

1ST MEETING OF THE EUROPEAN STATISTICAL SYSTEM COMMITTEE

LUXEMBOURG, 14 MAY 2009

Item 12 of the Agenda

Single Entry Point: Report on implementation

Theme 6.04

1. RECOMMENDATION TO THE ESSC

The ESSC is invited:

- to take note of this progress report;
- to reinforce the role of the Local Coordinators for data transmission in NSIs by providing them with enough resources for promotion and follow-up of the Single Entry Point strategy and especially for the coordination of data transmission by national authorities other than NSIs.

2. BACKGROUND

At its 59th meeting (May 2006), the SPC endorsed the data transmission strategy¹ based on 3 pillars: the Single Entry Point, the eDAMIS² application and the standard exchange formats (SDMX³).

At the 65th SPC meeting (February 2008), Eurostat presented the progress in implementation of this strategy⁴. Issues identified in 2008 were:

- The eDAMIS Web Portal tool used by non-NSI national authorities was not yet mature;
- Some Eurostat units had not transmitted a clear message requesting their providers to use the Single Entry Point.

3. PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SINGLE ENTRY POINT

3.1. Coverage of the Single Entry Point

At its meeting on 12 February 2008, the Eurostat Directors' Meeting decided that eDAMIS would be compulsory for the transmission of all regular datasets as of 1 July 2008. Any exception would have to be justified by the Director concerned. This decision – which was in line with the position of the SPC - was communicated to the SPC in a letter from Mr Carré dated 5 May 2008.

Progress in implementation of the Single Entry Point, and in particular the impact of the decision to require the use of eDAMIS, is measured through the Single Entry Point coverage indicator.

During recent months, a lot of effort has been put into improving the calculation of the coverage indicator for the Single Entry Point.

The new method of calculation of the coverage indicator for a specified period takes into account, for each observation period, the datasets having their deadline between the beginning

¹ CPS 2006/59/9 - Data transmission strategy

² eDAMIS: "electronic Data files Administration and Management Information System" is an integrated software environment that implements the concept of the Single Entry Point.

³ SDMX: Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange.

⁴ CPS 2008/65/9 - Single Entry Point: Report on implementation

and the end of the period. The concerned datasets are the ones that are being expected to be received by Eurostat in this period. Among these datasets, a count is made of how many have been received via eDAMIS. The coverage indicator is calculated as the number of dataset occurrences received via eDAMIS divided by the expected number of dataset occurrences.

As mentioned in the 2008 progress report to the SPC, the number of expected dataset occurrences⁵ which is the basis for calculating the Single Entry Point coverage indicator is an estimate which needs to be continuously adjusted as the eDAMIS dataset inventory is updated and checked by Eurostat production units.

It is important to note that this coverage indicator could still be an underestimate for the following reasons:

- late transmission: datasets that have not yet been transmitted at the time the indicator is calculated, can still arrive later;
- obsolete datasets: if datasets that are not longer used are still in the eDAMIS inventory at the time the indicator is calculated;
- incorrect information on datasets: if for some datasets the flag "expected to send" or the transmission deadline are not yet correctly updated in the eDAMIS inventory at the time the indicators are calculated (note that this may also result in overestimation of the coverage indicator).

Annex 1 shows the coverage by semester since 2007. It can be seen that the overall Single Entry Point coverage for July-December 2008, at 73%, is dramatically improved compared to the situation in the same period of 2007 (47%).

The new calculation method makes it possible to calculate the coverage indicator separately for NSIs. It can be seen (Annex 1(b)) that 12 NSIs have achieved coverage of 80% or more. In most countries, the coverage for national authorities other than NSIs is lower than for NSIs.

Other breakdowns are provided in a more detailed report which is available online⁶.

3.2. Tools supporting the Single Entry Point

The eDAMIS environment offers two main visible interfaces: eDAMIS Web Application (eWA) which is the main tool used to exchange data between NSIs and Eurostat and eDAMIS Web Portal (eWP) which is available on the internet for all authorised users to upload data files to Eurostat.

eDAMIS Web Application is now stable and has been subject to regular upgrades (one major release in 2008). The main improvement was done in the management of automatic transmission of files (users or application have only to drop files in specific directories). The management for sending files from Eurostat to countries in the application was improved. It is installed at all NSIs in EU27 and several other partner countries. In total, it is used by 47 organisations in 38 countries.

⁵ A "new dataset occurrence" is the first version of a dataset for one country and one period (or time series or sequence) excluding new versions (replace, append, ...).

⁶ The detailed report concerning last semester of 2008 can be downloaded from CIRCA:
http://circa.europa.eu/Public/irc/dsis/edamis/library?l=/reference_documents/monitoring_transmissions/coverage_indicators&vm=detailed&sb=Title

In 2008, work on the eDAMIS Web Portal was focused on improvements of friendliness and performance, although some new or enhanced functions have also been integrated. The most notable changes were:

- more explicit and better targeted email messages sent to users;
- an Application Programming Interface (API) that will allow automatic updates by applications used in Eurostat production units, to update status of reception.

eDAMIS Web Forms are an additional module within the eDAMIS Web Portal, which enables the direct entry or import of data in online forms, with extensive validation options similar to a spreadsheet programme such as Excel. In 2008, the eDAMIS Web Forms reached maturity. They are used intensively for the transmission of agriculture and energy data, and to a more limited extent for waste and demography statistics, representing 13% of transmissions in the last quarter of 2008 (see Annex 2(b)).

