

## ESS peer reviews - Questionnaire on cooperation / level of integration achieved by the ESS

<b>Identification</b>	
0. This questionnaire contains the replies of the National Statistical Institute of: -single choice reply- <b>(compulsory)</b>	Bulgaria
<b>Strategy</b>	
<p><b>1. Benchmarking/benchlearning/coaching of the National Statistical Institute with National Statistical Authorities of other ESS countries.</b> National Statistical Institutes carry out benchmarking, benchlearning or coaching activities with Statistical authorities of other ESS countries. The results of the benchmarking/benchlearning/coaching are assessed and, when applicable, implemented.</p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> Benchmarking, benchlearning and coaching serves to identify good practices, to improve the efficiency of the national systems and to assure a better convergence within the ESS.</p> <p><b>Relation with ESS QAF:</b> Outside of the scope of ESS QAF.</p> <p>1.1. Within the last three years, the National Statistical Institute has carried out benchmarking, benchlearning or coaching activities with other Statistical Authorities within the ESS. -single choice reply-<b>(compulsory)</b></p>	No
Please specify (e.g. support documentation, which other(s) Statistical Authorities within the ESS has been used for benchmarking/benchlearning/coaching, what are the lessons learned, which actions have been implemented?). -open reply- <b>(optional)</b>	
<p><b>2. Common projects or cooperation agreements.</b> National statistical authorities have common projects or cooperation agreements with National statistical authorities of other countries within the ESS for the development, production or dissemination of European Statistics (e.g. ESS VIP projects, ESSnets, centres of competence or other similar initiatives) and their recommendations are implemented, when applicable. Human and financial resources for these projects and cooperation agreements are reflected in the National Statistical Programme.</p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> Avoid redundancy, exploit synergies, and increase economy of scale and application of common solutions.</p> <p><b>Relation with ESS QAF</b> Question 2.1 linked to ESS QAF method 14.5.2.</p>	Yes

2.1 The NSI participates in common projects with National statistical authorities of other countries within the ESS for the development, production or dissemination of European Statistics (e.g ESSnets or other similar initiatives) -single choice reply-(**compulsory**)

Please specify (e.g. support documentation, type of cooperation agreement, area(s) of cooperation, length of the cooperation agreements). -open reply-(**optional**)

NSI participates in common projects with National statistical authorities of other countries within the ESS as follows: • Grant agreement for an action with multiple beneficiaries № 30501.2009.003-2010.575 – the action is entitled “ESSnet on automated data collection and reporting in accommodation statistics”. The area of cooperation is accommodation statistics. The length of the cooperation agreement is 22 months. • Grant agreement for an action with multiple beneficiaries № 60501.2010.001-2010.685 - the action is entitled “ESSnet on SDMX – Phase II”. The area of cooperation is the implementation of the SDMX standard at national and international level. The length of the cooperation agreement is 18 months. • Grant agreement for an action with multiple beneficiaries № 50502.2009.004-2011-536 GEOSTAT 1B – Representing Census Data in European population grid”. The area of cooperation is developing guidelines for datasets and methods to link census 2010/2011 statistics to a common harmonised grid. The length of the cooperation agreement is 24 months. • Consortium agreement № 21-162/23.10.2012 for the implementation of the Twinning contract MK/09/IB/ST/01 “Support to the State Statistical Office for capacity building and improving compliance of statistics with EU standards”. The agreement is between the Federal Statistical Office of Germany and the NSI of Bulgaria. The area of cooperation is combined efforts to support to the State Statistical Office of FYRM by providing expertise and consultations. The length of the twinning contract is 24 months.

2.2 Within the last three years, the NSI has implemented recommendations from common projects for the development, production or dissemination of European Statistics and/or

Yes

Within the next three years, there are plans to implement recommendations from common projects for the development, production or dissemination of European Statistics.

(e.g. ESSnets, ESS VIP projects, centres of competence or other similar initiatives) -single choice reply-(**compulsory**)

Please specify (e.g. support documentation, recommendations implemented, improvements achieved, project to be implemented, timeline). -open reply-(**optional**)

A handbook on how to use SDMX has been developed under the action entitled “ESSnet on SDMX – Phase II” that is currently used and implemented. NSI has implemented guidelines for datasets developed under the action with multiple beneficiaries - GEOSTAT 1B – Representing Census Data in European population grid” and its first phase GEOSTAT 1A.

