



Unit ESTAT B5 : Management of statistical
data and metadata

Meeting document

TF-2014-4

**TASK FORCE MEETING
ON IMPLEMENTATION OF
METADATA STANDARDS
Luxembourg, 7 - 8 October
2014
BECH Building, Room B2/404**

ITEM 4 OF THE AGENDA

ESS metadata standard for Inventories

Update of the work on the development of a metadata standard for the collections of detailed methodological information, so called Inventories from countries

Draft 29.09.2014

1. Conclusions Task Force meeting on implementation of metadata standards 14-15 May 2014

In the meeting on 14-15th May 2014 members of the Task Force on MIP and Unit D4 from Eurostat presented a proposal for a new ESS metadata structure aiming at standardising the collections of detailed methodological information from countries for the statistical processes needed for the Macroeconomic Imbalances Procedures. The so-called Inventories of sources and methods shall focus on the statistical processing itself, not on the statistical products and are therefore needed in addition to ESMS and ESQRS which are covering more of the statistical outputs.

The Task Force concluded that the drafted structure for these ESS-INV needs to be mapped to GSBPM and EPMS. In particular, a mapping to SIMS is required in order to avoid repetitions/overlaps of concepts. Furthermore, additional concepts, e.g. concerning data transmission, coverage of the data source, structure of the data, validation rules when reception of the data from the source (input validation) might be considered.

2. Work progress

The mainly content related perspective with expertise in MIP statistical processes was arranged with the standards point of view, with the consideration that SIMS should be “the master” and from there concepts may be derived for the different report structures.

The drafts of the contents and structure of ESS INV take into account

- already existing and established domain specific reporting procedures for Inventories of the methods, procedures and sources;
- the comments of the TF members, session 14-15 May 2014;
- relationships and mappings to SIMS (and ESMS/ESQRS), GSBPM and EPMS.

The general structure of ESS-INV is modified in the sense of an alignment to SIMS while a lot of sub-concepts have been merged in order to avoid redundancy and keep it as generic as possible. For instance regarding the sub-concept “Source data”: many concepts are merged according to the different types of data sources that may be consulted in a statistical process. The sub-concepts request then detailed information like type of information, authorities providing; type of transactions etc. because different information to these data sources and the characteristics of their data supply need to be discussed.

The focus of ESS-INV should be on statistical processing as core-concepts thus the sub-set of output quality concepts is not introduced in the new draft. Only process quality concepts “Cost and burden”, “Data revision” and “Confidentiality” were included. Basically, the new draft for ESS-INV suggests the introduction of 27 new sub-concepts to SIMS.

As regards the broader framework SIMS, concepts that are reused from SIMS are kept as they were, i.e. name and description and mainly also guidelines were not modified. Guidelines were only adjusted when a breakdown of further detailed sub-concepts was introduced in order to avoid repetitions and overlaps.

The upcoming alignment of ESMS, ESQRS and SIMS in total were considered as well:

- “Statistical presentation” is the first concept discussing contents to the output;
- “Accessibility and clarity” instead of “Dissemination format, accessibility and clarity”.

ESS-INV was mapped to GSBPM (version 5.0 December 2013) while the distinction of processes and output-related information objects were taken into consideration. All sub-processes of GSBPM are covered by sub-concepts and many sub-concepts are mapped to multiple sub-processes, but are not split into sub-concepts on a lower level in order to merge what can be merged and keep it generic.

EPMS on the other hand is indeed relatively Eurostat centric. With a certain degree of flexibility both ESS-INV was mapped to EPMS. No alignment of ESS-INV to EPMS was undertaken, though.

3. Questions to the Task Force

At its meeting of 7 – 8 Oct 2014, the Task Force is invited to

- discuss the work progress, i.e. changes in structure and contents of concepts and provide suggestions for improvements;
- discuss the appropriateness and conclusions of the maps ESS-INV to SIMS, EPMS, GSBPM;
- discuss the appropriate name for the new metadata structure.