4. OUTSTANDING ISSUES

Eurostat would like to see more recognition and support within NSIs for the Local Coordinators for data transmission who have been nominated in all NSIs⁷. The Local Coordinators play a vital role in providing local support for the eDAMIS system, for ensuring that the data transmission tools are used correctly and for monitoring the transmissions to Eurostat.

Furthermore, Eurostat believes that the coordination role of NSIs in relation to other national authorities for the development, production and dissemination of European Statistics should be reflected in an enhanced role for the Local Coordinators. For coordination of data transmission involving organisations outside NSIs, Local Coordinators will need additional time and hierarchical recognition to play this role effectively. Depending on the number of different national authorities providing data to Eurostat, and, the relationship between the NSI and other organisations, this expanded coordination role will require more or less time.

5. CONCLUSION

Following the decision to require the use of the Single Entry Point for all regular data transmissions to Eurostat, there has been a dramatic improvement compared to the situation reported to the SPC in 2006 and 2008.

Eurostat will now focus its efforts on domains where there is significant under-utilisation of the Single Entry Point, or where production units have signalled that they have special requirements beyond the normal functionality of the eDAMIS tools. Improvements in the coverage are also expected in units where the decision to use eDAMIS Web Form has been taken, as the uptake of this tool has been slower than originally expected.

Reinforcement of the role of the Local Coordinators for data transmission, allowing them to work on the coordination of data transmission by national authorities other than NSIs, will also help in achieving a higher Single Entry Point coverage.

⁷ List of Local Coordinators:

http://circa.europa.eu/Public/irc/dsis/edamis/library?l=/reference_documents/general_information/2005-07-05-list-of-lcspd/EN_1.0_&a=d

Annex 1: Coverage indicator evolution by semester since 2007

The statistics presented here were calculated on 9 February 2009.

Currently the information is based on EU27 Member States only. EEA/EFTA and candidate countries will soon be added to these statistics.

The detailed methodology to calculate the coverage indicator is available on eDAMIS Help Centre http://circa.europa.eu/Public/irc/dsis/edamis/library?l=/reference_documents/monitoring_transmissions/coverage_indicators/how-coverage-indicators-/ EN_1.0_&a=i.

(a) by country

	Jan - Jun 2007	Jul - Dec 2007	Jan - Jun 2008	Jul - Dec 2008
Member State	Coverage	Coverage	Coverage	Coverage
AT	47%	54%	67%	79%
BE	38%	47%	59%	58%
BG	21%	37%	55%	75%
CY	44%	54%	64%	70%
CZ	54%	53%	67%	83%
DE	50%	56%	65%	77%
DK	36%	37%	47%	57%
EE	43%	56%	72%	87%
EL	40%	40%	52%	62%
ES	44%	44%	58%	69%
FI	48%	48%	59%	78%
FR	45%	47%	59%	72%
HU	41%	44%	59%	70%
IE	37%	36%	48%	62%
IT	46%	42%	59%	65%
LT	51%	61%	75%	93%
LU	38%	48%	55%	63%
LV	34%	44%	62%	82%
MT	34%	32%	43%	63%
NL	59%	66%	73%	79%
PL	42%	45%	61%	78%
PT	47%	47%	58%	69%
RO	38%	46%	68%	83%
SE	39%	44%	53%	77%
SI	58%	63%	74%	83%
SK	43%	44%	63%	79%
UK	33%	34%	51%	65%
EU27I	43%	47%	60%	73%

(b) by NSIs

		Jan - Jun 2007	Jul - Dec 2007	Jan - Jun 2008	Jul - Dec 2008
COUNTRY	ORG	Coverage	Coverage	Coverage	Coverage
AT	STAT	58%	65%	77%	88%
BE	INS	45%	54%	60%	61%
BG	BNSI	26%	43%	56%	75%
CY	CYSTAT	45%	55%	65%	71%
CZ	CSO	59%	57%	69%	84%
DE	DESTATIS	61%	65%	72%	80%
DK	DS	50%	53%	59%	78%
EE	SE	50%	61%	75%	87%
EL	NSSG	60%	64%	65%	76%
ES	INE	63%	61%	65%	74%
FI	STFI	60%	58%	61%	80%
FR	INSEE	73%	71%	74%	77%
HU	HCSO	51%	53%	67%	77%
IE	CSO	49%	47%	56%	67%
IT	ISTAT	59%	55%	69%	69%
LT	SL	60%	67%	81%	94%
LU	STATEC	58%	71%	69%	79%
LV	CSBL	38%	49%	64%	83%
MT	NSO	33%	32%	48%	67%
NL	CBS	64%	70%	77%	81%
PL	PCSO	47%	50%	63%	78%
PT	INE	58%	58%	65%	77%
RO	INS	42%	50%	71%	83%
SE	SCB	55%	59%	63%	82%
SI	SURS	65%	69%	77%	83%
SK	SKSO	50%	50%	69%	84%
UK	ONS	47%	51%	60%	70%

Annex 2: Tools used to transmit data to the Single Entry Point

(a) Number of new dataset occurrences sent with each tool in last quarter of 2008

Tool	Period: 01/10/2008 – 31/12/2008
eWA	4316
eWP	1163
E-MAIL	46
STATEL	65
eWF	870

- eWA eDAMIS Web Application – installed in all NSIs
 eWP eDAMIS Web Portal – mostly used by small data providers
 Refers only to use of email to Single Entry Point, called by other tools such as
 E-MAIL GENEDI
 STATEL When used as transmission layer in relation with other tools such as GENEDI
 eWF eDAMIS Web Form – online forms integrated in eDAMIS

(b) proportion of new dataset occurrences sent using each tool in last quarter of 2008

eDAMIS - First version of Dataset Occurences by Client

