Management Plan 2024

EUROSTAT

Contents

Introduction

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

Eurostat is the statistical authority of the European Union and a Directorate-General of the European Commission, hereby referred to as 'the Commission'. It ensures the development, production and dissemination of European statistics according to the rules and statistical principles laid down in Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 on European statistics, as amended in 2015. Regulation (EU) 2021/690 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 established the Single Market Programme 2021-2027 (SMP). One of the SMP objectives, or pillars, is to develop, produce and disseminate high-quality, comparable, timely and reliable European statistics. The roles and responsibilities of Eurostat within the internal organisation of the Commission, as regards the development, production and dissemination of statistics, are further defined in Commission Decision 2012/504/EU of 17 September 2012 on Eurostat. On 10 July 2023, the Commission unveiled a proposal to revise the current legal framework governing European statistics to make it fit for the future and significantly improve the responsiveness of the ESS to data needs [1].

This management plan describes how Eurostat will contribute to the general objective 'Modern, high-performing and sustainable European Commission' by delivering on its mission and modernising the way it works. It highlights the most important outputs planned for 2024 and explains how they will further contribute to the specific objectives set out in Eurostat's strategic plan for 2020-2024.

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

- Eurostat remains the trusted point of reference for statistics and data on Europe, necessary for better policies, decisions and public debate in the European Union.

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

- Eurostat better communicates and better promotes European statistics and facilitates their use by policymakers, the general public, businesses, researchers and the media.

These objectives are implemented through annual management plans that describe key initiatives, outputs, indicators and targets for the year they refer to. The 2024 plan

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[1]   https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=COM:2023:402:FIN.

represents Eurostat's contribution to the implementation of the Commission work programme for 2024 'Delivering today and preparing for tomorrow' ([2]).

In 2024, it will be of key importance to provide relevant, timely and reliable European statistics to support the people and businesses in Europe that continue to face a number of epoch-making challenges and opportunities: from the climate and biodiversity crises to the digital revolution and artificial intelligence (AI); from Russia's invasion of Ukraine to the ensuing energy price and cost of living crises; from migration to ensuring economic growth and competitiveness. These developments will continue to require close monitoring of economic, social and environmental implications to support evidence-based decisions. The accelerating green and digital transitions will also need to be further supported by high quality European statistics. At the same time, given the profound digital transformation that has created new information needs alongside the emergence of many digital data sources, Eurostat is embracing innovative techniques to tap the full potential of digital data sources and technologies for European statistics. Lastly, Eurostat will advance partnerships with different stakeholders and effectively disseminate and communicate official European statistics.

([2])   https://ec.europa.eu/info/publications/2024-commission-work-programme-key-documents_en

PART 1. Delivering on the Commission's priorities: main outputs for 2024

The President of the Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, laid out in her fourth State of the Union address on 13 September 2023, the achievements, challenges and main priorities of the European Union. The European Green Deal remains a central part of the Commission's work. NextGenerationEU will remain key to ensuring secure, affordable and clean supplies of energy, the competitiveness of European industry, social and territorial cohesion and the transition to a net-zero, circular and nature-positive economy. Efforts to set the course towards a human-centred, sustainable and more prosperous digital future will continue. To promote more jobs and investments in Europe, the focus will remain on the deployment of renewable energy and on ensuring supplies of key strategic commodities such as critical raw materials and clean hydrogen. The challenges facing EU labour markets, workers and businesses, including from skills and labour shortages, and from AI will be discussed at a Social Partner Summit in Val Duchesse, Belgium. The Commission will also focus on support to Ukraine and preparations for successful EU Enlargement. In line with the long-term EU budget for 2021-2027, the Commission put forward an adjusted proposal for new own resources to help finance the repayment of NextGeneration EU borrowing.

In 2024, Eurostat will support the key initiatives in the Commission's work programme by providing statistics of the highest quality, well aligned with the priorities of the Commission. Eurostat will continue its efforts to remain the trusted point of reference for statistics and data on Europe, which is necessary for policy-making, evidence-based decisions and an informed public debate in the European Union.

To achieve what is planned under the three specific objectives, the most important external factors which affect the production of European statistics are: i) the economic context of high inflation and weaker economic growth, requiring close monitoring of economic, social and environmental implications, and ii) the effects of the Russian aggression against Ukraine on the European economy and society, requiring close monitoring of the implications for the energy market, the supply chains and labour markets in Europe. This leads to an ever-increasing number of requests for new and more timely statistics. As Eurostat depends on the data provided by the Member States, a close cooperation is of vital importance.

A. Statistics and data to support the EU response to the Russian aggression against Ukraine

In 2024, particular focus on providing statistical insights into societal and economic implications of the Russian aggression against Ukraine will be maintained. In this way, Eurostat will contribute to the achievement of the **specific objective 1 of the strategic plan 2020-2024**.

In this regard, Eurostat will continue to monitor the **gas demand reduction target** in a timely manner (T+15 days), in line with Council Regulation (EU) 2023/706. **Gas storage**

levels will also be monitored, in line with the obligation for Member States to fill at least 90% of the storage capacity by 1 November every year (as included in Regulation (EU) 2022/1032 on gas storage). Eurostat will continue to monitor gas import dependence by origin, from Russia and other major suppliers, on an annual basis and will develop new indicators, such as "diversity of suppliers".

Eurostat will also continue providing **methodological guidance on the statistical recording of the different government measures** adopted in response to the Russian aggression against Ukraine, including the **policy measures aimed at alleviating repercussions of the energy price surges and rising inflation**. Eurostat will continue the work to complete the data needed to monitor the risks of possible supply chain disruptions with respect to **critical raw materials**. To better compare developments of and impacts on services with those in other sectors of the economy such as industrial activities, Eurostat will replace the quarterly turnover in services index by the **monthly index of services production** as a principal European economic indicator in 2024. As a result, policymakers will dispose of **timelier and more comparable data on the services and industrial activities in the EU**.

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

In her political guidelines for the European Commission 2019-2024, President von der Leyen defined **six headline ambitions for Europe**, which represent the priorities for the work of the European institutions. Through its activities, Eurostat will contribute to the achievement of these priorities in line with the **Commission work programme 2024 'Delivering today and preparing for tomorrow'**.

A European Green Deal

The European Green Deal significantly increases demand for statistics on environment, energy, transport, agriculture, forestry as well as on regions and cities. To respond to the new statistical needs, Eurostat and other members of the European Statistical System (ESS) established in late 2021 the **Action plan "Statistics for the European Green Deal**. This Action plan coordinates and streamlines current statistical activities related to the European Green Deal and helps to better establish priorities. **Among the activities that Eurostat expects to deliver in 2024 are**: the amendment of Regulation (EU) 691/2011 on European environmental accounts (new accounts on forests, ecosystems and environmental subsidies); and further enhanced communication of environmental accounts as regards early estimates, environmental footprints and combined presentations of economic and environmental figures. Furthermore, Eurostat will support the implementation of statistics by the degree of urbanisation worldwide and improve the quality of waste statistics, also necessary for purposes of the EU budget own resource on nonrecycled plastic packaging waste. Eurostat will also further integrate geospatial data and microdata from the LUCAS 2022 survey.

The primary goal of the **REPowerEU plan** within the Green Deal was to accelerate the reduction of Europe's **energy dependence** and move away from fossil fuels more rapidly than originally planned. This requires more detailed, new and even timelier energy statistics. The National Energy and Climate progress reports are a central piece of the monitoring mechanism established under the Energy Union Governance Regulation. Eurostat's data, in particular those on the share of renewables collected within the SHARES (Short Assessment of Renewable Energy Sources) tool, are essential to monitor the national energy and climate plans through progress reports. In 2024, Eurostat will adapt the **SHARES data collection (including on renewable hydrogen)** to adapt it to Directive (EU) 2023/2413 on the promotion of energy from renewable sources.

In 2024, Eurostat will also publish for the first time ever **new energy statistics to monitor decentralised production of electricity, deployment of large-scale batteries and additional renewable fuels, as well as detailed energy consumption in the transport and services sector**. Eurostat has led the development of the hydrogen data collection methodology, cooperating with partners such as the International Energy Agency (IEA), Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), and the UN Statistical Office. This leads to comparability of data worldwide, also contributing to the headline ambition "A stronger Europe in the world". In 2024, a new amendment of Regulation (EC) 1099/2008 on energy statistics will enter into force. This amendment includes reporting requirements on the transformation between hydrogen and other fuels, necessary to ensure consistent reporting on hydrogen. Moreover, Eurostat will launch a voluntary collection for reference year 2023. The mandatory data collection starts in reporting year 2025, with 2024 as the reference year. Furthermore, Eurostat will also finalise the methodology to collect energy consumption of data centres, which simultaneously contributes to the headline ambition "A Europe fit for the digital age". For the first time, Eurostat will collect disaggregated data on final energy consumption in services and for transport activities, essential to monitor energy efficiency in the EU. Eurostat will also lead the international development of data collection templates for annual energy statistics. These will be used by the International Energy Agency and UNECE, becoming the most important data collection standard for energy statistics worldwide.

