostat also manages the inventory of statistics produced by other DGs. In addition, Eurostat cooperates very closely with the European Central Bank and other international organisations in developing international standards to ensure the comparability of statistics across the globe.

Eurostat verifies public finance statistics and is also involved in the process of EU own resources verification. Furthermore, Eurostat supports DG Budget in the verification of the VAT statements provided annually by Member States.

The EU's statistical priorities are defined in the multi-annual statistical programme proposed by the Commission and adopted by the European Parliament and the Council. Eurostat implements the budget of the statistical programme through grants and public procurement contracts, to provide European statistics to different users.

⁽¹⁾ Regulation (EC) 223/2009 of the European Parliament and the Council of 11 March 2009 on European statistics, OJ L 87 of 31.3.2009.

⁽²⁾ The European Statistical System Committee (ESSC) adopted the revision of the European Statistics Code of Practice in November 2017.

⁽³⁾ 'A Union that strives for more' Political guidelines for the next European Commission 2019-2024: https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/political-guidelines-next-commission_en_0.pdf

In 2022, Eurostat managed a total of 117.84 million Euro (implemented budget) made up of operational and administrative budget commitments, with both own and subdelegated appropriations.

As of December 2022, Eurostat had 641 staff members (officials, temporary agents and contract agents), as well as 61 members of other personnel (seconded national experts, interim agents and trainees).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This annual activity report is a management report of the Director-General of Eurostat to the College of Commissioners. Annual activity reports are the main instrument of management accountability within the Commission and constitute the basis on which the College takes political responsibility for the decisions it takes as well as for the coordinating, executive and management functions it exercises, as laid down in the treaties⁴.

A. Key results and progress towards achieving the Commission's general objectives and department's specific objectives

In 2022, Eurostat pursued its mission and commitment to delivering European statistics supporting EU policymaking and in line with its strategic plan 2020-2024, where Eurostat's specific objective 1 is to *'remain the trusted point of reference for statistics and data on Europe, necessary for better policies, decisions and public debate in the European Union'*.

In 2022, Eurostat contributed to this objective by providing high quality **European statistics to support the Commission's six headline ambitions, the response to the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine and the related energy crisis, as well as the management and recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic.**

These extraordinary social, energy, health and economic conditions have accelerated the need for timely availability of reliable and comparable European statistics. In this context, the results presented in the AAR prove **Eurostat's ability to respond adequately to these new information needs by expanding the production of new statistics and improving the timeliness of existing indicators.**

In particular in the wake of the Russian aggression against Ukraine, Eurostat mobilised quickly and ensured the availability of **monthly statistics on temporary protection of persons fleeing Ukraine** and published methodological guidance on the classification of Ukrainian refugees in national accounts.

As a response to the **energy crisis triggered by the war**, Eurostat published new energy indicators, in particular on import dependency, by origin, on gas and oil, in order to track progress made by the EU towards the plan to become independent from fossil fuel imports, specifically from Russia.

Concerning electricity and gas prices, Eurostat collected data on direct and indirect subsidies for household and non-household customers, which were introduced by governments to attenuate the surge in energy prices.

⁽⁴⁾ Article 17(1) of the Treaty on European Union.

In the context of the continued impacts in 2022 of the **Covid-19 pandemic**, Eurostat continued providing statistics allowing the policy makers to follow the accounting consequences of the EU governments' measures taken to **tackle the economic effects of the pandemic, as well as to follow the statistical recording of Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) flows**.

Eurostat also published for the first time data on **numbers of death from Covid-19** and worked towards an expansion of the monthly breakdown of **causes of death** data.

The European Statistical Recovery Dashboard, which tracks the economic and social recovery from the pandemic, has continued to be disseminated on a monthly basis and has been extended by the addition of a **new indicator on the quarterly greenhouse gas emissions**.

This was also one of Eurostat's achievements supporting the Commission priority **'A European Green Deal'**. To respond to additional statistical needs stemming from this priority, the **ESS adopted the action plan 'European Statistics for the Green Deal'**, under which all scheduled activities were completed in 2022. Eurostat also published for **the first time EU-wide estimates of food waste** and a voluntary data collection on potentially environmentally damaging subsidies, including fossil fuels subsidies.

In the context of the **new EU own resource based on non-recycled plastic packaging waste**, Eurostat supported Member States in preparing data for their first official reporting.

The implementation of the 'Strategy for Agricultural Statistics 2020 and beyond' progressed significantly and achieved important milestones with the adoption of legal acts that will ensure the provision of the necessary data for **monitoring the Common Agricultural Policy (2023-2027) and the European Green deal's Farm to Fork and Biodiversity strategies**.

Transport statistics were produced in 2022 with improved timeliness, both at national and regional level, to monitor policy initiatives under the European Green Deal, support the Fit for 55 initiative and the Sustainable and Smart Mobility strategy.

The most ambitious amendment of Regulation (EC) 1099/2008 on energy statistics entered into force with 2022 as first reference year. This amendment is essential to **monitor the energy transition under the European Green Deal**. With this amendment, **Eurostat has taken the lead in the international energy statistics arena** providing a benchmark for requirements and methodologies for energy statistics worldwide.

Supporting the Commission headline priority of **'An economy that works for people'** and in response to emerging information needs in the domain of social statistics, 2021 data on the labour market situation of foreign-born people and their descendants were published, covering in particular self-perceived **discrimination at work and main obstacles for foreign-born people to enter the labour market**.

Responding to user needs for more indicators on globalisation, Eurostat released the second set of EU inter-country supply, use and input-output tables (FIGARO tables), which show the interlink the EU economies with each other and with non-EU partners.

In addition to the regular pension liabilities calculations, Eurostat has provided data on **Brexit-related post-employment benefits liabilities** to DG BUDG. The report on the interim assessment of the actuarial balance of the Pension Scheme of European Officials was furthermore provided to DG HR. The **implementation of the EU officials' salary update exception clause under the staff regulations** has been followed up in addition to the regular salary calculation.

Supporting the Commission priority under headline ambitions '**Promoting our European way of life**' and '**An economy that works for people**', the relevance of population statistics and demography data remained high on the policy agenda. Eurostat concluded the evaluation and impact assessment on European statistics on population, after which the Commission adopted a proposal for a **new framework regulation integrating the population and housing censuses, demography and international migration statistics**.

In relation to the Commission headline ambition '**A stronger Europe in the world**', Eurostat has contributed to the preparation of the negotiation chapter on statistics for **Ukraine and Moldova, the new EU candidate countries**, as well as Georgia, for which the European perspective was recognized.

In the domain of business statistics, the activities focused on monitoring the European industrial strategy, supporting the **transition to a green and digital economy**, making EU industry more competitive globally, and enhancing Europe's open strategic autonomy.

Producing high-quality statistics on the digital performance of Europe's enterprises, people and households is essential for the monitoring of Europe's digital transformation, and thereby serves EU policymaking, in particular the Commission headline ambition '**A Europe fit for digital age**'. Furthermore, to provide relevant statistical information for the Digital Decade 2030 policy, Eurostat focused on better measuring digitalisation in 2022. The statistics published covered ICT specialists and skills, ICT security, e-commerce, use of e-government and ICT and the impact on the environment.

In line with its strategic plan 2020-2024, Eurostat contributed to specific objective 2, '**Better meeting user needs by fostering partnerships and embracing innovative data sources and technologies**'.

In 2022, the work on the revision of Regulation (EU) No 223/2009 on European statistics has significantly progressed. This revision aims at **making the statistical system more responsive to the growing information needs, by adapting it to an increasingly digital world** and exploiting the potential of new data sources for the production of European statistics.

Additionally, Eurostat further **developed digital solutions to harness information from the internet** by improving the Web Intelligence Hub system and the related web intelligence platform.

Eurostat also designed a fully open and comprehensive data processing pipeline for the production of future European statistics based on Mobile Network Operator (MNO) data. The project is **first of its kind within the European Statistical System**.

Eurostat disseminated **experimental statistics in several areas**, in particular in the field of international trade in services and in the area of foreign direct investments.

Eurostat continued to work on the provision of geospatial services – including the pan-EU core geospatial datasets on education, health and addresses, further improving the coverage and quality of the published data. Based on this information, Eurostat produced a variety of visualisations, maps and spatial analyses, such as the accessibility of essential services and the indicator on **time to reach the closest health facility**.

Eurostat also progressed towards an ESS action plan for improved equality statistics. The agreed actions aim at improving the data availability and quality, by better harmonisation of concepts used in existing data collections and the proposal of **new statistics relevant for equality to cover the six grounds of discrimination, i.e. sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age and sexual orientation**.

In relation to strategic plan specific objective 3, Eurostat focused on *'better communicating and promoting European statistics and facilitating their use by policymakers, citizens, businesses, researchers and the media'*. This was achieved by a number of initiatives and deliverables. **All Eurostat social media channels significantly expanded their reach**. Twitter and Facebook accounts gained more followers and the Instagram account increased sharply, doubling the number of followers. Eurostat exceeded the targets of growing the follower base on all platforms, as well as launched its LinkedIn channel, which gained more than 12 000 followers by the end of the year.

The 2022 editions of the Eurostat **flagship publications** *Key figures on Europe*, *Eurostat Regional Yearbook* and *Sustainable development in the European Union* were published, including in **digital interactive formats**.

The achievements listed above demonstrate the value added that Eurostat brings to public debate and to the design, monitoring and evaluation of Union policies, by providing comparable and high-quality data and statistics on Europe.

B. Key performance indicators

Eurostat has defined three key performance indicators (KPIs) in the Strategic Plan 2020-2024 to monitor and measure the achievement of objectives.

Originally, the first key performance indicator was defined as the 'Number of data extractions', to measure the relevance of European statistics for users. It was calculated as the number of data extractions from Eurostat dissemination databases, via the Eurostat website, by external users. The indicator was changed in 2021 because Eurostat switched to the Commission standard tool to monitor websites (Piwik) and introduced a new application to access the database called 'Data browser', over time replacing the old 'Data explorer'. Both the tool and the application count data extractions differently from their respective predecessor. The indicator was therefore changed to the more meaningful 'Number of database sessions'.

The indicator shows an increase compared to the 2019 baseline, confirming the relevance of European statistics. However, there was a decrease compared to the high results in 2021, which was expected, as already mentioned in the annual activity report of 2021. It was then explained that part of the increase might be due to users testing the new data browser to become familiar with its functionality before it replaces the older data explorer. This level of database sessions was expected to fall back as users become familiar with the new application, which is the case now that the data explorer was discontinued at the end of 2022. The level of the indicator is expected to increase from its 2022 level in the future.

The second key performance indicator, 'Statistical coverage', measures the relevance of the statistics published by Eurostat. It shows how the quantity and variety of data published by Eurostat evolves. It is calculated as the number of indicators, sub-indicators and all their breakdowns included in Eurobase (the Eurostat dissemination database)⁵. This KPI shows a very high increase by 233 million indicators compared to last year, demonstrating that Eurostat has enlarged its offer of statistics to meet new user needs. The majority of the exceptional increase can be traced to the publication of the data of the 2020 agricultural census, which is organised every ten years, and to the dissemination of new asylum statistics tables, a topic in high demand due to the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine.

Both KPIs above can be analysed together, showing that during 2022 Eurostat enlarged its database with additional data, which were relevant for the users, as reflected in the high number of database sessions.

The third key performance indicator 'Estimated risk at closure' shows whether resources have been used in accordance with the principles of sound financial management, and whether

⁽⁵⁾ An IT routine counts the number of 'records' stored in Eurobase that differ by more than just the date, i.e. those that refer to different countries and/or variable and/or products and/or units. Records that differ only by date are considered as part of the same statistics/time series. The records for which there is only a single date are also counted. The derived datasets are not counted, but the variables included in more than one primary dataset (e.g. GDP and population) are counted as different statistics.

cost-effective controls are in place, providing the necessary guarantees concerning the legality and regularity of underlying transactions. The estimated risk at closure for 2022 was 0,48 EUR million.

The estimated risk at closure slightly increased from 0.34 m EUR (amounts in EUR million) in 2021 to 0.48 m EUR in 2022. However, as a percentage of the relevant expenditure, the estimated overall risk at closure decreased from 0.47% in 2021 to 0.41% for 2022, as the amount of relevant expenditure significantly increased from 72.71 m EUR in 2021 to 117.64 m EUR.

<p>Most relevant key performance indicator 1 Number of user sessions in the database (previously: Number of data extractions)</p>	<p>Number of user sessions in the database (millions)</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Number of user sessions (millions)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2019</td> <td>2,9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2020</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2021</td> <td>4,9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2022</td> <td>3,8</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Number of user sessions (millions)	2019	2,9	2020	4	2021	4,9	2022	3,8														
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C. Key conclusions on financial management and internal control

In line with the Commission's Internal Control Framework, Eurostat has assessed its internal control systems during the reporting year and has concluded that it is effective and that the components and principles are present and functioning well overall. Some improvements are needed as minor deficiencies were identified related to principles 6, 9, and 13. Please refer to Section 2.1.3 for further details.

In addition, Eurostat systematically examined the available control results and indicators, as well as the observations and recommendations issued by the internal auditor and the European Court of Auditors. These elements have been assessed to determine their impact on management's assurance about the achievement of the control objectives. Please refer to Section 2.1 for further details.

In conclusion, management has reasonable assurance that, overall, suitable controls are in place and working as intended; risks are being appropriately monitored and mitigated. Improvements are necessary concerning the internal control principles 6, 9, and 13. The detected mild weaknesses will be mitigated in a timely manner by the implementation of the action plans concerning the related recommendations of the Internal Audit Service (IAS) and European Court of Auditors (ECA) audits.

The Director-General, in her capacity as Authorising Officer by Delegation, has signed the Declaration of Assurance.

