



# Annual Activity Report 2023

Annexes

EUROSTAT

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## **ANNEX 1: Statement of the Director in charge of Risk Management and Internal Control**

*I declare that in accordance with the Commission's communication on the internal control framework<sup>(1)</sup>, I have reported my advice and recommendations on the overall state of internal control in the DG to the Director-General.*

*I hereby certify that the information provided in the present annual activity report and in its annexes is, to the best of my knowledge, accurate and complete.*

**Sophie Limpach**

**Director ESTAT Directorate A / DRMIC**

**Date: 26/03/2024**

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<sup>(1)</sup> C(2017)2373 of 19.04.2017.

## ANNEX 2: Performance tables

Eurostat produces the data for all performance indicators and so all of them can be considered as reliable.

<b>General objective: A modern, high-performing and sustainable European Commission</b>			
<b>Impact indicator 1: Image of the European Union - % of respondents for whom the EU conjures very positive or fairly positive image</b>			
<b>Source of the data: Eurobarometer</b>			
<b>Baseline</b> (2019)	<b>Interim Milestone</b> <sup>(2)</sup> (2022)	<b>Target</b> (2024)	<b>Latest known results</b> 31/12/2023
43% (EU 27)	Increase	Increase	44%

<b>Specific objective 1: Eurostat remains the trusted point of reference for statistics and data on Europe, necessary for better policies, decisions and public debate in the European Union</b>			
<b>Related to spending programme(s): Single Market Programme 2021-2027</b>			
<b>Result indicator 1.1: User trust in European statistics</b> <sup>(3)</sup>			
<b>Source of the data: Eurostat USS</b>			
<b>Baseline</b> (Average 2015-2019)	<b>Interim Milestone</b> (2022)	<b>Target</b> (2024)	<b>Latest known results</b> 31/12/2023
94.6%	≥94.6% on average over the period	≥94.6% on average over the period	95.4%

<sup>(2)</sup> In case of short- or medium-term objectives (all targets are set to be achieved in less than 3 years) the milestones column should be deleted from the table.

<sup>(3)</sup> The indicator is also used to monitor the performance of the specific objective of the European Statistical Programme (ESP) inside the Single Market Programme 2021-2027. As the ESP is the only programme of Eurostat, it is normal that some indicators are used in both the AAR and the monitoring of the ESP.

<b>Result indicator 1.2: Number of database sessions <sup>(4)</sup></b>			
<b>Source of the data:</b> The source is the monitoring reports on Eurostat electronic dissemination			
<b>Baseline</b> (2019)	<b>Interim Milestone</b> (2022) Increase	<b>Target</b> (2024) Increase	<b>Latest known results</b> 31/12/2023
2.9 million	4.0 million	4.4 million	3.2 million
<b>Result indicator 1.3: Degree of implementation of the activities planned for the specific objective 1</b>			
<b>Source of the data:</b> Eurostat Planning and Monitoring System			
<b>Baseline</b> (2020)	<b>Interim Milestone</b> (2022)	<b>Target</b> (2024)	<b>Latest known results</b> 31/12/2023
95.5%	≥95.0%	≥95.0%	96.7%
<b>Result indicator 1.4: User friendliness (how easy it is to find a data)</b>			
<b>Source of the data:</b> Eurostat USS			
<b>Baseline</b> (Average 2015-2019)	<b>Interim Milestone</b> (2022)	<b>Target</b> (2024)	<b>Latest known results</b> 31/12/2023
91.9%	≥ baseline on average over the period	≥ baseline on average over the period	92.3%

<sup>(4)</sup> Originally, the first key performance indicator was defined in the Strategic Plan 2020-2024 as the ‘Number of data extractions’, to measure the relevance of European statistics for users. It was calculated as the number of data extractions from Eurostat dissemination databases, via the Eurostat website, by external users. The indicator was changed in 2021, because Eurostat switched to the Commission standard tool to monitor websites (Piwik) and introduced a new application to access the database called ‘Data browser’, over time replacing the old ‘Data explorer’. Both the tool and the application count data extractions differently from their respective predecessor. The indicator was therefore changed to the more meaningful ‘Number of database sessions’.

The indicator shows an increase compared to the 2019 baseline, confirming the relevance of European statistics. However, there was a decrease compared to the high results in 2021 and 2022, which was expected, as already mentioned in the annual activity report of 2021 and 2022. It was then explained that part of the increase might be due to users testing the new data browser to become familiar with its functionality before it replaces the older data explorer. This level of database sessions was expected to fall back as users become familiar with the new application and because the data explorer was decommissioned at the beginning of 2023. The level of the indicator is expected to restart increasing in 2024.

## Main outputs in 2023:

### New policy initiatives

Output	Indicator	Target	Latest known results (31/12/2023)
Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on Labour Market statistics on Businesses	Legislative proposal adopted by the Commission	Q3/2023	Achieved

### Initiatives linked to regulatory simplification and burden reduction

Output	Indicator	Target	Latest known results (situation on 31/12/2023)
Regulation of the European Parliament and European Council amending Regulation (EU) No 691/2011 on European environmental accounts	Number of voluntary data collections run on forest and environmental subsidies accounts	2	Achieved
Regulation of the European Parliament and European Council amending Regulation (EU) No 691/2011 on European environmental accounts	Number of calls for grants launched and awarded on preparatory work on forest, ecosystems and environmental subsidies accounts	1	Achieved
Implementing acts for the animal, crop, agricultural price and plant protection product statistics under the Regulation on Statistics on agricultural input and Output (SAIO)	Legislative proposals adopted by the Commission	Q4/2023	Achieved

### Other important outputs

Output	Indicator	Target	Latest known results (situation on 31/12/2023)
Regular production of high-quality statistics	Number of disseminated main first data releases	430	Achieved
Revised NACE classification	NACE Delegated Act published	Q1/2023	Achieved
Publication of key macroeconomic indicators and key data	Indicators and key data published by release calendar deadlines	During 2023	Achieved
First experimental European Space Economy Satellite Account established	Satellite account released	End 2023	Achieved
Closing of open GNI reservations	Open GNI reservations closed	End 2023	Achieved

<b>Output</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Latest known results</b> (situation on 31/12/2023)
Continuous methodological developments in public finance including the statistical reply to new policy measures alleviating energy price surges and rising inflation	Statistical reply to policy needs and more harmonised recording of similar policy measures across EU Member States	End 2023	Achieved
Finalise the Land use and land cover (LUCAS) survey and post-processing of data, including further quality control	Data ready for analysis	End 2023	Partially achieved (Delayed in the survey execution and challenges of the internalisation of the Data Management Tool at ESTAT led to need of postponing the quality control actions.)
An update of the monitoring framework for the circular economy	Framework published	Q1/2023	Achieved
Implementation of the 2022 amendment of the Energy Statistics Regulation (EU) 2022/132 for annual data 2022	New more comprehensive and detailed energy statistics published	Q4/2023	Achieved
Visits to Member States to prepare statistics for own resource plastics	Number of informal country visits carried out in the first half of 2023	6	Achieved (6 inspection visits were scheduled and prepared but 2 of them did not take place at the request of the countries concerned. They were voluntary inspections subject to agreement by the countries. Inspections to Spain, Italy, Romania and Slovakia took place. Greece and Germany cancelled.)
Visits to Member States to prepare statistics for own resource plastics	Number of formal country visits carried out in the second half of 2023	4	Achieved (3 Commission inspection visits were performed in 2023, to Lithuania, Malta, Poland. The fourth inspection visit was sent forward to January, to Bulgaria, in agreement with the Member State concerned.)

<b>Output</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Latest known results</b> (situation on 31/12/2023)
Provision of high-quality information on Multinational Enterprise Groups in the EuroGroups Register	EuroGroups Register (EGR) statistical frame and European Profiling high quality results are disseminated	Q1/2023 (EGR frame)	Achieved
		Q4/2023 (European Profiling results)	Achieved
Improvement of the quality of intra-EU trade in goods data based on exchanged micro-data	Set of recommendations concerning the reduction of intra EU trade statistics asymmetries and methodology for the systematic asymmetry monitoring based on exchanged micro-data developed	December 2023	Achieved

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

**Related to spending programme(s): Single Market Programme 2021-2027**

**Result indicator 2.1:** Share of users not satisfied with the quality of data and services provided by Eurostat

**Source of the data:** Eurostat USS

<b>Baseline</b> (Average 2015-2019)	<b>Interim Milestone</b> (2022)	<b>Target</b> (2024)	<b>Latest known results</b> 31/12/2023
3.7%	≤3.5% on average over the period	≤3.5% on average over the period	3.0%

**Result indicator 2.2:** Statistical coverage

**Source of the data:** Eurostat dissemination database

<b>Baseline</b> (2019)	<b>Interim Milestone</b> (2022)	<b>Target</b> (2024)	<b>Latest known results</b> 31/12/2023
423 million	Increase	Increase	705 million

**Result indicator 2.3:** Timeliness of statistics: news releases

**Source of the data:** Data of release of Eurostat's News releases

<b>Baseline</b> (2019)	<b>Interim Milestone</b> (2022)	<b>Target</b> (2024)	<b>Latest known results</b> 31/12/2023
83.3 (quarterly statistics) 35.6 (monthly statistics)	≤ baseline	≤ baseline	81.7 (quarterly statistics) 29.2 (monthly statistics)



**Result indicator 2.4:** Number of new experimental statistics datasets published

**Source of the data:** Eurostat's website section for experimental statistics.

Baseline (2019)	Interim Milestone (2022)	Target (2024)	Latest known results 31/12/2023
1	>0	>0	2

**Result indicator 2.5:** Degree of implementation of the activities planned for the specific objective 2

**Source of the data:** Eurostat Planning and Monitoring System

Baseline (2020)	Interim Milestone (2022)	Target (2024)	Latest known results 31/12/2023
89.5%	≥95.0%	≥95.0%	97.1%

**Result indicator 2.6:** Proportion of proposed legislative revisions that include burden reduction measures

**Source of the data:** Eurostat

Baseline (2020)	Interim Milestone (2022)	Target (2024)	Latest known results 31/12/2023
n.a.	Positive trend	Positive trend	100%

### Main outputs in 2023:

#### Initiatives linked to regulatory simplification and burden reduction

Output	Indicator	Target	Latest known results (situation on 31/12/2023)
Proposal for Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 on European statistics	Legislative proposal adopted by the Commission	Q1/2023	Achieved

#### External communication actions

Output	Indicator	Target	Latest known results (situation on 31/12/2023)
Organisation of the conference on New Techniques and Technologies in Statistics and its satellite events including European Big Data hackathon	Number of participants at the conference	> 400 persons onsite	Achieved
		> 20 hackathon teams	Achieved
Eurostat: Dissemination of new experimental statistics	Number of disseminated new experimental statistics	8	Achieved

<b>Other important outputs</b>			
<b>Output</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Latest known results</b> (situation on 31/12/2023)
ESS Innovation Agenda	Adoption by the European Statistical System Committee	Q1/2023	Achieved
Contribution to the setting of international statistical standards and promotion of EU values	Common EU positions established before the annual meeting of the UN Statistical Commission	By beginning of March 2023	Achieved
Further development of partnerships with international organisations (IOs) in developing international standards to ensure comparability of statistics across the globe	Number of negotiated new administrative arrangements with international organisations that are Eurostat key partners	1	Achieved
Peer reviews of Member States and EFTA countries implemented and peer review reports published	Number of implemented peer review visits Number of published peer review reports	11 31	Achieved
High-quality European Statistical System Committee meetings and conclusions	Percentage of participants assessing the overall quality of the meetings/conclusions as very good or good	≥ 75%	Achieved
Review of the new asymmetries resolution mechanism for international trade in services flows	Review of the system and the mechanisms	June 2023	Achieved
Implementation of a data lab based on the EC Data platform	Number of use cases	≥ 2	Achieved

**Specific objective 3: 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(s): Single Market Programme 2021-2027**

**Result indicator 3.1:** Number of Eurostat followers and engagement rate on social media

**Source of the data:** Eurostat's Facebook and Twitter accounts

<b>Baseline</b> (2019)	<b>Interim Milestone</b> (2022)	<b>Target</b> (2024)	<b>Latest known results</b> 31/12/2023
143949 (followers on Twitter) 42327 (followers on Facebook) 1.9% (engagement rate)	190017 (followers on Twitter) 90009 (followers on Facebook) ≥1.9% (engagement rate)	210111 (followers on X (former Twitter))  120021 (followers on Facebook) ≥1.9% (engagement rate)	Achieved X (former Twitter): 252 000 followers (+ 22%) Engagement rate: 2,2% Facebook: 150 000 followers (+25%) Engagement rate: 6,2%

**Result indicator 3.2:** Number of visits to the Eurostat website <sup>(5)</sup>

**Source of the data:** Eurostat website

<b>Baseline</b> (2019)	<b>Interim Milestone</b> (2022)	<b>Target</b> (2024)	<b>Latest known results</b> 31/12/2023
15.2 million	19.00 million	20.00 million	15.5 million The decreasing value seems to confirm a trend away from the website towards other channels. The number of followers for social media continued to grow significantly, confirming that

<sup>(5)</sup> The methodology to calculate the indicator 3.2 and so its targets had to be changed, compared to what was indicated in the SP 2020-2024, due to new corporate rules. To record the number of visits, Eurostat uses now the official software used by DG COMM (Piwik), which monitors all Commission websites. This software tracks users' behaviour but users can opt out of this tracking for privacy concerns. Therefore, the figures do not reflect all visits but they allow comparing between DGs.