Eurostat's **work on enriching and improving timeliness of transport statistics** will respond to the changing information needs, related to smart and sustainable transport. Methodology will be developed in 2024 to include and publish **modal shift indicators for all modes of transport**. The **newly developed methodologies for statistics on light utility vehicles and inland waterway passenger transport** will be tested and consolidated in the dedicated surveys that started in 2023 and will continue in 2024 in several Member States supported by Eurostat grants.

Regarding the **EU Budget own resource on the non-recycled plastic packaging waste**, Member States transmitted their estimates ('statements') in July 2023 and this triggers the Commission verification and inspection visits. 2024 will be the first year with inspection visits all throughout the year, and the procedures and tools for the verification

will be put to test. The European Court of Auditors will issue the report of an audit on this new own resource.

The **modernisation of agricultural statistics** will also be pursued in 2024. After the adoption of the Regulation on Statistics on agricultural input and output (SAIO), the main focus is on six implementing regulations which will specify the data requirements and the quality for producing comparable and harmonised statistics on animal and crop production, agricultural prices, plant protection products and nutrients. The implementing regulations on nutrients and quality will be adopted in 2024. In addition, in 2024 Eurostat will adopt an Implementing Regulation on quality reporting for Economic Accounts for Agriculture. Furthermore, for the **Integrated Farm Statistics (IFS)** 2026 data collection, an implementing regulation will be adopted in 2024 to provide details on the core characteristics and the modules on labour force, rural development, animal housing and manure management and vineyards. A new legal framework for **European Fisheries and Aquaculture Statistics** is planned for adoption by the Commission by the end of 2024. It will streamline and modernise the legislation and data flows for catch, landing, fleet and aquaculture statistics and reduce the administrative burden, as a large part of statistics is planned to be produced directly by Eurostat from administrative data available in the Commission in the context of the Common Fisheries Policy.

Finally, to **support the monitoring of the green transition with reliable data**, Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/1092 laying down technical specifications of data requirements for the topic 'Innovation' makes statistics concerning innovations with environmental benefits mandatory for all Member States. These statistics will be published for the first time in 2024. In addition, the **Community Innovation Survey (CIS)** will include, for some EU Member States, information about the perceived impact of climate change on businesses in Europe.

An economy that works for people

Eurostat's work will make an important contribution to social fairness and prosperity in Europe.

Eurostat will continue to contribute to the Commission social agenda and the social dimension of Europe by further developing the **indicator set to monitor the European Pillar of Social Rights**. Moreover, Eurostat will improve the attractiveness of the **Social Scoreboard Indicators** on its dedicated webpage and explore any improvement needs regarding the secondary indicators of the Social Pillar Action Plan.

In the area of **Social Protection statistics**, Eurostat is **increasing the coverage of countries providing early estimates on expenditure in benefits** (which include sickness/health, unemployment, and family/children, amongst others). An **agreement** by the European Statistical System (ESS) on early estimates for social protection expenditure main indicators will be signed in 2024, as a first step to officialise this timelier data collection.

In the domain of **health**, 2024 will be the last year of voluntary data collection of COVID-19 related variables: treatment costs, testing and contact tracing, vaccination, medical goods, as well as investment costs and provider support, all broken down by providers and financing. Eurostat will pursue collecting and disseminating **detailed Health Care Expenditure and Financing statistics (HCE)** for reference year 2022. To improve the timeliness of HCE statistics, preliminary data for reference year 2023 will also be collected, to be published in 2024. Eurostat will continue working towards organising long-term care statistics in a coherent framework to support the **European Care Strategy**. The Eurostat Task Force on long-term care statistics will be studying solutions and providing methodological guidance for various dimensions of long-term care. In addition, all preparatory work for a pilot data collection on persons living in institutions linked to the European health interview survey (EHIS) 2025 will be finalised in 2024 for implementation in 2026. Eurostat will also start exploring methodological options for covering important topics like **mental health** where data gaps have been identified.

In the field of **income and living conditions**, Eurostat will continue improving the timeliness of EU-Statistics on Income and Living conditions (EU-SILC) data (2023 data will be disseminated in June 2024; three months earlier than in 2023). Eurostat will further enlarge its dissemination on the Eurostat website (data of the 2023 modules on energy efficiency, energy poverty and on intergenerational transmission of disadvantages and housing difficulties will be issued in 2024) and in the form of a publication where the key figures on living conditions will be updated and enriched. The legal basis for the 2026 ad hoc subject on over-indebtedness, consumption and wealth will be prepared for adoption.

As regards the **EU Gender-based Violence Survey (EU-GBV),** which is implemented over the 2020-2023 period, Eurostat will aggregate the latest national data and release it on the Eurostat website by the end of June 2024. In 2024, preparatory work towards a future regular survey will be undertaken.

In the domain of **labour market statistics**, Eurostat will continue to disseminate the **EU Labour force Survey (EU-LFS)** data on employment, unemployment and labour market slacks, at T+75 days after the end of each quarter in 2024. **Data from EU-LFS modules** are disseminated in the year after data collection. In 2024, data on pensions and the labour market will be disseminated, while data will be collected on young people on the labour market and on reconciliation of work and family life. Data from the 2022 pilot data collection on digital platform employment will be further published as experimental statistics. Based on this first experience, a module for EU-wide implementation in 2026 will be prepared for adoption. In addition, the preparatory work for the implementation in **EU-LFS of the new International Classification on Status of employment (ICSE-18)** will continue with further testing taking place in Member States.

The Commission adopted its proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on **Labour Market Statistics on Businesses (LMB) on** 28 July 2023. The proposal will be discussed by the legislators and the adoption is expected in 2024. Data from the Structure of Earning Survey 2022 will be published before the end of the year. Moreover, **a global conference on Measuring New Forms of Employment** will be

organised on 15-16/03/2024 in collaboration with the International Labour Organisation (ILO). Its aim is to address the policy demand and statistical answer for reliable information on digital and innovative economy in the labour market domain.

In the area of **education statistics**, the collection and dissemination of detailed data on Education statistics based on the joint UNESCO-OECD-Eurostat data collection will continue. Non-financial data will be released in 2024 for the reference school year 2021/2022, while data on education finance will cover the reference year 2021. In this field, Eurostat will aim towards methodological improvements regarding vocational education and learning mobility. Furthermore, as far as the **2022 Adult Education Survey (AES)** is concerned, its **results** will be disseminated in early 2024, including for the adult learning over the last 12 months target indicator of the European Pillar of Social Rights.

Another important priority will be the **revision of the European Statistical Recovery Dashboard**. The Dashboard has been a successful product since 2020. However, as COVID-19 recovery has been taking place, and in the context of other crises (e.g. Russian aggression against Ukraine), Eurostat will evaluate whether a COVID-19 focused dashboard is still necessary, or another product (whether a revised or successor Dashboard) should be introduced. Preparatory analysis and discussions took place in 2023, with the final decision foreseen for the first quarter of 2024.

Eurostat will also publish **revised data on national accounts and balance of payments** following a 5-yearly ESS coordinated benchmark revision planned for September 2024. The revision will incorporate major updates in the data sources, methodological changes and improvements in the compilation methods applied by the countries. It will also reflect the mid-term update of ESA 2010 Regulation No 549/2023 introducing new transmission, timeliness and consistency requirements. Alongside this, Eurostat will prepare **an ESS-coordinated communication on the overall scope, timing and the impacts of the 2024 benchmark revision of national accounts and balance of payments**.

Eurostat will **update** the **2016 Eurostat study on the long-term budgetary implications of EU officials pension costs** in order to take into account developments such as the increase of the members of the Pension Scheme for EU Officials (PSEO) in recent years and potential forthcoming developments for EU officials under the Staff Regulations. The study will serve as input to establish the Commission's proposal for the Multiannual Financial Framework 2028-2034.

