

Action plan under the framework partnership agreement

Objective

The Joint Harmonised EU Programme of Business and Consumer Surveys is designed to gather information on the state of the economies in the EU Member States and in the candidate countries so to be able to compare their business cycles for Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) management purposes. It has become an indispensable tool in the EMU economic surveillance process, as well as for general economic policy purposes.

The programme involves specialised bodies/institutes carrying out one or more opinion surveys in the 27 EU Member States, and in candidate countries on a joint financing basis, more specifically in the following areas:

- Industry
- Construction
- Retail trade
- Service sector
- Consumers

The Commission also organises ad hoc surveys on topical economic issues. These ad hoc surveys are by definition more occasional and are carried out in addition to the monthly surveys, to obtain information on specific economic policy issues.

The partner shall carry out the survey(s) in the areas and in the country/ies as will be stipulated in Article 1 of the SGA.

SURVEY TIMING AND REPORTING OF RESULTS

Survey name	Number of activities (categories) to be reported	Number of aggregates to be reported	Number of questions to be asked monthly	Number of questions to be asked quarterly	Number of questions to be asked bi-annually
Industry	68	15	8	9	2 (Mar/Apr) 4 (Oct/Nov)
Construction	3	1	6	1	-
Retail trade	5	3	7	-	-
Services	37	1	7	2	2 (Mar/Apr) 4 (Oct/Nov)
Consumer	25 categories	1	15	3	-

- The monthly surveys must be carried out in the first two to three weeks of each month. The results of the business surveys must be e-mailed to the Commission in accordance with the calendar that will be included in the grant agreement; the deadline is generally five working days before the end of the month and the publication of results by the Commission is generally on the second-last working day of the month. In accordance with the calendar that will be included in Annex I of the specific grant agreement, the deadline for the delivery of consumer survey results is generally seven working days before the end of the month, day on which the Commission publishes the Flash Consumer Confidence Indicator for the EU and euro area. The detailed consumer survey results per country are published together with the publication of the business survey results (see above).
- The quarterly questions must be surveyed in the first two to three weeks of the first month of each quarter (January, April, July and October) and the results must be e-mailed to the Commission in January, April, July and October in line with the deadlines for the respective monthly survey results (see above).
- The bi-annual questions must be surveyed in March or April and October or November and the results must be e-mailed to the Commission in April and November in accordance with the calendar that will be included in the grant agreement, generally at least five working days before the end of the month.
- In the case of *ad hoc* surveys, the partner must undertake to adhere to the specific timetables laid down for them.

A detailed description of the action including the harmonised questionnaires to be used for the individual surveys, the required breakdowns of the results in terms of branches (based on NACE Rev.2 for business surveys)¹ or socio-economic categories (consumer survey) as well as provisions concerning the transmission and publication of data can be found in the 'Description of the action' - Annex 1 of the Model specific grant agreement.

¹ The NACE classification of economic activities is currently under review to reflect changes in economic structures and organisations as well as technological developments. The new structure should be finalised in 2024 and rolled out in official statistics in 2025-2027. The breakdown of the survey results by activities might need to be adjusted in this process, to ensure comparability with official statistical data. Required steps and methodologies would be discussed with the BCS partner institutes at future annual meetings with the Commission.