**Result indicator 3.3:** Degree of implementation of the activities planned for the specific objective 3

**Source of the data:** Eurostat Planning and Monitoring System

<b>Baseline</b> (2019)	<b>Interim Milestone</b> (2022)	<b>Target</b> (2024)	<b>Latest known results</b> 31/12/2023
95.0%	≥95.0%	≥95.0%	92.9% There was a short delay in the Revamp of the look & feel of the Eurostat website, to be concluded in the first half of 2024, with a low impact as the project has prioritised the sections & pages with high number of views. By end of 2023, the already-revamped pages counted for 90% of the number of views.



<b>Output</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Latest known results</b> (situation on 31/12/2023)
Dissemination of flagship publications (Key figures on Europe, Monitoring report on EU progress towards the SDGs, Regional Yearbook, EU in the World)	Number of downloads for 2023 editions (interactive and pdf)	<p>Key figures on Europe: 100 000</p> <p>SDGs: 150 000</p> <p>Regional yearbook: 150 000</p> <p>EU in the World: 30 000</p>	<p>There has been a change in the monitoring system. For all dissemination products, Eurostat now uses the number of downloads (pdf versions) and user sessions reported (interactive versions) in the corporate Europa analytics tool.</p> <p>Achieved</p> <p>Achieved</p> <p>Achieved</p> <p>Achieved</p>
Publication of statistical literacy products on the Statistics Explained website and the Education corner of the Eurostat website	<p>Number of views for Statistics Explained articles</p> <p>Number of views for education corner on the Eurostat website</p>	<p>12.5 million views for Statistics Explained articles</p> <p>14 000 views for the education corner</p>	<p>Partially achieved</p> <p>Number of user sessions: 7,3 million corresponding to 11,6 million page views.</p> <p>Like for the Eurostat website, the number of user sessions has decreased.</p> <p>Achieved</p> <p>User sessions: 15051</p>
Participation at the European Statistics Competition	Number of countries and students participating at the European Statistics Competition	17 countries and 15 000 students	Achieved
<b>Other important outputs</b>			
<b>Output</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Latest known results</b> (situation on 31/12/2023)
Strengthen European Statistical System cooperation in the field of strategic communications	Meetings of the Expert Group on Strategic Communication	At least three meetings	Achieved

## **ANNEX 3: Draft annual accounts and financial reports**

AAR 2023 Version 3

### **Annex 3 Financial Reports - DG ESTAT - Financial Year 2023**

**Table 1 : Commitments**

**Table 2 : Payments**

**Table 3 : Commitments to be settled**

**Table 4 : Balance Sheet**

**Table 5 : Statement of Financial Performance**

**Table 5 Bis: Off Balance Sheet**

**Table 6 : Average Payment Times**

**Table 7 : Income**

**Table 8 : Recovery of undue Payments**

**Table 9 : Ageing Balance of Recovery Orders**

**Table 10 : Waivers of Recovery Orders**

**Table 11 : Negotiated Procedures**

**Table 12 : Summary of Procedures**

TABLE 1: OUTTURN ON COMMITMENT APPROPRIATIONS IN 2023 (in Mio €) for DG ESTAT					
			Commitment appropriations authorised <sup>1</sup>	Commitments made	%
			1	2	3=2/1
<b>Title 01 Research and Innovation</b>					
01	01 02	Horizon Europe	0,04	0,04	100,00 %
<b>Total Title 01</b>			<b>0,04</b>	<b>0,04</b>	<b>100,00 %</b>
<b>Title 03 Single Market</b>					
03	03 01	Support administrative expenditure of the 'Single Market' cluster	0,73	0,63	86,82 %
	03 02	Single Market Programme	87,85	82,19	93,57 %
	03 04	Cooperation in the field of taxation (FISCALIS)	0,03	0,00	0,00 %
<b>Total Title 03</b>			<b>88,60</b>	<b>82,83</b>	<b>93,48 %</b>
<b>Title 04 Space</b>					
04	04 02	Union Space Programme	0,00	0,00	0,00 %
<b>Total Title 04</b>			<b>0,00</b>	<b>0,00</b>	<b>0,00 %</b>
<b>Title 05 Regional Development and Cohesion</b>					
05	05 02	European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)	3,83	3,83	100,00 %
<b>Total Title 05</b>			<b>3,83</b>	<b>3,83</b>	<b>100,00 %</b>
<b>Title 06 Recovery and Resilience</b>					
06	06 06	EU4Health Programme	0,00	0,00	0,00 %
<b>Total Title 06</b>			<b>0,00</b>	<b>0,00</b>	<b>0,00 %</b>
<b>Title 07 Investing in People, Social Cohesion and Values</b>					
07	07 02	European Social Fund PLus (ESF+)	1,63	1,63	100,00 %
	07 06	Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values	0,00	0,00	0,00 %
	07 20	Pilot projects, preparatory actions, prerogatives and other actions	0,00	0,00	0,00 %
<b>Total Title 07</b>			<b>1,63</b>	<b>1,63</b>	<b>100,00 %</b>
<b>Title 08 Agriculture and Maritime Policy</b>					
08	08 02	European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF)	0,00	0,00	0,00 %
<b>Total Title 08</b>			<b>0,00</b>	<b>0,00</b>	<b>0,00 %</b>
<b>Title 09 Environment and Climate Action</b>					
09	09 02	Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE)	0,00	0,00	0,00 %
<b>Total Title 09</b>			<b>0,00</b>	<b>0,00</b>	<b>0,00 %</b>
<b>Title 10 Migration</b>					
10	10 02	Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund	0,00	0,00	0,00 %
<b>Total Title 10</b>			<b>0,00</b>	<b>0,00</b>	<b>0,00 %</b>
<b>Title 12 Security</b>					
12	12 02	Internal Security Fund (ISF)	0,00	0,00	0,00 %
<b>Total Title 12</b>			<b>0,00</b>	<b>0,00</b>	<b>0,00 %</b>
<b>Title 14 External Action</b>					
14	14 02	Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument & Global Europe (NDICI & Global Europe)	0,00	0,00	0,00 %
<b>Total Title 14</b>			<b>0,00</b>	<b>0,00</b>	<b>0,00 %</b>
<b>Title 15 Pre-accession Assistance</b>					
15	15 02	Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA III)	0,13	0,00	0,00 %
<b>Total Title 15</b>			<b>0,13</b>	<b>0,00</b>	<b>0,00 %</b>
<b>Title 20 Administrative expenditure of the European Commission</b>					
20	20 02	Other staff and expenditure relating to persons	0,07	0,03	35,66 %
<b>Total Title 20</b>			<b>0,07</b>	<b>0,03</b>	<b>35,66 %</b>
<b>Total Excluding NGEU</b>			<b>94,31</b>	<b>88,35</b>	<b>93,68 %</b>
<b>Total DG ESTAT</b>			<b>94,31</b>	<b>88,35</b>	<b>93,68 %</b>

<sup>1</sup>Commitment appropriations authorised include, in addition to the budget voted by the legislative authority, appropriations carried over from the previous exercise, budget amendments as well as miscellaneous commitment appropriations for the period (e.g. internal and external assigned revenue)

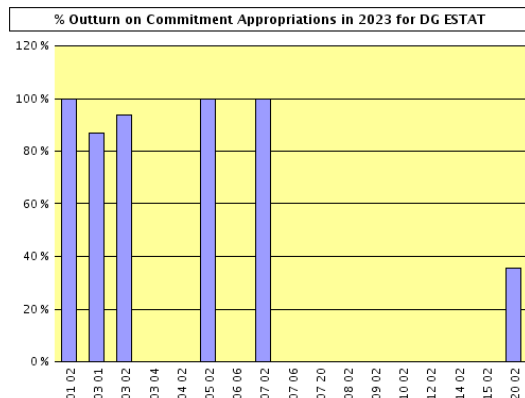




TABLE 2: OUTTURN ON PAYMENT APPROPRIATIONS in 2023 (in Mio €) for DG ESTAT					
		Payment appropriations authorised <sup>1</sup>	Payments made <sup>2</sup>	%	
		1	2	3=2/1	
<b>Title 01 Research and Innovation</b>					
01	01 02	Horizon Europe	1,55	1,55	100,00 %
<b>Total Title 01</b>		<b>1,55</b>	<b>1,55</b>	<b>100,00%</b>	
<b>Title 03 Single Market</b>					
03	03 01	Support administrative expenditure of the 'Single Market' cluster	0,93	0,38	41,19 %
	03 02	Single Market Programme	94,56	73,89	78,15 %
	03 04	Cooperation in the field of taxation (FISCALS)	0,00	0,00	0,00 %
<b>Total Title 03</b>		<b>95,49</b>	<b>74,28</b>	<b>77,79%</b>	
<b>Title 04 Space</b>					
04	04 02	Union Space Programme	0,08	0,08	100,00 %
<b>Total Title 04</b>		<b>0,08</b>	<b>0,08</b>	<b>100,00%</b>	
<b>Title 05 Regional Development and Cohesion</b>					
05	05 02	European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)	1,26	1,26	100,00 %
<b>Total Title 05</b>		<b>1,26</b>	<b>1,26</b>	<b>100,00%</b>	
<b>Title 06 Recovery and Resilience</b>					
06	06 06	EU4Health Programme	0,02	0,02	100,00 %
<b>Total Title 06</b>		<b>0,02</b>	<b>0,02</b>	<b>100,00%</b>	
<b>Title 07 Investing in People, Social Cohesion and Values</b>					
07	07 02	European Social Fund PLUS (ESF+)	1,39	1,39	100,00 %
	07 06	Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values	2,22	2,22	100,00 %
	07 20	Pilot projects, preparatory actions, prerogatives and other actions	0,59	0,59	100,00 %
<b>Total Title 07</b>		<b>4,20</b>	<b>4,20</b>	<b>100,00%</b>	
<b>Title 08 Agriculture and Maritime Policy</b>					
08	08 02	European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF)	3,29	3,10	94,10 %
<b>Total Title 08</b>		<b>3,29</b>	<b>3,10</b>	<b>94,10%</b>	
<b>Title 09 Environment and Climate Action</b>					
09	09 02	Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE)	0,79	0,79	100,00 %
<b>Total Title 09</b>		<b>0,79</b>	<b>0,79</b>	<b>100,00%</b>	
<b>Title 10 Migration</b>					
10	10 02	Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund	0,25	0,25	100,00 %
<b>Total Title 10</b>		<b>0,25</b>	<b>0,25</b>	<b>100,00%</b>	
<b>Title 12 Security</b>					
12	12 02	Internal Security Fund (ISF)	0,03	0,03	100,00 %
<b>Total Title 12</b>		<b>0,03</b>	<b>0,03</b>	<b>100,00%</b>	
<b>Title 14 External Action</b>					
14	14 02	Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument / Global Europe (NDICI / Global Europe)	3,65	3,64	99,94 %
<b>Total Title 14</b>		<b>3,65</b>	<b>3,64</b>	<b>99,94%</b>	
<b>Title 15 Pre-accession Assistance</b>					
15	15 02	Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA III)	5,03	4,89	97,36 %
<b>Total Title 15</b>		<b>5,03</b>	<b>4,89</b>	<b>97,36%</b>	
<b>Title 20 Administrative expenditure of the European Commission</b>					
20	20 02	Other staff and expenditure relating to persons	0,08	0,01	12,08 %
<b>Total Title 20</b>		<b>0,08</b>	<b>0,01</b>	<b>12,08%</b>	
<b>Total Excluding NGEU</b>		<b>115,73</b>	<b>94,12</b>	<b>81,33%</b>	
<b>Total DG ESTAT</b>		<b>115,73</b>	<b>94,12</b>	<b>81,33%</b>	

<sup>1</sup> Payment appropriations authorised include, in addition to the budget voted by the legislative authority, appropriations carried over from the previous exercise, budget amendments as well as miscellaneous payment appropriations for the period (e.g. internal and external assigned revenue).