As requested by Member States and following a survey to identify current national practices regarding the economic activities of non-resident VAT traders and the required adjustments in the macro-economic accounting frameworks to capture their impact, Eurostat will **update** existing **guidance on compiling transactions of non-resident VAT traders** in national accounts and balance of payments statistics. This will help Member States implementing a more standardised approach on this issue.

The Commission will **propose** a **Regulation to establish a common framework for the development, production and dissemination of non-financial statistics on commercial real estate**. The statistics should include indicators on prices, rents and on construction starts and completions. These statistics will be produced on the basis of existing administrative databases, reused data from businesses, and data from real estate organisations, with little if any additional administrative burden. The statistics will be used for monitoring financial stability, for fiscal, monetary and macro-prudential policymaking, and for research on real estate markets, and they will fill an important data gap.

Regular production of high-quality **Excessive Deficit Procedure (EDP) and Government Finance Statistics (GFS)** plays a pivotal role in establishing the fundamental underpinning for fiscal oversight within the EU. This is particularly crucial for assessing the statistical ramifications of the Stability and Growth Pact and is indispensable for the effective operation of the EU's fiscal surveillance framework. Eurostat will continue to collect the detailed reporting tables recently established with the aim of monitoring the correct statistical recording of the national measures introduced by Member States in response to the energy crisis, as well as of ensuring the application of the statistical rules applied to the Recovery and Resilience Facility associated flows.

Eurostat will also continue **methodological developments in public finance statistics** leading to better and more harmonised statistics, an essential factor for the fiscal monitoring in the EU. In this context, Eurostat will monitor the implementation of the provisions of the 2022 edition of the Manual on Government Deficit and Debt (MGDD), released at the beginning of 2023. This will contribute to a more harmonised recording of similar policy measures across EU Member States.

Eurostat will pursue the compilation of the **statistical accounts of the European institutions and bodies**, addressing user data needs and answering Member State's requests. Eurostat will continue developing the methodology for the compilation of key indicators for EU institutions and bodies. Such information would allow for a more accurate national accounting picture of the EU institutions and bodies.

As far as the area of **European business and trade statistics** is concerned, the priority will be to ensure the continuous provision of high-quality statistical information on European businesses, and in particular, provision of timely statistics on short-term business developments (industry, construction, distributive trade and services) and international trade. Work on early estimates of the index of industrial production and of other short-term business statistics will also continue in 2024.

Providing high-quality statistics describing **globalisation** and the changing nature of the economy will continue to be essential for economic analysis in Europe. The **EuroGroups Register (EGR)**, alongside the **European Profiling programme** will continue providing a global view on the largest European Multinational Enterprise Groups (MNEs) with significant impact on the European economy. In 2024, quarterly updates of the EuroGroups Register will be provided with an enhanced quality for the largest and most significant multinational groups operating in the EU. Additional aggregated data on multinational enterprise groups

(MNEs) will be disseminated by economic activity breakdown and country breakdown. The pilot exercises to produce new or existing statistical output on globalised businesses by using microdata linking techniques which will continue with the objective to re-use available information and reduce the statistical burden. In this context, the re-use of the data collected under the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)/G20 Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) Initiative will be further investigated with view to improving the statistical recording of MNEs, as source for additional financial indicators or for further quality enhancements of the statistical registers and the statistics on cross-border flows.

Eurostat will also continue producing high-quality statistics on international trade in goods and services, foreign direct investment, foreign affiliates and global value chains.

Finally, work on the reduction of **asymmetries in the context of micro-data exchanges** will be pursued in 2024, thus facilitating the use of exchanged micro-data within the compilation of statistics on intra-EU imports of goods.

A Europe fit for the digital age

The ongoing digital transformation continues to be high on the policy agenda of the Commission. The Digital Decade policy programme sets ambitious targets on the digital skills of the citizens, on the digital transformation of businesses, on the digital infrastructures and on the digitalisation of public services. In 2024, Eurostat will produce high-quality statistics on the digitalisation of Europe's enterprises and society as well as on its links to the green transition. This will help to monitor Europe's progress in the digital transformation.

In 2024, Eurostat will implement the **ESS action plan for better measuring digitalisation**. At the core of this action plan is the data provided by the **Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) statistics domain**, both on the uptake of ICT technologies and e-commerce by enterprises and by households and individuals. Due to the fast-evolving pace of digital technologies, there is a constant dialogue with data users and data producers and the collection instruments (mainly surveys) and legal acts needed for the collection are adapted on a yearly basis. Moreover, the review of the ICT statistics domain launched in 2023 will be concluded in the context of the **ESS priority-setting mechanism,** aiming to increase the relevance of the statistics produced and to reduce costs and burden for the ESS and for respondents.

The Delegated Regulation regarding a **new classification of products by activity (CPA)** will – together with **different Commission Regulations** adapting current legislation to the **new version of the classification of economic activities (NACE)** – reflect more closely the reality of the current economic activities in the European Union, taking into account recent structural, scientific and technological developments.

Another activity that will deliver results in 2024 is the implementation of the **Warsaw Memorandum on Earth observation for statistics**.

Promoting our European way of life

Population statistics and demography data continue to be highly relevant for the policy agenda of the Commission, in the context of an ageing society, a shrinking working-age population and availability of skills. In particular, the 2023 Demography Toolbox Communication ([3]) by the Commission highlighted that demographic change has a direct impact on the EU's human capital and its competitiveness. It stressed that greater attention would need to be given to building the evidence base, and acknowledged the Commission proposal for a regulation on European statistics on population and housing as a major step in this direction.

Regarding the **modernisation of European statistics on population and housing**, as proposed by the Commission on 20 January 2023, Eurostat will prepare for the implementation of the expected new European legislation. The two task forces that started to work on implementation guidelines for the harmonised population base and data requirements for the new statistics will provide their deliverables. Furthermore, Eurostat will, with inputs from Member States, make available all European results from the 2021 **population and housing census**. This will include very detailed hypercubes on population, households and housing as well as additional geocoded population data at the 1 km^2 grid level. Following the data release, Eurostat will publish a series of statistical articles and prepare lessons learnt. The preparations for the 2031 census will start at European level.

Eurostat's **population projections** provide information about how the population size and structure at national level change if the assumptions on fertility, mortality and migration remain true over a very long projection period, up to 2100. Population projections are used as input for various policies, such as EU cohesion policies or when assessing the long-term sustainability of public finance or analysing the impact of ageing populations on the labour market and potential economic growth. Eurostat continues to publish and develop these long-term population projections and the next update will be published in September 2024.

To bring Europe closer to citizens and regions, Eurostat will provide **statistics at sub-national level: on regions and cities**. To monitor and evaluate territorial development policies and to evaluate the territorial impacts of sectoral policies, Eurostat will continue to produce **statistical indicators on regional typologies**. Eurostat will

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([3])   https://commission.europa.eu/system/files/2023-10/COM_2023_577_1_EN.pdf

safeguard and enhance the management of territorial classifications which is the backbone of regional and local statistical data production.

To support policies aimed at combating all forms of discrimination, whether based on gender, ethnicity, religion or socio-economic status, Eurostat has engaged in further developing **equality and non-discrimination statistics**. In 2024, a task force with wide participation from the Member States and other stakeholders will work to develop guidelines and recommendations for improved comparability of the statistical terminology and taxonomies in the EU with a focus on sex/gender, race or ethnic origin, religion or belief and sexual orientation. The task force is planned to work until the end of 2026.

As promoting our European way of life also means valuing the diversity of our cultural and linguistic heritage, Eurostat will disseminate updates of a range of statistics depicting the various socio-economic aspects of culture. A particular **culture statistics** work stream in 2024 will assess the possible inclusion of creative sectors by culture statistics.

As far as the **New Pact on Migration and Asylum** is concerned, Eurostat will continue to provide a wide range of statistics and advance the pilot studies for additional variables and breakdowns.

A stronger Europe in the world

Eurostat will continue to **contribute to the setting of international statistical standards, new metrics and methodologies** in partnership with international organisations. This will ensure comparability of statistics across the globe and promote EU values by bringing EU experience to statistical standards.

The **enlargement process** will remain one of Eurostat's priorities. Specifically, Eurostat will include the Trio (Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia) fully in the wider enlargement-related statistical cooperation activities, including participation in Eurostat working groups as observers, which started in 2023. For all ten candidate countries and potential candidates, further emphasis will be on increased data production and dissemination, where the Trio would need to catch up significantly with the Western Balkans and Türkiye. Peer reviews to assess the compliance of enlargement countries with the European statistics Code of Practice will start, following the process in the EU Member States. Consequences of the new Growth Plan for the Western Balkans instruments will be explored once adopted in early 2024. Specific support to the State Statistical Service of Ukraine (SSSU) will be provided, in addition to joint support with international partners in specific domains.

