



Importance of official statistics in the EU accession process

Claudia Junker, head of unit "Statistical cooperation", Eurostat

Twinning opening event – Skopje, 30th Jan 2017

Outline of the presentation

- Statistics and official statistics
- Statistics in the EU context
- Fundamentals
- Statistics and the Enlargement process
- Scope of cooperation
- Link country report – project work
- Conclusions

11,289,853

This is a population number.
Source: Eurostat.



Where? Belgium
When? 1 January 2016

Who is included? Migrants?
Foreign students? Students? EU
officials? Tourists?
People who live in Arlon but work in
Luxembourg?

What is official statistics

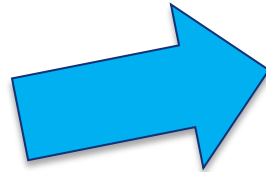
- statistics describing on a representative basis the economic, demographic, social and environmental phenomena of a country
- Statistics to be developed, produced and disseminated in compliance with the European statistics Code of Practice as well as European/internationally agreed statistical standards and recommendations;
- Statistics to be referred to as official statistics in the statistical programmes



European
Commission

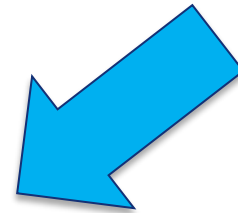
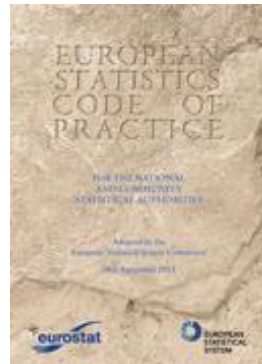
"Who does what and how?"

Who?



What we do?

European Statistical Programme 2013-2017



How we do it?

Importance of comparable statistics

Automation of decisions

- Regional GDP per capita: Structural Funds
- Excessive Deficit Procedure
- Gross National Income
- Harmonized Index of Consumer Prices

Preparation and evaluation of policies, democratic control

- Public finance statistics: Stability and Growth Pact
- Statistics on education , employment, poverty, research and the environment: Europe 2020 strategy, SDGs

Role of statistics in the enlargement context

Enlargement countries - role in the Stabilisation and Association Process and in the EU accession negotiations:

- Chapter 18 of the EU acquis;
- Serves other policy areas by providing data for monitoring the changes and assessing the impact of policies chosen.
- Provides indicators for measuring results from IPA programmes

Statistical Cooperation

➤ **Enlargement countries:**

- Strategy for statistical cooperation with enlargement countries 2014-2020;
- Participation in the political process;
- Provide technical assistance - IPA programmes;
- Organise high level meetings (Policy Group for Statistical Cooperation - PGSC);
- Collect, validate and publish data;
- Measuring compliance with the EU acquis;
- Implement reviews of the statistical systems;
- Support the implementation of bilateral programmes – twinning projects

Country report – twinning project

Progress needed

Alignment with ESA2010
Transmission of EDP tables
STS – more variables
FATS
Environmental accounts
Missing population census
Resources
Migration statistics
Tourism statistics
Education statistics
Health statistics

Project

ESA 2010 alignment
GFS
Regional accounts
FATS
Health accounts
Quality of the BR
Environment accounts
Administrative data sources

Conclusions

- Official statistics are important, the more other data are becoming available and used
- Reaching European standards in statistics is a long way - and a moving target
- Support is needed on a continuous basis
- Results in statistics projects are visible

- Statistics needs to be properly funded and be compiled in an independent manner