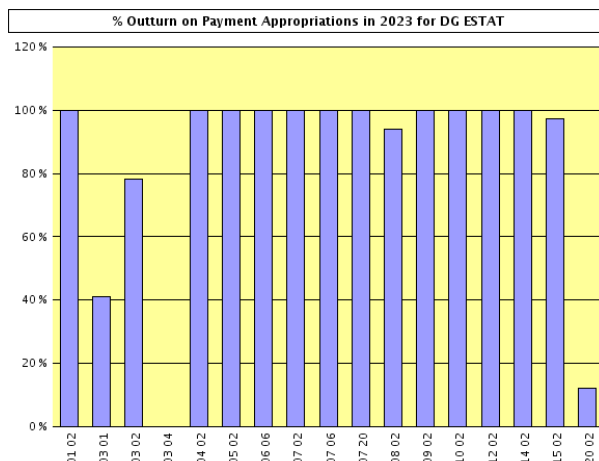
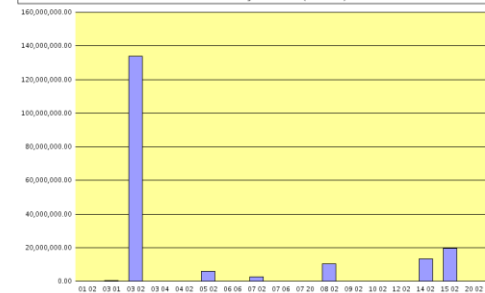


TABLE 3 : BREAKDOWN OF COMMITMENTS TO BE SETTLED AT 31/12/2022 (in Mio €) for DG ESTAT							
Chapter	Commitments to be settled				Commitments to be settled from financial years previous to 2022	Total of commitments to be settled at end of financial year 2022	Total of commitments to be settled at end of financial year 2023
	Commitments	Payments	RAL	% to be settled			
	1	2	3a+2	4a1-2b1	5	6a+5	7
01 01 02 Horizon Europe	0.04	0.00	0.04	100.00%	0.00	0.04	1.55
<b>Total Title 01</b>	<b>0.04</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.04</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.04</b>	<b>1.55</b>
TABLE 3 : BREAKDOWN OF COMMITMENTS TO BE SETTLED AT 31/12/2022 (in Mio €) for DG ESTAT							
Chapter	Commitments to be settled				Commitments to be settled from financial years previous to 2022	Total of commitments to be settled at end of financial year 2022	Total of commitments to be settled at end of financial year 2023
	Commitments	Payments	RAL	% to be settled			
	1	2	3a+2	4a1-2b1	5	6a+5	7
03 03 01 Support administrative expenditure of the Single Market, closer	0.63	0.21	0.42	66.70%	0.00	0.42	0.21
03 03 02 Single Market Programme	82.15	7.64	74.56	90.71%	59.25	133.81	136.20
03 04 Cooperation in the field of taxation (FISCALS)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Total Title 03</b>	<b>82.83</b>	<b>7.85</b>	<b>74.98</b>	<b>90.52%</b>	<b>59.25</b>	<b>134.23</b>	<b>136.41</b>
TABLE 3 : BREAKDOWN OF COMMITMENTS TO BE SETTLED AT 31/12/2022 (in Mio €) for DG ESTAT							
Chapter	Commitments to be settled				Commitments to be settled from financial years previous to 2022	Total of commitments to be settled at end of financial year 2022	Total of commitments to be settled at end of financial year 2023
	Commitments	Payments	RAL	% to be settled			
	1	2	3a+2	4a1-2b1	5	6a+5	7
04 04 02 Union Space Programme	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Total Title 04</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
TABLE 3 : BREAKDOWN OF COMMITMENTS TO BE SETTLED AT 31/12/2022 (in Mio €) for DG ESTAT							
Chapter	Commitments to be settled				Commitments to be settled from financial years previous to 2022	Total of commitments to be settled at end of financial year 2022	Total of commitments to be settled at end of financial year 2023
	Commitments	Payments	RAL	% to be settled			
	1	2	3a+2	4a1-2b1	5	6a+5	7
05 05 02 European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)	3.83	0.31	3.52	95.83%	1.93	5.75	4.14
<b>Total Title 05</b>	<b>3.83</b>	<b>0.31</b>	<b>3.52</b>	<b>95.83%</b>	<b>1.93</b>	<b>5.75</b>	<b>4.14</b>
TABLE 3 : BREAKDOWN OF COMMITMENTS TO BE SETTLED AT 31/12/2022 (in Mio €) for DG ESTAT							
Chapter	Commitments to be settled				Commitments to be settled from financial years previous to 2022	Total of commitments to be settled at end of financial year 2022	Total of commitments to be settled at end of financial year 2023
	Commitments	Payments	RAL	% to be settled			
	1	2	3a+2	4a1-2b1	5	6a+5	7
06 06 06 EU4Health Programme	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Total Title 06</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
TABLE 3 : BREAKDOWN OF COMMITMENTS TO BE SETTLED AT 31/12/2022 (in Mio €) for DG ESTAT							
Chapter	Commitments to be settled				Commitments to be settled from financial years previous to 2022	Total of commitments to be settled at end of financial year 2022	Total of commitments to be settled at end of financial year 2023
	Commitments	Payments	RAL	% to be settled			
	1	2	3a+2	4a1-2b1	5	6a+5	7
07 07 02 European Social Fund Plus (ESF+)	1.85	0.51	1.12	68.90%	1.38	2.50	2.39
07 06 Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.08	0.08	2.67
07 20 Pilot projects, preparatory actions, prototypes and other actions	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.08	0.08	0.87
<b>Total Title 07</b>	<b>1.85</b>	<b>0.51</b>	<b>1.12</b>	<b>68.94%</b>	<b>1.54</b>	<b>2.66</b>	<b>5.74</b>
TABLE 3 : BREAKDOWN OF COMMITMENTS TO BE SETTLED AT 31/12/2022 (in Mio €) for DG ESTAT							
Chapter	Commitments to be settled				Commitments to be settled from financial years previous to 2022	Total of commitments to be settled at end of financial year 2022	Total of commitments to be settled at end of financial year 2023
	Commitments	Payments	RAL	% to be settled			
	1	2	3a+2	4a1-2b1	5	6a+5	7
08 08 02 European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	16.16	16.16	55.17
<b>Total Title 08</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>16.16</b>	<b>16.16</b>	<b>55.17</b>
TABLE 3 : BREAKDOWN OF COMMITMENTS TO BE SETTLED AT 31/12/2022 (in Mio €) for DG ESTAT							
Chapter	Commitments to be settled				Commitments to be settled from financial years previous to 2022	Total of commitments to be settled at end of financial year 2022	Total of commitments to be settled at end of financial year 2023
	Commitments	Payments	RAL	% to be settled			
	1	2	3a+2	4a1-2b1	5	6a+5	7
09 09 02 Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (P2C)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.01	0.01	0.81
<b>Total Title 09</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>0.01</b>	<b>0.01</b>	<b>0.81</b>
TABLE 3 : BREAKDOWN OF COMMITMENTS TO BE SETTLED AT 31/12/2022 (in Mio €) for DG ESTAT							
Chapter	Commitments to be settled				Commitments to be settled from financial years previous to 2022	Total of commitments to be settled at end of financial year 2022	Total of commitments to be settled at end of financial year 2023
	Commitments	Payments	RAL	% to be settled			
	1	2	3a+2	4a1-2b1	5	6a+5	7
10 10 02 Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.05	0.05	0.30
<b>Total Title 10</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>0.05</b>	<b>0.05</b>	<b>0.30</b>
TABLE 3 : BREAKDOWN OF COMMITMENTS TO BE SETTLED AT 31/12/2022 (in Mio €) for DG ESTAT							
Chapter	Commitments to be settled				Commitments to be settled from financial years previous to 2022	Total of commitments to be settled at end of financial year 2022	Total of commitments to be settled at end of financial year 2023
	Commitments	Payments	RAL	% to be settled			
	1	2	3a+2	4a1-2b1	5	6a+5	7
12 12 02 Internal Security Fund (ISF)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00	0.03
<b>Total Title 12</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.03</b>
TABLE 3 : BREAKDOWN OF COMMITMENTS TO BE SETTLED AT 31/12/2022 (in Mio €) for DG ESTAT							
Chapter	Commitments to be settled				Commitments to be settled from financial years previous to 2022	Total of commitments to be settled at end of financial year 2022	Total of commitments to be settled at end of financial year 2023
	Commitments	Payments	RAL	% to be settled			
	1	2	3a+2	4a1-2b1	5	6a+5	7
14 14 02 Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument - Global Europe (NDICI - Global Europe)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	13.24	13.24	16.89
<b>Total Title 14</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>13.24</b>	<b>13.24</b>	<b>16.89</b>
TABLE 3 : BREAKDOWN OF COMMITMENTS TO BE SETTLED AT 31/12/2022 (in Mio €) for DG ESTAT							
Chapter	Commitments to be settled				Commitments to be settled from financial years previous to 2022	Total of commitments to be settled at end of financial year 2022	Total of commitments to be settled at end of financial year 2023
	Commitments	Payments	RAL	% to be settled			
	1	2	3a+2	4a1-2b1	5	6a+5	7
15 15 02 Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	19.48	19.48	24.38
<b>Total Title 15</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>19.48</b>	<b>19.48</b>	<b>24.38</b>
TABLE 3 : BREAKDOWN OF COMMITMENTS TO BE SETTLED AT 31/12/2022 (in Mio €) for DG ESTAT							
Chapter	Commitments to be settled				Commitments to be settled from financial years previous to 2022	Total of commitments to be settled at end of financial year 2022	Total of commitments to be settled at end of financial year 2023
	Commitments	Payments	RAL	% to be settled			
	1	2	3a+2	4a1-2b1	5	6a+5	7
20 20 02 Other staff and expenditure relating to persons	0.00	0.01	0.02	62.46%	0.00	0.02	0.01
<b>Total Title 20</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.01</b>	<b>0.02</b>	<b>62.46%</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.02</b>	<b>0.01</b>
<b>Total Excluding NGEU</b>	<b>88.35</b>	<b>8.38</b>	<b>79.97</b>	<b>90.52%</b>	<b>105.68</b>	<b>185.65</b>	<b>207.57</b>
<b>Total for DG ESTAT</b>	<b>88.35</b>	<b>8.38</b>	<b>79.97</b>	<b>90.52%</b>	<b>105.68</b>	<b>185.65</b>	<b>207.57</b>

Break-down of Commitments Remaining to be Settled (in Mio EUR) in 2023 ESTAT



**TABLE 4 : BALANCE SHEET for DG ESTAT**

<b>BALANCE SHEET</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
<b>A.I. NON CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>8.933.672,39</b>	<b>10.225.287,68</b>
A.I.1. Intangible Assets	8.933.672,39	10.225.287,68
A.I.2. Property, Plant and Equipment	0,00	0,00
<b>A.II. CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>50.281.680,44</b>	<b>49.293.415,91</b>
A.II.2. Current Pre-Financing	50.263.449,44	49.293.415,91
A.II.3. Curr Exch Receiv & Non-Ex Recoverables	18.231,00	0,00
<b>ASSETS</b>	<b>59.215.352,83</b>	<b>59.518.703,59</b>
<b>P.II. CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>0,00</b>	<b>0,00</b>
P.II.4. Current Payables	0,00	0,00
P.II.5. Current Accrued Charges & Defrd Income	0,00	0,00
<b>LIABILITIES</b>	<b>0,00</b>	<b>0,00</b>
<b>NET ASSETS (ASSETS less LIABILITIES)</b>	<b>59.215.352,83</b>	<b>59.518.703,59</b>

Non-allocated central (surplus)/deficit*	-698.389.796,36	-585.012.963,38
P.III.2. Accumulated Surplus/Deficit	639.174.443,53	525494259,8
<b>TOTAL DG ESTAT</b>	<b>0,00</b>	<b>0,00</b>

It should be noted that the balance sheet and statement of financial performance presented in Annex 3 to this Annual Activity Report, represent only the assets, liabilities, expenses and revenues that are under the control of this Directorate General. Significant amounts such as own resource revenues and cash held in Commission bank accounts are not included in this Directorate General's accounts since they are managed centrally by DG Budget, on whose balance sheet and statement of financial performance they appear. Furthermore, since the accumulated result of the Commission is not split amongst the various Directorates General, it can be seen that the balance sheet presented here is not in equilibrium.

Additionally, the figures included in tables 4 and 5 are provisional since they are, at this date, still subject to audit by the Court of Auditors. It is thus possible that amounts included in these tables may have to be adjusted following this audit.

**TABLE 5 : STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE for DG ESTAT**

<b>STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
II.1 REVENUES	-5.200.746,57	-4.295.242,09
II.1.1. NON-EXCHANGE REVENUES	-5.917.302,24	-5.472.751,25
II.1.1.6. RECOVERY OF EXPENSES	-6.464,24	-11.195,25
II.1.1.8. OTHER NON-EXCHANGE REVENUES	-5.910.838,00	-5.461.556,00
II.1.2. EXCHANGE REVENUES	716.555,67	1.177.509,16
II.1.2.1. FINANCIAL INCOME		-4.691,45
II.1.2.2. OTHER EXCHANGE REVENUE	716.555,67	1.182.200,61
II.2. EXPENSES	93.530.611,38	117.975.425,83
II.2. EXPENSES	93.530.611,38	117.975.425,83
II.2.10. OTHER EXPENSES	20.542.120,58	22.751.131,90
II.2.2. EXP IMPLM BY COMMISS&EX.AGENC. (DM)	72.988.490,80	99.165.843,93
II.2.6. STAFF AND PENSION COSTS		-3.941.550,00
<b>STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE</b>	<b>88.329.864,81</b>	<b>113.680.183,74</b>

*Explanatory Notes (facultative):*

*Please enter the text directly (no copy/paste of formatted text which would then disappear when saving the document in pdf), use \\\"ctrl+enter\\\" to go to the next line and \\\"enter\\\" to validate your typing.*

It should be noted that the balance sheet and statement of financial performance presented in Annex 3 to this Annual Activity Report, represent only the assets, liabilities, expenses and revenues that are under the control of this Directorate General. Significant amounts such as own resource revenues and cash held in Commission bank accounts are not included in this Directorate General's accounts since they are managed centrally by DG Budget, on whose balance sheet and statement of financial performance they appear. Furthermore, since the accumulated result of the Commission is not split amongst the various Directorates General, it can be seen that the balance sheet presented here is not in equilibrium.

Additionally, the figures included in tables 4 and 5 are provisional since they are, at this date, still subject to audit by the Court of Auditors. It is thus possible that amounts included in these tables may have to be adjusted following this audit.

**TABLE 5bis : OFF BALANCE SHEET for DG ESTAT**

<b>OFF BALANCE</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
OB.1. Contingent Assets	3.425.476,80	3.452.676,80
GR for performance	203.085,00	230.285,00
GR for pre-financing	3.222.391,80	3.222.391,80
OB.2. Contingent Liabilities	0,00	0,00
OB.2.7. CL Legal cases OTHER	0,00	0,00
OB.4. Balancing Accounts	-3.425.476,80	-3.452.676,80
OB.4. Balancing Accounts	-3.425.476,80	-3.452.676,80
<b>OFF BALANCE</b>	<b>0,00</b>	<b>0,00</b>

*Explanatory Notes (facultative):  
Please enter the text directly (no copy/paste of formatted text which would then disappear when saving the document in pdf), use `ctrl+enter` to go to the next line and `enter` to validate your typing.*

It should be noted that the balance sheet and statement of financial performance presented in Annex 3 to this Annual Activity Report, represent only the assets, liabilities, expenses and revenues that are under the control of this Directorate General. Significant amounts such as own resource revenues and cash held in Commission bank accounts are not included in this Directorate General's accounts since they are managed centrally by DG Budget, on whose balance sheet and statement of financial performance they appear. Furthermore, since the accumulated result of the Commission is not split amongst the various Directorates General, it can be seen that the balance sheet presented here is not in equilibrium.