2.3 The NSI Statistical Programme includes human and financial resources to participate in common projects for the development, production or dissemination of European Statistics. -single choice reply-(**compulsory**)

Yes, partly

Please specify (e.g. support documentation, number of persons/year, total amount/year, year(s)) -open reply-(**optional**)

NSI approved budget includes all activities for implementation of The NSI Statistical Programme.

**3. Policy for participating in international meetings.** There is a policy supporting and promoting the participation of the staff in international meetings and fora (conferences, workshops, working groups, task forces, networks, sponsorships, alliances, ESSnets). Staff are encouraged to attend and present papers on statistical methods and tools in international meetings and fora. The meetings are well prepared and there is a policy for disseminating the minutes and implementing the conclusions. The policy is applied by means of

Yes

concrete actions and behaviours.

**Rationale:** Make it possible to participate to the design of international recommendations, to make them relevant and to learn about best practices.

**Relation with ESS QAF** Question 3.1 linked to ESS QAF methods 7.2.5, 7.7.2, 7.7.3, 7.7.4 and 8.6.2.

3.1 The NSI has a policy to support and promote the participation of staff in international meetings and fora. -single choice reply-(**compulsory**)

Please specify (e.g. support documentation, how the policy is applied, what are the concrete actions and behaviours to encourage the staff to attend and present papers). -open reply-(**optional**)

The international department monitors the Eurostat MC list for the incoming invitations for international meetings and fora, as well as other invitations received related to international events in statistics. Invitations are also received by the statistical subject matter units/thematic contact points. The NSI directors propose participation and point out qualified experts who before every meeting prepare an opinion in order to coordinate a mandate for the meeting. The opinion is submitted to the top management for approval.

3.2 There is a policy to prepare the meetings and to disseminate the conclusions. -single choice reply-(**compulsory**)

Yes

Please specify (e.g. support documentation, how the policy is applied, which are the concrete actions and behaviours to assure the preparation of the meetings and the dissemination of the results) -open reply-(**optional**)

For preparation please refer to the previous point 3.1. Regarding dissemination of conclusions, after participation in an international event the expert prepares a detailed mission report. The mission report is coordinated with the line manager and the relevant director, and then is submitted to the President of NSI for approval. After approval the report is uploaded on the NSI's Intranet website.

3.3 There is a policy to implement the conclusions of the meetings. -single choice reply-(**compulsory**)

Yes

Please specify (e.g. support documentation, how the policy is applied, what are the concrete actions and behaviours to assure the implementation of the conclusions). -open reply-(**optional**)

Conclusions from the meetings are determined as tasks for future implementation by the appropriate expert/department/directorate with specific deadlines. The NSI Inspectorate unit monitors their implementation.

**4. Policy for exchanging staff.** A policy to promote the exchange of staff with Statistical Authorities of other countries within the ESS is in place. The policy is applied by means of concrete actions and behaviours.

Yes

**Rationale:** To learn from others, to spread good practices and create networks.

**Relation with ESS QAF:** Outside of the scope of ESS QAF.

4.1 The NSI has a policy to promote the exchange of staff with Statistical Authorities of other countries within the ESS. -single choice reply-(**compulsory**)

Please specify (e.g. support documentation, how the policy is applied, which are the concrete actions and behaviours to promote the exchange of staff). -open reply-(**optional**)

1. In 2013 The NSI has developed a procedure which is incorporated in the document INTERNAL RULES FOR HR MANAGEMENT AND

DEVELOPMENT/IRHRMD/ to promote the exchange of staff, giving concrete instructions on the actions to be taken. 2. The procedure includes the following steps: - Chapter I - Pointing the main goal of staff exchange - to promote local staff to EU structures and to assure career opportunity and higher professional capacity. - Chapter II - Describes the types of vacancies the staff can enter a competition for e.g. seconded national experts, temporary agents, etc. - Chapter III - The procedures for announcing, applying and occupying the vacancy, including coordination with local and international authorities. 3. At present the NSI has a number of experts who work for European institutions. Examples can be given if required /SEE ATTACHMENTS Integration 1, Integration 2/.