In the area of the **European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP)**, training courses will be delivered for the region (together with involvement of Central Asia countries) and meetings will be organised to discuss strategic issues. Statistical assessments of specific domains and the statistical system in the ENP East countries and Central Asia will be implemented. In ENP South, cooperation will continue through the MEDSTAT V programme, including support for statistical domains and horizontal issues. For **Africa**, Eurostat will use the Pan-African cooperation programme, PAS II, as the main instrument to support statistical offices in acquiring knowledge and producing more and better-quality data.

Business and trade statistics will again contribute to monitoring the European industrial strategy against global trends, supporting EU industry global competitiveness, and enhancing Europe's strategic autonomy. Trade in goods statistics will continue to provide timely and detailed data to monitor the impact of the EU's free trade agreements with non-EU countries.

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

To achieve **specific objective 2**, i.e. to better meet user needs for relevant, timely and high-quality statistics, in particular by continuing to foster partnerships and by embracing innovative data sources and technologies, Eurostat will pursue numerous activities.

In line with Commission's rationalisation objectives, Eurostat is preparing **a plan to simplify and rationalise the reporting requirements and reduce related burden on businesses and national administrations**, without undermining the policy objectives. The plan will include a list of concrete measures planned for 2024 and beyond to progress towards the goal of 25% reduction of such burden. One major initiative will be in the domain of fishery and aquaculture statistics, as already included in the Commission Work Programme 2024. Furthermore, Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/1472 that amended Regulation (EC) No 1055/2008 and was adopted on 17 July 2023 will reduce the burden on NSIs and Eurostat in 2024 by means of the change of frequency with which the Member States supply their quality report on statistics concerning balance of payments, international trade in services, and foreign direct investment. In addition, work has commenced to identify concrete measures, such as amendments to basic, implementing, delegated and other non-legislative acts as well as other measures such as operational arrangements, e-forms, etc., that have the potential to meaningfully address reporting requirements. In the context of the Commission's proposal to **amend Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 on European statistics** with a view to making it fit for the future, Eurostat will initiate concrete activities that can illustrate what benefits a revised Regulation may bring in terms of burden reduction and efficiency gains. The revision of the regulation aims at unlocking the potential of new data sources for official statistics, as well as increasing the agility and responsiveness of the ESS. Once adopted, the revised Regulation will improve data collection and data sharing within the ESS, further enhancing the collaboration between Eurostat and national statistical authorities.

In parallel with the adoption process, Eurostat and national statistical offices will start building up a framework for the ESS to **produce new European statistics that are partly or wholly based on privately held data** to strengthen the capabilities of the ESS to deliver more relevant, up-to-date, frequent and granular statistics and to react promptly in case of urgent user demands, for instance triggered by crises. The framework will be developed benefiting from the already successful cases such as the new Tourism Statistics based on online accommodation platforms. The technological and methodological developments of the ESS Innovation action plan will also support this work strand. Eurostat will continue exploring reuse of privately held data obtained from international internet platforms, **focusing on occupancy of short-term tourism accommodation**, currently

labelled experimental statistics, towards producing and disseminating **European statistics**. In addition, in collaboration with the Member States, Eurostat will explore the possibility of producing and disseminating experimental statistics based on bank card data on domains like **e-commerce or retail trade. Innovative tools for the Household Budget Survey (HBS) data collection** will enable fully fledged web and/or smartphone applications aiming to reduce data collection burden (for both respondents and national statistical institutions) and increase data quality in terms of timeliness and accuracy.

The implementation of the **European Statistical System Innovation Agenda** adopted in February 2023 will be pursued with the **update of the ESS innovation action plan** in 2024. The ESS Innovation Network in charge of facilitating its implementation will launch a communication campaign targeting statistical organisations and external stakeholders involved in data innovation. It will set up and animate an open ESS innovation community and will strive to build capacities for realising innovation jointly.

Furthermore, the One-Stop-Shop on **Artificial Intelligence and Machine learning** will go live providing ESS staff with a focal point to discover, test and experiment and deploy AI systems for supporting key functions of statistical production, e.g. data editing, data imputation, data validation, automated classification, textual data processing, remote sensor signal (satellite and earth observation) data processing. Moreover, the European platform for harnessing data from the Web (**Web intelligence Hub** Platform) will be further developed with three major releases of the platform. The prioritised use cases (Online Job Advertisements, Skills demands) will generate data to produce experimental statistics in the area of labour demand and skills. The platform will ultimately be transformed into a statistical production system providing the necessary capabilities to process large amount of data collected on the web. Applied research will continue in the domain of the use of **smart devices and smart technologies** for enhancing statistical data collection methods enabling the development of AI powered data collection for Household Budget and Time Use surveys. As far as the development of a reference methodological pipeline for processing **Mobile Network Operator** (MNO) data is concerned, it will reach the phase of initial pilot testing on the operational network of multiple MNOs from different countries. The technical specifications of a shared ESS platform for **multi-party privacy preserving computation** will be also developed along with an in-depth analysis of the related legal and organisational aspects, enabling a prototype implementation and testing activities to take place in 2025.

With relation to experimental statistics, the **international trade in services statistics (ITSS)**, Modes of Supply (MoS) and Services Trade by Enterprise Characteristics (STEC) will become official statistics in 2024 following their mandatory data transmission in accordance with the provisions of the European Business Statistics Regulation. ITSS by Broad Economic Categories (BEC) will continue to be published as experimental statistics. Eurostat will continue the work on improving the quality of ITSS statistics by decreasing bilateral asymmetries between Member States in the context of the asymmetries resolution mechanism (ASM). As far as the area of **foreign direct investment statistics (FDI)** is concerned, Eurostat will continue to improve the data collection of FDI inward positions by

ultimate investing economy while also paving the way for new statistics such as FDI by Ultimate Host Economy and Greenfield investments.

The work on methods for producing **early estimates of short-term business indicators using alternative data sources or models** will also continue. More generally, Eurostat will work together with the Member States to improve production processes and develop IT tools at national level made possible by the integration brought about by the European Business Statistics Regulation.

In 2024, Eurostat will help Member States build up and reinforce their capacity to use **microdata linking (MDL) in business and trade statistics**. To this end, Eurostat aims to establish an ESS work programme for MDL projects in order to optimise the resources used at both EU and national levels and set up a prioritised list of MDL projects. Innovative grant actions are in place and will continue in 2024 in order not only to build capacity in the Member States (common taxonomy, MDL databases, common quality reporting) but also to potentially reduce the burden on respondents and to produce new experimental statistics.

To complement **job vacancy statistics**, web scraping **data on job advertisements** is used to feed new indicators on job skills.

Eurostat also produces experimental model-based **early estimates of the income distribution**, which complements the information provided by EU statistics on income and living conditions. These early estimates provide insights of the development of income and poverty just six months after the reference period. This data feeds into the European Semester, the European Union's framework for the coordination and surveillance of economic and social policies. The release of the early estimates is scheduled for mid-June 2024.

Every five years, Eurostat publishes **experimental statistics on the joint distribution of income, consumption and wealth** based on the most recent survey microdata. These experimental statistics aim to provide insights in the distributional impacts of policies for specific household groups. In 2024, Eurostat will contribute to further developing the methodology of these experimental statistics under the auspices of G20 Data Gaps Initiative and explore the possibilities to create new indicators from the matched joint distributions data set.

Furthermore, the development of **transport statistics using new data sources and data capture technologies** will continue. Eurostat will pursue partnerships for the exploration of innovative data for new and more timely indicators on rail transport based on centrally available real time train movement data. Traffic and mobility indicators will also be developed covering accessibility and use of public transport, density of electric vehicle charging stations, and traffic and emissions, combining innovative data and geospatial information. In relation to the ESS Innovation Agenda, the results of the **lighthouse project on short-term estimates of EU maritime traffic** using Automatic Identification System data will be published. Eurostat will pursue an **agreement with the**

European Maritime Safety Agency to cooperate in producing short-term maritime statistics indicators.

Eurostat will make use of **georeferenced data** by further integrating and mainstreaming geospatial information into statistical production when possible. Eurostat will continue to collect geospatial data, with a special focus on the core geospatial datasets ([4]). This should allow for more detailed regional and local level statistics in areas such as demography, economy, environment, energy, transport, and agriculture.