Additionally, the figures included in tables 4 and 5 are provisional since they are, at this date, still subject to audit by the Court of Auditors. It is thus possible that amounts included in these tables may have to be adjusted following this audit.

Legal Times									
Maximum Payment Time (Days)	Total Nbr of Payments	Nbr of Payments within Time Limit	Percentage	Average Payment Times (Days)	Nbr of Late Payments	Percentage	Average Payment Times (Days)	Late Payments Amount	Percentage
30	1.435	1.432	99,79 %	14,15	3	0,21 %	33,00	30.769,39	0, %
60	165	165	100,00 %	31,46				0,00	0, %
90	284	283	99,65 %	38,75	1	0,35 %	187,00	95.739,79	0, %

Total Number of Payments	1.884	1.880	99,79 %		4	0,21 %		126509,18	0, %
Average Net Payment Time	19,48142251			19,37			71,50		
Average Gross Payment Time	23,42038217			23,28989			84,75		

Suspensions							
Average Report Approval Suspension	Average Payment Suspension Days	Number of Suspended Payments	% of Total Number	Total Number of Payments	Amount of Suspended Payments	% of Total Amount	Total Paid Amount
0	23	329	17,46 %	1.884	29.648.358,09	31,80 %	93.231.339,50

DG	GL Account	Description	Amount (Eur)

NB: Table 6 only contains payments relevant for the time statistics. Please consult its exact scope in the AAR Annex3 BO User Guide ( [https://myintracom.ec.europa.eu/budgweb/EN/abac/dwh/Pages/its-030-10-20\\_documentation.aspx](https://myintracom.ec.europa.eu/budgweb/EN/abac/dwh/Pages/its-030-10-20_documentation.aspx) ).

Chapter	Revenue and income recognized			Revenue and income cashed from			Outstanding balance	
	Current year RO	Carried over RO	Total	Current Year RO	Carried over RO	Total		
	1	2	3=1+2	4	5	6=4+5		
60	Single market, innovation and digital	203.379,02	0,00	203.379,02	185.148,02	0,00	185.148,02	18.231,00
66	Other contributions and refunds	5.910.838,00	0,00	5.910.838,00	5.910.838,00	0,00	5.910.838,00	0,00
67	Completion for outstanding recovery orders prior to 2021	138.116,79	0,00	138.116,79	138.116,79	0,00	138.116,79	0,00
<b>Total DG ESTAT</b>		<b>6.252.333,81</b>	<b>0,00</b>	<b>6.252.333,81</b>	<b>6.234.102,81</b>	<b>0,00</b>	<b>6.234.102,81</b>	<b>18.231,00</b>

**TABLE 8 : FINANCIAL IMPACT OF EX-ANTE AND EX-POST CONTROLS in 2023 for DG ESTAT**

<b>EX-ANTE CONTROLS BY TRANSACTION</b>	<b>Irregularity</b>	<b>Total ex-ante amounts</b>
NON ELIGIBLE IN COST CLAIMS	45.923,10	<b>45.923,10</b>
CREDIT NOTES	1.479.470,62	<b>1.479.470,62</b>
RECOVERY ORDERS ON PRE-FINANCING		
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>1.525.393,72</b>	<b>1.525.393,72</b>

<b>EX-POST CONTROLS BY TRANSACTION</b>	<b>Irregularity</b>	<b>Total ex-post amounts</b>
RECOVERY ORDERS OTHER THAN ON PRE-FINANCING	6.464,24	<b>6.464,24</b>
INCOME LINES IN INVOICES		
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>6.464,24</b>	<b>6.464,24</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL (EX-ANTE + EX-POST)</b>	<b>1.531.857,96</b>	<b>1.531.857,96</b>

**TABLE 9: AGEING BALANCE OF RECOVERY ORDERS AT 12/31/2023 for DG ESTAT**

	<b>Number at 1/1/2023 1</b>	<b>Number at 12/31/2023</b>	<b>Evolution</b>	<b>Open Amount (Eur) at 1/1/2023 1</b>	<b>Open Amount (Eur) at 12/31/2023</b>	<b>Evolution</b>
2023		1			18.231,00	
		<b>1</b>			<b>18.231,00</b>	

**TABLE 10 :Recovery Order Waivers >= 60 000 € in 2023 for DG ESTAT**

Waiver Central Key	Linked RO Central Key	RO Accepted Amount (Eur)	LE Account Group	Commission Decision	Comments
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<b>Total DG ESTAT</b>	
-----------------------	--

<b>Number of RO waivers</b>	
-----------------------------	--

There are no waivers below 60 000 €

*Justifications:*

*Please enter the text directly (no copy/paste of formatted text which would then disappear when saving the document in pdf), use "ctrl+enter" to go to the next line and "enter" to validate your typing.*

**TABLE 11 : Negotiated Procedures in 2023 for DG ESTAT**

**Internal Procedures > € 60,000**

Negotiated Procedure Legal base	Number of Procedures	Amount (€)
Annex 1 - 11.1 (a) - Follow-up of an open/restricted procedure where no (or no suitable) tenders/requests to participate have been submitted	1	101.500,00
Annex 1 - 11.1 (b) - Artistic/technical reasons or exclusive rights or technical monopoly/captive market	2	531.520,00
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>633.020,00</b>



**TABLE 12 : Summary of Procedures in 2023 for DG ESTAT**

**External Procedures > € 20,000**

<b>Procedure Legal base</b>	<b>Number of Procedures</b>	<b>Amount (€)</b>
Restricted procedure - As provided for in FR 164(1)(b) - Services/Supplies as from EUR 300 000 - Works as from EUR 5 000 000 - publication (Annex 1 - 38.1 (a))	1	6.980.750,00
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6.980.750,00</b>

**Internal Procedures > € 60,000**

<b>Procedure Legal base</b>	<b>Number of Procedures</b>	<b>Amount (€)</b>
Negotiated procedure middle value contract (Annex 1 - 14.2)	3	382.340,00
Negotiated procedure without prior publication (Annex 1 - 11.1)	3	633.020,00
Open procedure (FR 164 (1)(a))	11	7.560.184,25
<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>8.575.544,25</b>

**Additional Comments:**

## ANNEX 4: Financial scorecard

### DG ESTAT

The Annex 4 of each Commission service summarises the annual result of the standard financial indicators measurement. Annexed to the Annual Activity Report 2023, 11 standard financial indicators are presented below, each with its objective and result for the Commission service and for the EC as a whole (for benchmarking purposes)<sup>6</sup>:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Commitment Appropriations (CA) Implementation</b></li> <li>- <b>CA Forecast Implementation</b></li> <li>- <b>Payment Appropriations (PA) Implementation</b></li> <li>- <b>PA Forecast Implementation</b></li> <li>- <b>Global Commitment Absorption</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Timely Payments</b></li> <li>- <b>Timely Decommitments</b></li> <li>- <b>Invoice Registration Time</b></li> <li>- <b>Accounting Data Quality</b></li> <li>- <b>Management Data Quality</b></li> <li>- <b>Timely Invoice PF clearing</b></li> </ul>
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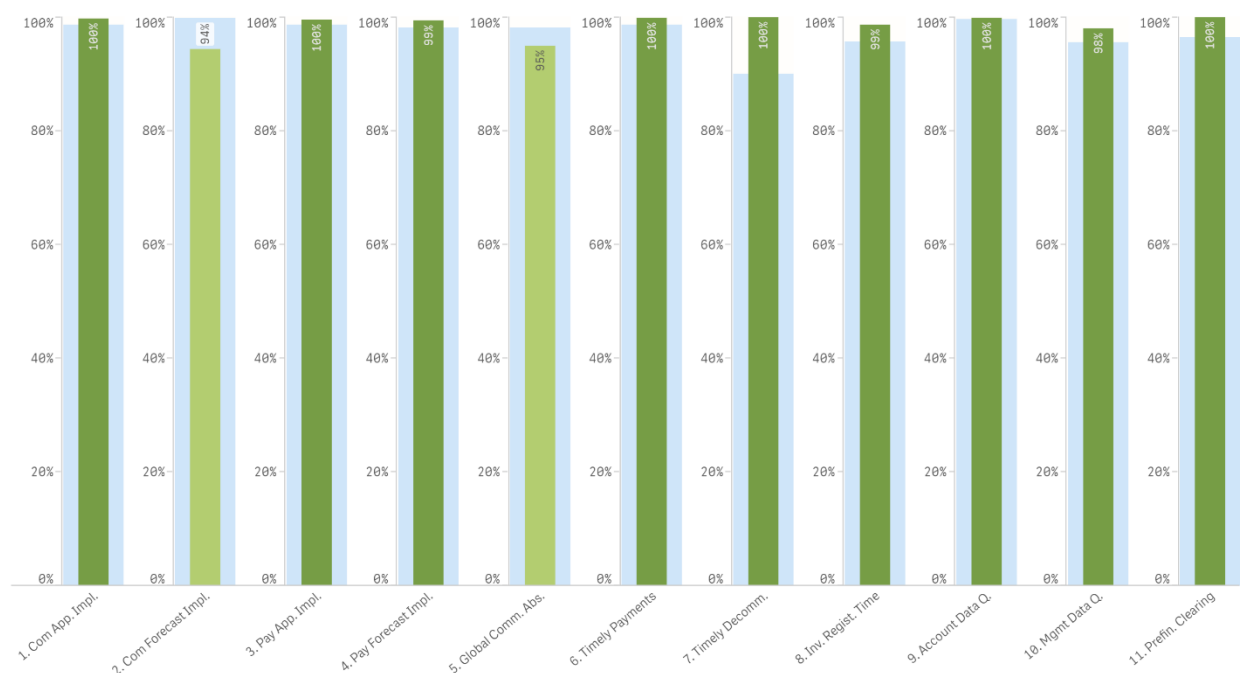
For each indicator, its value (in %) for the Commission service is compared to the common target (in %). The difference between the indicator's value and the target is colour coded as follows:

- 100 – >95% of the target: dark green
- 95 – >90% of the target: light green
- 90 – >85% of the target: yellow
- 85 – >80% of the target: light red
- 80 – 0% of the target: dark red

The Commission services are invited to provide commentary for each indicator's result in the dedicated comment section below the indicators scores as this can help the reader to understand the Commission's service context. In cases when the indicator's value achieves 80% or less of the target, the comment becomes mandatory.

The detailed definitions of the indicators are available on the internal DG BUDG site (BudgPedia) and managed by unit BUDG.CS Financial Reporting.

ESTAT Indicator Scores for 2023 12



<sup>6</sup> For each indicator the light blue bar denotes the EC score.

Indicator	Objective	Comment <sup>7</sup>	ESTAT Score	EC Score
1. Commitment Appropriations Implementation	Ensure efficient use of commitment appropriations expiring at the end of Financial Year		100%	99%
2. Commitment Forecast Implementation	Ensure the cumulative alignment of the commitment implementation with the commitment forecast in a financial year		94%	100%
3. Payment Appropriations Implementation	Ensure efficient use of payment appropriations expiring at the end of Financial Year		100%	99%
4. Payment Forecast Implementation	Ensure the cumulative alignment of the payment implementation with the payment forecast in a financial year		99%	98%
5. Global Commitment Absorption <sup>8</sup>	Ensure efficient use of already earmarked commitment appropriations (at L1 level)		95%	98%
6. Timely Payments	Ensure efficient processing of payments within the legal deadlines	In the reporting year, Eurostat made most payments (1880 out of 1884 payments) in time and achieved an outstanding 100% for the 'payment accepted amount in time' indicator. This is the result of paperless payment processes and a dedicated payment time monitoring system in place in Eurostat, supported with an active follow-up of the advancement of individual payment files through the payment process.	100%	99%
7. Timely Decommitments	Ensure efficient decommitment of outstanding RAL at the end of commitment life cycle		100%	90%
8. Invoice Registration Time	Monitor the accounting risk stemming from late registration of		99%	96%

<sup>7</sup> An explanation behind the indicator result can be provided, e.g. the comment about the achievement itself, reference to the whole Commission performance (better or worse), reasons behind this achievement. The comment is mandatory for the 'Timely payments' indicator. For the rest of indicators the comment is mandatory only if the score is equal or below the target of 80%.

<sup>8</sup> Due to technical limitation: 1. the indicator does not take into account the Com L1 Consumption between the FDC ILC date and the FA FDI allowed as an exception in the external actions for Com L1 of type GF, i.e. with Financing Agreement, under the FR2018 Article 114.2. 2. it is technically not possible to exclude the decommitment of RAL (C8) which is subsequently re-committed for a new purpose. As a result, the actual Indicator score may be slightly higher than the one reported for DGs using the GF commitments.

	invoices in the central accounting system ABAC			
9. Accounting Data Quality	Ensure the good data quality of ABAC transactions with the focus on fields having a primary impact on the accounts		100%	100%
10. Management Data Quality	Ensure the good data quality of ABAC transactions with the focus on fields having a primary impact on the management decisions		98%	96%
11. Timely Invoice PF clearing	Ensure efficient clearing by invoices of prefinancing payments within the invoice payment time limit		100%	100%

## ANNEX 5: Materiality criteria

Since 2019<sup>(9)</sup>, a 'de minimis' threshold for financial reservations has been introduced. Quantified annual activity report reservations related to residual error rates above the 2% materiality threshold are deemed not substantial for segments representing less than 5% of a DG's total payments and with a financial impact below EUR 5 million. In such cases, quantified reservations are no longer needed.