## Design

**5. ESS priorities and regulations.** Procedures to take into account ESS priorities are established and applied. ESS Regulations are fully implemented. There are no derogations or the existing derogations are limited in time and scope and duly justified.

Yes

**Rationale:** Key element to show that the ESS is working as a real integrated system.

**Relation with ESS QAF:** Outside of the scope of ESS QAF.

5.1 Procedures to take into account ESS priorities are established and applied. -single choice reply-(**compulsory**)

Please specify (e.g. support documentation, type of procedure(s), tools and measures applied to assure that ESS priorities are taken into account). -open reply-(**optional**)

Strategic documents of the NSI are developed in compliance with the priorities of the ESS.

5.2 ESS Regulations are fully implemented without derogations. -single choice reply-(**compulsory**)

No

Please specify (e.g. type of derogation, in which domain(s), for how long). -open reply-(**optional**)

Regulations with derogations for Bulgaria: 1) Bulgaria has derogations according to Regulation (EU) No 549/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 May 2013 on the European system of national and regional accounts in the European Union (Methodology /Annex A/ and Data Transmission Programme /Annex B/). The derogations are related to different indicators (Data Transmission Programme /Annex B/) concerning the period 2016-2020; 2) The implementation of the COMMISSION REGULATION (EU) No 328/2011 of 5 April 2011 implementing Regulation (EC) No 1338/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council on Community statistics on public health and health and safety at work, as regards statistics on causes of death is in accordance with the COMMISSION DECISION of 5 April 2011 granting derogations to certain Member States with respect to the transmission of statistics pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 1338/2008. For Bulgaria the derogation is for a period of two years (until 31 December 2012) and refers to the provision of data on deaths by cause using the 4 - digit code of underlying cause according to the ICD – X revision. The first reference year for which Bulgaria will provide data using the 4 - digit code is 2013. According to the requirements of the Regulation data should be provided to the Commission by 31 December 2015.

5.3 For the ESS Regulations currently under discussion, no derogations are requested. -single choice reply-(**compulsory**)

Yes

Please specify (e.g. type of derogation, in which domain(s), for how long). -open reply-(**optional**)

Bulgaria has not asked for derogations as regards regulations under current discussion.

**6. Design a new statistical project or redesign a current statistical project.** When designing a new statistical project or redesigning a current statistical project (selection of data sources, data processing, validation, data transmission, dissemination ...), solutions implemented in other countries/at ESS level are assessed and, if appropriate, taken into account.

Yes

**Rationale:** Improve efficiency by exploiting synergies and increasing economy of scale.

**Relation with ESS QAF:** Outside of the scope of ESS QAF.

6.1 When designing a new statistical project or redesigning a current statistical project, solutions implemented in other countries/at ESS level are assessed and, if appropriate, taken into account for their implementation. -single choice reply-(**compulsory**)

Please specify (e.g. support documentation, how and when the ESS solutions are assessed and, if, appropriate, implemented). -open reply-(**optional**)

An example is the action Preparation for exchange of micro-data on intra-EU trade between Member States (Grant agreement 06151.2013.004-2013.572). The general goal is to prepare Bulgarian statistical system for exchange and use of micro-data on intra-EU trade according to the requirements of SIMSTAT methodology and using CCN/CSI gateway. This goal will be achieved by realization of objectives laid down in the description of the action and part of the grant agreement. Another example is the implementation of the SDMX standard by the successful implementation of the action with multiple beneficiaries entitled "ESSnet on SDMX – Phase II" (Grant agreement 60501.2010.001-2010.685).

## Process chain management

**7. Use of a statistical business process model.** Statistical Authorities adopt and implement a statistical business process model, e.g. G S B P M .

Yes, partly

**Rationale:** Improve the standardisation of production processes and enhance the application of similar tools and solutions.

**Relation with ESS QAF:** Linked to ESS QAF methods 4.1.3, 7.1.1, 7.2.2, 10.4.1 and 10.4.2.

7.1 The NSI has implemented a statistical business process model.  
-single choice reply-(**compulsory**)

Please specify (e.g. support documentation: which model, to what extent). -open reply-(**optional**)

NSI has implemented the GSBPM at collection and dissemination level.