D. Provision of information to the Commissioner

In the context of the regular meetings during the year between the DG and the Commissioner on management matters, the main elements of this report and assurance declaration have been brought to the attention of Commissioner Paolo Gentiloni, responsible for Economy as well as for Eurostat.

1. KEY RESULTS AND PROGRESS TOWARDS ACHIEVING THE COMMISSION'S GENERAL OBJECTIVES AND SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES OF THE DEPARTMENT

As statistical authority of the European Union and as a Directorate-General of the Commission, Eurostat continued to provide **high-quality statistics on Europe**, and remained fully committed to delivering European statistics that support EU policymaking and the **headline ambitions defined in the Political Guidelines of President von der Leyen**.

As laid down in its strategic plan 2020-2024, Eurostat contributed to the general objective of **'A modern, high-performing and sustainable European Commission'** by delivering on its mission and modernising the way it works.

To translate the general objective into a concrete plan, Eurostat has set the following three specific objectives:

- 1) 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.
- 2) 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.
- 3) Eurostat better communicates and better promotes European statistics and facilitates their use by policymakers, citizens, businesses, researchers and the media.

In its annual Management Plan 2022, Eurostat defined the concrete initiatives, outputs and targets contributing to the achievement of these specific objectives.

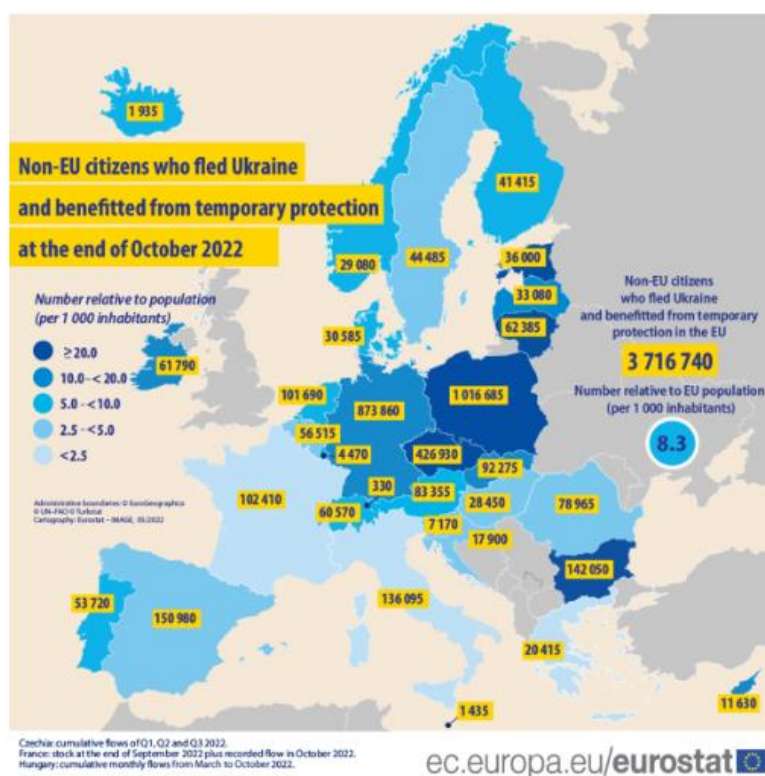
Eurostat's 2022 Management Plan is aligned with the 2022 Financing Decision, which includes the Annual Work Programme for the implementation of the Single Market Programme 2021-2027, as well as with the Commission Work Programme for 2022 'Making Europe stronger together'.

The details below reflect Eurostat's major achievements grouped by each specific objective.

Specific Objective 1: 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.

Activities undertaken by Eurostat in response to Russian military aggression on the territory of Ukraine, people fleeing Ukraine and the energy crisis, as well as the Covid-19 pandemic

To respond to the demands for information, Eurostat has launched a new dedicated section, bringing together in one place a wide range of statistics and data related to the impact of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.



As a **first response to the mass inflow of persons fleeing Ukraine as a consequence of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine and the Council decision to introduce temporary protection for these people**, Eurostat and Member States ensured the availability of monthly statistics on temporary protection of persons fleeing Ukraine. This was implemented on a voluntary basis, to provide even more frequent information than the mandatory quarterly data. Data on the refugees

who are registered as unemployed in the national public employment services have been made available on a monthly basis for 22 Member States and Switzerland.

Furthermore, to ensure that the macroeconomic consequences of Russian war against Ukraine are properly reflected in key statistics, Eurostat published **methodological guidance on the classification of Ukrainian refugees in national accounts** and the statistical recording of relevant cross-border transactions.

Moreover, as a **response to the energy crisis triggered by this war**, Eurostat has undertaken a number of activities and initiatives in the energy sector.

The results were used in the context of the Commission macroeconomic forecast for the EU and its Member States.

Statistics and data to support the policies and public debate on the Commission's six headline ambitions

In 2022, the statistics produced and disseminated by Eurostat were the main output under this specific objective. In particular, the regular production and dissemination of statistics was assured, supporting the Commission headline ambitions as follows:

A European Green Deal

Eurostat's major achievements supporting this Commission priority include a number of activities, particularly in sectoral and regional statistics. To respond to several new statistical needs, the ESS adopted an **Action Plan 'European Statistics for the Green Deal'** including 29 activities, which include both production and communication of statistics. During 2022, 10 activities were completed and 4 activities had partial objectives completed, as scheduled. The remaining activities will be completed in 2023 and 2024. A good example of communication of the produced statistics is the **new visualization tool showing statistics for the European Green Deal**.

The **quarterly greenhouse gas emissions estimates** for the EU economy first released in November 2021 gained further improvements, in particular estimates for all the EU Member States and shorter publications deadlines.

The **2022 EU Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) monitoring report**, as well as the accompanying communication package was released on 23 May. Based on the data provided by Eurostat, progress made by Member States towards the SDGs was also assessed in the framework of the European Semester.

In the context of the **new EU own resource based on non-recycled plastic packaging waste**, Eurostat continued supporting Member States in preparing for their first official reporting in July 2023, with measures such as country visits, development of templates and methodologies in the formal expert group on statistics on plastic packaging waste, and a schedule for the first verification visits to take place in the second half of 2023.

The implementation of the **'Strategy for Agricultural Statistics 2020 and beyond'** progressed significantly and achieved an important milestone by the adoption of the Regulation (EU) 2022/2379 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 November 2022⁷ on statistics on agricultural input and output (SAIO). SAIO establishes a framework for European statistics at aggregated level covering information on animal and crop production, agricultural prices, plant protection products and nutrients. The new framework Regulation will serve the new and emerging data needs more flexibly and faster, and will increase the

⁽⁷⁾ EUR-Lex - 32022R2379 - EN - EUR-Lex (europa.eu)

comparability and coherence of EU agricultural statistics. Statistics on plant protection products, nutrients and organic will ensure a satisfactory basis and sufficient flexibility in the future for the Commission to answer new data needs and policy analysis for the European Green Deal and Common Agricultural Policy and related strategies.

Further following the strategy to modernise the agricultural statistics, Regulation (EC) No 138/2004 on economic accounts for agriculture was amended to include the regional level accounts for agriculture, as they are crucial for monitoring the Common Agricultural Policy.

Those legal acts will ensure the provision of the necessary data for monitoring the Common Agricultural Policy (2023-2027) and European Green deal’s Farm to Fork and Biodiversity strategies.

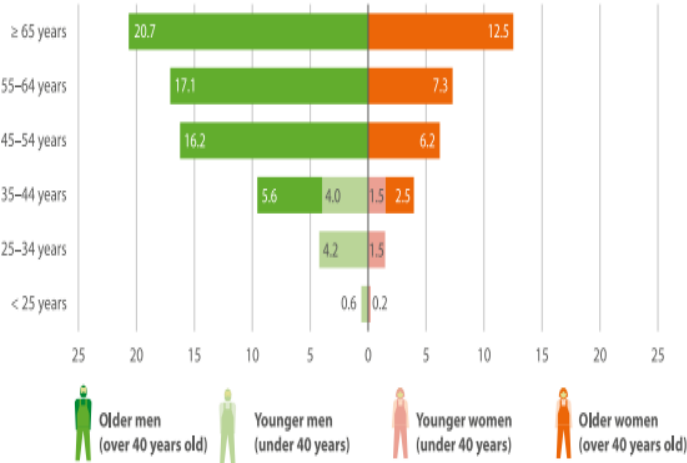
The Commission also adopted a proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and the Council introducing **new European environmental accounts modules** on forests, environmental subsidies and similar transfers, and ecosystem accounts. Furthermore, three of the existing six environmental accounts modules have improved timeliness due to shorter reporting deadlines.

In the context of the circular economy, Eurostat started publishing material footprint estimates for all the EU Member States. Eurostat also published for the first time **EU wide estimates of food waste**. Eurostat also launched a voluntary data collection on potentially environmentally damaging subsidies, including fossil fuels subsidies for the first time.

Farmers

Age and sex of farm managers

(% share of all farm managers, EU, 2020)



2022 was an important year for agricultural statistics, as it marks the release of much detailed information provided **by a new agricultural census** that was conducted during 2020 under extremely difficult circumstances of the Covid-19 pandemic. Despite it, all Member States delivered the data and Eurostat published the first results. **The decennial agricultural census – which forms part of a worldwide programme – delivers data for 9 million farms across the EU.**

There was intense preparation for the integrated farm statistics 2023 data collections, all grants allowing the pre-finance were signed and the first ancillary data arrived at the end of 2022.



The publication '**Key figures on the European food chain**' was released in December 2022 and presented the main indicators from the Agricultural Census 2020. This publication responds to the interest in the Commission's Farm to Fork Strategy, which is an integral part of the new European Green Deal that sets out to make Europe the first climate-neutral continent by 2050. The European food chain is reflected in the different sections of the publication that cover processing, distribution, and the consumption of food and beverages. The final chapter covers environmental issues related to various stages of the food chain, including food waste.

Transport statistics on road freight, maritime, aviation, railways and inland waterways were produced in 2022 with improved timeliness, at national and regional level, to monitor policy initiatives under the European Green Deal, support the Fit for 55 initiatives and the Sustainable and Smart Mobility strategy.

New methodologies were finalised in 2022 on modal split indicators and Eurostat published air transport statistics of goods and passengers by distance band for the first time. They allow for a more accurate monitoring of the **shift of passenger and goods transport to more environmentally friendly modes**, enhancing the information disseminated. The development of methodologies for statistics on light utility vehicles and for passenger transport by inland waterways were finalised and pilot surveys in the Member States will be launched in 2023 with the support of Eurostat grants.

Progress in improving timeliness and enhancing dissemination of aviation statistics was made in 2022 with more frequent publications on air passengers (every quarter instead of bi-annually) accompanied by earlier release of monthly data. The publication of statistics on the number of commercial flights in the European Statistical Dashboard, a few days after the end of each month, continued monitoring closely the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic and the recovery of EU economy.

Dissemination of transport statistics was strengthened using new channels such as webinars, social media and an increased number of news items on transport, placing transport among the top themes of Eurostat in terms of timeliness and daily use in the 2022 user satisfaction survey. Furthermore, a **Key Figures on European Transport** publication was produced in 2022 for the first time, describing the transport of people and goods, and providing information about issues such as transport equipment, accidents by mode of transport, infrastructure, the impact on the economy as well as on the environment.

Despite challenging socio-economic developments in Europe and the severe meteorological conditions of last summer, the implementation of the LUCAS field survey is almost completed. Due to the observed difficulties such as recruiting suitable surveyors and the complexity of the survey in 2023, the contractors will have to go back to the field in 3-4 countries to finish the missing data collection (below 10% of the grassland observation points for 2 countries and around 10% of the field points for 2 countries).

In February 2022, **the most ambitious amendment of the Energy Statistics Regulation**⁸ entered into force with 2022 as first reference year. This amendment is essential to monitor the energy transition under the European Green Deal. With this amendment, Eurostat has taken the lead in the international energy statistics arena, setting the pace on requirements and methodology for energy statistics worldwide.

A **new data collection on disaggregated final energy consumption in industry** became mandatory. Biomass supply reporting remained voluntary, before it becomes mandatory as of March 2023. Based on official statistics, Eurostat continued to release early **CO₂ estimates for the EU**, one year ahead of the official release of greenhouse gas emissions by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

The PRODCOM 2022 list (product classification used for statistics on manufactured goods) was formally adopted. This will allow collecting data on additional secondary raw materials as of the reference year 2022 and will therefore contribute to **monitoring the circular economy as well as possible supply chain disruptions**. The additional product codes will also be implemented in international trade in goods statistics for reference periods starting on 1 January 2023 as a result of the update of the Combined Nomenclature, also adopted in 2022.

Last but not least, Eurostat released the final 2020 Community Innovation Survey (CIS) data that included optional questions related to **climate change and environmental benefits of innovative production processes/products**. In 2022, the CIS Implementing act, stipulating the new technical specifications for the innovation data requirements under the framework of the EBS Regulation, was successfully adopted.

An economy that works for people

Eurostat continued to disseminate the scoreboard of indicators associated to the **European Pillar of Social Rights** (EPSR) that are used for monitoring its goals (3 areas – 12 principles – 34 indicators in a timely manner). For user-friendly access to the data, Eurostat maintained a dedicated page on the EPSR scoreboard on its website, in which the complete set of indicators can be found, completed with country profiles, information about the indicators and visualisation tools. High-quality data allow valid comparisons between Member States and identify trends over time. The data collection for the **disability employment gap** took place in 2022 as planned and results will be released in 2023.