The implementation of this 'de minimis' threshold applies at the level of the annual activity report reservations, i.e. not at all affecting the detailed reservations at the level of the Payment Agency(s)/Operational Programme(s). Given the amounts involved, this threshold has no effect on the annual activity report reservations of Eurostat for 2023.

In order to identify material weaknesses that need to be disclosed on the declaration of the AOD, Eurostat has taken into account the following quantitative and qualitative criteria, assessing whether the weakness is significant and should lead to the reporting of a reservation.

**Quantitative** criteria for defining significant weaknesses:

The Commission Communication (COM (2003) 28 final) from 21 January 2003 provides in its annex guidelines covering inter alia the concept of materiality. These guidelines propose an indicative materiality threshold of 2%:

*“The quantitative materiality threshold is 2%, i.e. when the amount of the transaction (in the broad sense) affected by the deficiency represents more than 2% of the budget allocated to the ABB activity of the service concerned.”* According to the guidelines, DGs may deviate from the threshold of 2% if they deem that the nature of the risks and controls, based on the DG's assessment of the risk and control environment in which the DG operates, makes the standard threshold inappropriate.

Eurostat considers a weakness as material if the value of the error affected by the deficiency represents more than 2% of the payment(s) authorised.

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

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<sup>(9)</sup> Agreement of the Corporate Management Board of 30/4/2019.

**Qualitative** criteria for defining significant weaknesses:

In assessing materiality, Eurostat takes into account a number of qualitative criteria:

### 3. Significant control system weaknesses

Besides the verification of the legality and regularity of the underlying transactions, controls are also implemented to detect major system weaknesses for which the financial impact as such is not easy to calculate but which indicate weaknesses as to the design and the effectiveness of the control systems. In order to assess the qualitative aspect of control system weaknesses, the following aspects are taken into account:

- Nature and scope of the weaknesses;
- Duration of the weaknesses;
- Compensatory measures;
- Corrective actions.

Eurostat regularly carries out assessments on the implementation of the internal control principles in order to detect weaknesses in its internal control framework. In addition, Eurostat performs ex ante and ex post controls on its financial transactions. Ex post controls on grant agreements are tailored to identify errors within the cost claims transmitted by Eurostat beneficiaries and shall classify them into isolated cases or systemic or repetitive weaknesses. Those controls can also identify weaknesses in the internal control system of beneficiaries and propose corrective actions. The duration and corrective actions are taken into account. As regards procurements, the control objective is to ensure that transactions are in conformity with applicable rules and regulations.

### 2. Insufficient audit coverage and/or inadequate information from internal control systems

Besides the audits and controls performed by the IAS and the ECA, Eurostat implemented a control framework that shall support management's assurance on the achievement of the financial management and internal control objectives. This framework is supported by a multi-annual control strategy. It shall prevent errors and produce reliable indicators of its results. The strategy provides a well-balanced approach between ex ante and ex post controls, assuring a sufficient number of controls in order to identify material weaknesses that could affect the declaration of assurance.

The achievement of this objective is supported by the fact that Eurostat concludes grant agreements with a relatively small number of beneficiaries, yet performing an adequate number of expenditure verifications on-the spot. On the other hand, Eurostat does not only rely on information gained by the performance of ex ante and ex post controls, but on a comprehensive set of control activities as well as information received by external sources.

### 3. Critical issues reported by the ECA, the IAS or OLAF

Any critical recommendation made by the ECA, the IAS or OLAF could lead to a reservation. Recommendations are generally assessed according to their significance. If deemed

necessary, mitigating actions are developed and translated into action plans. The implementation of those mitigating actions is constantly monitored and followed-up.

#### 4. Assessment of reputational events

Events or weaknesses that may have reputational impact may lead to a reservation. Their significance is judged against the nature of the impact, the breadth of awareness and the duration of impact on reputation. For Eurostat, those risks are in particular linked with reliability and trustworthiness of data and statistics, safeguarding and protection of sensitive information and statistical data. Eurostat monitors all those aspects that could negatively impact its reputation. A set of mitigating actions and controls were set up in order to identify weaknesses to be disclosed on the declaration of the AOD.

## ANNEX 6: Relevant Control System(s) for budget implementation (RCSs)

### GRANTS – Direct management

#### Stage 1: Ex ante

#### A - Programming, evaluation and selection of proposals

##### **A1) Preparation, adoption and publication of the Annual Work Programme and Calls for proposals**

**Main control objectives:** Ensuring that the Commission selects the proposals that contribute the most towards the achievement of the policy or programme objectives (effectiveness); Compliance (legality & regularity); Prevention of fraud (anti-fraud strategy).

Main risks It may happen (again) that...	Mitigating controls	Coverage, frequency and depth of controls	Cost-Effectiveness indicators (three E's)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The annual work programme and the subsequent invitations/calls to submit proposals do not adequately reflect the policy objectives, priorities, are incoherent and/or the essential eligibility, selection and award criteria are not adequate to ensure the evaluation of the proposals.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hierarchical validation within the authorising department.</li> <li>Inter-service consultation, including all relevant DGs.</li> <li>Adoption by the Commission.</li> <li>Explicit allocation of responsibility to individual officials reflecting the programming circuits.</li> <li>Checklist based verification for invitations/calls to submit proposals.</li> <li>Implementation of anti-fraud strategy.</li> </ul>	<p><u>Coverage:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>100% projects included in AWP.</li> <li>100% of invitations to submit proposals.</li> </ul> <p><u>Depth:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In-depth analyses of the projects, including financial aspects. Checklist (proposals) includes a list of the requirements of the regulatory provisions identified.</li> </ul>	<p><u>Effectiveness:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of control failures; number of exceptions in EUR.</li> <li>Number of invitations/calls for proposals successfully concluded/number of invitations/calls for proposals planned in the MP/WP in %.</li> <li>Total number of awards/total call for proposals in %.</li> </ul> <p><u>Efficiency and economy:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cost of control (all stages in total) in EUR.</li> <li>Cost of control / value of payments executed during the year in %.</li> </ul>



## A2) Selecting and awarding: Evaluation, ranking and selection of proposals

**Main control objectives:** Ensuring that the most promising projects for meeting the policy objectives are among (a good balance of) the proposals selected (effectiveness); Compliance (legality & regularity); Prevention of fraud (anti-fraud strategy).

Main risks It may happen (again) that...	Mitigating controls	Coverage, frequency and depth of controls	Cost-Effectiveness indicators (three E's)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The evaluation of proposals is not carried out in accordance with the established procedures, the policy objectives, priorities and/or the essential eligibility, or with the selection and award criteria defined in the annual work programme.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assignment of Evaluation Committees including, when necessary, members from sub-delegating DGs.</li> <li>Assessment by the Evaluation Committee.</li> <li>Hierarchical validation according to financial circuits.</li> <li>Checklists based verification (evaluation and award) and the use of corporate templates and tools ensuring compliance with the regulatory framework.</li> <li>Implementation of anti-fraud strategy.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>100% of proposals were evaluated.</li> <li>The received applications were analysed from a technical point of view and from a budgetary point of view.</li> <li>Coverage: 100% of ranked list of eligible proposals. Supervision of work of evaluators.</li> <li>100% in-depth evaluation of technical and budgetary aspects.</li> </ul>	<p><u>Effectiveness:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of control failures: number of exceptions.</li> </ul> <p><u>Efficiency and economy:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cost of control (all stages in total) in EUR ▪ Cost of control / value of payments executed during the reporting year (in %).</li> <li>Average time to inform applicants in days (in compliance with Art. 194 FR).</li> </ul>

## B - Contracting: Transformation of selected proposals into legally binding grant agreements

**Main control objectives:** Ensuring that the actions and funds allocation is optimal (best value for public money; effectiveness, economy, efficiency); Compliance (legality & regularity); Prevention of fraud (anti-fraud strategy).

Main risks It may happen (again) that...	Mitigating controls	Coverage, frequency and depth of controls	Cost-Effectiveness indicators (three E's)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The description of the action in the grant agreement includes tasks that do not contribute to the achievement of the programme objectives.</li> <li>The budget foreseen overestimates the costs necessary to carry out the action.</li> <li>Procedures do not comply with regulatory framework.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hierarchical validation according to financial circuits.</li> <li>Signature of the grant agreement by the AO.</li> <li>Checklists based verification (operational and financial) and the use of corporate templates and tools ensuring compliance with the regulatory framework.</li> <li>Regular accounting controls are carried out, including controls and reporting on budget implementation.</li> <li>Implementation of anti-fraud strategy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>100% of the selected proposals are scrutinised.</li> <li>Coverage: 100% of draft grant agreements.</li> </ul>	<p><u>Effectiveness:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of exceptions/non-compliance issues.</li> </ul> <p><u>Efficiency and economy:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cost of control (all stages in total) in EUR.</li> <li>Cost of control / value of payments executed during the reporting year in %.</li> <li>Average time-to-Grant (average time to sign grant agreements) in days (in compliance with Art. 194 FR).</li> </ul>

**C - Monitoring the execution: This stage covers the monitoring the operational, financial and reporting aspects related to the project and grant agreement**

**Main control objectives:** ensuring that the operational results (deliverables) from the projects are of good value and meet the objectives and conditions (effectiveness & efficiency); ensuring that the related financial operations comply with regulatory and contractual provisions (legality & regularity); prevention of fraud (anti-fraud strategy); ensuring appropriate accounting of the operations (reliability of reporting, safeguarding of assets and information).

Main risks It may happen (again) that...	Mitigating controls	Coverage, frequency and depth of controls	Cost-Effectiveness indicators (three E's)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The actions foreseen are not (or only partially) carried out in accordance with the technical description and the requirements foreseen in the grant agreement.</li> <li>The declared costs are not consistent with the activities performed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Operational and financial checks, based on checklists, in accordance with the financial circuits and the use of corporate templates, including the standard excel table for budget and costs declarations, and tools ensuring compliance with the regulatory framework and financial rules.</li> <li>Authorisation by the AO.</li> <li>Regular follow-up of payment delays.</li> <li>Regular accounting controls are carried out, including controls and reporting on budget implementation.</li> <li>Implementation of anti-fraud strategy.</li> <li>Use of lump sum grants, which are not based on costs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>100% of the projects are verified.</li> <li>100% coverage by ex ante control of each payment request.</li> </ul>	<p><u>Effectiveness:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of projects with cost claim errors out of number of grants (in %).</li> <li>Number of exceptions/non-compliance issues.</li> <li>Amount of cost items rejected in EUR and in % related to total payments executed.</li> </ul> <p><u>Efficiency and economy:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cost of control (all stages in total) in EUR.</li> <li>Cost of control / value of payments executed during the reporting year in %.</li> <li>Average time to pay in absolute number of days.</li> <li>Time-to-pay pay within deadline related to payment accepted amount in time in %.</li> </ul>

## Stage 2: Ex post controls

**Main control objectives:** Measuring the effectiveness of ex ante controls by ex post controls; detect and correct errors or fraud remaining undetected after the implementation of ex ante controls (legality & regularity; anti-fraud strategy); addressing systemic weaknesses in the ex ante controls, based on the analysis of findings (sound financial management); ensuring appropriate implementation of audit results (legality & regularity, anti-fraud strategy); ensuring reliable reporting on ex post controls.

Main risks <i>It may happen (again) that...</i>	Mitigating controls	Coverage, frequency and depth of controls	Cost-Effectiveness indicators (three E`s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ex ante controls fail to prevent, detect and correct erroneous payments or attempted fraud.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Multi-annual control strategy adopted by Eurostat senior management based on risk-assessment(s).</li> <li>▪ Audits or desk-reviews of a sample of operations carried out by Eurostat staff or external audit service providers on the basis of professional standards.</li> <li>▪ Consider ex post findings for improving ex ante controls.</li> <li>▪ Integration of fraud-related elements in the risk assessment and in the ex post control work programme.</li> <li>▪ Validate audit findings and results with the beneficiaries audited.</li> <li>▪ If necessary, referring the file concerned to OLAF.</li> <li>▪ Simplification measures to reduce the risk of errors for grants.</li> <li>▪ Training dedicated to staff embedded in grants process.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Stratified sample (random &amp; risk based) of beneficiaries to be controlled ex post.</li> <li>▪ All beneficiaries of Eurostat can be subject of ex post controls.</li> <li>▪ Control of 4 – 6 beneficiaries per year.</li> <li>▪ Detailed verification of cost claims transmitted to Eurostat.</li> </ul>	<p><u>Effectiveness:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Detected error rate in %</li> <li>▪ Residual error rate in %</li> <li>▪ Amount of errors identified in EUR</li> <li>▪ Number of fraud-related audit observations</li> <li>• Estimated risk at payment</li> <li>• Estimated risk at closure</li> </ul> <p><u>Economy:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Cost of ex post controls in EUR and in relation to total value of costs verified.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Errors, irregularities and cases of fraud detected are not (timely) implemented.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Systematic registration of all audit / control results (COMPASS/AUDEX/ARES)</li> <li>▪ Validation of recoveries in accordance with legislation and financial circuits.</li> <li>▪ Quarterly management reports on results of ex post controls.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Coverage: 100% of final audit results <i>with a financial impact</i>.</li> <li>▪ Extension of findings of systemic nature into corrections of non-audited projects by the same beneficiary.</li> </ul>	<p><u>Efficiency:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Time-To-Recover</li> </ul> <p><u>Effectiveness:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number/value of audit results failed implementation</li> </ul>

# PROCUREMENTS (including BA budget) - Direct management

## Stage 1 – Procurement

### A - Planning

**Main control objectives:** Ensuring that the decision to tender is optimal

Main risks It may happen (again) that...	Mitigating controls	Coverage, frequency and depth of controls	Cost-Effectiveness indicators (three E's)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The needs are not well defined (operationally and economically) and/or the decision to procure was inappropriate.</li> <li>Discontinuation of the services provided due to a late contracting.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Publication of intended procurements / Work programme.</li> </ul>	Coverage: 100% Depth*: Level 2	<u>Effectiveness:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cost of control (all stages in total) in EUR</li> <li>Cost of control / value of payments executed during the year in %</li> <li>Exceptions &amp; non-compliance issues</li> </ul> <u>Efficiency and economy:</u>  <u>Costs:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FTE linked to operational unit + central unit in EUR</li> </ul> <u>Benefits</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Qualitative: No litigation, compliance</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approval (and follow-up) of Work Program and Financing Decision by DM.</li> </ul>	Coverage: 100% Depth*: Level 2	

**NB: for all controls, information in particular financial information related to inputs / outputs and follow-up should be collected**

\***Depth:** (definition of levels)

- Minimal administrative / arithmetic control with no reference to supporting documents reference to underlying documents.
- Control with reference to corroborative information incorporating an element of independent oversight (e.g. audit certificate or other verification), but no reference to underlying documents.
- Control with reference to fully independent corroborative information (e.g. database which justifies certain elements of the claim, 3rd party or Commission assessment of milestones achieved, etc.).
- Control with reference to and including access to the underlying documentation available at the stage of the process in question, for all inputs and outputs (e.g. timesheets, invoices, physical verification, etc.); i.e. control of the same intensity of transaction testing as those carried out by the ECA as part of the DAS.

