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Directorate F: Social statistics
Unit F-5: Education, health and social protection

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Item 9.2 – Implementation of the Continuing Vocational Training Survey (CVTS)

**Meeting of the
Education and Training Statistics Working Group
Luxembourg, 16-17th June 2015
BECH Building – Room AMPERE**

Executive summary

This document informs on the availability of anonymised microdata for scientific purposes for the Continuing Vocational Training Survey 4 (CVTS 4) and on progress on the EU quality report. For CVTS 5 (reference year 2015), it informs on the adoption of the implementing regulation and on the availability of the CVTS 5 implementation manual. For CVTS beyond 2015, it describes the work undertaken on a possible streamlining of CVT requirements into the Labour Cost Survey (LCS) and its negative outcomes. The way forward in the context of the Framework Regulation Integrating Business Statistics (FRIBS) is also touched.

The ETS Working Group is invited to take note and comment the following:

- *CVTS 4: availability of anonymised microdata;*
- *CVTS 5: adoption of Commission Regulation (EU) No 1153/2014, availability of the implementation manual; information on national planning;*
- *CVTS beyond 2015: negative outcomes of the investigations of a possible streamlining of CVT requirements into the Labour Cost Survey (LCS), planned integration of CVTS into the Framework Regulation Integrating Business Statistics (FRIBS).*

1 CVTS 4 (reference year 2010)

1.1 Anonymised microdata for scientific purposes

The Continuing Vocational Training Survey (CVTS) is identified as one of the surveys being eligible for microdata access for scientific purposes¹. The anonymisation method for CVTS 4 microdata had been approved in general by the Education and Training Statistics Working Group (ETS WG) at its meeting in June 2014². Moreover the expert Group on Statistical Disclosure Control was consulted on the proposed method but had no further comments.

Countries were invited to sign the bilateral agreement concerning the anonymisation methods relating to CVTS 4 data and the country's participation in the EU dataset in July 2014. 21 countries agreed to participate in the EU dataset (see Table 1).

Further information on access to microdata for scientific purposes is available here: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/microdata/overview>. The anonymisation method for CVTS 4 is also publicly available in [CIRCABC](#).

¹ For details see [Commission Regulation \(EU\) No 557/2013](#) on access to confidential data for scientific purposes.

² For details see Doc 2014-ETS-05.

Table 1: Participation in CVTS 4 anonymised microdata for scientific purposes

Country	Participation	Country	Participation
BE	Y	LU	Y
BG	Y	HU	Y
CZ	Y	MT	Y
DK	Y	NL	N*
DE	Y	AT	N
EE	Y	PL	Y
EL	No reply	PT	Y
ES	Y	RO	Y
FR	Y	SI	N
HR	N	SK	Y
IT	No reply	FI	Y
CY	Y	SE	Y
LV	No reply	UK	Y
LT	Y	NO	Y

* Access to the Dutch CVTS 4 microdata is possible via the “Dutch remote access”, for details see <http://www.cbs.nl/en-GB/menu/informatie/beleid/zelf-onderzoeken/default.htm>

Note: no CVTS 4 data available for IE, CH and IS.

1.2 EU quality report

A first draft of the EU quality report for CVTS 4 is under preparation. It is planned to send the final draft to the CVTS network for comments in July or August.

2 CVTS 5 (reference year 2015)

2.1 Commission Regulation for CVTS 2015

At the last ETS WG meeting, Eurostat informed on the consultation process for the draft Commission Regulation for CVTS 5³. After consultation of the ETS WG and the Directors of Social Statistics (DSS) the draft had passed the European System Statistical Committee (ESSC) in May 2014 and was then forwarded to the European Parliament and to the Council for the right of scrutiny period (3 months). The draft was adopted by the Commission on 29 October 2014 as [Commission Regulation \(EU\) No 1153/2014](#).

Please note that Commission Regulation (EU) No 1153/2014 is an amendment of Commission Regulation (EC) No 198/2006, i.e. Commission Regulation (EU) No 1153/2014 replaces annexes I, II, III and V to Regulation (EC) No 198/2006; otherwise [Regulation \(EC\) No 198/2006](#) is still valid.