With the aim of supporting users in the assessment of national health systems, Eurostat developed an **Implementing Regulation on healthcare facilities, healthcare human resources and healthcare utilisation** which was adopted on 23 November 2022⁹. With the adoption of this implementing act, the healthcare non-expenditure statistics, collected over several years on a voluntary basis, are now regulated. Countries that need to still adapt

⁸) Regulation (EC) 1099/2008 on energy statistics, OJ L 304, 14.11.2008, p. 1–62.

⁹) <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2022/2294/oj>

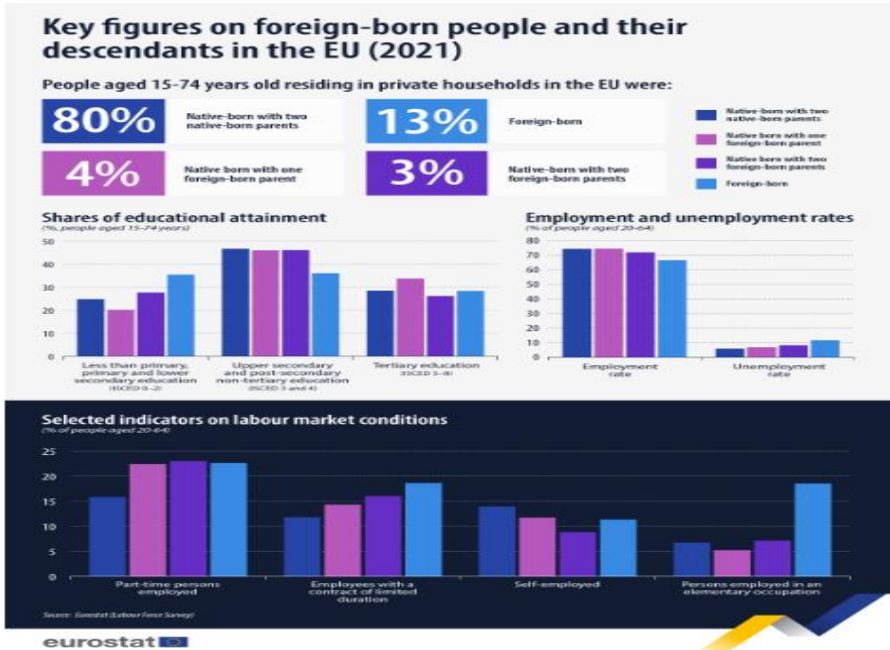
their national administrative and statistical systems in order to comply in full with the regulation, requested derogations or transition periods and a Commission decision¹⁰ granting the justified derogations was adopted on 23 November 2022.

The coverage of early estimates for social protection statistics was further extended. In October 2022, Eurostat published early estimates of 2021 social protection expenditure main indicators for 24 Member States. The data highlight recent trends in social protection expenditure, particularly for sickness/healthcare benefits and unemployment benefits.

First results from the Gender-based Violence survey, data collected 2020-2022, have been disseminated on 25 November for 9 Member States.

Implementation of Regulation (EU) 2019/1700 on European statistics relating to persons and households based on sample data collections continued. Delegated and implementing acts for the 6-yearly module on 'Access to services' (for the income and living conditions domain), for the 8-yearly module on 'Young people on the labour market' (for the labour force domain) and for the 'Household Budget Survey 2026 (for the consumption domain) were adopted. Concerning the income and living conditions domain, timeliness of the dissemination was improved by one month to mid-September. Data on health and on quality of life have been collected in all Member States.

Concerning the labour force domain, back series were elaborated in line with the specifications of the revised Labour Force Survey (LFS). The timeliness of the dissemination of the quarterly LFS data has been improved from 90 days to 75 days after the end of the quarter. The labour force pilot data on Digital Platform Employment have been collected in 18 countries, and data on disability and on adult learning in all Member States.

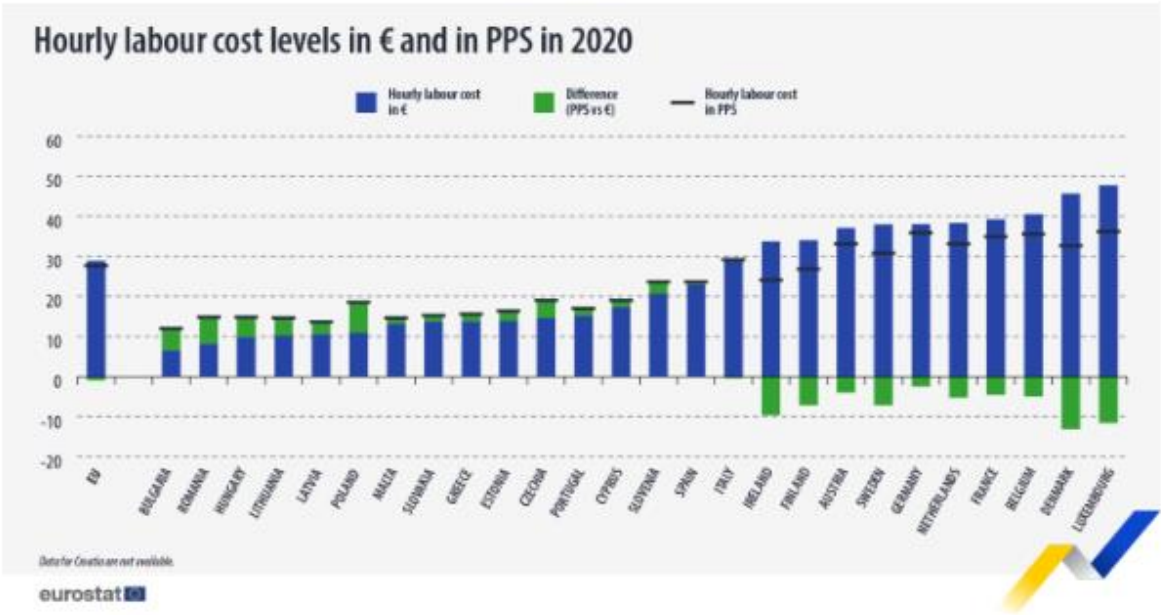


2021 data on the labour market situation of foreign-born people and their immediate descendants were published, in particular on self-perceived discrimination at work and main obstacles for foreign-born people to enter the labour market.

⁽¹⁰⁾ http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec_impl/2022/2306/oj

Moreover, the work on the revision of **Labour Market statistics on Businesses (LMB statistics)** continued. As part of this initiative Eurostat has evaluated the current legal framework for LMB consisting of Regulations (EC) No 530/1999, (EU) No 450/2003, (EC) No 453/2008 and their implementing measures. Based in particular on an in-depth public and stakeholders consultation, the evaluation results showed that statistics allow collecting high quality information that are widely used for the intended purposes but have several weaknesses. One of themes that the current legal framework does not cover the binding data collection on the gender pay gap. Another shortcoming of the current legal framework is that it does not capture important actors or phenomena of the EU economy like microenterprises. Moreover, there is room for improving the timeliness and frequency of data and alignments with definitions, concepts and approaches in related statistical domains. The current framework is also not adapted to enable the use of new sources in the Member States and at EU level and fail to capture some breakdowns and variables that became important over time for improved analysis. The general objective defined in the impact assessment addressed the shortcomings identified in the evaluation and target the preparation of a new framework regulation encompassing all LMB statistical domains. A first draft proposal for the new Framework Regulation was prepared and discussed at technical and Directors level in 2022.

Results from the 2020 Labour Cost Survey were also disseminated:



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 were produced and (where relevant) were published following the established release calendar, accompanied by suitable metadata on the statistical impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Throughout 2022, Eurostat continued to contribute to the preparation, evaluation and implementation of **policies related to territorial development**: rural, urban and regional development policies. This included enriching the indicators available by territorial typologies. Eurostat updated the regional classification for statistics, by an amendment to the

Nomenclature of territorial units for statistics (NUTS) Regulation (EC) No 1059/2003¹¹. The new classification will be used from 2024 onwards.

As a response to user needs for more indicators on globalisation, in June 2022 Eurostat released the second set of **EU inter-country supply, use and input-output tables (FIGARO tables)**. The inter-country input-output tables interlink each of the EU economies with each other and with non-EU partners, becoming the reference point for national and international organisations in terms of analysis of trade, globalisation, socio-economic, macro-economic and environmental policies for EU Member States. In this context, Eurostat published new indicators for trade in value added derived from the inter-country input-output tables, providing data on international trade, supply chains, component-sourcing and global economic integration. Eurostat also published new environmental indicators such as carbon footprints.

Mindful of the burden on Member States and EFTA countries to report annually on the **quality of balance of payment (BOP) statistics**, Eurostat has launched an initiative to update the frequency with which it reports on such quality to the European Parliament and the Council from annual to biennial. A biennial report reduces the burden on countries while not affecting the overall performance of the quality assessment. The first biennial report shall be prepared in 2024. Eurostat has also streamlined the content of national quality reports and the level-2 report, after consulting the BOP Working Group.

Eurostat has initiated the verification based on the new Gross national income (**GNI inventories**) received by the end of 2021. The subsequent visits to countries have started and will be pursued during 2023. Eurostat has lifted a large number of reservations originating from the 2016-2019 cycle and the implementation of other reservations, including the transversal one on globalisation, has been analysed by Eurostat.

Apart from the regular pension liabilities calculations, Eurostat has provided data on **Brexit-related post-employment benefits liabilities** to DG BUDG. The report on the interim assessment of the actuarial balance of the Pension Scheme of European Officials was furthermore provided to DG HR. The **implementation of the EU official's salary update exception clause under the staff regulations** has been followed up in addition to the regular salary calculation, and there was substantial work associated with the first intermediate adjustment since 2014. Eurostat has also provided support to DG HR in the context of the reporting process on the staff regulations. Data for large-scale price surveys in Washington DC and New York is now in the processing phase and should be validated together with international partner organisations for use in 2023.

The outcome of the work undertaken during 2022 by Eurostat on developing **experimental inflation measures**, that include the costs for households living in their own house, is to be published in early 2023. The implementing regulation on the house price index and owner-occupied housing price index is ready to be adopted in early 2023.

⁽¹¹⁾ [EUR-Lex - 32003R1059 - EN - EUR-Lex \(europa.eu\)](#)

Eurostat published the first flash estimates of purchasing power parities in March 2022.

In 2022, regular production of high-quality Excessive Deficit Procedure (EDP) and Government Finance Statistics (GFS) continued to form the essential basis for fiscal monitoring in the EU. It included also the newly-established detailed reporting tables to monitor the correct statistical recording of the national measures introduced by Member States to tackle the economic effects of the Covid-19 pandemic and to ensure the application of the **statistical rules to the Recovery and Resilience Facility associated flows**.

The methodological work stemming from timely guidance on the correct implementation of accounting rules, led to higher quality and more harmonised public finance statistics, which are essential for EU fiscal monitoring, in particular for monitoring the statistical implications of the Stability and Growth Pact.

In this context, the **new edition of the Manual on Government Deficit and Debt (MGDD)** on which the methodological consultations were finalised at the end of 2022, will contribute to a **more harmonised recording of similar policy measures across EU Member States**.

Moreover, Eurostat has responded to demands from many different users in relation to the accounting implications of the new government measures taken in the aftermath of the Covid-19 crisis and in response to the Russian aggression against Ukraine, including **the new policy measures aimed at alleviating repercussions of the energy price surges and rising inflation**.

Eurostat continued to provide ex-ante and ex-post bilateral advice following Member State requests, inter alia, on the application of the existing statistical rules and the correct statistical recording of Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) and Energy Performance Contracts (EPCs), thus **contributing to the undertaking of investment projects in the EU**.

Finally, Eurostat pursued the work on **developing statistical accounts of the European institutions** addressing the data needs of Member States and of fiscal and policy users in the context of the European semester and aiming at developing methodology for **the compilation of key indicators- deficit and debt for EU institutions**. The project was initially foreseen to last until the end of 2022. In the initial stage of the project, the first set of EU accounts for year 2021 was compiled, on the basis of direct data from the EU institutions. The new developments, specifically the discussions that took place in the Council and the European Parliament within the framework on the revision of the Regulation (EU) No 549/2013, revealed new elements and user expectations. The project was prolonged until the end of 2024 and further developments were launched in terms of coverage and level of details.

Eurostat continued providing timely high-quality statistics on European businesses, especially on short-term business developments (on industry, construction, services and wholesale and retail trade) and international trade, which were particularly important for tracking the

economic recovery from the Covid-19 crisis and also the economic impacts of the Russian invasion of Ukraine on the EU.

In 2022, European aggregates for two new indicators in the area of services (and trade), the monthly index of service production (ISP) and the volume of sales in wholesale/retail trade of motor vehicles were disseminated for the first time and well ahead of the formal legal obligation.

Monthly data on bankruptcies and registrations of businesses were collected on a voluntary basis from the Member States in 2022. Coverage of Member States was however not yet sufficient to calculate European aggregates and disseminate the data as experimental statistics, but it is expected that these monthly indicators can be published in 2023.

Eurostat also continued producing timely high-quality statistics on international trade in goods (ITGS) and services (ITSS), foreign direct investment (FDI) and foreign affiliates (FATS) which are all key for measuring globalisation and the changing nature of the economy. In the same regard, the Global Value Chains (GVC) Implementing act was formally adopted, which will in turn facilitate the analysis of the different stages of the globalised production process. Further on globalisation, Eurostat disseminated the 2020 EuroGroups Register (EGR) statistical frame and European Profiling results, providing high-quality information on the largest European MNEs.

A Europe fit for the digital age

With a view of providing relevant statistical information for the Digital Decade 2030 policy, Eurostat set forward its work on better measuring digitalisation. The 2022 information and communication technology (ICT) data were released, covering highly relevant topics like **ICT specialists and skills, ICT security, e-commerce, use of e-government as well as ICT and the impact of the environment**. Also in 2022, the next ICT Implementing act on the 2023 reference year was adopted, adapting ICT statistics to **monitor the digital skills of people, the digital intensity of European enterprises, the application of new technologies (cloud, data analytics, and artificial intelligence) and the use of e-commerce** among other relevant topics.

