

Improving the quality of the statistics underlying the MIP indicators

**– Road map –
(Final, 28 May 2014)**

Background

The work-programme adopted by the European Statistical Forum (ESF) in November 2013 requires the CMFB to develop by spring 2014 a road map for further work by the European Statistical System (ESS) and the European System of Central Banks (ESCB) to enhance the relevant quality frameworks on the statistics underlying the MIP indicators¹. The road map is developed on the basis of the CMFB report on the quality of the statistics underlying the MIP indicators.

This road map would also provide a response by the ESS and the ESCB to the ECOFIN Council requests of November 2011 and 2012 to work together on improving the quality and comparability of the statistics underlying the MIP indicators.

Road map for enhancing the quality frameworks on statistics underling the MIP

In the light of the CMFB report on the quality of MIP statistics, the CMFB has developed a road map including the following actions:

1. **ESS-ESCB communication/work-programme on quality assurance of the statistics underlying the MIP:** As requested by the ESF in November 2013, Eurostat and the ECB will prepare a draft ESS-ESCB communication to explain, what the ESS and the ESCB are doing to further enhance quality of the statistics supporting the MIP process, where needed. This communication would be addressed to the Economic and Financial Committee (EFC), which requested in October 2013 an ESS-ESCB work-programme to ensure the reliability and comparability of the MIP statistics, in a timely manner. It would be part of the set of documents related to official statistics for the EFC within the regular autumn 2014 statistical package. The ESS-ESCB communication/work programme will be based on the sample draft included as annex 6 ‘Quality assurance of the statistics underlying the MIP – ESS/ESCB work-programme’ of the CMFB report.

Responsible: *ESF upon a draft of Eurostat and the ECB;*

Timeline: *Mid-June 2014 for the draft communication to be submitted to the CMFB Plenary in July; beginning September 2014 for the final draft text to be submitted to the ESF meeting.*

¹ Please refer to item 1 of the 2014 CMFB operational work programme.

2. **ESS-ESCB Quality Assessment Report on MIP Statistics:** Eurostat and the ECB will initiate a draft of an ESS-ESCB Quality Assessment Report on MIP Statistics, which will be endorsed by CMFB. This report would largely be based on domain specific statistical quality reports prepared by the ESS and the ESCB and required under Union legislation. It should reflect actions at national and/or at European level to improve the quality and comparability of MIP statistics that have to be implemented over time through the respective ESS-ESCB structures or through the CMFB for cross cutting actions and should be published at regular intervals. A sample draft of such a report is included as annex 4 ‘ESS-ESCB Quality Assessment Report on MIP Statistics’ of the CMFB report. Existing communication channels on the quality of MIP relevant statistics may be used including the EPC report as part of the regular autumn statistical package. This assessment does not replace any responsibility of the Commission (Eurostat) under Regulation No. 1176/2009.

Responsible: *Eurostat, the ECB and CMFB;*

Timeline: *1st draft August 2014 to be submitted to the CMFB in a written procedure – submission to the EFC in October and publication in autumn 2014.*

3. **National templates on statistical quality and processes.** The CMFB should develop structured templates for providing information on quality, the methodology and the statistical processes used for the compilation of the statistics underlying the MIP indicators. This information is partly described in the quality reports, quality declarations and inventories prepared by national compilers. The templates should be based on the principles laid down in the ESS Code of Practice and the ESCB Public Commitment documentation and should include the main sources, the core elements of the statistical compilation processes and relevant quality indicators. They should be concise in order not to overburden the members of the two statistical systems with administrative tasks that could put too much strain on already limited resources. They should also coordinate with existing initiatives, for example in the context of the Eurostat pilot project. The templates should aim at, first, being easily understood by the users and, second, assuring comparability among countries. They should also provide input to Eurostat and the ECB for their tasks. Annex 2 ‘*Reflections on the assessment of quality in MIP: the Role and Structure of Quality Reports in MIP – Building upon Existing Frameworks and Information*’ and annex 3 ‘*First ideas for a template for a quality declaration/inventory for statistics underlying MIP headline indicators*’ of the CMFB report provide a basis for such templates.

Responsible: *CMFB.*

Timeline: *1st draft with concrete examples from balance of payments and international investment position statistics for the January 2015 CMFB meeting.*

4. **Gradual review of domain specific statistical quality reports prepared by the ESS and the ESCB in their fields of competence for statistics underlying the MIP under Union legislation.**

To support the identification of actions to improve the quality and comparability of the statistics supporting the MIP, the content of the domain specific statistical quality reports could be reviewed to incorporate, where needed, quality principles particularly relevant for MIP purposes. The review may also offer the opportunity to further align the domain specific statistical quality reports produced by the two statistical systems. For this reason, the ESF could discuss at its November 2014 meeting an issue note outlining a concrete way forward in this area.

Responsible: *Eurostat and the ECB to prepare an issue note for ESF 2014 meeting;*

Timeline: *end-2016.*

5. **Formalisation of ESS-ESCB practical arrangements to enhance the quality and comparability of MIP statistics.** There is a need for close cooperation between Eurostat and ECB given that MIP indicators are supported by European statistics produced by both the ESS and the ESCB. Therefore the practical arrangements between the two systems to improve the quality and comparability of the statistics should be documented.

Responsible: *Eurostat and the ECB;*

Timeline: *For the CMFB meeting in July 2014: A first document describing the elements to be included in the process documentation.*