## Process chain implementation

### Data collection:

Yes

**8. Use of EuroGroups Register (EGR).** The EuroGroup (EGR) register is used as a source to improve the quality of the national business register, the sampling business frame and the Foreign investments survey.

**Rationale:** The EGR is an ESS tool which increases consistency and quality of the business statistics.

**Relation with ESS QAF:** Linked to ESS QAF methods 7.3.1 and 7.3.2.

8.1 The EuroGroup (EGR) register is used as a source to improve the quality of the national business register, the sampling business frame and the Foreign investments survey. -single choice reply-(compulsory)

Please specify (e.g. support documentation). -open reply-(optional)

The answer of question 8.1 is YES if it concerns the national business register! From 2009 onwards BNSI participate in the EGR project actively and perform all activities linked to the annual update of the EGR population frame. Information about the allocation of the real foreign controller of the enterprises (UCI) is gathered through the FDI survey, which is annual and exhaustive. In it a special question exists on the country of origin of UCI. The information is compared to that of BR and if there are any differences they are checked and corrected. The EGR is used as a main source for determining the allocation of the real foreign controller (UCI) of the large enterprises when compiling IFATS data. The result is a real improvement of the quality and accuracy of the data in this domain of business statistics.

**9. Policy on data sharing.** There is a policy to share data with Statistical Authorities of other countries within the ESS. This policy is strengthened in areas of mutual interest such as flow and mirror statistics (migration, external trade ...). The policy is applied by means of concrete actions and behaviours.

Yes

**Rationale:** Avoid redundancy, exploit synergies, increase economy of scale and improve data quality.

**Relation with ESS QAF:** Linked to ESS QAF methods 14.5.1, 14.5.2, 14.5.4 and 14.5.5.

9.1 The NSI has a policy to share data with Statistical Authorities of other countries within the ESS. -single choice reply-(compulsory)

Please specify (e.g. support documentation, how the policy is applied, which are the concrete actions and behaviours to exchange the data, in which areas is the data exchanged, with which frequency). -open reply-(optional)

NSI provides statistical data at the request of the Statistical Institutes of other countries.

## Data processing and analysis:

Yes

### 10. Use of European standards for data and metadata exchange.

Data and metadata are structured and exchanged in accordance with European technical and statistical standards. These include the use of technical standards such as SDMX or data/metadata structure definitions (including standard code lists) and the use of shared services and IT applications such as the Single Entry Point (Edamis), the SDMX-Reference Infrastructure (SDMX-RI) or the ESS Metadata Handler.

**Rationale:** improve the exchange, reuse and timeliness of data and metadata; improve the international consistency of data/metadata exchange; reduce source of errors.

**Relation with ESS QAF:** Linked to ESS QAF methods corresponding to indicators 10.4 and 15.5. of the CoP

10.1 The Single Entry Point for transmitting data and metadata is used.

-single choice reply-(**compulsory**)

Please specify (e.g. support documentation, domain/statistics where the Single Entry Point is not used). -open reply-(**optional**)

10.2 The SDMX RI for data and metadata exchange is used. -single

choice reply-(**compulsory**)

Yes, partly

Please specify (e.g. support documentation, domain/statistics where SDMX RI is not used). -open reply-(**optional**)

Used for data transmission to Census Hub.

10.3 The SDMX standards (data/metadata structure definitions) for data and metadata exchange, including the ESMS and ESQRS, are used.

-single choice reply-(**compulsory**)

Yes, partly

Please specify (e.g. support documentation, domain/statistics where SDMX standards, including ESMS and ESQRS, are not used). -open reply-(**optional**)

The Current metadata partially are compliant with the ESMS structure (13 of 21 concepts). Within the "Horizontal and vertical integration: Implementing of technical and statistical standards in the European Statistical System" project entirely on the ESMS structure are developed national reference metadata, which will be published on the NSI's website. It aims at documenting methodologies, quality and the statistical production processes in general. It uses 21 high-level concepts, with a limited breakdown of sub-items, strictly derived from the list of cross domain concepts in the SDMX Content Oriented Guidelines (2009).