Promoting our European way of life

Eurostat concluded the evaluation and impact assessment on **European statistics on population** in 2022. The evaluation has shown that the current legal framework has significantly improved European population statistics overall. EU added value has been increased significantly and all EU policy and institutional needs for population statistics have been met. However, the evaluation has also revealed the reduced – and further reducing – relevance, coherence, consistency and comparability of population data and statistics across Member States, with negative effects for the decision-making based on them. A new legal basis was therefore needed to provide a long-term framework for developments that are necessary for further harmonising European population statistics. Consequently, the Commission adopted in January 2023 a proposal for a **new framework regulation**

integrating the population and housing censuses, demography and international migration statistics¹². On the basis of the findings of the evaluation and impact assessment, this legislative proposal contains ambitious elements to strengthen the links between and general consistency of all EU social statistics based on persons and households. The proposal contains provisions aimed at developing a harmonised definition of population based on sound statistical concepts for all outputs, and facilitating access to available data sources that will improve the production processes and general quality of social statistics. The proposal also contains provisions to better align population and international migration statistics with statistics on administrative and judicial events related to asylum, legal and irregular migration under Articles 4, 5, 6 and 7 of Regulation (EC) No 862/2007. With this work leading to the adopted Commission proposal, Eurostat ensured that these statistics remain **relevant, coherent and comparable as well that the regulatory simplification is achieved**.

The 2021 **population and housing censuses** have advanced nationally, with the field operations being completed in almost all Member States. The national statistical institutes succeeded to overcome numerous challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic. All Member States met the deadline for the first mandatory transmission of geocoded population data to a 1 km² grid at the end of 2022.

After improving the timeliness, detail and frequency of **asylum and managed migration statistics**, Eurostat and Member States launched a project of pilot studies in new statistics. In 2022, Eurostat published the first progress report, developed methodological guidance with the help of a task force and collected new statistics on asylum from several Member States. The work will continue by addressing other topics in the statistical domain and engaging more countries in the compilation of new statistics.

A stronger Europe in the world

Eurostat continued to drive and contribute to the **setting of international statistical standards, new metrics and methodologies in partnerships with international organisations**, in order to ensure the comparability of statistics across the globe and promote EU values by bringing the EU experience.

The organisation of the EU common positions for the United Nations Statistical Commission in the virtual format, making sure that Eurostat speaks with one voice, proved to be challenging, but was successfully dealt with. EU Common positions were prepared in important domains, such as the system of environmental and economic accounts, sustainable development goals and population and housing censuses. This has helped to shape and promote statistical standards that are compatible with EU values.

⁽¹²⁾ COM(2023) 31

Granting Ukraine and Moldova status of EU candidate countries and recognising Georgia's European perspective, has put the enlargement in the forefront of the EU policy agenda.

For these three countries, intensive contributions were given for preparation of the country fiches on Chapter 18 "statistics". At the same time, comprehensive work has been done with the Western Balkans and Türkiye, inter alia, through IPA¹³ 2017 (ended in 2022) and IPA 2019 multi-beneficiary programmes on statistics, as well as through an annual Virtual Enlargement tour to seven countries, a compliance monitoring exercise and the follow-up of previous peer review recommendations. The work led to the increase of the number of data transmitted to Eurostat and further alignment with EU Standards. Furthermore, after accession negotiations were opened with Albania and North Macedonia, the screening process for chapter 18 "Statistics" was successfully conducted.

Eurostat continued promoting **European norms, methodologies and standards** via regional programmes. The Statistics Through Eastern Partnership (STEP) regional programme within five of the six Eastern Partnership countries¹⁴ ended in July and has been highly praised by partner countries. Two major regional programmes were launched in January: the regional statistical programme for the European Neighbourhood Policy South, MEDSTAT V, and the comprehensive continental program for Africa (Pan-African statistics – PAS II), which have completed their inception phases. Number of virtual publications regarding data from three regions, video on statistical tools and annual Statistical Requirements Compendium have been produced and distributed. In all three regions, high level meetings were organised, i.e. the Forum for European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) South, the High Level Seminar for ENP East and Central Asia and the Policy Group on Statistical Cooperation for all the enlargement countries, for the first time including also Ukraine, Georgia and Moldova.

Finally, business statistics are facilitating the monitoring of the **European industrial strategy, supporting the transition to a green and digital economy**, making EU industry more competitive globally, and enhancing Europe's open strategic autonomy.

⁽¹³⁾ Instrument for Pre-Accession

⁽¹⁴⁾ Belarus participation was suspended from January 2022

Specific Objective 2: Eurostat better meets user needs for relevant, timely and high-quality statistics in particular by continuing to foster partnerships and embracing innovative data sources and technologies

To achieve strategic objective 2, Eurostat pursued a range of activities, including legislative initiatives, new or experimental statistics, exploration of new sources and close collaboration with stakeholders within and outside the ESS system.

In the course of 2022, the work on the **revision of Regulation (EU) No 223/2009 on European statistics** progressed and several important steps were completed.

The revision of the legal framework for European statistics aims at **making the statistical system more responsive to the growing information needs**, by adapting it to an increasingly digital world, exploiting the potential of new data sources, identifying new roles in emerging data ecosystems and updating the tasks of statistical authorities.

To prepare for this revision, Eurostat set up the expert group on facilitating the use of new data sources for official statistics and discussed with its members, who all have extensive expertise in different areas of the emerging data ecosystem. The final report of the expert group called *'Empowering society by reusing privately held data for official statistics – a European approach'* provided a set of recommendations aimed at enabling the sustainable reuse of data collected by the private sector for the development, production and dissemination of official statistics. The expert group proposed actions to establish fair and effective partnerships between businesses and statistical offices, to modernise official statistics, to better engage citizens in the development of statistics, and to further integrate statistical authorities in the wider data ecosystem.

The two key events to be mentioned were the launch of the public consultation on *Have Your Say* and the finalisation of the impact assessment report. The objective of the public consultation was to gather the views of stakeholders', including citizens and businesses, in order to help shaping the proposal for a revision of the legal framework. This online consultation is part of a broader stakeholder consultation process that contributed to the preparation of the impact assessment accompanying the legislative proposal. The Summary report published on *Have your say* provides the results of that consultation with an overview of the inputs received and presents some preliminary conclusions. The impact assessment led to the conclusion that the current legal framework governing European statistics is not fit for the future, specifically in the context of sustainably reusing new data sources for the production of European statistics, by not being responsive and agile enough in meeting unforeseen policy demands and by not being sufficiently efficient and effective. These specific issues are to be addressed through targeted legislative measures.

The aim of the targeted revision of the legal framework is to tap into the **full potential of digital data sources and technologies by enabling their reuse for official statistics**, to enhance the capabilities of Eurostat and National Statistical Offices to take prompt action in response to urgent user demands, and to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the ESS by promoting data sharing, updating the tasks of ESS partners and specifying possible

new roles and functions of statistical authorities in the emerging data ecosystems in Europe. The Commission's adoption of the legislative proposal is expected in the first part of 2023.

In 2022, Eurostat also continued disseminating **experimental statistics on short-term accommodation** in the collaborative economy collected via international platforms. The dissemination entered a regular pattern, with infra-annual data releases via the standard dissemination tool, alongside the quarterly updated Statistics Explained articles. In parallel, the methodological and developmental work continued in order to further strengthen the quality of those statistics.

In the field of international trade in services statistics (ITSS), Eurostat published new experimental statistics, in particular ITSS by Enterprise Characteristics (STEC), by Modes of Supply (MoS) and by Broad Economic Categories (BEC). In addition, Eurostat published the first edition of the compilers' guide of ITSS by Modes of Supply (MoS), thereby providing official methodological guidance to the data compilers.

Eurostat also established, similarly to the already existing asymmetry resolution mechanism (ARM) for foreign direct investment (FDI), a mechanism for international trade in services flows (ARM-ITSS) where work to address the asymmetries in ITSS is already well under way.

In 2022, in the area of FDI, Eurostat produced and published FDI inward positions by ultimate investing economy for first time. In addition, statistical methodology for FDI Greenfield statistics for inward flows was developed, and a voluntary data collection was launched.

In the area of international trade in goods statistics (ITGS), the monthly micro-data exchanges (micro-data exchange-MDE and customs data exchange-CDE) became mandatory for all Member States in March 2022. The Member States used the dedicated infrastructure established by Eurostat for these exchanges and already started using the exchanged CDE data for the compilation of their extra-EU trade in goods statistics.

The **modernisation of the production processes for transport statistics** also continued in 2022, implementing a Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX)-compatible incoming data structure and establishing new enhanced data validation procedures. The new corporate data management systems, currently under development, will also be capable of incorporating new datasets that can be used for statistical production. The first redesigned Eurostat IT system for statistical production on the Eurostat/ITF/UNECE¹⁵ Common Questionnaire for inland transport statistics was put in production in 2022 for collecting over 1000 indicators from each of the 60 reporting countries.

To demonstrate the use of **innovative data for transport statistics**, a new 3-year project was launched, with an aim to produce experimental statistics on traffic and mobility. The first part of the project on landscaping the use of new data sources for traffic and mobility statistics was completed successfully in 2022, identifying **innovative data sources and potential indicators, such as congestion indexes**. Further, work on the most promising use cases will continue in 2023, building on methods that successfully produced experimental

⁽¹⁵⁾ International Transport Forum (at OECD)/ United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

transport statistics in few Member States, using maritime vessel Automatic Identification System data (AIS) to produce indicators at EU level. To this end, a **new cooperation agreement between Eurostat and the European Maritime Safety Agency** was signed in 2022 to explore the use of AIS data for early estimates of EU maritime traffic.

Cooperation with EU Agencies and observatories was also enhanced. Data exchange was developed further, improving timeliness of transport safety statistics with the European Maritime Safety Agency and the European Aviation Safety Agency, and streamlining methodologies on railway transport infrastructure in cooperation with the European Union Agency for Railways, facilitating Member States' reporting to the Commission and reducing burden.

Eurostat continued to work on the provision of geospatial services – including the pan-EU core geospatial datasets on education, health and addresses, further improving the coverage and quality of the published data. Based on this information, Eurostat also produced a variety of spatial analyses, as for example the accessibility of certain essential services (e.g. time to reach the closest health facility), and numerous visualisations and maps which have been used in various physical and virtual dissemination products (e.g. Regional Year Book) highly appreciated by the users.

Eurostat further enhanced its capabilities to harness information from the internet improving the **Web Intelligence Hub** (WIH) and the related web intelligence platform. Based on a landscaping exercise, approximately 150 additional sources for online job advertisements were identified and integrated into the overall data collection workflow. The data collection was expanded to 4 additional countries and two new languages covering the EFTA members. Curated data for development and production of statistics have been released quarterly increasing timeliness from two to one month after reference period. Eurostat released a sample of 9 million job descriptions covering 30 different languages to the National Statistical Institutes. The sample can be used for developing machine learning algorithms. A gold standard for occupation classification, which constitutes a benchmark to evaluate machine learning results, was developed through human expert labelling. The comparability over time of the online job advertisement data and the ability of time-series analysis was improved by the development of methods to address missing data, irregularities in web scraping, and changes of the number and relevance of job portals on the internet. A competition was launched to **foster innovation in the context of web intelligence**. Prizes will be assigned in 2023 to the most innovative and best performing applications.

Eurostat finalised preparations for a project to develop a **fully open and comprehensive data processing pipeline for the production of future European statistics** based on Mobile Network Operator (MNO) data. The project involves five mobile network operators operating in four European Member States. The consortium combines experts from industry and from statistical offices engaging in a methodological co-development project first of its kind within the European Statistical System. The processing pipeline will be completely open-source and will support an initial selection of statistical use cases in the domains of tourism, temporal population distributions, regional and international commuting. The first results are expected beginning of 2024.

To address the increased need for health statistics, also in relation to the Covid-19 pandemic, Eurostat launched a review of health related statistics in cooperation with several National statistical Institutes. The review will assess the relevance of existing European statistics on health for EU policy-making and the possible secondary use of data from the European Health Data Space, and make recommendations for improvements.

Throughout the year, Eurostat maintained the **high quality of European Statistical System Committee (ESSC) meetings** with heads of the National Statistical Institutes, as evidenced by the satisfaction surveys, which showed that more than 75% of the participants assessed the overall value of the meetings as good or very good.

By end of 2022, more than 20 NSIs have developed and publicised a website or sections on their websites related to the ESS peer reviews. A total of 12 peer reviews have been implemented throughout 2022, one peer review had to be postponed to 2023 at the request of the concerned NSI. By the end of 2022, 14 peer review reports have been finalised and published on the websites of Eurostat and the NSI reviewed. Communication activities were implemented in most of the NSIs before, during and after the peer review visits, using different channels and means. Communication included internal communication by informing the staff and the other national authorities about the process and value of the peer review process and communication with external stakeholders focusing on the quality of official statistics and the use of the peer review process to document this quality. Various communication materials were used, such as presentations, leaflets, social media quizzes, banners, posters, leaflets and website articles.



Eurostat continued to provide model-based flash estimates of the income distribution. In mid-2022 the **flash estimates on income distribution and poverty** for the reference year 2021 were released. These early estimates showed for example that the at-risk-of-poverty rate in the EU did not increase despite the Covid-19 pandemic.

Distributional national accounts time series 2015-2019 for income were released in June. The release of income, consumption and wealth indicators for 2020 had to be postponed to 2023 due to missing input data from the household budget survey. In 2022, Eurostat published new income, consumption and wealth indicators on affordability of essential services with a reference year 2015 as well as EU aggregates for reference year 2015.