Eurostat will also continue to **develop the cooperation with National Mapping and Cadastral Agencies (NMCAs)**, which are often the main providers of high quality relevant geospatial information. One of the most efficient ways to trigger this cooperation is by promoting a stronger integration between the geospatial and statistical communities, among others by organising regular exchanges between the NSIs and NMCAs and advocating a more structured and closer collaboration between these bodies, both at national as at European level.

In parallel, Eurostat will also explore opportunities offered by **Earth observation tools and techniques**, to complement or improve the quality of data and facilitate statistical production processes, especially in relation to the monitoring of sustainable development goals (SDGs) and other data relevant for up-to-date policy needs.

Eurostat will foster **partnerships** on statistical matters. It will deploy a complete range of measures to ensure enhanced policy coordination, partnership activities **within the European Statistical System** (including maintaining the high quality of European Statistical System Committee meetings and conclusions), and **with external parties**. Quality is a fundamental dimension of the cooperation. In 2024, the **third round of peer reviews in the ESS** will be finalised by publishing the final report on the results of these peer reviews and by communicating these results. Two more important outcomes of the peer review process will be produced and disseminated in the ESS, a compendium on innovative practice identified during the peer reviews and a repository of information about the national statistical systems in the ESS. Moreover, the **European conference on quality in official statistics** will be organised. This forum will discuss developments and innovation in statistics with statisticians and users from Europe and beyond. Eurostat will also continue providing high quality training on cutting edge statistical fields via the **European Statistical Training Programme (ESTP)**. In 2024, ESTP will offer more than 200 training days to the statisticians in Europe. ESTP courses will address matters on the intersection between Official Statistics and topics like AI, Blockchain, Equality or use of Internet for statistics training statisticians with new skills required to meet user demands and following the development of the data ecosystem. Moreover, based on the final results of the study on the future of the **European Master in Official Statistics (EMOS)**,

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([4]) These are as defined by the Commission inter-service group on Geographic Information (COGI): administrative units, statistical units, buildings, cadastral parcels, addresses, transport networks, land parcel information system, postal codes, utility and governmental services.

Eurostat will propose an action plan with new objectives and activities to be implemented under the EMOS umbrella aiming at increasing the programme's impact as the panEuropean, cross-border, high-quality study programme in official statistics. As regards the **European Statistical Advisory Committee (ESAC)** and the **European Statistical Governance Advisory Board (ESGAB)**, Eurostat will continue to work closely with both bodies by providing quality secretariat services while preserving their statutory independence.

Eurostat will implement its international cooperation strategy and enhance statistical **cooperation with international organisations** (the UN, the OECD, the International Monetary Fund, the ILO, and the World Bank). The cooperation will aim at setting European and international statistical standards, as well as promoting EU values and the principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice. Eurostat will strive for ESS common positions in international fora. Eurostat will also further develop statistical cooperation with **countries associated to the EU**, such as Andorra and San Marino. Finally, Eurostat will also continue with its targeted **cooperation activities with other international bodies** involved in the promotion and use of geospatial information in statistical processes (e.g., **UN-GGIM/UN-GGIM: Europe; UNECE; EFGS** ([5])), with the aim of contributing to the standard setting and harmonisation of procedures as well as by providing its expertise and technical or financial support to its partners.

D. For enhanced communication and reuse of European official statistics

In 2024, Eurostat will contribute to the **specific objective 3** that consists in better communication and better promotion of European statistics and facilitation of their use by policymakers, citizens, businesses, researchers and the media by a number of initiatives and deliverables presented below.

In 2024, Eurostat will continue to strengthen cooperation with EU national statistical institutes in the field of strategic communications through the work of the **Expert Group on strategic communications**. The Expert Group brings together 22 Member States and Eurostat. Its tasks are to identify common challenges and propose coordinated actions to address them. First outputs and results of the Expert Group will be presented to the ESSC in 2024, along with further plans to develop the work.

An **EU-wide survey to measure public trust in Eurostat and official European statistics** was developed and carried out in the fourth quarter of 2023. Eurostat will analyse the survey results and propose follow up actions in 2024.

Eurostat will strive to be agile and innovative, proactively reaching out to users to ensure **effective dissemination and communication of statistics among different**

([5])   UNECE: The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe; EFGS: European Forum for Geography and Statistics.

stakeholder groups. In line with its Communication and Dissemination Strategy and its 2024 Dissemination and Communication Programme, Eurostat will:

- expand its reach across key dissemination channels through regular visually appealing products, responsive interactions with users and carefully targeted promotional activities;
- promote flagships and Key figures publications with data and statistics related to the Commission headline ambitions;
- further develop Eurostat's social media presence on the existing platforms (X, Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn);
- increase statistical literacy through developing the Education corner/Statistics Explained and by organising the European Statistics Competition.

Furthermore, Eurostat continuously improves services related to access to European microdata for researchers. Latest developments include **facilities to remotely use microdata**, which are now available to research organisations in the EU countries. Moreover, Eurostat plans to deliver a first version of the **metadata querying tool** that will allow researchers to find information about the content and level of details of European microdata. Furthermore, the network on statistical methods and tools for time series, seasonal adjustment and statistical disclosure control will deliver final results, including **guidelines for protection of population and census data**, of **geo-referenced data,** and a new edition of the **guidelines on seasonal adjustment**.

PART 2. Modernising the administration: main outputs for 2024

In 2024, in relation to Human Resources, Eurostat will pay particular attention to training, learning and development and recruitment of new staff to tackle the expected high number of retirements in the years to come. Special focus will be also given to equality, gender balance among senior and middle managers, geographical balance (to include candidates from under-represented nationalities) and engagement of staff. In the field of sound financial management, the work on simplifying procedures will be ongoing and the migration from ABAC to the new financial tool SUMMA will be a focal point following its extension by one year. Eurostat will also continue to implement its Anti-Fraud Strategy (AFS) for 2021-2024 and start preparing the new AFS for 2025-2028. As far as the digital transformation and information management is concerned, Eurostat is an active member of the Digital Transformation community whose aim is to advance this transformation within the Commission and will contribute to the implementation of the Commission Digital Strategy through several activities related to its objectives. Eurostat is also actively engaged in Information and IT security rules, as well as in data, information and knowledge management and data protection. In the domain of sound environmental management, Eurostat's internal EMAS network will continue to work towards greening Eurostat's activities and raising environmental awareness among staff, in line with the European Green Deal.

The internal control framework [6] supports sound management and decision-making. It notably ensures that risks to achieving the objectives are taken into account and reduced to acceptable levels through cost-effective controls.

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

A.   Human resource management

In 2024, Eurostat will continue to focus on ensuring effective management of human resources in order to deliver on the Commission's headline ambitions and statistical priorities. The local HR strategy and in particular the specific actions for 2024 (HR plan 2024) will be implemented consistently with the overall Commission HR strategy.

To ensure it is prepared for the challenges caused by the rapidly changing technologies, emerging digital sources and increased urgent needs for statistical data, Eurostat will continue to put a particular focus on training as well as on learning and development. In

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[6]   Communication C(2017)2373 – Revision of the Internal Control Framework

June 2024, the corporate learning package for statistics and data science will become available.

The publication of two open EPSO AD competitions in economics and in statistics has been scheduled for 2023 but postponed to 2024 due to a time-out decision by EPSO. Eurostat will be involved in the competitions. The availability of these reserve lists in the future will help to respond to the high number of expected retirements in the period 2024-2027 (nearly 20% of statutory staff during the whole period and 55 expected retirements in 2024 only). This will aid in preventing a further increase in the number of temporary agents (about 16% in autumn 2023).

In addition, the newcomers will benefit from the improved onboarding scheme in Eurostat. It consists of a mentor for each newcomer to facilitate integration in the workplace in Luxembourg and of a roadmap for the recruiting unit to ensure successful onboarding.

Eurostat will follow up on the revision of the Commission Decision on working time and hybrid working in 2024 by continuing its 40% office and 60% teleworking scheme.

Eurostat seeks to maintain the gender balance achieved among senior and middle managers. As regards the new targets of SEC(2023) 200, Eurostat has already exceeded its proposed target of one first female appointment by recruiting two new female middle managers in 2023, and Eurostat will follow the decision's principle of making balanced first appointments at middle management level. Eurostat will fully use its allocated quota for the Female Talent Development Programme (FTDP) in 2024.