³ See Doc 2014-ETS-05.

2.2 Implementation of CVTS 5

CVTS 5 network

In July 2014, the ETS WG was asked to provide the name(s) of the person(s) responsible for CVTS 5. Each country nominated one or several contact persons. Several consultations and exchanges of information within the network have already taken place (e.g. for the manual and for the implementation monitoring table). The list of contact persons is updated whenever a country notifies Eurostat on a change in contact person(s).

CVTS 5 implementation manual

A first draft of the CVTS 5 implementation manual and its annexes was sent to the CVTS 5 network in December 2014 for comments. Various valuable comments and suggestions were received from the members of the CVTS 5 network which helped to improve the draft. A first consolidated version (version 1) of the manual and its annexes were uploaded in CIRCABC on 23 March 2015. The manual contains the European standard questionnaire, concepts and definitions and survey guidelines. The annexes provide the code book as well as additional methodological information.

Information on the following is still to be added to the manual and its annexes:

- Validation (checking) rules: the rules have been sent to the CVTS 5 network in May for possible comments. The validation software (EDIT) should be available to countries after the summer break for the latest.
- Standard control tables need to be adapted but will be similar to the ones used for CVTS 4.
- National quality reports: these will have to be submitted via the ESS Metadata Handler for the first time. It is planned to provide all necessary details for the quality reports before the end of 2015.

Overview file on national planning

Almost all countries provided information on the (tentative) national planning of the various phases of the implementation of CVTS 5. For further details see Annex I (Excel file).

3 CVTS beyond 2015

The DSS in November 2013 supported a two-step approach whereby an alternative approach for CVT data collection beyond 2015 should be further investigated. More precisely the DSS asked that further methodological work should be undertaken in view of a possible streamlining with the Labour Cost Survey (LCS). At the ESSC in May 2014 a number of countries reiterated the opinion that the second step should indeed be built up with the intention of repealing the existing CVTS legislation after CVTS 2015.

3.1 Streamlining of CVT requirements into the LCS

Eurostat proposal

Since the last meeting of the ETS WG the feasibility of using the LCS for the provision of CVT cost indicators was further investigated. Based on the work of the previous CVTS Task Force (2011-2013) and further investigations, Eurostat presented a proposal for testing some CVT variables in the LCS to the Labour Market Statistics Working Group (LAMAS WG) in October 2014⁴. This document outlined the requirements for a possible testing (pilot data collection) of some variables on CVT through the LCS.

Firstly, the document described the CVT cost indicators to be constructed and the consequences for the LCS 2016 data collection. In order to derive the relevant CVT cost indicators from LCS, the adequate coverage of CVT course costs in LCS would need to be evaluated and the LCS variables to be complemented accordingly. Moreover additional variables on CVT course participants and training hours would need to be collected through the LCS in order to allow the calculation of relevant CVT cost indicators from the LCS.

Secondly, the document proposed a strategy for the pilot testing according to which the regular LCS data provision should not be disturbed by the testing of CVT requirements and that at least five countries should take part in the pilot testing. Furthermore it was suggested that the technical specifications for the pilot testing should be developed by a new joint CVTS/LCS Task Force.

Opinion of the LAMAS WG

The LAMAS WG expressed an overall very negative opinion on Eurostat's proposal and was not in favour of moving towards an integration of the CVT cost indicators into LCS. The proposed testing would be too time consuming and was not considered to be promising in view of the large methodological differences between the two surveys (especially for issues related to local unit vs. enterprise), the use of administrative data for LCS (which do not provide the requested CVT information) and the expected negative impact on the quality of the LCS. Only four countries indicated that they were interested in the proposed testing.

Apart from the issues raised by countries, there is a concern on the timetable: results from 2016 testing would only become available by mid-2018, i.e. too late for preparing the necessary legal acts for LCS and CVTS 2020. Another issue arises from the differences in periodicity: according to current legislation, LCS is a 4-yearly survey and CVTS a 5-yearly one.