**Stage 2 – Ex ante – Programming, needs assessment & definition of needs**

**Main control objectives:** Ensuring that the call for tender is optimally done

Main risks It may happen (again) that...	Mitigating controls	Coverage, frequency and depth of controls	Cost-Effectiveness indicators (three E's)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The best offer/s are not submitted due to the poor definition of the tender specifications.</li> <li>Discontinuation of the services provided due to late contracting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Financial circuit: AOS approval and supervision of specifications.</li> </ul>	Coverage: 100% Depth*: Level 3	<u>Effectiveness:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cost of control (all stages in total) in EUR</li> <li>Cost of control / value of payments executed during the year in %</li> <li>Exceptions &amp; non-compliance issues</li> </ul> <u>Efficiency and economy:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Costs: FTE linked to operational unit + central unit in EUR</li> <li>Benefits (qualitative): No litigation, compliance</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Financial circuit: All steps financial and operational specifications.</li> </ul>	Coverage: 100% Depth*: Level 4	

**NB: for all controls, information in particular financial information related to inputs / outputs and follow-up should be collected**

**\*Depth:** (definition of levels)

1. Minimal administrative / arithmetic control with no reference to supporting documents reference to underlying documents.
2. Control with reference to corroborative information incorporating an element of independent oversight (e.g. audit certificate or other verification), but no reference to underlying documents.
3. Control with reference to fully independent corroborative information (e.g. database which justifies certain elements of the claim, 3rd party or Commission assessment of milestones achieved, etc.).
4. Control with reference to and including access to the underlying documentation available at the stage of the process in question, for all inputs and outputs (e.g. timesheets, invoices, physical verification, etc.); i.e. control of the same intensity of transaction testing as those carried out by the ECA as part of the DAS.

### Stage 3 – Ex ante – Selection of the offer & evaluation of tenders

**Main control objectives:** Ensuring that the call for tender is optimally done

Main risks It may happen (again) that...	Mitigating controls	Coverage, frequency and depth of controls	Cost-Effectiveness indicators (three E's)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The most promising offer not being selected, due to a biased, inaccurate or 'unfair' evaluation process.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opening Committee and Evaluation Committee.</li> </ul>	Coverage: 100% Depth*: Level 4	<u>Effectiveness:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cost of control (all stages in total) in EUR</li> <li>Cost of control / value of payments executed during the year in %</li> <li>Exceptions &amp; non-compliance issues</li> </ul> <u>Efficiency and economy:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Costs: FTE linked to operational unit + central unit in EUR</li> <li>Benefits (qualitative): No litigation, compliance</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Financial circuit: All steps financial and operational Evaluation report</li> </ul>	Coverage: 100% Depth*: Level 4	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advisory "Market Committee" (in place as of March 2014)</li> </ul>	Coverage: Risk based Depth*: Level 4	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Declaration on absence of conflict of interests to be signed.</li> </ul>	Coverage: 100% Depth*: 4	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exclusion criteria documented.</li> </ul>	Coverage: 100% Depth*: 4	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Standstill period.</li> </ul>	Coverage: 100% Depth*: N/A	

**NB: for all controls, information in particular financial information related to inputs / outputs and follow-up should be collected**

**\*Depth:** (definition of levels)

1. Minimal administrative / arithmetic control with no reference to supporting documents reference to underlying documents.
2. Control with reference to corroborative information incorporating an element of independent oversight (e.g. audit certificate or other verification), but no reference to underlying documents.
3. Control with reference to fully independent corroborative information (e.g. database which justifies certain elements of the claim, 3rd party or Commission assessment of milestones achieved, etc.).
4. Control with reference to and including access to the underlying documentation available at the stage of the process in question, for all inputs and outputs (e.g. timesheets, invoices, physical verification, etc.); i.e. control of the same intensity of transaction testing as those carried out by the ECA as part of the DAS.

## Stage 4 – Supervisory measures

**Main control objectives:** Ensuring that any weaknesses in the procurement procedures are detected and corrected

Main risks <i>It may happen (again) that...</i>	Mitigating controls	Coverage, frequency and depth of controls	Cost-Effectiveness indicators (three E`s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ An error or a non-compliance with rules and regulations or fraud is not detected.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Multi-annual control strategy adopted by Eurostat senior management.</li> <li>▪ Annual control programme based on yearly risk analysis.</li> <li>▪ Integration of fraud-related elements in risk assessment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Coverage: Whole process</li> </ul>	<p><u>Effectiveness:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of exceptions, non-compliance issues</li> </ul> <p><u>Economy:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Cost of control in EUR</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ex post quality reviews on selection and award procedure.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Risk based selection of procurement procedures</li> <li>▪ Frequency: On demand.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Management of procurement is not improved in general.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Review of results of ex post quality review.</li> <li>▪ Review of exception reporting.</li> <li>▪ Update Process Improvement Methodology (PIM) for procurement.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Coverage: Whole process</li> </ul>	



## IT security and data integrity

### **Stage 1: Ex ante - Information Security Policy**

**Main control objective:** Define and disseminate Eurostat information security policy

Main risks <i>It may happen (again) that...</i>	Mitigating controls	Coverage, frequency and depth of controls	Cost-Effectiveness indicators (three E`s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Eurostat staff is not aware of the Information security Policy.</li> <li>▪ IT security is not considered in day-to-day operations.</li> <li>▪ Design weaknesses in the development of Information processes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Awareness campaigns about EC Security Policies, standards, and best practices, Eurostat Information security policy and their updates are conducted.</li> <li>▪ Train Eurostat staff on applicable security policies.</li> <li>▪ Ensure that IT security plans are updated and provided for all new operational IS in GovIS2</li> </ul>	<p>Coverage: 100%</p> <p>Frequency: Yearly</p>	<p><u>Effectiveness:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of training sessions for newcomers.</li> <li>▪ Number of training sessions for staff.</li> <li>▪ Number of security plans provided.</li> </ul> <p>Benefit: Awareness of IT security. Clear procedures and responsibilities regarding IT security.</p> <p><u>Efficiency &amp; Economy:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Estimation of time required for Information security policy revision in FTE.</li> <li>▪ Estimation of time required for Training in FTE.</li> </ul>

## **Stage 2: Ex ante - Protection of IT infrastructure and data integrity**

**Main control objective:** Implement the controls as defined in the IT security policy

<b>Main risks <i>It may happen (again) that...</i></b>	<b>Mitigating controls</b>	<b>Coverage, frequency and depth of controls</b>	<b>Cost-Effectiveness indicators (three E`s)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ There is no inventory of assets and their security levels.</li> <li>▪ IT infrastructure is not available in case of major disaster.</li> <li>▪ Information is not available for statistical production.</li> <li>▪ Information is accessed and modified by non-authorized users.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The CMDB in DIGIT (Configuration Management Database) is updated with classification information.</li> <li>▪ IT Business Continuity Plan is regularly reviewed in line with the EC BC processes.</li> <li>▪ Through the SLA with DIGIT, receive regular KPIs on the health of the systems hosted in DIGIT.</li> <li>▪ Access control policy based on authorisation provided by DCROs (Data Collection Responsible Officers).</li> </ul>	<p>Coverage: 100%</p> <p>Frequency: Yearly</p>	<p><u>Effectiveness:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of assets classified in the CMDB.</li> <li>▪ Number of incidents regarding data integrity.</li> </ul> <p>Benefit: Operational IT infrastructure in support to statistical production with accesses to data on a “need to know” basis.</p> <p><u>Efficiency &amp; Economy:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Estimation of the access control management in FTE.</li> <li>▪ Cost of operation and security monitoring of the infrastructure in DIGIT.</li> </ul>

## **Stage 3: Ex post - Access to IT infrastructure and data**

**Main control objective:** Monitor the access to Eurostat IT infrastructure

<b>Main risks <i>It may happen (again) that...</i></b>	<b>Mitigating controls</b>	<b>Coverage, frequency and depth of controls</b>	<b>Cost-Effectiveness indicators (three E`s)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Illegal access to information.</li> <li>▪ Statistical information cannot be disseminated through the Eurostat website.</li> <li>▪ Statistical information is corrupted during transfer from Member States.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Follow-up of access rights, functional user rights and local administrator rights.</li> <li>▪ Real-time monitoring of Eurostat website.</li> </ul>	<p>Coverage: Accesses to Eurostat IT assets, all Eurostat statistical data collections.</p> <p>Frequency: Daily, monthly for the analysis of logs.</p>	<p><u>Effectiveness:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of sensitive data collections encrypted during transport.</li> <li>▪ Number of incidents reported for the website.</li> <li>▪ Monthly reports of incidents in Eurostat environment.</li> </ul> <p>Benefit: Protection of Eurostat environment. Ensure</p>

<b>Main risks</b> <i>It may happen (again) that...</i>	<b>Mitigating controls</b>	<b>Coverage, frequency and depth of controls</b>	<b>Cost-Effectiveness indicators (three E`s)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Wrong information or sensitive information is published.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Use of encryption for transfer of sensitive information in EDAMIS.</li> <li>▪ Incident reporting mechanism for errors on the Website.</li> <li>▪ In-depth analysis and monitoring of access controls and IT assets (servers, applications) logs implemented.</li> </ul>		<p>continuous publication of statistical information towards users.</p> <p><u>Efficiency &amp; Economy:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Monitoring website Software and estimation of the support provided in FTE.</li> <li>▪ Estimation of staff involved in monitoring.</li> <li>▪ Cost of Log management and Security Reporting by DIGIT access rights in FTE.</li> </ul>

## Safeguarding of sensitive information

### Stage 1: Ex ante - Management of sensitive information in Eurostat

**Main control objectives:** Identification, classification, and inventory of sensitive information in Eurostat

Main risks <i>It may happen (again) that...</i>	Mitigating controls	Coverage, frequency and depth of controls	Cost-Effectiveness indicators (three E`s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Sensitive information is not correctly understood / identified</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Definition of sensitive information in Eurostat. Yearly inventory of sensitive information as declared by Eurostat units.</li> <li>▪ Definition of protection measures to be applied for sensitive information in the context of Eurostat IS</li> <li>▪ Periodic information to Staff.</li> </ul>	<p>Coverage: 100%</p> <p>Frequency: Yearly</p>	<p><u>Effectiveness:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of units reporting use of sensitive and classified information</li> <li>▪ Number of modifications from former inventory</li> </ul> <p>Benefit: Better knowledge of the location and use of sensitive information. Better understanding of the concept and management of sensitive information by staff.</p> <p><u>Efficiency &amp; Economy:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Estimation of staff involved in inventory of all information managed by Eurostat units and its classification (in FTE).</li> </ul>

## **Stage 2: Ex ante - Protection of sensitive information in Eurostat**

**Main control objectives:** Define roles and responsibilities and protection measures for sensitive information.

<b>Main risks <i>It may happen (again) that...</i></b>	<b>Mitigating controls</b>	<b>Coverage, frequency and depth of controls</b>	<b>Cost-Effectiveness indicators (three E`s)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Sensitive information is not correctly managed by Eurostat staff.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Association of a DCRO (Data Collection Responsible Person) for each of the identified sensitive information collection. The DCRO is responsible for the protection of the collection and for giving access to it on a "Need to Know" basis.</li> <li>▪ Revision of call for tenders and contracts to include the relevant confidentiality clauses</li> <li>▪ Signature of a declaration of confidentiality by all Eurostat staff.</li> </ul>	<p>Coverage: 100%</p> <p>Frequency: Yearly with periodic updates if needed</p>	<p><u>Effectiveness:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of DCROs, and DCRO backup and sensitive information collections.</li> <li>▪ All Staff signing declarations (0 discrepancy between staff list and declaration list).</li> <li>▪ Number of training sessions on security and handling sensitive information.</li> </ul> <p>Benefit:</p> <p>Clearer responsibilities of units and staff regarding sensitive information management.</p> <p><u>Efficiency &amp; Economy:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Specific staff (DCRO) has additional duties (in FTE).</li> </ul>