Eurostat will support the Commission policy on geographical balance by broadening the group of potential candidates by external publications of temporary agent and contract agent vacancies on EPSO and Eurostat websites. Our experience shows that this approach helps to identify more candidates including from under-represented nationalities. In addition, the Directors will monitor that each Directorate has a geographically balanced recruitment approach. Beyond that, Eurostat will contribute to all measures increasing the attractiveness of Luxembourg as a workplace.

Eurostat will follow up on the results of the 2023 Commission Staff Survey. Eurostat will continue on actions in the professional future area, by organising internal workshops with successful participants from the 2022 round of internal competitions to help colleagues learn from their peers. To keep staff engagement high, regular meetings between staff and top/senior management about HR and work-related matters will continue. In addition, the Director-General or the Deputy Director-General will continue to join regular meetings with newcomers.

Eurostat will continue to develop its internal communication policy in line with Eurostat's Communication and Dissemination Strategy and to inform its staff of ongoing developments in business and all HR-related issues. Eurostat's intranet 'Cybernews', includes a daily set of news articles keeping staff informed on the latest work developments, key events, staff issues including wellbeing, and those concerning the

Luxembourg site. Also, in close cooperation with the HR Correspondent, articles are drafted to inform staff about HR issues.

In 2024, a number of further actions of Eurostat's equality action plan will be taken to promote equality within the Directorate-General.

B.   Sound financial management

Eurostat's operational budget aims at implementing the Programme for Single Market, competitiveness of enterprises including SMEs, and European statistics 2021-2027, in line with the multi-annual framework and in accordance with the Financial Regulation and related rules. Eurostat puts in place key processes for ensuring an efficient and effective budget planning and monitoring, the processing and controlling of transactions to ensure their legality and regularity, support to internal and external users and related reporting. Eurostat also develops initiatives to simplify its financial management and adapt the control system to current and future changes in its legal and operational environment. Work on simplifying procedures will continue, particularly by launching future calls with financing not linked to costs, to reduce the administrative burden for both Member States and the Commission, also reducing the overall cost of control. Eurostat will maintain the use of unit costs for eligible personnel costs, the flat rate financing of indirect costs based on eligible personnel costs, the use of unit costs for travel, accommodation and subsistence costs, as well as the use of single lump sum and financing not linked to costs for some calls for proposals. Eurostat will extend the use of simplified cost options by introducing the possibility of launching calls with 'single lump sum based on estimated budget' as the form of financing.

The migration from ABAC to the new financial tool SUMMA, following the extension of the project, will continue to be a central activity during the year, requiring all staff to be trained in their respective domains to be functional by the go live date of 1/1/2025. Certain adjustments to the current circuits and procedures are possible and must be investigated and treated during the year.

C.   Fraud risk management

In 2024, Eurostat will continue to implement its Anti-Fraud Strategy (AFS) for 2021-2024 and will take necessary actions for preparation of the new AFS for 2025-2028, including the risk assessment exercise and a new Action Plan, taking into consideration the recent Commission Anti-Fraud Strategy (CAFS) Action Plan update. In the meantime, Eurostat will take part in all the actions of the updated CAFS Action Plan which are of concern for all DGs (there are no actions specific to Eurostat). As an example, Eurostat has expressed its interest to OLAF in participating in the working group to explore available and possible future options for strengthening the digital control of external service providers and experts, and Eurostat will respond to further requests received from DGs coordinating specific actions.

The AFS 2021-2024 includes an objective related to strengthening cooperation with OLAF as well as actions in the related Action Plan, in particular in the areas of awareness-raising, staff training and IT security. In support of the fight against fraud, Eurostat will participate in the Fraud Prevention and Detection network to improve the quality and completeness of data retrieved and the analysis of fraud detection methods.

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

D.   Digital transformation and information management

Digital transformation

Eurostat is an active member of the Digital Transformation community and participates in several initiatives aiming to advance the digital transformation in the Commission, such as the Cloud Council and the Digital Stakeholders Forum (DSF).

In 2024, Eurostat will contribute to the implementation of the Commission Digital Strategy through several activities related to its objectives:

- Eurostat will continue to offer training related to data processing, analysis and visualisation, such as statistical disclosure control, metadata and quality documentation. These initiatives support the implementation of objective #1 DIGITAL CULTURE.
- As for objective #2 DIGITAL READY EU POLICYMAKING, the European Commission's proposal on amending the Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 on European statistics and its implementation (see in part 1) aims at making European statistics timelier, detailed and cost-efficient as well as more responsive to urgent information demands in crisis situations. It will enhance data access including reuse of privately held data for statistical purposes, sharing, interoperability and standardisation.
- To reach objective #3 DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION, Eurostat closely follows corporate guidance and processes when it comes to Digital transformation roadmaps. In 2024, Eurostat will continue to evaluate and experiment with innovative technologies like AI, machine learning (ML) and privacy preserving computation. Eurostat is a strong user of the Commission Data Platform.
- Under objective #4 SEAMLESS DIGITAL LANDSCAPE, Eurostat will continue the modernisation of its IT systems, applying the principles of Digital Strategy and the Dual Pillar approach. Eurostat has identified cloud adoption as a competitive enabler for the statistical domain and is working towards a statistical production landscape based on two alternative solutions: (1) the SAS Viya platform and (2) an open platform built upon open-source tools complemented by vendor specific cloud services. During 2024, Eurostat will aim to advance the implementation of both solutions through a set of targeted parallel activities. Eurostat also plans to

complete the digitalisation of the internal planning and monitoring processes for specific contracts (CPM – Contract Planning and Management) and onboard additional units. Finally, Eurostat will revamp its Technical Service Catalogue, to update the service offering and adapt the user interface to the new corporate tools (SharePoint Online + ServiceNow).

Information and IT security rules

Eurostat is actively engaged in Information and IT security rules, in line with the strategic objective #5 of the Commission Digital Strategy – GREEN, RESILIENT AND SECURE INFRASTRUCTURE and the Commission Security Strategy 2023-2024. The main activities in this area in 2024 include:

- A third review of the IT Security plans of all our Information Systems - aiming to continuously improve the security of our IT landscape by implementing corrective actions stemming from those plans. The review will include:
    - Monitoring the implementation and the effectiveness of the security controls foreseen in the IT security plans and the identification of "lessons learnt" (e.g. from security incidents), for continued improvement;
    - The finalisation and approval of the IT security plan for any new information system before its entry into operation, with the associated implementation of all security controls;
    - The integration of compliance management with risk management, so that a coherent, efficient and effective set of controls resulting from both is implemented for each information system.
- Reinforcing the Business Continuity posture, adapting to the new requirements and threat scenarios recently proposed by SG and DIGIT, tailoring to the business profile of Eurostat, and improving the Disaster Recovery aspects.
- Continuously launching internal awareness campaigns to improve the cybersecurity knowledge of all staff of Eurostat, via internal communications and tailored training activities. These campaigns, in close collaboration with DIGIT and HR.DS services, reinforce and extend the Cyber Awareness Programme corporate activities. The campaigns will cover:
    - Mandatory cybersecurity and information security training for all newcomers;
    - Tailoring the training to the target audiences and continuous improvement of the delivery;
    - Inviting all staff to relevant online trainings, knowledge assessment related to cybersecurity essentials and cyber hygiene, and to phishing exercises;
    - Focused training regarding the risks, safe use and best practices for the use of AI tools in the Commission.
- Eurostat will continue to collaborate in the global effort of the Commission supporting the Annual IT Security and Risk corporate report and provide support on activities to ensure the alignment and compliance with IT and information security applicable frameworks. This will involve improving security related data quality in GovIS2 and GRC (Governance Risk and Compliance), to ensure accurate and up-to-date information for informed decision-making and operational efficiency.

- Finally, Eurostat is committed to reach 100% migration of its personnel to Welcome until the end of 2024.

Data, information and knowledge management

Eurostat will continue efforts to make its data and metadata more easily accessible through modern technologies, including publishing its main statistical classifications as linked open data. In 2024, this will also comprise the development of a new feature to allow users to access data cell specific footnotes in Eurobase. The newly developed index to modernise the maintenance and dissemination of the statistical classification of economic activities (NACE) will be implemented. It will improve accessibility by stakeholders and contribute to a more harmonised coding of enterprises across the European Statistical System.

Eurostat will put in place a range of flexible environments to be deployed at scale based on cloud native architectures for exploring new data sources and testing new statistical methods. For instance, the agnostic Eurostat Data Lab, developed in collaboration with DG DIGIT will provide dedicated data labs/sandboxes in 2024 for developing, coaching and piloting AI/ML approaches for statistical purposes.