Last but not least the testing would only concern CVT cost indicators but leave open the question how to ensure the provision of data on CVT characteristics and strategies. Several countries were of the opinion that data on CVT characteristics and strategies as well as data on CVT cost indicators should ideally be collected from the same source.

⁴ The document is publicly available in [CIRCABC](#) (path: CIRCABC > Eurostat > Labour Market Statistics Working Group > Library > statistics_working > 2014 > 2. 14-15 October (Section B_ LMI) > 2. Documents

Opinion of the DSS

At the DSS meeting in February 2015, Eurostat presented the opinion expressed by the LAMAS WG on a possible pilot data collection of some CVT variables in the LCS 2016 as well as Eurostat's conclusions in this respect and asked the DSS for guidance of the further orientation of the work⁵.

The DSS agreed that the full integration of the CVT cost indicators into the LCS is not an option. Rather further work to simplify CVTS should be done instead when preparing each CVTS wave (every 5 years), i.e. through an ad-hoc screening of the policy needs in the context of a given wave while allowing full flexibility to countries for the organisation of the CVTS data collection (i.e. stand-alone, based on a subsample of LCS or linked to any other business survey, using administrative data where appropriate)⁶.

3.2 Way forward: integration into FRIBS (Framework Regulation Integrating Business Statistics)

At the same meeting of the DSS in February 2015 the future of social statistics collected from business surveys was discussed. These "Business Based Social Statistics" (BBSS) include:

- Aggregated data for quarterly Job Vacancy Statistics ('JVS'), quarterly Labour Cost Index ('LCI') and 4-yearly Labour Cost Survey ('LCS');
- Microdata for the 4-yearly Structure of Earnings Survey ('SES') and for the 5-yearly Continuing Vocational Training Survey ('CVTS').

There is a general need to review the legislation for these five data collections, and this could be either done in the context of FRIBS (Framework Regulation Integrating Business Statistics) or in the context of the modernisation of social statistics (MSS)⁷.

The DSS considered that an upgrading of the legal basis for the BBSS is needed. They also emphasised the desire of integrating the BBSS into FRIBS, which should however not delay FRIBS 1st stage (FRIBS 1).

The Business Statistics Directors Group (BSDG) was consulted in December 2014 and subsequently in writing. A large majority of Business Directors were in favour of integrating the BBSS into FRIBS, with more countries opting for FRIBS 1 than FRIBS 2 (2nd stage). The timetable of FRIBS 1 should however not be put in question.

That is, both the DSS and the BSDG are in favour of integrating BBSS into FRIBS. While FRIBS 1 is slightly preferred, many countries also accept the more medium-term integration of the BBSS into FRIBS 2, in particular as the timetable of FRIBS 1 should not be endangered.

Therefore Eurostat proposes the integration of the BBSS package into FRIBS only after FRIBS 1 ('FRIBS 2'). This proposal is still to be confirmed by the BSDG. Preparatory work on the integration of the BBSS is to start soon.

⁵ See Doc. DSS/2015/Feb/03.7; DSS documents are publicly available in [CIRCABC](#) (path CIRCABC > Eurostat > Directors of Social Statistics > Library > DSS meetings)

⁶ See Doc. DSS/2015/Feb/Opinions

⁷ See Doc. DSS/2015/Feb/3.6

In view of the medium-term horizon for FRIBS 2 it is almost sure that the current CVTS legislation will still be in place in 2020. Moreover, as already explained to the DSS in November 2013 and to the ESSC in May 2014, taking into account the persistent policy demand for CVT indicators, a repeal of the current CVTS legislation can only be envisaged if the provision of basic CVT indicators is ensured via appropriate sources and their (adapted) legislation. The repeal of the current CVTS legislation is expected to take place in the context of FRIBS 2 under the condition that the provision of relevant CVT indicators remains ensured by the new legislative frame.

The ETS WG will be kept informed on further developments.

Annex I: CVTS 5 – overview file on national planning (Excel file)