To meet the policymakers request for better experimental distributional national accounts (DNA), Eurostat created a task force to share best practices on DNA and develop guidance to the compilers in the Member States. To further support the development of DNA, Eurostat published the final report of a joint Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)-Eurostat Expert Group, which describes the DNA methodology. New DNA series for income were released as well.

Eurostat progressed towards an **ESS action plan for improved equality statistics**. A stocktaking of equality data availability in different statistical domains at Eurostat was carried out, and discussion with users were deepened to reflect their data needs to develop the proposal for the action plan. Based on the gathered information a draft proposal of the action plan was produced and a set of actions identified. These actions aim at improving the data availability and quality by improving the harmonisation of concepts used in equality statistics, including the equality dimension in existing data collections and proposing **new statistics relevant for equality to cover the six of the grounds on discrimination (sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age and sexual orientation)**. Eurostat will present the possible way forward for improving equality statistics in the EU to the ESS Committee in the beginning of 2023.

Eurostat contributed to the strengthening of a coherent policy on the agreements with external stakeholders. Eurostat has concluded the negotiations of two new Administrative Arrangements (AA) on statistical cooperation with UN-ECLAC (United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean), and the OECD. The Administrative Arrangement with the OECD was signed in June 2022 and the AA with UN-ECLAC is expected to be signed soon.

Specific objective 3: Eurostat better communicates and better promotes European statistics and facilitates their use by policymakers, citizens, businesses, researchers and media

In 2022 Eurostat contributed to specific objective 3 by a number of initiatives and deliverables.

Eurostat presented the final report from the Task Force on ESS strategic communication to the ESSC at its meeting on 10-11 February 2022. The report focused on three main areas of work: the preparation of the ESS communication strategy, handling disinformation, and communication around privately held data. Three subgroups within the Task Force had been set up, each focusing on one of the three defined areas of work. The ESSC took note of the deliverables of the subgroups: 'Privately held data communication toolkit', 'Rules of engagement for handling disinformation' and 'Online tools for identifying, monitoring and verifying disinformation'.

Eurostat welcomed the positive feedback provided in the Exchange of Views with the ESSC and the support for the establishment of a **permanent Expert Group on ESS Strategic Communication**, which Eurostat has since established. Since the establishment of the Expert Group, meetings have taken place in 2022 to discuss and define future work activities foreseen for 2023.

Eurostat has been innovative and agile, proactively reaching out to users to ensure effective dissemination and communication of statistics among different stakeholder groups. In line with its communication and dissemination strategy, Eurostat has implemented the 2022 dissemination and communication programme, covering the following aspects, in particular:

- Expanding Eurostat’s reach across key dissemination channels through regular visually appealing products, responsive interactions with users and carefully targeted promotional activities

Overall, Eurostat has largely expanded its reach across key dissemination channels. Over 17 million user sessions were registered for the Eurostat website. All Eurostat social media channels significantly expanded their reach. The Twitter account gained 26 000 followers to a total of 206 000 (+14%), Facebook increased by 32 000 to reach more than 120 000 followers (+36%); and the Instagram account doubled from 40 500 followers to a total of 81 000 followers (+100%). In June, Eurostat launched its LinkedIn page, which gained more than 12 000 followers by the end of the year. Eurostat exceeded the targets of growing the follower base on all platforms and reaching on average more than 125 000 engagements per month on Facebook.

- Disseminating first data releases

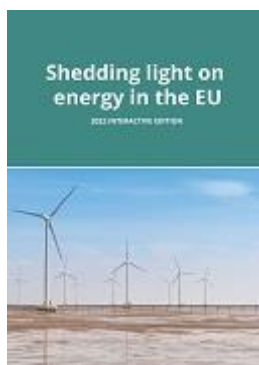
Eurostat disseminated 147 Euro indicator releases and 343 other first data releases, each supported by appropriate dissemination and promotional products tailored for the specific topic and its target audience.

- Promoting and focusing on interactive digital publications and dashboards with data and statistics related to the Commission headline ambitions;

Throughout 2022, Eurostat has updated the European Statistical Recovery Dashboard on a monthly basis. The dashboard tracks the economic and social recovery from the pandemic. It also provides a timely input into the analysis of the impact of the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine.

In order to respond to the demands for information, Eurostat launched a new dedicated section, bringing together in one place a wide range of statistics and data published by Eurostat related to the impact of the war in Ukraine.

Eurostat published an interactive visualisation tool showing statistics relevant for the European Green Deal. The Euro indicators dashboard providing an overview of the macroeconomic situation was also launched.



A completely overhauled interactive publication ‘Shedding light on energy in the EU’ has been published, allowing users to explore selected indicators on the energy and environment sector in an easy and interactive way.

The 2022 editions of the Eurostat flagship publications ‘Key figures on Europe’, ‘Eurostat Regional Yearbook’ and ‘Sustainable development in the European Union’ were published, including in digital interactive formats. The flagship publication ‘The EU in the world’ will go live at the beginning of 2023. The European Year of Youth in 2022 was covered by the development

of a new interactive visualisation tool and a brochure. The Key figures series has been expanded with the publication of 'Key figures on European transport'.

- Developing and enforcing a coherent visual identity

Eurostat developed a new visual style guide in order to harmonise its visual identity across the different communication and dissemination channels. The new visual identity has been deployed since the new website went live at the end of 2022.

- Reviewing the design and content structure of the Eurostat website to be in line with modern user expectations

Throughout 2022, Eurostat has worked to improve the design and information architecture of its website in line with best practices for modern web interfaces, security requirements and current user expectations. The homepage and level 1 pages have gone live at the end of 2022. The roll-out for the lower-level pages will continue throughout 2023.

- Continuing the programme of user testing

To ensure that dissemination products are adapted to user needs, Eurostat has continued its programme of user testing including the new design of the website, Euro indicators dashboard, Key figures and news articles.

- Increasing statistical literacy

Eurostat expanded the range of statistical literacy products available. 44 new articles and approximately 700 updates of existing articles in Statistics Explained were published in 2022. They ranged from regular articles presenting statistical results, to experimental statistics aimed at advanced users. In order to increase statistical literacy among the youth, a statistical competition for the age groups 14 to 16 and 16 to 18 took place with 17 000 students from 19 countries. The Statistics 4 beginners section of Statistics Explained has been expanded through the preparation of new articles explaining Environment statistics and Energy statistics.

The achievements listed above demonstrate the value added that Eurostat brings to public debate and to the design, monitoring and evaluation of Union policies, by providing comparable and high-quality data and statistics on Europe. A similar level of harmonisation, comparability and quality could not be achieved by the EU Member States alone.

2. MODERN AND EFFICIENT ADMINISTRATION AND INTERNAL CONTROL

2.1. Financial management and internal control

Assurance is provided on the basis of an objective examination of evidence of the effectiveness of risk management, control and governance processes. This examination is carried out by management, who monitors the functioning of the internal control systems on a continuous basis, and by internal and external auditors. The results are explicitly documented and reported to the Director-General. The following reports and documentation have been considered:

- the reports from AOSDs (and from the Common Implementation Centre ("CIC") to all research related services, etc.), from Heads of Delegations (EAMRs), from Managers of EU Trust Funds (EUTFs), etc.;
- the reports from Authorising Officers in other departments managing budget appropriations in cross-delegation;
- the contribution by the Director(s) in charge of Risk Management and Internal Control, including the results of internal control monitoring at department level;
- the reports on recorded exceptions, non-compliance events and any cases of 'confirmation of instructions' (Art 92.3 FR);
- the reports on ex-post supervision and/or audit results;
- the limited conclusion of the Internal Auditor on the state of internal control, and the observations and recommendations reported by the IAS;
- the observations and the recommendations reported by the ECA.

The systematic analysis of the available evidence provides sufficient guarantees as to the completeness and reliability of the information reported and results in the full coverage of the budget delegated to the Director-General of Eurostat.

This section covers the control results and other relevant elements that support management's assurance. It is structured into 2.1.1 Control results, 2.1.2 Audit observations and recommendations, 2.1.3 Effectiveness of internal control systems, and results in 2.1.4 Conclusions on the assurance.

2.1.1. Control results

This section reports and assesses the elements identified by management which support the assurance on the achievement of the internal control objectives (ICO) ⁽¹⁶⁾. Eurostat's assurance building and materiality criteria are outlined in Annex 5. The main risks together with the control processes to mitigate them and the indicators used to measure the performance of the relevant control systems are included in Annex 6.

The financial operations managed by Eurostat are exclusively under direct management mode. Eurostat's operational budget aims to implement the European Statistical Programme (ESP) as part of the Single Market Programme in line with the multi-annual framework and in accordance with the Financial Regulation and related rules. The overview table below presents the payments made in 2022 by risk-type and activity of Eurostat.

Table 1: Overview of expenditure based on payments made (amounts in EUR million)

Risk-type / Activities	Grants (e.g. actual costs based, or lump sums, or entitlements)	Procurement (e.g. minor or major values)	Administrative appropriations (support activities *)	Total Expenditure
European Statistical Programme (Direct management)	58.29	58.58	0.17	117.04
Totals in mEUR <i>(In %)</i>	58.29 <i>(49.80%)</i>	58.58 <i>(50.05%)</i>	0.17 <i>(0.15%)</i>	117.04 <i>(100.00%)</i>
<i>See Annex 3, Table 2 – payments made</i>				

*) Administrative appropriations managed and paid by Eurostat in 2022 mainly related to support for planning, monitoring and reporting activities as well as for support for financial information systems.

Eurostat implements its budget based on a multi-annual control strategy for budget implementation that is valid until 2027, that may be revised if deemed necessary. The objective of the strategy is to provide an adequate set of controls related to Eurostat's financial transactions in order to achieve the control objectives in a cost-efficient way.

Eurostat has put in place key processes to ensure 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 projects to simplify its financial management and to adapt the control system to current and future changes in its legal and operational environment.

⁽¹⁶⁾ 1) Effectiveness, efficiency and economy of operations; 2) reliability of reporting; 3) safeguarding of assets and information; 4) prevention, detection, correction and follow-up of fraud and irregularities; and 5) adequate management of the risks relating to the legality and regularity of the underlying transactions, taking into account the multiannual character of programmes as well as the nature of the payments (FR Art 36.2). The 2nd and/or 3rd Internal Control Objective(s) (ICO) only when applicable, given the DG's activities.

In line with the 2018 Financial Regulation, Eurostat's assessment for the new reporting requirement is as follows:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cases of "confirmation of instructions" (new FR art 92.3)
No such cases for Eurostat.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cases of financing not linked to costs (new FR art 125.3)
In 2022, Eurostat launched a call for proposals for one grant action covering two years, where the form of financing is financing not linked to costs. The implementation of action covers years 2023 and 2024.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial Framework Partnerships >4 years (new FR art 130.4)
No such cases for Eurostat
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cases of flat-rates >7% for indirect costs (new FR art 181.6)
Eurostat provides grant beneficiaries, except for international organisations, 30 % flat rate financing of indirect costs, calculated as a percentage share of eligible direct personnel costs. It was decided that the 30% flat rate of personnel costs corresponds to average of indirect costs beneficiaries incur when implementing Eurostat actions. - COMMISSION DECISION C(2021) 2696 of 30.04.2021 authorising the use of flat-rate financing for actions implemented by Eurostat.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cases of "Derogations from the principle of non-retroactivity [of grants] pursuant to Article 193 FR" (new Financial Regulation Article 193.2)
No such cases for Eurostat.

1. Effectiveness of controls

a) Legality and regularity of the transactions

Eurostat uses internal control processes to ensure sound management of risks relating to the legality and regularity of the underlying transactions it is responsible for, taking into account the multi-annual character of programmes and the nature of the payments concerned.

One of the control objectives is to ensure that the value of the error affected by the deficiency does not represent more than 2% of the payment(s) authorised. This indicator is based on ex post controls and measured and assessed on a multi-annual basis. More detail on the materiality criteria are outlined under Annex 5.

In addition, financial controls shall verify whether operations financed by Eurostat are correctly implemented in accordance with applicable rules and regulations. The relevance, legality and regularity of procedures shall be assessed, as well as expenditure declared by Eurostat suppliers and beneficiaries; possible overpayments shall be subject to financial recovery. Controls can also provide contributions to the improvement of the financial management of grants and procurements. They can help to ensure financial discipline in organisations (pedagogical and dissuasive effects).

The following control results are presented by internal control objective¹⁷ and are further subdivided by main type of expenditure, namely grants and procurement transactions, covering 99.86% of the payments made by Eurostat in reporting year 2022.

Assessment of the control results for grant transactions

The European Statistical Programme (ESP) is implemented by means of agreements between the NSIs, other national authorities and Eurostat. In accordance with Regulation (EC) No 2009/223 on European statistics, grants are awarded without calls for proposal to the members of the ESS.



Beneficiaries of grant agreements signed by Eurostat are mainly National Statistical Institutes (NSIs) of the EU Member States and of the enlargement countries and of the EFTA countries. They do not belong to a high-risk environment: they are public sector organisations and partners of Eurostat within the European Statistical System (ESS). The number of Eurostat grants' beneficiaries is limited and the population of potential beneficiaries is highly stable, as they are NSIs or other national authorities designated by the Member States as members of the ESS.

Grant agreements are subject to preventive (*ex ante*) and detective (*ex post*) controls. As required by Article 74(5) of the Financial Regulation, all financial transactions related to grants were subject to ***ex ante*** controls on operational and financial aspects. All *ex ante* controls are based on checklists or working instructions, ensuring compliance with the regulatory framework. All errors detected *ex-ante* are corrected before authorising a transaction. *Ex ante* controls did not identify major weaknesses in the reporting year.