Data protection

After the full implementation of the Commission's Data Protection Action Plan (C(2018) 7432, reviewed in 2020 (C(2020) 7625), the "records" of Eurostat data processing operations are monitored and updated constantly in the Data Protection Management System (DPMS).

The main action for 2024 in Eurostat is aimed at reaching the target of 100% staff awareness of data protection rules by the end of 2024 (from 85% for 2023 and 75% for 2022) according to the Strategic Plan 2020-2024. In addition to the existing training plan organised by the DPO office, the Eurostat DPC team will offer a tailor-made awareness activity with a focus on newcomers. To ensure that the target is reached, the available training materials will be promoted to all Eurostat staff who have not yet had an introductory training on data protection. In addition, all newcomers to Eurostat will be invited to enlist in the course within 6 months of taking up duty and a brief introduction on data protection at Eurostat will be integrated into the general newcomers' training.

E. Sound environmental management

In line with the European Green Deal, the Commission presented the Commission Communication and action plan on greening the Commission, with the objective to reduce net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 60% by 2030 compared to 2005 and

compensate carbon emissions with carbon removals in order to reach climate neutrality by 2030 (⁷). EMAS, the Eco-Management and Audit Scheme in the Commission, will play a key role to implement this action plan. With the support of its internal EMAS network, Eurostat will continue to work towards greening its own activities and raising environmental awareness.

In 2024, Eurostat, as the first DG in the European Commission to establish a carbon accounting system for its own activities, will continue to monitor its own carbon emissions and asses its progress towards carbon neutrality. As indicated in the action plan "Greening Eurostat", the effort will focus on the following areas:

- Promote a more efficient and sustainable use of our buildings and working space
- Reduce business travel and use more sustainable modes of transport
  — Staff business travel (missions)
  — External experts' travel and organisation of meetings and conferences
  — Staff commuting and moving around buildings
- Green in IT and by IT (Information Technology) – Optimise IT operations and assets
- Monitor and mitigate emissions from all sources (carbon footprint management)
- Compensate for the remaining emissions with carbon removal credits
- Support a green and circular economy
  — Less waste, more efficient use of resources (energy, water, paper)
  — Green public procurement (GPP) and sustainable events
- Preserve and restore nature and biodiversity
- Promote a fair, healthy and sustainable food system – sustainable catering
- Environmental awareness – how we as individuals change behaviour

The actions mentioned in the performance table in the annex are proposed to help achieve the required results in terms of carbon footprint awareness and reduction.

F.   Initiatives to improve economy and efficiency of financial and non-financial activities

To further improve economy and efficiency in grant management, Eurostat will continue to use simplified cost options in grant financing. In particular, Eurostat will maintain the use of unit costs for eligible personnel costs, the flat rate financing of indirect costs based on eligible personnel costs, the use of unit costs for travel, accommodation and subsistence

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(⁷) [Communication to the Commission – Greening the Commission C(2022) 2230](#)

costs, as well as the use of single lump sum and financing not linked to costs for some calls for proposals. For the management of grants, Eurostat will continue to use the eGrants tools, extending their use as the tools develop. Doing so, Eurostat will endeavour to further improve the 'time to' indicators on grant management. Moreover, Eurostat will extend the use of simplified cost options by introducing the possibility of launching calls with 'single lump sum based on estimated budget' as the form of financing.

In 2024, Eurostat will finalise the current cycle of internal quality reviews of statistical processes and outputs and close the remaining 21 quality reviews. This will help to increase standardisation of processes, improve the quality of the statistical products and increase efficiency of producing statistics.

ANNEX: Performance tables – main outputs for 2024

Part 1 – Delivering on the Commission's priorities

For sections A and B, specific objective 1:

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

Specific Objective: Eurostat remains the trusted point of reference for statistics and data on Europe, necessary for better policies, decisions and public debate in the European Union.

Related to spending programme: Single Market Programme 2021-2027

Main outputs in 2024:

New policy initiatives

Output	Indicator	Target
Commission Proposal for a Regulation on commercial real estate indicators	Proposal adopted by the Commission	Q2/2024

Initiatives linked to regulatory simplification and burden reduction

Output	Indicator	Target
Commission Proposal for a Regulation on European Fisheries and Aquaculture Statistics	Proposal adopted by the Commission	Q4/2024

External communication actions

Output	Indicator	Target
Eurostat-ILO Global Conference on measuring new forms of employment	Number of attendees	200

Other important outputs

Output	Indicator	Target
Regular production of high-quality statistics	Number of disseminated main first data releases	430
Commission Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 1099/2008 on energy statistics	Updated Regulation with consistent hydrogen reporting obligation	Q1/2024
Implementation of the 2022 amendment of the Energy Statistics Regulation (EU) 2022/132 for disaggregated data on final energy consumption	New more comprehensive and detailed final energy consumption statistics for transport activities and in the services sector	Q2/2024

Output	Indicator	Target
Draft Commission Implementing Regulations in the area of agriculture: on statistics on nutrients and on specifying the content of the quality reports as specified in Regulation 2022/2379 on statistics on agricultural input and output; on the data to be provided for the reference year 2026 pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2018/1091 on integrated farm statistics; on the quality reports to be transmitted under Regulation (EU) 138/2004 on the economic accounts for agriculture	Presentation to European Statistical System Committee ahead of adoption	Q4/2024
Inspection visits to Member States for the plastics-based own resource	Number or inspection visits performed	9 country visits
Launch of the revised/successor product for the European Statistical Recovery Dashboard	Successful launch	Spring 2024
Monitoring the implementation of the provisions of the 2022 edition of the Manual on Government Deficit and Debt (MGDD)	Assessment if MSs have implemented the new MGDD during the 2024 benchmark revision, on the basis of the questionnaire on the status of the implementation of the new MGDD at the level of sector S.13 of each EU Member State	By the end of October 2024
Developing the methodology and methods for the compilation of statistical accounts and key indicators for EU institutions and the EU as a whole	Compilation of the 2023 statistical accounts of the European institutions and bodies, including the net borrowing and the outstanding Maastricht debt liabilities	Publication of the 2023 statistical accounts of the European institutions
Provision of information on Multinational Enterprise Groups in the EuroGroups Register	EuroGroups Register statistical frames (including the European Profiling results) of microdata are disseminated	Q1/Q2/Q4/2024
	New statistics on Multinational enterprise groups in EU and European Free Trade Association (EFTA) on employment and economic activities are disseminated	Q1/2024
New CPA classification taking into account recent technological and economic developments and aligned with its European reference classification (NACE) and the respective international classification (CPC); adaptation of current legislation in the field of statistics to NACE Rev. 2.1	CPA Rev. 2.2 Delegated Act adopted	End of 2024
	Number of Commission acts adopted to align current statistical legislation with NACE Rev. 2.1	1
Revised data on national accounts and balance of payments	Successful data publication supported by relevant communication to the users	October 2024

Output	Indicator	Target
Update of the 2016 Eurostat pension study	Study finalised according to planning	November 2024
Updated guidance on the treatment of non-resident VAT traders	Publication of the updated guidance	End 2024
Third round of ESS Peer reviews finalised	Final report on the results of the third round of ESS peer reviews	June 2024
	Compendium on innovative practice identified in the peer reviews	August 2024
	Repository of information on the national statistical systems of ESS members	August 2024
High quality ESS Committee meetings and conclusions	Percentage of participants assessing the overall quality/conclusions of the meeting as good/very good	Higher than 75%

For section C, specific objective 2:

General objective: A modern, high-performing and sustainable European Commission
Specific Objective: 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.
Related to spending programme: Single Market Programme 2021-2027

Main outputs in 2024:

New policy initiatives

Output	Indicator	Target
Proposal for an adoption of an ESS agreement on early estimates for social protection expenditure main indicators	ESS agreement endorsed	Q1/2024

Other important outputs

Output	Indicator	Target
ESS Innovation Agenda	Adoption of updated ESS innovation action plan Definition of communication and community engagement strategy	Q3/2024 Q2/2024
One-Stop-Shop on Artificial intelligence	One-Stop-Shop launched	Q2/2024
Web Intelligence Hub	Number of major releases of processed online job advertisements	4
Use of privately held data	Adoption of roadmap for new statistics based on privately held data with identification of cases of using privately held data Number of identified use cases based on use of privately held data for developing European statistics	Q2/2024 4
Training of European statisticians	Launch of the ESTP framework contract	September 2024
Second review of the asymmetries resolution mechanism for international trade in services flows	Review of the mechanisms in place	June 2024
Contribution of Eurostat to the setting of international statistical standards and promotion of EU values	Eurostat's proposal for common EU positions presented for discussion to the ESSC before the annual meeting of the UN Statistical Commission	By end of February 2024