10.4 The ESS Metadata Handler (National Reference Metadata Editor)

is used for metadata production, exchange and dissemination. -single

choice reply-(**compulsory**)

Yes

Please specify (e.g. support documentation, where the ESS Metadata Handler (National Reference Metadata Editor) is not used). -open reply-(**optional**)

## Dissemination; storage:

Yes

### 11. Website with updated key European indicators, links to other ESS websites and use of English.

The website of the Statistical Authorities presents updated key European indicators and allows for easy access to websites of Statistical Authorities of other countries and to the ESS and Eurostat websites. The main contents of the web site are available in English. Updated metadata, at least of the key statistical processes, is disseminated in English.

In particular the website:

- Has a section which is set up and maintained, preferably linked from the home page, with a common set of institutional information about the ESS and a common set of European tables, in their own languages (Recommendations 1 of the Sponsorship on Communication)
- Has a link to the ESS website (Recommendation 3 of the Sponsorship on Communication).

**Rationale:** enhance a common image of the ESS and improve accessibility and clarity.



## Relation with ESS QAF: Linked to ESS QAF method 15.1.1.

11.1 The website presents updated key European indicators

-single choice reply-(**compulsory**)

Please specify (e.g. support documentation, key indicators disseminated, where they are placed, frequency and method of updating). -open reply-(**optional**)

A section on Indicators for monitoring National and European strategies is available on the web site of the NSI.

<http://www.nsi.bg/bg/node/798/> - in Bulgarian <http://www.nsi.bg/en/content/11254/indicators-monitoring-national-and-european-strategies>  
- in English

11.2 The website has a section with updated institutional information about the ESS as well as links to the ESS website and to websites of other ESS authorities. -single choice reply-(**compulsory**)

Yes

Please specify (e.g. support documentation, where the section is placed, frequency and method of updating, links available, where they are placed). -open reply-(**optional**)

The ESS logo with a link is posted on the home page of the NSI's website. Access to the ESS information is ensured via the International Cooperation Section, as well. Information about regulations received via InfraSolve is regularly updated by the International Cooperation Department staff. Excel table with all regulations in the field of statistics (incl. a hyperlink to the concrete regulation and NSI contact point) is published on the NSI's website, European Legal Basis Section. The table is updated on a monthly basis by the International Cooperation Department.

11.3 The main contents of the website are available in English and kept updated. -single choice reply-(**compulsory**)

Yes

Please specify (e.g. support documents which are available in English, where they are available, frequency and method of updating). -open reply-(**optional**)

Detailed structure of the statistical indicators, time series, exhaustive metadata, events, press releases, useful information for users, key figures and indicators, publications are available on web site of the NSI ([www.nsi.bg](http://www.nsi.bg)) both in Bulgarian and English. The information is updated every working day. <http://www.nsi.bg/en> <http://www.nsi.bg/>

11.4 Updated metadata of the key statistical processes are disseminated in English. -single choice reply-(**compulsory**)

Yes

Please specify (e.g. support documentation, which statistical processes are disseminated in English, where they are available, frequency and method of updating). -open reply-(**optional**)

See reply of question 10.3.

## Strengths and weaknesses

12. Please state below the main area of **strength** of your organisation with regard to its cooperation/level of integration in the ESS. -open reply-(**compulsory**)

Participation of the NSI in a number of ESSnet projects. Availability of internal rules to promote the exchange of staff with Statistical Authorities of other countries within the ESS. Availability in English of Key European Indicators on the NSI Internet site. Availability in English of statistical data and metadata on the NSI Internet site.

13. Please state below the main area of **weakness** of your organisation with regard to its cooperation/level of integration in the ESS. -open reply-(**compulsory**)

Lack of Benchmarking and Benchlearning in the last three years. Derogations on some regulations in the field of statistics are in place.

## Follow up

14. On the basis of the above mentioned actions/sentences please list below actions that you would like to take which are suited to improve your organisation with regard to its cooperation/level of integration in the ESS.



Actions and time frame -open reply-(compulsory)

To organize Benchmarking and Benchlearning - 2015.

15. Please identify below possible actions at European level suited to improve your organisation with regard to its cooperation/level of integration in the ESS.

Actions and time frame -open reply-(compulsory)

To organize Benchmarking and Benchlearning - 2015.

16. Please identify below possible actions at European level suited to improve the cooperation/level of integration of the ESS as a whole.

Actions and time frame -open reply-(compulsory)

More active role the Centres of competence. Transperancy and active promotion of European initiatives.