Re-assurance was given by complementary financial ***ex post controls***. Six *ex post* controls were launched in 2022. The auditees were selected based on a stratified sampling strategy, taking also into account risks that were identified. All controls were finalised in 2022. In addition, one *ex post* control that was launched in 2021 was finalised in 2022. All control results were incorporated in this AAR.

⁽¹⁷⁾ Effectiveness, efficiency and economy of operations; reliability of reporting; safeguarding of assets and information; prevention, detection, correction and follow-up of fraud and irregularities; and adequate management of the risks relating to the legality and regularity of the underlying transactions.

The detected error rate for the reporting year 2022 is 0.12%. The multi-annual detected error rate decreased from 0.46%¹⁸ to 0.35%¹⁹. This value is well below the materiality threshold of 2%. Therefore, it can be concluded that the controls implemented are effective.



The following table presents a number of *ex post* control indicators²⁰:

Table 2: Ex post control indicators

Indicator	Reporting year							Multi-annual
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	
▪ Audited population (€)	1 093 183	1 253 928	965 461	2 465 076	3 164 844	3 907 516	5 917 602	18 767 610
▪ Audited beneficiaries (n°)	4	5	3	4	5	4	7	32
▪ Audited grants (n°)	14	22	25	33	40	35	46	215
▪ Amount of errors identified (€)	302	4 507	10 495	1 093	31 387	10 788	7 137	65 709
▪ Detected error rate (%)	0.03%	0.36%	1.09%	0.04%	0.99%	0.28%	0.12%	0.35%
▪ Number of fraud-related audit observations	none	none	none	none	none	none	none	none
▪ Number of audit results failed implementation	none	none	none	none	none	none	none	none

N.B.: • Figures referring to the ESP 2013-2021;

Source: European Commission, Eurostat

- Grants concluded under the SMP are not yet subject to *ex post* controls;
- Since 2019, co-delegated appropriations are included in the figures.

Assessment of the control results for procurement transactions

Besides grant agreements, the European Statistical Programme is implemented via procurement transactions with a share of around 50% of the total amount of appropriations attributed to Eurostat.

⁽¹⁸⁾ Reporting years 2016 until 2021

⁽¹⁹⁾ Reporting years 2016 until 2022

⁽²⁰⁾ The European Court of Auditors in its 2018 Annual Report and its review of the Commission's *ex post* audits observed that the Commission's methodology for calculating the error rate leads to an understatement of the error rate, the extent of which cannot be quantified. As a result, the Commission will adapt its methodology for the calculation of the ESP 2013-2020 error rate in line with the Court's observations starting with the implementation of the 2020 *ex post* audit campaign. In order to address this issue, the error rates for the year 2019 onwards were calculated with an adapted calculation method that was proposed by Commission's Central Services in order to avoid understated error rates.



Procurement transactions implemented by Eurostat in 2022 concerned mainly:

- 1) Provision of statistical services and methodologies;
- 2) IT services, supplies and database management;
- 3) Seminars, workshops and training.

The different stages of procurement transactions and their controls are presented under Annex 6. As requested under Article 74(5) of the Financial Regulation, all procurement transactions were covered by standard **ex ante** controls. These controls are checklist-based or based on working instructions ensuring compliance with the regulatory framework. They cover financial as well as operational aspects of a transaction. All errors detected ex-ante are corrected before authorising a transaction. *Ex ante* controls did not identify major weaknesses in the reporting year.

For the determination of the amount at risk in table 4, a flat error rate of 0.5% is applied as the most conservative and prudent approach, as no *ex post* controls are carried out on procurement transactions. In addition, it can be concluded that there are indications that the equivalent error rate might be close to 'zero'.

Further to the mandatory *ex ante* controls, in terms of management checks and supervision, a **Market Committee** reviews the quality of the terms of reference of planned calls for tender on a sample basis, based on internal criteria. In 2022, The Market Committee reviewed the quality of two terms of reference procedures. The Committee gave a favourable opinion with comments. All comments were accepted. No specific issues had to be reported.

Overall assessment regarding legality and regularity of Eurostat's transactions

Eurostat's portfolio consists of segments with a relatively low error rate, i.e. grants and procurement transactions. This is thanks to the inherent risk profile of the beneficiaries and the performance of the related control systems. As explained above, grant beneficiaries are partners of Eurostat under the ESS consisting of the NSIs of the Member States of the EU, plus a small number of NSIs of Candidate- and EFTA-Countries as well as a number of Non-NSIs. Beneficiaries are informed via dedicated information meetings organised by Eurostat on changes and modifications related to grant management. They are also made aware of errors and weaknesses disclosed during past audits and controls. Consequently, their experience and expertise in financial management related to grant agreements can be assessed as high.

Furthermore, Eurostat made increased efforts to improve the financial management and to reduce the risks via:

- the use of the eGrants tools (corporate tools, electronic workflows and templates);
- the use of unit costs for direct personnel costs for grants;
- simplified forms of grant financing (already in use and planned to extend their use);
- using eProcurement tools and modules that has become available (e.g. eRequest, eOrders, PPMT);
- dedicated payment time monitoring system in place.

In addition, Eurostat has an effective mechanism in place for correcting errors, through *ex-ante* and *ex-post* controls, resulting in preventive and corrective measures, respectively. Please see table below for details:

Table 3: Preventive and corrective measures (amounts in EUR million)

Implementation	Measure	Preventive measures (m EUR)	Corrective measures (m EUR)
Implemented by the Member States			
	▪ <i>of which from Member States controls</i>	n/a	n/a
	▪ <i>of which from EU controls</i> ⁽²¹⁾	n/a	n/a
Implemented by the Commission			
	▪ <i>of which from Member States controls</i>	n/a	n/a
	▪ <i>of which from EU controls</i>	1.44	0.01
Eurostat total		1.44	0.01

For details, please see table 8, annex 3

Based on all of the above, Eurostat presents in the following table 4 an estimation of the risk at payment and risk at closure for the expenditure managed during the reporting year:

Table 4: Estimated risk at payment and at closure (amounts in EUR million)

Eurostat	Payments made	Relevant expenditure	Estimated risk (error rate %) at payment		Estimated future corrections and deductions		Estimated risk (error rate %) at closure	
	m EUR	m EUR	m EUR	%	m EUR	%	m EUR	%
RCS:								
• Grants	58.29	59.65	0.21	0.35	0.02	0.03	0.19	0.32
• Procurements	58.58	57.82	0.29	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.29	0.50
• Admin. credits	0.17	0.17	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Eurostat total	117.04	117.64	0.50	0.42	0.02	0.02	0.48	0.41
	m EUR	m EUR	m EUR	%	m EUR	%	m EUR	%

N.B.: The full detailed version of the table is provided in annex 9.

The estimated overall risk at payment for 2022 expenditure is the AOD's best conservative estimate of the amount of relevant expenditure during the year, not in conformity with the contractual and regulatory provisions applicable at the time the payment was made. This expenditure will subsequently be subject to ex-post controls and a proportion of the

⁽²¹⁾ As a result of Commission controls and audits (including additional corrections to ensure a risk at closure below 2% in case of EMPL, REGIO and MARE), OLAF investigations or ECA audits.

underlying errors will be detected and corrected in subsequent years. This amount corresponds to the conservatively estimated future corrections for 2022 expenditure.

The difference between those two amounts results in the estimated overall risk at closure ⁽²²⁾. There is an increase in the absolute amount from 0.34 m EUR in 2021 to 0.48 m EUR. However, as a percentage of the relevant expenditure, the estimated overall risk at closure decreased from 0.47% in 2021 to 0.41% for 2022. This effect can be explained as the amount of relevant expenditure significantly increased from 72.71 m EUR in 2021 to 117.64 m EUR in the reporting year, however, as an opposite effect, the error rate decreased slightly.

For an overview at Commission level, the departments' estimated overall risk at payment, estimated future corrections and risk at closure are consolidated in the AMPR.

Eurostat regularly monitors and assesses the indicators related to legality and regularity of its transactions. The indicators 'Estimated risk at payment' and 'Estimated risk at closure' are very stable at a low level over a 5-years period.

Table 5: Evolution of some important control indicators over a 5-years period

Indicator	Reporting year				
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
▪ Relevant expenditure (m EUR)	66.09	71.25	66.75	72.71	117.64
▪ Estimated risk at payment (m EUR)	0.31	0.29	0.34	0.35	0.50
▪ Estimated future corrections (m EUR)	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.02
▪ Estimated risk at closure (m EUR)	0.31	0.28	0.33	0.34	0.48

b) Fraud prevention, detection and correction

Eurostat has developed and implemented an anti-fraud strategy since 2013, on the basis of the methodology provided by OLAF. It is updated at the end of each three-year implementation period, or before, if necessary. It was last updated in June 2021²³ and made available on Eurostat's Intranet. Its implementation is monitored and reported to the management twice a year. All planned actions in 2022 have been implemented and are in line with the Commission's anti-fraud strategy objectives. Eurostat does not have any financial recommendations from OLAF to follow-up on.

The anti-fraud reporting exercise is integrated into Eurostat's regular reporting. It is ensured every year in the Annual Activity Report and through the internal control reports, which include

⁽²²⁾ This is the AOD's best, conservative estimation of the expenditure authorised during the year that would remain not in conformity of applicable regulatory and contractual provisions by the end of implementation of the programme.

⁽²³⁾ [Eurostat Anti-Fraud Strategy 2020-2024 24 06 2021 final \(europa.eu\)](https://europa.eu/eurostat/anti-fraud-strategy-2020-2024-24-06-2021-final)

a specific section on anti-fraud/OLAF. The reports are issued twice a year and addressed to the Commissioner.

In 2022, the implementation of the anti-fraud Action Plan 2021-2024 concentrated mainly on achieving the strategic objective of improving awareness among staff in order to strengthen Eurostat's anti-fraud capacities. Eurostat provided information sessions on anti-fraud to all Eurostat's newcomers as part of the 'internal induction programme' training.

Additionally, Eurostat put in place measures to provide assurance for free and open competition in its procurement. For this purposes, Eurostat set up an advisory Market Committee in 2015 and conducts an annual market concentration analysis. In addition to the standard procurement processes in place, the Market Committee reviews, and if needed comments, on a number of tender specifications every year, with the purpose of ensuring widest possible competition. In the annual market concentration analysis, Eurostat assesses the market concentration and evaluates its competition conditions in the given year, taking into account aspects such as the average number of offers received and the market share among the top 10 contractors and all contactors. Furthermore, Eurostat offers training courses for staff members in procurement management. The courses systematically address the risk of market concentration. As a result, the competition conditions to participate in Eurostat's public procurement remained appropriate, and respected the mandatory procurement principles. As a conclusion of market concentration analysis, Eurostat procurement procedures qualified as an un-concentrated market in 2022 at the level of the organisation in its entirety.

On the basis of the available information, Eurostat has reasonable assurance that the anti-fraud measures in place are effective overall. Eurostat neither registered a fraud nor reported to OLAF any potential fraud-related case during 2022. Finally, no fraud risks were included in the Eurostat risk register 2022.

c) Other control objectives: safeguarding of assets and information, reliability of reporting

Eurostat's information systems and data are highly important assets supporting Eurostat's mission to be the leading provider of high-quality statistics on Europe.

Eurostat regards it as crucial to safeguard, monitor and secure its information systems and applications as well as its collection, handling and hosting of sensitive information, including the dissemination chain and the website used for publishing statistics and press releases.

As far as IT security and data integrity are concerned, there are three main objectives: awareness, implementation and monitoring. The control objectives in place are focused on raising staff awareness on the EC Security policies, standards and best practices, including Eurostat's information security policy, implementation of the controls defined in the IT security policy, monitoring and control of access to IT infrastructure, and use of IT infrastructure and information. In 2022, there were no relevant incidents recorded regarding data integrity in the reception and transmission of information, including Eurostat's website.

Regarding the safeguarding of sensitive information, the control objectives cover the identification and definition of sensitive information in Eurostat's IT systems, access to

sensitive information, and control of access to sensitive information. During 2022, no relevant incidents related to breach of confidentiality were reported.

Within the ESS, the ESS IT security framework, in its 2nd cycle, defines the controls to be put in place in order to safeguard the sensitive statistical information within the scope of exchange of data related to intra-EU trade statistics. Eurostat, as part of the ESS, has completed the re-certification process by an external company, demonstrating the adequate design and implementation of these controls.

Concerning personal data protection, the actions towards reaching full staff awareness by 2024 included launching an awareness campaign with invitations to Eurostat staff to follow a general course on data protection (if they had not yet attended a course previously) and for staff dealing with data protection, to attend a specific course on the new procedure for data breaches. Staff attendance at the data protection training was high and reached 75%. At the end of 2022, the Data Protection Coordinator (DPC) team reported to the Directors' meeting of Eurostat about achievements in 2022 and plans for 2023.

Regarding compliance with the Commission's Data Protection Action Plan (C(2018) 7432 final), all Eurostat Units concerned have reviewed their records in the Data Protection Management System (DPMS) with the help of the DPC team. All records underwent a check by the responsible Unit whether all the information contained in the record corresponds with the actual processing of personal data. Particular attention was paid to reviewing the Privacy Statement, the part of the record which must be sent to all persons whose data are being processed.

In May 2022, with the appointment of the new assistant DPC, Eurostat fulfilled the target from the SMP, as well as two major requirements set by the Secretariat-General: to make sufficient resources available for personal data protection and to have a dedicated backup officially appointed for the DPC.

2. Efficiency of controls

To assess the best possible relationship between resources devoted to controls and outputs achieved, Eurostat defined a set of efficiency indicators, which are regularly monitored and analysed. The tables below provide an overview of the timely payment indicators related to grants and procurements.

