

Eurostat- The Statistical Office of the European Union

<http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/>

Eurostat's mission is to provide the European Union with a high-quality statistical information service.

Eurostat is the statistical office of the European Union situated in Luxembourg. Its task is to provide the European Union with statistics at European level that enable comparisons between countries and regions.

Eurostat was established in 1953 to meet the requirements of the Coal and Steel Community. Over the years its task has broadened and when the European Community was founded in 1958 it became a Directorate-General (DG) of the European Commission. Eurostat's key role is to supply statistics to other DGs and supply the Commission and other European Institutions with data so they can define, implement and analyse Community policies.

Role of Eurostat

With the development of Community policies, Eurostat's role has changed. Today, collecting data for European Monetary Union and developing statistical systems in candidate countries for EU membership are more important than ten years ago.

Eurostat's main role is to process and publish comparable statistical information at European level. We try to arrive at a common statistical 'language' that embraces concepts, methods, structures and technical standards.

Eurostat does not collect data. This is done in Member States by their statistical authorities. They verify and analyse national data and send them to Eurostat. Eurostat's role is to consolidate the data and ensure they are comparable, using harmonized methodology. Eurostat is actually the only provider of statistics at European level and the data we issue are harmonized as far as possible.

One example: for an accurate picture of EU unemployment it is important that unemployed people in Finland or Portugal are counted or measured in the same way as in Ireland or Germany. So Eurostat works with Member States to define common methodology on unemployment or asks Member States to include appropriate questions when gathering national data. These EU data are then sent to Eurostat so we can publish EU-wide unemployment data, which can then be used to compare unemployment rates between countries.

With the birth of the euro there is a need to measure the development of Economic and Monetary Union (EMU). The euro is the single currency for EMU and is compared with other currencies such as the dollar and yen. This has fuelled the harmonization of methodology between Member States. Just as there is one inflation rate and one GDP rate for the USA, Eurostat now publishes economic indicators for the whole euro-zone.

Organisation

As one of the Directorates-General of the European Commission, Eurostat is headed by a Director-General assisted by a Deputy Director General and seven Directors responsible for different sectors of Eurostat activities:

- Cooperation in the European Statistical System; Resources
- Quality, methodology and information systems
- National and European Accounts
- External cooperation, communication and key indicators
- Sectoral and regional statistics
- Social and information society statistics
- Business statistics

http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/pls/portal/!PORTAL.wwpob_page.show?_docname=2148260.PDF

Staff and budget

In 2009 there are around 900 posts in Eurostat. Of these, 73% are occupied by officials, 8% by experts from Member States and another 19% are occupied by other staff.

The operational budget allocated to Eurostat in 2008 amounted to 45.2 million €. This budget was used for the implementation of the Community Statistical Programme.

In addition to its own budget, Eurostat received subdelegated credits from other DGs, which amounted to 18.5 million € in 2008.

Key Milestones

1953 The Statistics Division for the Coal and Steel Community established.

1958 The European Community founded and the forerunner of Eurostat established.

1959 The present name of Eurostat as the Statistical Office of the European Communities adopted. First publication issued - on agricultural statistics.

1960 First Community Labour Force Survey.

1970 The European System of Integrated Economic Accounts (ESA) published and the general industrial classification of economic activities (NACE) established.

1974 First domain in the Cronos databank installed.

1988 European Commission adopts a document defining the first policy for statistical information.

1989 The Statistical Programme Committee established and the first programme (1989-1992) adopted by the Council as an instrument for implementing statistical information policy

1990 The Council adopts a directive on transmission of confidential data to Eurostat, previously an obstacle to Community statistical work.

1991 Eurostat's role extended as a result of the agreement on establishment of the European Economic Area and adoption of the Maastricht Treaty.

1992 Statistical Programme 1993-1997 adopted.

1993 The single market extends Eurostat's activities eg Intrastat established for statistics on intra-EU trade. Eurostat starts issuing regular news releases.

1994 First European household panel held, analysing income, employment, poverty, social exclusion, households, health etc.

1997 Statistics added for the first time to the Treaty of Amsterdam and the Statistical Law approved by the Council. Harmonised Indices of Consumer Prices published for the first time - designed for EMU convergence criteria.

1998 The 11 countries in at the start of EMU (EUR-11) announced and Eurostat issues the first indicators specific to the EMU area. Statistical programme 1998-2002 adopted.

1999 Start of EMU, 1st January 2001 Greece joins to euro-zone,

2002 Start of the euro on 1st January, Eurostat supplies key statistics for monetary policy. Statistical programme 2003-2007 adopted.

2004 Start of free of charge dissemination of all statistical data except microdata for research purposes.

2005 Commission Recommendation on the independence, integrity and accountability of the national and Community statistical authorities ([European Statistics Code of Practice](#))

2005 Start of a three year peer review exercise across the European Statistical System to check the compliance with the Code of Practice

2007 The currently valid 5 years Statistical Programme 2008-2012 was adopted

2009 New European Regulation governing the statistical cooperation in the European Union was adopted

An overview of the first 50 years of Eurostat is given at the following publication
http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/product_details/publication?p_product_code=KS-49-02-183