## **Stage 3: Ex ante - Access to sensitive information**

**Main control objectives:** Monitoring and control of access to sensitive information

<b>Main risks <i>It may happen (again) that...</i></b>	<b>Mitigating controls</b>	<b>Coverage, frequency and depth of controls</b>	<b>Cost-Effectiveness indicators (three E`s)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ All Eurostat staff can have access to all sensitive information.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ LISO is allowing access to sensitive information to</li> </ul>	<p>Coverage: 100% of sensitive information is protected</p>	<p><u>Effectiveness:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of access rights processed and recorded</li> </ul>

Main risks <i>It may happen (again) that...</i>	Mitigating controls	Coverage, frequency and depth of controls	Cost-Effectiveness indicators (three E`s)
	<p>staff identified by DCRO on a "Need to Know" Basis.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Sensitive information is protected either by encryption or by being stored in Eurostat secured environment.</li> <li>▪ Use of SECEM2 for transmission of sensitive information using email is mandatory.</li> <li>▪ Use of encrypted S drive for storing sensitive information by units.</li> </ul>	<p>Frequency: Daily authorisation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of folders/units stored on the S drive</li> <li>▪ % of SECEM2 certificates active</li> </ul> <p>Benefit: Access to sensitive collections is controlled and sensitive information is encrypted.</p> <p><u>Efficiency &amp; Economy:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Management of access by LISO, management of policies for S drive encryption by LISO, administrative procedure launched by DCRO for providing access to individual staff (in FTE).</li> </ul>

#### **Stage 4: Ex post - Monitoring of accesses to sensitive information**

**Main control objectives:** Monitoring of accesses to sensitive information

Main risks <i>It may happen (again) that...</i>	Mitigating controls	Coverage, frequency and depth of controls	Cost-Effectiveness indicators (three E`s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Breach of sensitive information</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Periodic monitoring of accesses to identified sensitive information.</li> <li>▪ Periodic revision of the database with access rights and association to Eurostat staff mobility.</li> <li>▪ Automatic removal of access rights linked to inter DG staff mobility</li> </ul>	<p>Coverage: All identified sensitive information</p> <p>Frequency: Monthly for the reports provided by DIGIT/HR</p>	<p><u>Effectiveness:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of alerts provided in monthly reporting.</li> <li>▪ Number of revisions of the access rights database.</li> <li>▪ Number of incidents related to confirmed breach of confidentiality.</li> <li>▪ Number of encrypted files.</li> </ul> <p>Benefit: periodic monitoring of accesses.</p> <p><u>Efficiency &amp; Economy:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Monitoring and reporting by DIGIT (in EUR).</li> </ul>

## **GNI**

The controls performed by Eurostat regarding the GNI are disclosed by the AOD responsible for the related Revenue in the AAR prepared by DG BUDG.

## ANNEX 7: Specific annexes related to "financial management"

### 1. Free content:

Audit observations and recommendations (2.1.2)

#### Issues from IAS audits during 2023

During 2023, IAS finalised the audit on “**Eurostat’s role in the European Statistical System**”. In its final report from 26/01/2024, IAS issued three “important” recommendations referring to the European Statistical System’s (ESS) strategic framework and feedback mechanisms, to the cooperation between the ESS and the European System of Central Banks (ESCB), and to Eurostat’s supporting role in the functioning of the ESS. An action plan has been developed and was agreed upon by IAS.

#### Issues from IAS audits before 2023

IAS issued on 19/12/2022 in the final report of the “**Audit on effectiveness and efficiency of Eurostat’s performance management system**” three “important” recommendations referring to activities and outputs, to objectives and indicators, and to the planning, monitoring and reporting tool (PMR). An action plan has been developed and was agreed upon by IAS on 18/01/2023. Two recommendations, referring to activities and outputs and to the planning, monitoring and reporting tool (PMR), have already been implemented by Eurostat. The implementation of the third recommendation referring to objectives and indicators is on track according to planning.

#### Audits performed by the European Court of Auditors (ECA) during the year 2023

In 2023 the ECA continued its work on the performance audit covering the “**The new own resource based on non-recycled plastic packaging waste**”. Eurostat is the main auditee of this audit task; DG BUDG and DG ENV are associated services. The final report is planned to be published in quarter 03/2024.

#### Open issues from ECA audits before 2023

The ECA issued five recommendations covering eight issues in its **Special Report 26/2022 “European statistics: Potential to further improve quality”** published on 29/11/2022. The accepted recommendations refer to better meet user needs, to aiming at enhancement of the European statistical programme’s financial independence and prioritise innovative



projects, to improvements of Member States' quality reports and the quality assessment of European statistics, and to re-consider the current practice of pre-releasing statistics.

Eurostat already implemented recommendation one referring to better meet user needs. Recommendation four referring to re-consideration of the current practice of pre-releasing statistics is planned to be implemented by 31/03/2024.

The implementation of the other two recommendations is on track and will be finalised by 31/12/2024 as planned.

The ECA issued three recommendations in its **Special Report 25/2022 “Verification of gross national income for financing the EU budget: Risks in data compilation well covered overall, but scope for increased prioritisation of actions”** published on 08/12/2022.

The recommendations refer to increasing prioritisation of high-risk issues, to improvements of the timeliness of the support provided to Member States and better justification of decisions to limit the period of application for reservations, and to further improvements of the efficiency of the verification cycle.

The implementation of the recommendations is on track and will be finalised by 31/12/2025 as planned.

In its **“2020 Annual Reports on the implementation of the EU budget for the 2020 financial year”** the ECA issued two recommendations. Recommendation 3.2, concerning further action needed to properly address the impact of globalisation on GNI, has been implemented by Eurostat in the year 2023. The implementation of recommendation 3.1, concerning the review and update of the verification approach with a view to shortening the length of time GNI data, is on track and will be finalised as planned on 31/12/2024.

### Further audits performed by the ECA during the year 2023 involving Eurostat:

- Special Report 08/2023 “Intermodal freight transport: EU still far from getting freight off the road” (published 27/03/2023; Eurostat is associated service for the implementation of one issue)
- Special Report 13/2023 “Authorised Economic Operators: Solid customs programme with untapped potential and uneven implementation” (published 05/05/2023)
- Special Report 15/2023: “The EU’s industrial policy on batteries – New strategic impetus needed” (published 19/06/2023)
- Special Report 17/2023: “Circular economy: slow transition by member states despite EU action” (published 03/07/2023)
- Special Report 18/2023: “EU climate and energy targets” (published 23/06/2023)
- Special Report 19/2023: “EU efforts for sustainable soil management – Unambitious standards and limited targeting” (published 10/07/2023)
- SR 20/2023 “Supporting people with disabilities – Practical impact of EU action is limited” (published 12/10/2023; Eurostat is associated service for the implementation of one issue)

- Special Report 23/2023: “Restructuring and planting vineyards in the EU - Unclear impact on competitiveness and limited environmental ambition” (published 26/09/2023)
- Special Report 24/2023 “Smart cities – Tangible solutions, but fragmentation challenges their wider adoption” (published 30/10/2023)
- Special Report 29/2023 “The EU’s support for sustainable biofuels in transport: an unclear route ahead” (published 13/12/2023; Eurostat is associated service for the implementation of seven issues)
- Review 03/2023: “Transport of live animals in the EU: challenges and opportunities” (published 17/04/2023)
- Review 04/2023: “Digitalising the management of EU funds” (published 06/07/2023)
- Performance audit on road safety
- Performance audit on “Recognition of professional qualifications within the EU”
- Performance audit on industrial policy (semiconductors)
- Performance audit on organic farming
- Review on “Support to traineeships”
- Discharge 2022
- Discharge 2023
- Follow-up of Special Report 05/2020: “Sustainable use of plant protection products limited progress in measuring and reducing risks”

### Efforts to improve the financial management and to reduce the risks:

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

## Economy of controls

The table below presents an overview of cost-effectiveness indicators.

Indicator	Reporting Year				
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023

<b>Expenditure items</b> (grant and procurement transactions)					
(1) Cost of controls related to grants & procurements (k€)	10 522	8 630	8 818	8 376	8 999
(2) DG-horizontal controls related tasks which are not attributable to a single relevant control system (e.g. budget & accounting, internal audit, anti-fraud)	n.a.	1 279	941	1 043	1 074
(3) Total costs = (1) + (2)	10 522	9 909	9 759	9 419	10 073
(4) Total cost of controls of process / total expenditure executed during the year (the payments made for grants and procurements)	11.5%	13.4%	12.6%	8.1%	10.7%

<b>Overall</b> (Cost of controls for expenditure items like grants and procurements as well as cost of controls for non-expenditure items like IT security/data integrity and safeguarding of sensitive information)					
(1) Overall cost of controls (k€)	11 022	10 615	10 365	10 054	10 723
(2) Overall cost of controls / total expenditure executed during the year (payments made for grants and procurements)	12.1%	14.2%	13.4%	8.6%	11.4%

Source: European Commission, Eurostat

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



## Reliability of reporting - Gross National Income (GNI)

The DG of the Commission in charge of the budget (DG Budget) is the authorising service with regard to own resources. However, Eurostat is the Commission service in charge of checking the implementation of the Gross National Income (GNI) Regulation ( ). This entails proposing methods to ensure the reliability, exhaustiveness and comparability of national GNI data, verifying the compilation of those data and directing the work of the GNI Expert Group. Each year, this group adopts an opinion on the appropriateness of the countries' GNI data for own resource purposes with respect to reliability, comparability and exhaustiveness. The division of responsibilities between Eurostat and DG Budget in own resources verification is outlined in a Memorandum of Understanding. It includes good practices regarding GNI reservations, which allow Member States' (and UK's) GNI data to be revised after a cut-off date. The GNI verification work is carried out using a multi-annual verification cycle based on periodic inventories (description of sources and methods used to compile GNI) sent by the countries, as well as an annual verification of GNI questionnaires and reports on the quality underlying the data revisions.

The main indicators used in this activity are presented in Annex 7. These indicators are broken down by input, output and results for the multi-annual and annual verification. They underpin the legality and regularity of underlying transactions concerning own resources based on GNI.

In 2023 the follow-up work on reservations placed on Member States' GNI data concerning the verification cycle 2016-2019 continued and the verification works on the verification cycle 2020-2024 were ongoing.

Countries: EU27+EFTA4+UK

N°	Indicators	2022	2023
<b>Multiannual verification</b>			
<b>Input</b>			
<b>1</b>	Inventories received, including revised versions	31	7
<b>2</b>	Inventories to be checked	31	31
<b>3</b>	Amount of inventory pages to be checked	17.768	17768
<b>4</b>	Number of inventories translated by the Commission, including revised versions	0	0
<b>Output</b>			
<b>5</b>	Number of questions or requests for additional data sent to the countries concerning multiannual verification (including in preparation of the visits)	2.511	3210
<b>6</b>	Missions carried out	10	29
<b>7</b>	Missions carried out with participation of observers from other countries	5	26
<b>8</b>	Number of person-mission days carried out	69	246
	a) Eurostat	61	169
	b) Observers from other countries	8	77
<b>9</b>	Direct verifications	12	37

N°	Indicators	2022	2023
10	Mission reports presented to the GNI Expert Group	7	27
11	Open action points at the end of year	62	322
12	Number of action points and/or reservations on which verification work was carried out during the year	214	235
13	Number of documents presented to the GNI Expert Group relating to the GNI verification process and methodological issues	34	58
<b>Results</b>			
14	Number of general reservations – end of year	1	0
15	Number of transversal reservations – end of year	74	11
16	Number of transaction specific reservations – end of year	64	29
<b>Annual verification of GNI Questionnaires and Reports on Quality</b>			
<b>Input</b>			
17	GNI Questionnaires and Reports on Quality received (first submissions)	31	31
18	Number of revised GNI Questionnaires received in the course of verification (subsequent submissions)	16	16
19	Number of revised Reports on Quality received in the course of verification (subsequent submissions)	33	30
20	Total amount of Reports on Quality pages to be checked (original and subsequent submissions altogether)	1.429	936
21	Number of Reports on Quality translated by the Commission, including revised versions	0	0
<b>Output</b>			
22	Number of questions sent to the countries in the course of verification of the GNI Questionnaires and Reports on Quality	273	229
23	Total number of GNI Questionnaires verified (original and subsequent submissions altogether)	48	48
24	Total number of Reports on Quality verified (original and subsequent submissions altogether)	64	61
25	Answers to DG Budget requests for the GNI OR data	2	2
26	Visits from Court of Auditors	6	4
<b>Results</b>			
27	Number of process-specific reservations – end of year	28	56
28	Number of countries for which a positive opinion of the GNI Expert Group on the appropriateness of the GNI data for own resource purpose has been adopted	28	28
<b>Impact (for both multiannual and annual verification)</b>			
29	Number of countries that revised GNI due to their work on action points and/or reservations	17	11
30	Number of action points and/or reservations that lead to revisions of GNI	45	22



## **ANNEX 8: Specific annexes related to "assessment of the effectiveness of the internal control systems"**

Assessment of the internal control system (section 2.1.3)

The “critical” risk: “Failure to meet continuously increasing requests for new, more timely and more detailed statistics in a fast-changing environment”, is being mitigated in line with the established action plan. Six out of eight mitigating actions have already been implemented by the end of the year 2023. With the revision of Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 a milestone in the mitigation of this risk will be achieved. The Commission adopted the legislative proposal on 10 July 2023 (COM(2023) 402 final). The criticality of the risk was reassessed in January 2024 and the risk level was reduced from 20 to 12 (according to the Commission guidelines on risk management).. Eurostat considers this risk as under control. The effectiveness of IC principle 7 is not endangered.

Eurostat management assessed the effectiveness of the internal control system and its results following the methodology established by DG BUDG in the "Implementation Guide of the Internal Control Framework of the Commission".