Indicator	Timely Payments	
	DG Score	EC Score
<p>0% 25% 50% 75% 100%</p> <p>EC (98%) 100%</p>	100%	98%

In 2022, Eurostat made all payments in time, without any late payments, and achieved an outstanding 100% for the ‘payment accepted amount in time’ indicator. This is the result of paperless payment processes and a dedicated payment time monitoring system in place in Eurostat, supported this with an active follow-up of the advancement of individual payment files through the payment process.

A number of additional efficiency indicators are presented in table 6 below:

Table 6: Efficiency indicators

Indicator	Reporting year				
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Grants					
• Average time-to-inform applicants [Art 194 (2a) FR sets a time limit of six months] (180 days)	108 days	80 days	63 days	98 days	79 days
• Average time-to-sign grant agreements or notify grant decisions [Art 194 (2b) FR sets a time limit of three months] (90 days)	59 days	64 days	44 days	53 days	67 days
• Time-to-pay (% on time, number of transactions)	91.20%	99.37%	*1)	*1)	*1)
• Payment accepted amount in time (in percentage)			100%	99.15%	100 %
• Average time-to-pay [Art 116 FR]	48 days	38 days	27 days	32 days	24 days
Procurements					
• Time-to-pay (% on time, number of transactions)	92.52%	99.96%	*1)	*1)	*1)
• Payment accepted amount in time (in %)			100%	99.54%	100 %
• Average time-to-pay [Art 116 FR]	20.6 days	20.6 days	18.5 days	19.6 days	18.0 days

Source: European Commission, Eurostat

*1) This indicator is replaced by the indicator ‘Payment accepted amount in time (in percentage)’ since 2020.

On average, Eurostat informed applicants of grant decisions in 79 days and signed grant agreements in 67 days in the reporting year. In comparison with the previous year, these time-to indicators show a mixed performance: while the time-to inform indicator improved, it took a longer time on average to sign agreements (98 and 53 days respectively in 2021).

Nevertheless, Eurostat’s average time-to-grant indicator (i.e. the sum of average time-to-inform and time-to-sign days, 146 days in 2022 against 151 days in 2021) remains well within the limits set in the Financial Regulation.

Other indicators:

Indicator	Objective	ESTAT Score	EC Score
• Timely Decommitments	Ensure efficient decommitment of outstanding RAL at the end of commitment life cycle	100%	93%

In the reporting year, Eurostat put in place a monitoring system, similar to the payment monitoring system, to improve the follow-up of budget commitments. As a result, Eurostat’s ‘timely de-commitment’ indicator rose to 100 % in 2022, up from 79% in the previous year.

3. Economy of controls

The calculation of cost of controls is based on a best and most reasonable estimate²⁴. Staff costs were measured by multiplying the number of full-time equivalents (FTEs) attributable to control-related activities with an annual average cost rate depending on the staff category. External costs were included in the calculation using the individual contracted amount. As in preceding years, the estimation of FTEs for staff is based on data supplied by the ATLAS-Tool²⁵. Those data are regularly revised and updated. Eurostat believes that the calculation of cost gives a true and fair view of Eurostat's control costs for the reporting year, based on a best and most reasonable estimate.

The table below presents an overview of cost-effectiveness indicators. More detail is presented under Annex 7 of this AAR.

Table 7: Economy of controls:

Indicator	Reporting Year				
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Overall (including non-expenditure items)					
(1) Overall cost of control in thousand EUROS (k€) *	10 694	11 022	10 615	10 365	10 054
(2) Overall cost of controls / total expenditure executed during the year (payments made for grants and procurements)	11.3%	12.1%	14.2%	13.4%	8.6%
*) Overall cost of control includes the cost of control related to expenditure items (grants, procurements) as well as cost of controls for non-expenditure items (IT security/data integrity and safeguarding of sensitive information).					
Only expenditure items (Grants and procurements)					
(1) Cost of control grants & procurements (k€)	10 162	10 522	8 630	8 818	8 376
(2) DG-horizontal control related tasks which are not attributable to a single relevant control system (e.g. accounting, audit, anti-fraud)	n.a.	n.a.	1 279	941	1 043
(3) Total costs = (1) + (2)	10 162	10 522	9 909	9 759	9 419
(4) Total cost of controls of process / total expenditure executed during the year (the payments made for grants and procurements)	10.7%	11.5%	13.4%	12.6%	8.1%

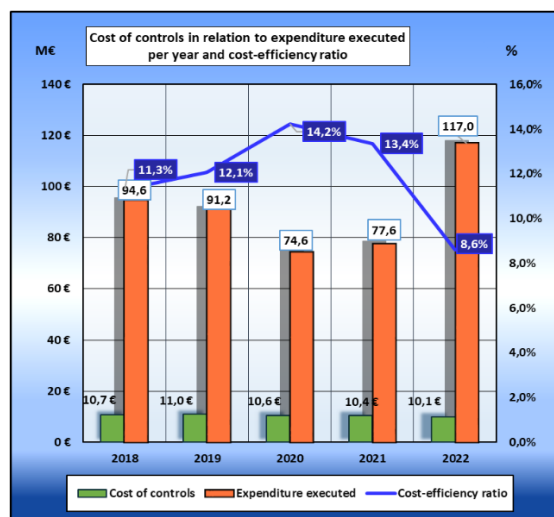
Source: European Commission, Eurostat

N.B.: The structure for presenting cost of controls was modified based on a revised corporate guidance in 2020 to harmonise approaches across DGs. Costs which cannot be allocated to any single relevant control system (e.g. Budget and accounting; coordination including strategic programming and planning, etc.) were taken out of the overall cost of controls related to grants and procurements and shown separately.

⁽²⁴⁾ The corporate methodology for the estimation, assessment and reporting on the cost-effectiveness of controls was revisited in September 2018 and applied for the first time in the 2018 annual reporting. The difference in the estimated cost of controls compared to previous years derives from this new methodology and does not reflect any substantial change in the DG's control strategy.

⁽²⁵⁾ ATLAS (Activity and Task Logging for Allocated Staff) is a workforce reporting and planning tool helping to allocate resources to priorities and providing up-to-date information on the allocation of resources to political priorities, and activities.

Economy of controls experienced positive development during the reporting period. As a result of the re-assessment of the attribution of staff to cost-related activities, the overall cost of controls decreased in comparison to previous years. Furthermore, the total amount of payments made in 2022 substantially increased compared to the reference periods of previous years. In consequence, the cost-efficiency ratio has distinctly improved, declining from 13.4% for 2021 to 8.6 % for 2022.



Efforts to improve economy of controls are ongoing on a permanent basis, however, it has to be noted that Eurostat is implementing a rather small volume of budgetary appropriations per financial year. Although the average size of grant transactions is relatively small, a full set of controls must be put in place. This results in diseconomies of scale.

Additionally, it is important to note that controls are implemented to manage revenue and expenditure in line with the Eurostat Control Strategy on budget implementation and accordance with the underlying budgetary rules and regulations, ensuring compliance with the requirements regarding the legality and regularity of transactions. To prevent, detect and correct errors and irregularities, many of the controls performed in Eurostat are mandatory; the margin for reducing them is therefore limited.



Initiatives to improve cost-effectiveness of controls

In order to contribute to better and more efficient budget management in Eurostat, the development of a 'Contract Planning and Monitoring' tool (CPM) is going to be launched. It is envisaged as an evolution of the current tool used to plan measures of the Financing Decision (FIDES). CPM will be used for planning and monitoring all types of procurement procedures, based on the budget approved in 'Implementing Measures' in FIDES and for the management of specific contracts under the conditions established in various framework contracts owned by Eurostat or by other DGs in the Commission. It is foreseen that the tool, by providing a common platform and uniform procedures, will contribute to a decrease in time dedicated to contract monitoring.

4. Conclusion on the cost-effectiveness of controls

Based on the most relevant key indicators and control results, Eurostat has assessed the effectiveness, efficiency and economy of its control system and reached a positive conclusion on the cost-effectiveness of the controls for which it is responsible.

Eurostat faces relatively high costs for the implementation of its activities, but these costs are proportionate and necessary. As explained above, Eurostat is implementing a rather small

volume of budgetary appropriations, nonetheless requiring a full set of controls. Benefits of controls are demonstrated by low error rates and efficiency indicators that prove the best possible relationship between resources devoted to controls and outputs achieved. In addition, there are a number of non-quantifiable benefits resulting from the controls performed, such as ensuring that financial transactions are implemented in accordance with applicable rules and regulations. Furthermore, controls can also help to ensure financial discipline in organisations (pedagogical and dissuasive effects).

In conclusion, Eurostat considers that the current control system and strategy represents a good balance between the invested efforts (cost of controls), the obtained error rates (effectiveness of controls) and delivery of objectives (efficiency).

2.1.2. Audit observations and recommendations

This section sets out the observations, opinions and conclusions reported by auditors – including the limited conclusion of the Internal Auditor on the state of the internal control. Summaries of the management measures taken in response to the audit recommendations are also included, together with an assessment of the likely material impact of the findings on the achievement of the internal control objectives, and therefore on management's assurance.

Audit work performed by IAS during the year 2022

On 19/12/2022, IAS issued three “important” recommendations in the final report of the **“Audit on the effectiveness and efficiency of Eurostat’s performance management system”** (IAS.C3-2021-ESTAT-001) and started in October 2022 the **“Performance audit on the effectiveness and efficiency of DG ESTAT’s coordination role in the ESS”**.

IAS followed up on the implementation of seven “very important” recommendations (one “very important” recommendation was already closed on 09/09/2021) of the **“Audit on HR Management in Eurostat”** (IAS.C3-2019-ESTAT-001) closing all seven and started the follow-up of the implementation of the “important” recommendation number two (on quality controls by production units) of the **“Audit on Eurostat’s quality management of statistical processes”** (IAS.C3-2018-ESTAT-002). The follow-up is ongoing.

For further information, please consult annex 7.

Audit work performed by the ECA during the year 2022

On 29/11/2022, the ECA issued the **Special Report 26/2022 “European statistics: Potential to further improve quality”** containing five recommendations, and on 08/12/2022 the **Special Report 25/2022 “Verification of gross national income for financing the EU budget: Risks in data compilation well covered overall, but scope for increased prioritisation of actions”** issuing three recommendations.

For further information, please consult annex 7.

Open issues from audits of the ECA before 2022

Please consult annex 7 of the AAR 2022.

Conclusion of the IAS on the state of internal control in Eurostat

Regarding the state of internal control in Eurostat, IAS concluded that the internal control systems in place for the audited processes are effective.

Conclusion on the assessment of audit observations and recommendations

- IAS concluded on the state of the internal control in Eurostat, that the internal control systems in place for the audited processes are effective.
- Eurostat accepted all recommendations issued by IAS (there were only three “important” recommendations issued).
- Eurostat rejected two recommendations of the ECA (the details of recommendations and information on which were partially accepted and which were rejected can be found in Annex 7). These rejections do not endanger the effectiveness of Eurostat’s internal control system. There is no material impact on the assurance, nor on achieving the internal control objectives. Eurostat is acting in line with the European Statistics Code of Practice and the relevant Commission decision in both cases.
- Currently, Eurostat does not have any “critical” or “very important” recommendations issued by the IAS nor by the ECA.
- Currently, Eurostat does not have any audit recommendations overdue for more than six months.
- During 2022, Eurostat implemented four “very important” recommendations stemming from the IAS “Audit on HR Management in Eurostat” and one “important” recommendation stemming from the IAS **“Audit on Eurostat’s quality management of statistical processes”**.
- During 2022, Eurostat implemented two recommendations issued by the ECA on European Environmental Economic Accounts (EEEA).
- Action plans referring to all the open “important” audit recommendations were established and are being implemented.
- Detected risks have been reduced significantly.

Therefore, Eurostat concludes that audit observations and recommendations do not disclose significant weaknesses of the internal control system that would require a qualification to the declaration of assurance with a reservation. In particular the IAS concluded that the internal control systems in place for the audited processes are effective in Eurostat.

2.1.3. Assessment of the effectiveness of internal control systems

The Commission has adopted an Internal Control Framework based on international good practice, to ensure the achievement of its policy and management objectives. Compliance with the internal control framework is a compulsory requirement.

Eurostat uses the organisational structure and the internal control systems suited to achieving its policy and internal control objectives in accordance with the internal control principles and has due regard to the risks associated with the environment in which it operates.

The functioning of the internal control systems was monitored closely throughout the year.

Twice a year, Eurostat's management monitors the implementation of the mitigating actions identified for the risks relevant at DG-level.

Additionally, twice a year, Eurostat's management assesses if:

1. new mitigating actions need to be implemented to further mitigate identified risks;
2. the level for the risks included in Eurostat's risk register has changed;
3. new risks have been identified.

Eurostat's management assessed the effectiveness of the internal control system and its results following the methodology established by DG BUDG in the **"Implementation Guide of the Internal Control Framework of the Commission"**. Please refer to Annexe 8 for the detailed approach and its sources.

The analysis of the effectiveness of Eurostat's internal control system resulted in the assessment that the internal control principles 6, 9 and 13 are present and functioning well but some improvements are needed, which are related to addressing open recommendations from recent audits.

The results of the assessment have been analysed and discussed between the Director-General, the Deputy Director-General and the Director in charge of Risk Management and Internal Control (DRMIC).

Eurostat has assessed its internal control system during the reporting year and has concluded that it is effective and the components and principles are present and functioning well overall, but some improvements are needed as minor deficiencies identified were related to the principles 6, 9 and 13.

The detected weaknesses will be mitigated in a timely manner by the implementation of the action plans concerning the related recommendations of IAS and ECA audits.

