

## **1. Purpose**

The European Network for Better Establishment Statistics (ENBES) is dedicated to improving cooperation and sharing knowledge on theory, methodology, practices within European establishment statistics. Establishment statistics is statistics about - and for - businesses and other forms of corporate units.

ENBES invites professionals from official statistics, academia and private sector to join activities aimed at advancing the state of the art of the field, as well as at promoting the theory and best practice that leads to more efficient and consistent methods in establishment statistics production.

ENBES stands for a holistic approach to the field of establishment statistics. It promotes an examination of all aspects in the chain of production: questionnaire design, editing, estimation, and so on. Only using such an approach can a proper balance of efforts and costs be reached, enabling high quality production of establishment statistics.

ENBES acts through workshops, internet-mediated activities, as well as other suitable forms of cooperation. ENBES ensures its viability by identifying and establishing contacts with neighbouring domains of relevance for establishment statistics.

ENBES values active engagement by participants, while respecting any differences in opinion and engagement. ENBES values being open and respectful while exploring the views of others. Group decisions are based as much as possible on consensus, where consensus is defined as “the absence of sustained opposition” after open debate and discussion have been conducted. ENBES values a climate for innovation and empowerment of the individual.

## **2. How ENBES operates**

1. The main forms of activities through which ENBES fulfils its purpose are workshops, seminars and internet-mediated activities. All are oriented towards a broad range of professionals from official statistics, academia and private sector (stakeholders) who can contribute to the field of methods, theories and applications for European establishment statistics.

2. Workshops are organised regularly with a biennial interval, addressing all the stakeholders, and covering topics leading to fulfilment of ENBES’s purpose. Workshops aim to be cost-neutral for participants and organisers.

3. Seminars are generally one-day events, dedicated to a subset of topics of establishment statistics. They are aimed to address a somewhat wider audience than the workshops. That may include users as well as those government, academic, private sector or other types of branches currently not involved in ENBES. The purpose is to disseminate best methods and practices as well as expand ENBES in a particular geographic area or towards a specific set of potential stakeholders. Seminars are in general organised so that participation carries a fee.
4. Internet-mediated activities take relevant forms of modern communication, such as: a dedicated web site (with possibilities for a repository of documents), a newsletter, and collaborative activities.
5. There is an ongoing activity of expanding ENBES by identifying European professionals and initiatives related to establishment statistics and actively supporting ways to cooperate with these professionals and initiatives (the seminars in § 3 being one such way).
6. ENBES activities are coordinated by a Steering Committee (SC)
  - SC consists of between six and ten members; among them, one is elected to chair the SC,
  - SC should be composed of members of all types of ENBES stakeholders (official statistics, academia and private sector), have a sufficient geographic spread, as well as strive for a gender balance,
  - SC is replenished on a regular basis, optimally in conjunction with a workshop occasion; in that way, continuity of the SC is secured,
  - in order to fulfil its purpose, SC tasks in an appropriate way its members with the three main ENBES activities; this may include setting up working groups that involve other professionals outside the SC; in order to help ensure that a main activity is carried out with high competence, ENBES SC may maintain a guide/check list of practices by which the activity is carried out; working groups report to the SC,
  - SC decides with a simple majority of present members, except for more important decisions (e.g. changes in purpose statement, operation model, or working group task descriptions; deciding on location for the workshop, web resource use, etc) where majority of all members should be sought; in general, consensus should be strived for.
7. ENBES does not carry any implication of formal membership. Membership, in a loose sense, is achieved through participation in ENBES activities. Only professionals (individuals) with significant interest in establishment statistics may be ENBES members.

8. The SC strives to continuously seek input from the members on content and forms of ENBES activity; especially, during the workshops a session is organised (an “ENBES session”) to obtain this input and evaluate SC performance in the period since the preceding workshop.

9. In order to facilitate financial and similar transactions, ENBES may have an administrative host. In such a case, the SC will elect a Treasurer among its members. Use of finances must be approved by the SC. In communicating use of finances to the administrative host, the Treasurer will refer to a SC decision, as well as include the SC chair in the communication, implying approval by both the SC Chair and the Treasurer of the transaction that the host is to carry out.

### **3. Working group on workshops (WGW)**

General goal is to plan and carry out scientific and – together with the local host – organisational aspects of the next round of a European Establishment Statistics Workshop (EESW).

EESWs are carried out biennially.

An EESW aims at cost-neutrality: participation is free of charge but participants bear their own costs related to participation (travel, accommodation, meals); host organisation is expected to provide a locale in which to hold the workshop.

Among the specific tasks of the working group are those to:

- a) engage an organisation to host the EESW and agree on a location for it,
- b) plan the format of the workshop (length, composition (papers, panels, posters, etc), based on evaluation of the previous rounds,
- c) compose a call for papers (CFP) starting from the current forefront of research and application in methods for production of establishment (businesses, etc) statistics,
- d) plan distribution of the CFP and follow it up, so that a proper coverage is achieved,
- e) evaluate submissions on the basis of their scientific contribution, practical usefulness, and balance with respect to types of stakeholders of ENBES (official statistics, academia, private sector), geography and other relevant aspects,

- f) ensure, together with the working group on electronic cooperation, that identification of topics for electronic cooperation is initiated at the workshop, through the activity of “small group discussions” or similar,
- g) plan and carry out the workshop,
- h) include holding an “ENBES session” (§ 8 of Section 2) in the workshop,
- i) evaluate the workshop.

#### **4. Working group on electronic cooperation (WGC)**

General goal is to enable and support spreading of information, networking and cooperation within ENBES in periods between the workshops. That is, it is a complement to EESW, with sufficient differences to warrant existence in its own right.

Activities here include:

- a) scientific repository for EESW and if feasible other related activities,
- b) organisational repository (preservation of the “know-how”) for ENBES and EESW,
- c) better overview of events and activities within the scope of ENBES through a calendar and a content related to that,
- d) help initiate and support cooperation within ENBES in specific domains of establishment statistics (where the cooperation does not yet exist within other forms of activities),
- e) ensure, together with the working group on workshops, that identification of topics for electronic cooperation is addressed at the workshop, through the activity of “small group discussions”,
- f) maintenance of a list of contacts, to be used for spreading information about ENBES activities (newsletters, invitations, etc),
- g) other activities leading to the main goals above.

#### **5. Working group on network expansion (WGE)**

A starting point for the activity of this working group is the realisation that, while ENBES’ purpose identifies three different main types of stakeholders (official statistics, academic

organisations, private sector), there might be an imbalance in favour of one of the stakeholder groups at any given moment; in some cases, strong underrepresentation even within particular groups might exist (as an example among many, even if official statistics is present through national statistical institutes, national banks might be missing).

General goal is to enable expansion of ENBES by identifying other than the current stakeholders, and seeing to that these are actively invited to take part in ENBES activities (workshops, online cooperation, participation in ENBES steering committee and working groups).

WGE coordinates organisation of seminars (§ 3 of Section 2), in cooperation with local organisers. Target group(s), location, topic and speakers for the seminar should be selected with the purpose of expansion in mind, from the perspective of establishing a “win-win” situation for ENBES and the potential new stakeholders.

*This document was adopted by the ENBES Steering Committee on January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2014, through electronic vote.*