Output	Indicator	Target
Further development of partnerships with international organisations (IOs) in developing international standards to ensure comparability of statistics across the globe	Number of negotiated Administrative Arrangements with international organisations that are Eurostat key partners	One administrative arrangement negotiated by December 2024

For section D, specific objective 3:

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

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

Related to spending programme: Single Market Programme 2021-2027

Main outputs in 2024:

New policy initiatives

External communication actions

Output	Indicator	Target
User-centred Eurostat webpage and social media accounts	Number of Eurostat followers and engagement rate on social media	X: 260 000 followers, 1.8% engagement rate [8] Facebook: 160 000 followers, 5.0% engagement rate Instagram: 130 000 followers, 5.0% engagement rate LinkedIn: 40 000 followers, 4.2% engagement rate
Dissemination of flagship publications (Key figures on Europe, Monitoring report on EU progress towards the SDGs, Regional Yearbook)	Number of sessions/downloads for 2023/2024 editions (interactive and pdf)	Key figures on Europe: 30 000 SDGs: 30 000 Regional yearbook: 30 000
Publication of statistical literacy products on the Statistics Explained website and the Education corner of the Eurostat website	Number of views for Statistics Explained articles Number of views for education corner on the Eurostat website	6.5 million recorded user sessions for Statistics Explained articles [9] 8 800 recorded user sessions for the education corner

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[8]   Subject to evolution of corporate policy as regards X account.

[9]   New baseline for both targets following the harmonisation of the reporting on all "recorded user sessions".

Output	Indicator	Target
Participation at the European Statistics Competition	Number of countries and students participating at the European Statistics Competition	18 countries and 18 000 students
Other important outputs		
Output	Indicator	Target
Statistical Methods for disclosure control and seasonal adjustment	Publication of 3 guidelines	2024
Strengthen European Statistical System cooperation in the field of strategic communications	Meetings of the Expert Group on Strategic Communication	At least three meetings

Part 2 – Modernising the administration

A. Human resource management

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

Main outputs in 2024:

Output	Indicator	Target
Gender equality at all management levels by the end of 2024	Nomination of Deputies to the Directors (female representation)	55% female representation
	Use of allocated quota for the Female Talent Development Programme	2
Geographical balance	Number of candidates of an under-represented nationality interviewed (if applications received) per vacancy	≥ 1
	Geographically balanced recruitments at Directorate level	Alternating between the differently represented nationality groups
Meetings of Top/Senior management with staff (including meeting with newcomers to the DG)	Number of meetings	Minimum 3 per year
Implementation of local HR strategy and of the equality action plan	HR plan and equality action plan 2024 implemented	By the end of 2024
Publication of regular, topical and informative intranet items for Eurostat staff	Number of daily items	Minimum of 3 per day

B. Sound financial management

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

Main outputs in 2024:

Output	Indicator	Target
Effective controls: Legal and regular transactions	Estimated risk at payment	Remains < 2% of relevant expenditure
	Estimated risk at closure	Remains < 2% of relevant expenditure
Effective controls: Safeguarded assets	Estimated accuracy of the inventory of assets in hosting and cloud IT services (percentage of assets in Data Centre/Cloud Configuration Management Data Base (CMDB) linked to a Eurostat Information System declared in GOVIS2)	> 80%
	Estimated accuracy of the inventory of IT assets (licences, end user material) managed by Eurostat (percentage of assets linked to a user)	> 80%
Safeguarded information	Estimated percentage of sensitive non classified (SNC) contractual and financial documents stored in secure drives (S:/)	> 80%
Efficient controls	Budget execution and / or timely payments	Remains > 95% of payments (in value) made on time
Economy of controls	Overall estimated cost of controls	Remains < 12.1% of funds managed

C. Fraud risk management

Objective: The risk of fraud is minimised through the application of effective anti-fraud measures and the implementation of the Commission Anti-Fraud Strategy (CAFS) [10] aimed at the prevention, detection and correction [11] of fraud.

Main outputs in 2024:

Output	Indicator	Target
Increased awareness of anti-fraud measures among Eurostat newcomers	Number of anti-fraud awareness raising presentations for newcomers against the number of newcomers' induction programmes	Presentation during every newcomer's induction programme organised for newcomers by DG HR in 2024
Closer cooperation with OLAF by regular participation in FPDNet meetings	Number of all FPDNet meetings against the number of meetings with Eurostat's participation	Attend all FPDNet meetings organised by OLAF in 2024
Follow-up of OLAF's investigations (if any)	Briefing to Commissioner with status on anti-fraud delivered in the context of IC monitoring	Twice per year
Fraud risk assessment finalised in view of preparation of the new Anti-Fraud Strategy 2025-2028	Fraud risk assessment in Eurostat finalised	Q4/2024

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[10] Communication from the Commission 'Commission Anti-Fraud Strategy Action plan - revision 2023 COM(2023) 405 of 11 July 2023 –'the Communication on the 2023 revision' – and the accompanying document, SWD(2023) 245 – 'the revised Action Plan'.

[11] Correction of fraud is an umbrella term, which notably refers to the recovery of amounts unduly spent and to administrative sanctions.

D. Digital transformation and information management

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

Main outputs in 2024:

Output	Indicator	Target
Digital Culture Cyber Awareness	Average participation rate in Cyber Awareness Training and related activities	> EC average
Business Driven Digital Transformation Reducing the number of statistical domains / Business applications in legacy and ad-hoc technologies	Ratio of systems / statistical domains in legacy or ad-hoc systems not aligned with the EC Digital Strategy principles (FAME, MDT, TRIS…)	< 70%
Modernising the management and dissemination of statistical classifications	Number of Eurostat classifications exposed as Linked Open Data Number of index entries clarifying borderline issues between difference 'classes' in the NACE classification	30 1000
Seamless Digital Environment Adoption of cloud-ready technologies	Percentage of Eurostat infrastructure deployed in the Cloud (using cost as proxy)	EC average
Reducing the usage of legacy IT Systems	Ratio of unsupported IT systems	< EC average
Improve users' access to data cell specific footnotes	Datasets for which this feature has been implemented	5
Green, Resilient and Secure Digital Infrastructure IT risk assessment and security plans for Eurostat Information systems	Number of Eurostat IT Security Plans more than 2 years old by the end of 2024	< 2
Tracking the status of implementation of the actions identified by the Eurostat IT Security Strategy 2023-2024	Tracking and annual assessment in place	Yes
Attestation of compliance for the 55 IT priority controls for CIS	Attestation of compliance rate (%) achieved for the 55 IT priority controls for all CIS until the end of 2024	90% or higher
Activities to raise staff awareness of data protection	Percentage of staff having attended data protection awareness raising activity	100%

Output	Indicator	Target
Implementation of the corporate principles for data governance for Eurostat's key data assets	Percentage of implementation of the corporate principles for data governance for Eurostat's key data assets	85%

E. Sound environmental management

Objective: Eurostat takes account of the environmental impact of its day-to-day actions, taking measures to reduce the impact of the administration work, supported by their respective EMAS Correspondents or EMAS Site Coordinators.

Main outputs in 2024:

I. Reducing emissions from 'staff and expert' business travel and reducing CO_2 and other atmospheric emissions

Output	Indicator	Target
Eurostat's hierarchy and staff are informed of the carbon footprint results for Eurostat	Updated carbon footprint results	November 2024
Reduced emissions from staff missions and external experts' travel	CO_2 emissions from staff missions and external experts' travel	50% greenhouse gas emissions reduction from missions and external experts' travel in Eurostat compared to 2019

IV. Circular economy (public procurement (GPP), waste, biodiversity and sustainable food)

Output	Indicator	Target
Organise a zero-waste webinar	Number or staff participating in the webinar	20
Limitation of the number of printed publications	Number of printed publications	No more than 500 prints per Flagship/Key figures publication

V. Staff awareness

Output	Indicator	Target
Awareness actions/messages/Cybernews articles in the framework of EMAS corporate campaigns or other initiatives on: - Energy and water use - Carbon emissions - Paper consumption - Digital mindfulness - GPP – biodiversity - Waste reduction/sorting - Mobility - Promotion of guidelines for sustainable events	Total number of actions/messages/articles promoting green behaviour	20