2.1.4. Conclusions on the assurance

This section reviews the assessment of the elements already reported above (in sections 2.1.1, 2.1.2 and 2.1.3), and the sub-conclusions already reached. It draws an overall conclusion to support the declaration of assurance and whether it should be qualified with reservations.

The information reported in section 2.1 stems from the results of management and auditor monitoring contained in the reports listed. These reports result from a systematic analysis of the evidence available. This approach provides sufficient guarantees as to the completeness

and reliability of the information reported and results in a comprehensive coverage of the budget managed by the Director-General of Eurostat.

Eurostat's performance in 2022 demonstrated that it is on course to meet the long-term policy, programme and operational objectives. In Eurostat's judgement, its operational expenditure authorised has contributed to the policy achievements and generated Union-added value. The KPIs indicate that the usage of European statistics is increasing as a general trend. Finally, the residual error rate for grants is consistently below the 2% materiality threshold.

The estimated overall amount at risk at closure for the 2022 payments made is EUR 0.48 million.

Based on an assessment of the most relevant key indicators and control results, Eurostat has assessed the cost-effectiveness and the efficiency of the control system as satisfactory in its current environment and has identified actions in order to improve.

Eurostat has set up internal control processes aimed to ensure the adequate management of the risks relating to its operations. Eurostat performs a risk assessment at DG level twice a year.

In 2022 there were no incidents recorded regarding data integrity in the reception and transmission of information, including the website.

OLAF did not open any fraud related cases concerning Eurostat in the year 2022.

Eurostat has assessed the observations and recommendations issued by the IAS and the ECA and continued in 2022 with the implementation of actions plans addressing audit recommendations.

IAS concluded on the state of internal control that the internal control systems in place for the audited processes are effective.

Eurostat concluded that audit observations and recommendations do not reveal significant weaknesses in the effectiveness of the internal control system that would require the declaration of assurance to be qualified with a reservation.

Eurostat has assessed its internal control system during the reporting year and has concluded that it is effective and the components and principles are present and functioning well overall, but some improvements are needed. The improvements and/or remedial measures implemented or envisaged refer to the internal control principles 6, 9 and 13. The detected weaknesses will be mitigated in a timely manner by the implementation of the action plans concerning the related recommendations of IAS and/or ECA audits.

The AOD gained a true and fair (i.e. a reliable, complete and correct) view of the state of affairs in Eurostat and has reasonable assurance that, overall, suitable controls are in place and working as intended.

In conclusion, based on the elements reported above, management has reasonable assurance that, overall, suitable controls are in place and working as intended; risks are being appropriately monitored and mitigated; and necessary improvements and reinforcements are being implemented. The Director General, in her capacity as Authorising Officer by Delegation has signed the Declaration of Assurance.

2.1.5. Declaration of Assurance

I, the undersigned,

Director-General of Eurostat,

in my capacity as authorising officer by delegation,

declare that the information contained in this report gives a true and fair view²⁶,

state that I have reasonable assurance that the resources assigned to the activities described in this report have been used for their intended purpose and in accordance with the principles of sound financial management, and that the control procedures put in place give the necessary guarantees concerning the legality and regularity of the underlying transactions.

This reasonable assurance is based on my own judgement and on the information at my disposal, such as the results of the self-assessment, ex-post controls, the work of the Internal Audit Service and the lessons learnt from the reports of the Court of Auditors for years prior to the year of this declaration.

I Confirm that I am not aware of anything not reported here which could harm the interests of the institution or those of the Commission.

Luxembourg, 31/03/2023

Mariana Kotzeva

⁽²⁶⁾ True and fair in this context means a reliable, complete and correct view on the state of affairs in the DG/Executive Agency.

2.2. Modern and efficient administration – other aspects

2.2.1. Human resource management

Effective management of Human Resources (HR) is one of the most important aspects of the Commission's and Eurostat's administration in order to deliver on the Commission's headline ambitions and statistical priorities. Year 2022 was impacted by the continuation of the Covid-19 pandemic and implementation of hybrid working for all staff. In line with the new Commission Decision on working time and hybrid working (C(2022)1788), Eurostat has adopted practical guidelines on the key elements of the Decision with the aim to ensure its fair and equal implementation across Eurostat. The practical guidelines considered the results of Eurostat's first own pulse survey of June 2021 as well as input from discussions with staff and management. Eurostat's practical guidelines for implementing the Commission Decision entered into force on 1 June 2022.

Following the adoption of Eurostat HR strategy in December 2021, the annual HR plan 2022 was approved and concrete actions and measures were implemented during the year. The skills mapping exercise of current and future skills for all statistical profiles was performed. Staff skills were assessed against a proficiency scale, rather than simply identifying if skills are available or not, which allowed a more in-depth analysis. In parallel, a task mapping exercise was executed. In 2022, Eurostat managed to decrease its vacancy rate and is now slightly below the Commission average which is a significant achievement in comparison to previous years. Nevertheless, the recruitment remains a main concern, not only due to decreasing attractiveness of Luxembourg as a workplace, but also the non-availability of viable candidates in the EPSO reserve lists. Eurostat has contributed to the preparation of internal competitions concerning the field of statistics. Unfortunately, the urgently needed EPSO competition in statistics was not launched in 2022. Therefore, the number of temporary agents on permanent posts further increased in 2022.

Eurostat is on target as regards the gender equality on all levels of management (57,1% of female representation as regards Deputy to the Director and 54,5% of female representation in middle management) at the end of 2022.

In 2022, Eurostat made substantial progress in the implementation of its first equality action plan adopted in autumn 2021. This plan, which underpins Eurostat's continuous and strong commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion, sets two main strategic goals in the area of equality: to develop Eurostat as a diverse and inclusive workplace that provides equal opportunities and where everyone can develop their potential in a respectful and safe environment and to mainstream equality dimensions in all statistics and services provided by Eurostat.

Regarding the first strategic goal, several actions were accomplished within Eurostat. In 2022, the main focus was on raising staff awareness and various channels were used to achieve this objective, e.g. (i) oral presentation of the equality action plan in the Heads of Unit's meeting and in several Directorates' staff meetings; (ii) publication of equality and diversity articles on the intranet; (iii) events on diversity organized with the participation of

the Diversity and Inclusion Office; (iv) training on accessibility; (v) adoption of an Equality Charter signed by the Eurostat senior management team and (vi) drafting of a specific equality objective for all the senior managers.

As far as the second strategic goal is concerned, several actions were taken to mainstream equality in all the statistics and services provided by Eurostat. In particular, an ESTP course on Equality and Diversity statistics as well as a webinar on gender statistics in the area of the labour market were organised. In addition, equality-related questions were included for the first time in the annual User Satisfaction Survey. Lastly, a first draft of the Eurostat strategy on equality statistics was discussed internally in Eurostat, as along with the Member States during the ESSC meeting. This strategy includes short- and medium-term actions aiming at enhancing the data coverage, harmonising the different statistical concepts, producing new statistics with additional equality dimensions and improving Eurostat dissemination and communication of equality statistics.

As a follow up of the 2021 Eurostat Staff Opinion Survey, several follow up actions took place in the area of innovation and change, as well as in the area of professional future.

Throughout 2022, Eurostat consistently promoted corporate priorities internally to its staff (such as the Commission Decision on working time and hybrid working, introduction of M365, the follow-up to the 2021 Staff Survey, cybersecurity, equality, diversity and inclusion, Green Commission). Putting these into Eurostat context and showing how these are relevant to the daily work/life of staff raised awareness of corporate priorities.

During 2022, Eurostat also continued informing staff about the latest developments involving the DG and the Commission overall. On Eurostat's Intranet page 'Cybernews', a daily set of news articles was published (four per day). Eurostat has regularly run articles on the ongoing developments in the DG's business activities and the HR related issues as well as on Commission corporate priorities.

Additionally, in close cooperation with the Eurostat HR Correspondent, articles were published to inform staff about developments in HR issues. These included in particular topics related to the Covid-19 pandemic, while taking into account the specific Luxembourg context.

The Cybernews pages have also continued to focus on raising the profile of Eurostat's staff members and promoting contacts by including articles presenting personal profiles of individual Eurostat colleagues.

In 2022, Eurostat's newsletter 'Eurostat-Infos' was published three times. In addition to profile articles introducing new Heads of Unit and Directors, Eurostat presented in-depth, 'behind the scenes' articles on the work done by colleagues from across the organisation. Such articles cast light on important parts of Eurostat's operations that might otherwise be unfamiliar to staff who are not directly involved.

2.2.2. Digital transformation and information management

As part of Eurostat's IT rationalisation effort, the in-depth analysis of the existing statistical production systems was completed in 2022 and Eurostat piloted a concept for a new cloud-based data production platform. In parallel, significant progress was made on the rollout of the 'Reference IT Architecture for Statistical Data Processing', which encompasses the standard tools that Eurostat developed in recent years, supporting automated data validation, process orchestration and dashboarding of statistical data flows.

Eurostat continued the implementation of the initiatives under its IT strategy, which was approved in 2021. Good progress was made on the phase out of legacy digital products and technologies. The OLAP databases were decommissioned and all the Information Systems running on ColdFusion technology were migrated to supported platforms, with the exception of one system (TRIS) for which the migration will be completed in the first half of 2023.

Eurostat also completed the transition to the new data collection and exchange platform EDAMIS 4, including the decommissioning of the few remaining legacy modules. Also, the last components of the new Eurostat Dissemination Chain (EDS) such as the new Navigation Tree and the COMEXT data browser, were released in production.

Eurostat has continued its fruitful collaboration in the Commission Digital Strategy Modernisation Plan on several initiatives. Amongst others, Eurostat successfully completed the implementation of Qualified Electronic Signature (QES) for the digitalisation of contract management processes.

Eurostat also finalised in collaboration with DG DIGIT an architecture which enables the secure handling of Sensitive Non-Classified Data (SNC) in the cloud infrastructure. This architecture will enable the implementation of innovative and smart statistical information processes harnessing the secure use of cloud and AI technologies.

Regarding cybersecurity, Eurostat has established a process to enable a yearly review of security plans of all Information Systems, using the ITSRM methodology of the Commission. A full review of security plans has been completed in 2022. In line with the Commission cybersecurity policies, Eurostat also activated Multi Factor Authentication (MFA) for all its externally exposed IT systems handling SNC data.

Eurostat continued to actively contribute to IMSB (Information and Management Steering Board) and LDC (Local Data Correspondents) networks, as well as to the development of a corporate reference data management policy, the management of corporate inventory of data assets, the development of corporate data platform services, the establishment of the data advisory portal and the development of data skills and training capabilities.

Eurostat has also chaired the inter-service group, which in 2022 successfully finalised the corporate list for country and territory codes and names as part of the annual action plan of the IMSB. Additionally, Eurostat made available 5 key statistical classifications as linked open data.

Eurostat institutional support provided regular trainings in 2022 on the use of official statistics to Commission services and other institutions. Eurostat continued to coordinate the network of statistical correspondents in the Commission and led the update of the inventory of other statistics.

2.2.3. Sound environmental management

In line with the European Green Deal, the Commission produced an action plan to become climate-neutral by 2030. The Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) in the Commission will play a key role in implementing this action plan. As part of the EMAS scheme, EMAS correspondents work in each DG to raise environmental awareness in their respective DGs. Based on the success of the ESTAT EMAS network ⁽²⁷⁾ implemented in 2017, Eurostat created an additional network of EMAS representatives in Eurostat units in 2021. It is composed of 36 members, who promote environmental actions within their respective units.

In 2022, Eurostat became the **first DG** in the Commission to establish a **carbon accounting system** for its activities. Eurostat quantified the impact of activities in terms of greenhouse gas emissions. For that purpose, it used the same standard used by EMAS to ensure compatibility with the system used Commission-wide. Eurostat has shared the results of this experience with other DGs in order to support the reuse of tools and knowledge in other services. Measuring the Eurostat carbon footprint was the starting point to establish a commitment to achieve carbon reductions, based on concrete measures in different areas, in line with the Commission's Green Deal strategy to become climate-neutral by 2030. Eurostat's DM approved the "Greening Eurostat" commitment and action plan in June 2022. This action plan focuses on areas such as (i) carbon footprint management; (ii) meetings and conferences organised by Eurostat; (iii) missions; (iv) home-work commuting and moving around buildings; (v) waste and resources (energy, water, paper); (vi) sustainable catering; (vii) IT (Digital Workplace and hosting services); (viii) buildings (working with central Commission services); (ix) environmental awareness.

In line with Greening the Commission, the "Greening Eurostat" action plan includes a commitment to reduce by 50% greenhouse gas emissions arising from business travel.

In 2022, Eurostat has released a number of [EMAS Cybernews articles](#), revamped its [Green@Eurostat](#) intranet website' and shared many environmental news articles through its EMAS networks.

Last but not least, the prints of publications have been limited in line with the targets. The print-run for the Eurostat calendars has been further reduced.

⁽²⁷⁾ Eurostat created one of the first intra-DG EMAS networks in the Commission. This network is composed of more than 40 members and works to promote environmental awareness in Eurostat.

2.2.4. Examples of economy and efficiency

Initiatives to improve economy and efficiency of financial activities

In line with its commitment, Eurostat started the development of a Contract and Planning Monitoring tool (CPM), that will support the planning and monitoring of all types of procurement procedures, including specific contracts established under framework contracts. The tool is instrumental to manage the planning and the implementation of the contracts. The use of the CPM tool is currently limited to selected procurement procedures and will gradually cover all procurement procedures in the next stage.

Initiatives to improve economy and efficiency of non-financial activities

During 2022, Eurostat reviewed the Business Impact Assessment (BIA) to take into account the lessons learnt from the Covid-19 crisis as well as the cybersecurity threat landscape. This reviewed BIA will lead to a full revision of the Business Continuity Plans of Eurostat during 2023.