In a three-step approach, Eurostat:

1) Established the internal control monitoring indicators including baselines and target values for the reporting year at the end of the year 2022.

2) Established and updated the "Register of Internal Control Strengths and Deficiencies" throughout the year 2023. The following sources have been taken into account:

- Results of the monitoring of the IC indicators;
- Audit findings and recommendations (IAS audits, ECA audits);
- Discharge recommendations;
- Exceptions and non-compliance events;
- Ongoing monitoring of the implementation of control and anti-fraud strategies;
- Results of monitoring of implementation of mitigating and improvement actions related to audits, discharge recommendations, risks and implementation of antifraud strategy;
- Results of the annual verification of access rights to ABAC;
- Significant issues from the yearly dissemination error management report;
- Significant issues disclosed in AOSD declarations at the end of the year 2023.

3) Analysed the recorded entries and, where necessary, reassessed the severity, taking into account for example progress made in the implementation of action plans. The reassessed entries were the basis of the assessment of the principles, the components, and the internal control system as a whole.



## ANNEX 9: Specific annexes related to "Control results" and "Assurance: Reservations"

### 1. Annex related to "Control results" - Table X: Estimated risk at payment and at closure

Table X : Estimated risk at payment and at closure (amounts in EUR mios)

DG ESTAT	Payments made (2023;MEUR)	minus new prefinancing [plus retentions made] (in 2023;MEUR)	plus cleared prefinancing [minus retentions released and deductions of expenditure made by MS] (in 2023;MEUR)	Relevant expenditure (for 2023;MEUR)	Detected error rate or equivalent estimates	Estimated risk at payment (2023;MEUR)	Adjusted Average Recoveries and Corrections (adjusted ARC, %)	Estimated future corrections [and deductions] (for 2023;MEUR)	Estimated risk at Closure (2023;MEUR)
-1	-2	-3	-4	-5	-6	-7	-8	-9	-10
Grants	44,15	- 19,74	18,90	43,31	0,35% - 0,35%	0,15 - 0,15	0,03% - 0,03%	0,01 - 0,01	0,14 - 0,14
Procurements	49,57	- 0,49	0,02	49,09	0,50% - 0,50%	0,25 - 0,25	0,00% - 0,00%	0,00 - 0,00	0,25 - 0,25
Administrative Credits	0,39	0,00	0,00	0,39	0,50% - 0,50%	0,00 - 0,00	0,00% - 0,00%	0,00 - 0,00	0,00 - 0,00
<b>DG total</b>	<b>94,12</b>	<b>- 20,24</b>	<b>18,92</b>	<b>92,80</b>		<b>0,40 - 0,40</b>	<b>0,01% - 0,01%</b>	<b>0,01 - 0,01</b>	<b>0,39 - 0,39</b>
					<b>Overall risk at payment in %</b>	<b>0,43% - 0,43%</b> (7) / (5)		<b>Overall risk at closure in %</b>	<b>0,42% - 0,42%</b> (10) / (5)

## Notes to the table X

(1) Relevant Control Systems differentiated per relevant portfolio segments and at a level which is lower than the total.

(2) Payments made or equivalent, e.g. expenditure registered in the Commission's accounting system, accepted expenditure or cleared pre-financing. In any case, this means after the preventive (ex-ante) control measures have already been implemented earlier in the cycle.

In all cases of Co-Delegations (Internal Rules Article 3), "payments made" are reported by the Delegated departments. For Cross-SubDelegations (Internal Rules Article 12), the reporting remains with the Delegating departments.

(3) New pre-financing actually paid by out by the department itself during the financial year (i.e. excluding any pre-financing received as a transfer from another department). as per note 2.5.1 to the Commission annual accounts thus excluding "Other advances to Member States" which are covered on a purely payment-made basis (note 2.5.2). Pre-financing paid/cleared" are always covered by the Delegated departments, even for Cross-SubDelegations.

Retentions: in Cohesion, the 10% retention applied during the year.

(4) Pre-financing actually cleared during the financial year (i.e. their 'delta' in the Financial Year 'actuals', not their 'cut-off' based estimated 'consumption'). Retentions: in Cohesion, the retentions released during the year by the Commission.

(5) For the purpose of equivalence with the ECA's scope of the EC funds with potential exposure to legality & regularity errors (see the ECA's Annual Report methodological annex 1.1), our concept of "relevant expenditure" includes the payments made, subtracts the new pre-financing paid out, and adds the pre-financing actually cleared during the FY. This is a separate and 'hybrid' concept, intentionally combining elements from the budgetary accounting and from the general ledger accounting.

(6) In this column, we disclose the detected error rates or equivalent estimates.

*For low-risk types of expenditure, where there are indications that the equivalent error rate might be close to 'zero' (e.g. administrative expenditure, operating contributions to agencies), the rate which should be used is 0.5% as a conservative estimate, unless the department has a more precise estimate based on evidence.*

(8) The adjusted average recovery and corrections percentage is *to some extent* based on the 7 years historic Average of Recoveries and financial Corrections (ARC), which is the best available indication of the corrective measures each department applied over the past years as a result of ex post controls. The AOD *has adjusted* this historic average from 0,0279% to 0,0211% to take into account any ex-ante elements, and other factors from the past years that would no longer be relevant for the current programmes (e.g. higher ex-post corrections of previously higher errors in earlier generations of grant programmes, current programmes with entirely ex-ante control systems) or that corresponded to exceptional situations in order to come to the best and most conservative estimate of the ex-post future corrections to be applied to the reporting year's relevant expenditure for the current programmes.

The average amount of the implemented corrections over the past 3 years (2020-2023) is 0,015 (million) euros (0,016% of the average amount of relevant expenditure of that period), compared to an average amount of estimated future corrections during the same period of 0,0091 (million) euros (0,010% of the average amount of relevant expenditure of that period). The deviation of 0,0050 (million) euros between the two averages is considered marginal and can be attributed to the time delayed implementation of recoveries (period shift).

## ANNEX 10: Reporting – Human resources, digital transformation and information management and sound environmental management

### 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

**Indicator 1:** Number and percentage of first female appointments to middle management positions

**Source of data:** Eurostat

Baseline (please indicate the year)	Target	Latest known results (31/12/2023)
2019: 17 out of 31 female middle managers (55%)	2020 - 2022: 2 first female appointments  2023 - 2024: 1 first female appointment	2023 – 2024 target achieved In 2023, 2 first female appointments out of 4 first appointments (50%); Percentage of female representation in middle management positions: 55% end of 2023

**Indicator 2:** Eurostat staff engagement index

**Source of data:** Commission staff survey

Baseline (please indicate the year)	Target	Latest known results (31/12/2023)
2018: 70%	2024: 80%	79%

### Main outputs in 2023:

Description	Indicator	Target	Latest known results
Gender equality at all management levels by the end of 2024	Nomination of Deputies to the Directors (female representation)	55% female representation	Achieved
Gender equality at all management levels by the end of 2024	Use of allocated quota for the Female Talent Development Programme	2	Achieved
Geographical Balance	Interviewing at least one candidate of an under-represented Member State per vacant TA or CA position at AD level	1	Achieved
Meetings of Top/Senior management with staff (including meetings with newcomers)	Number of meetings	Minimum 3 per year	Achieved

Description	Indicator	Target	Latest known results
Implementation of local HR strategy and of the equality action plan	HR plan 2023 and equality action plan – actions to be implemented in 2023	All actions implemented at the end of 2023	Achieved
Publication of regular, topical and informative intranet items for Eurostat staff	Number of daily items	Minimum of 3 per day	Achieved

## 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

**Indicator 1:** Degree of implementation of the European Commission Digital Strategy:

**Source of data:** Eurostat

Baseline (please indicate the year)	Target	Latest known results (31/12/2023)
2019 : MDT : 56% DISSCHAIN : 75% GSAST : 56%	2023 : MDT : 63% DISSCHAIN : 80% GSAST : 61%	2023 : MDT : 63% DISSCHAIN : 80% GSAST : 70%

**Indicator 2:** Percentage of Eurostat's key data assets for which corporate principles for data governance have been implemented

**Source of data:** Eurostat's data correspondent and its support in unit B4

Baseline (please indicate the year)	Target	Latest known results (31/12/2023)
2019: 75%	2022: 85% 2024: 90%	Achieved (85%)

**Indicator 3:** Percentage of staff attending awareness raising activities on data protection compliance

**Source of data:** Eurostat

Baseline (please indicate the year)	Target	Latest known results (31/12/2023)
2018: 25%	2022: 75% 2024: 100%	Achieved (85%)

### Main outputs in 2023:

Description	Indicator	Target	Latest known results
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%	Achieved

Modernising the management and dissemination of statistical classifications	Number of Eurostat classifications exposed as Linked Open Data	15	Achieved
Modernising the management and dissemination of statistical classifications	Number of index entries clarifying borderline issues between different 'classes' in the NACE classification	130	Achieved
Improved access to structural metadata for data exchange	Data structures used in data exchange for which the SDMX 3.0 standard will be implemented	100%	Achieved
IT risk assessment and security plans for Eurostat information systems	Number of Eurostat information systems without an IT risk assessment and security plan with less than 1 year of validity	<1	Achieved
Protection of sensitive non-classified data in Eurostat Information systems	Number of external-facing information systems handling sensitive non-classified data in Eurostat not using multi-factor authentication	<1	Achieved
Adoption of cloud-ready technologies	Percentage of Eurostat IS using technologies and practices (DevSecOps) suitable for a cloud migration	>50%	Achieved
Migration to WELCOME domain	Percentage of Eurostat users migrated to the new WELCOME domain	>80%	Achieved (98% rate exceeded by the end of December)
Modernised platform for statistical data production, featuring increased levels of security and automation	Number of pilots performed with statistical domains	2	Achieved

Deployment of the 'Reference IT Architecture for Statistical Data Production	% of Eurostat statistical datasets covered	55%	Achieved
Census Hub 2021	Number of NSIs linked for Census data	20	Achieved  (CENSUS HUB tool is available for all NSIs)
Upgrade of SDMX tooling to SDMX 3.0	% of structural metadata in SDMX 3.0	100%	Achieved
Compulsory training programme to raise staff awareness of data protection	% of staff having followed at least one basic data protection course	85%	Achieved
Enhancing staff skills and competences for effective use of data, information and knowledge, particularly related to the Data Management activities including reporting	Number of key data stakeholders within DG trained upon EC Data platform supported tools portfolio, such as power BI, R, python, cloud services	10	Achieved

## EMAS

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

**Indicator 1:** Number of EMAS announcements sent through Cybernews

**Source of data:** Eurostat (Cybernews)

Baseline  
(please indicate the year)

2019: 16

Target

2022: Increase

2024: Increase

Latest known results  
(31/12/2023)

Achieved

(22)

**Indicator 2:** Number of environmental suggestions received through the Eurostat EMAS network, the Eurostat EMAS mailbox or the EMAS correspondent mailbox

**Source of data:** Eurostat (several mailboxes)

Baseline  
(please indicate the year)

Target

Latest known results  
(31/12/2023)

2019: 3	2022: Increase 2024: Increase	Achieved  (16)
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### Main outputs in 2023:

Description	Indicator	Target	Latest known results
More efficient use of resources:  Limitation of the number of printed publications	Number of printed publications	No more than 500 prints per Flagship/Key figures publication	Achieved
More efficient use of resources:  Staff awareness actions/messages on reducing energy, paper and water consumption	Number of actions sharing/exchanging good practices	2 actions	Achieved
Reducing CO2, equivalent CO2 and other atmospheric emissions:  Eurostat's hierarchy and staff is informed of the carbon accounting system and carbon footprint results for Eurostat	Updated carbon footprint results	November 2023	Achieved
Reducing CO2, equivalent CO2 and other atmospheric emissions:  Optimise and gradually reduce CO2 emissions from missions (e.g. by reducing the number of missions, optimising the number of participants in the same mission, promoting more sustainable travelling options, promoting videoconferencing/	Greenhouse gas emissions from missions	50% greenhouse gas emissions reduction from missions in the DG compared to 2019	Achieved

virtual events as an alternative to missions)			
<p>Reducing CO2, equivalent CO2 and other atmospheric emissions:</p> <p>Staff awareness actions/messages on reducing carbon emissions, e.g. from commuting</p>	Number of actions sharing/exchanging good practices	2 actions	Achieved
<p>Reducing CO2, equivalent CO2 and other atmospheric emissions:</p> <p>Staff awareness of digital pollution and gradual change of behaviours avoiding 'heavy' emails, encouraging the use of ICT platforms, avoiding unnecessary storage of data</p>	Number of actions sharing/exchanging good practices	1 action	Achieved
<p>Reducing and management of waste:</p> <p>Organise a zero-waste webinar</p>	Number of staff participating in the webinar	30	Achieved
<p>Reducing and management of waste:</p> <p>Staff awareness actions/messages on waste or improving waste recycling</p>	Number of actions sharing/exchanging good practices	2 actions	Achieved
<p>Promoting green public procurement:</p> <p>Staff awareness actions to promote green public procurement (e.g. promoting 'green items' among EC office supplies' catalogue or</p>	Number of actions/messages promoting green procurement	1 action	Achieved



promoting the activities of the GPP Helpdesk)			
Supporting biodiversity Staff awareness actions to promote biodiversity	Number of actions/messages promoting biodiversity	1 action	Achieved

## **ANNEX 11: Implementation through national or international public-sector bodies and bodies governed by private law with a public sector mission**

Not applicable

## **ANNEX 12: EAMR of the Union Delegations**

Not applicable

## **ANNEX 13: Decentralised agencies and/or EU Trust Funds**

Not applicable

## **ANNEX 14: Reporting on the Recovery and Resilience Facility**

Not applicable.