

**ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN THE STATISTICAL OFFICE OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION (EUROSTAT) AND THE EFTA SECRETARIAT,  
REGARDING TECHNICAL COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF STATISTICS**

1. The aim of this Administrative Arrangement (AA) between the Statistical Office of the European Union (Eurostat) and EFTA is to ensure active participation from the EFTA States in supporting European statistical cooperation projects in third countries.

This AA is based on the previous agreement between Eurostat and EFTA regarding statistical cooperation, covering Balkan, Eastern European and Mediterranean countries as well as recent and prospective partners in other geographical areas.

2. EFTA intends to continue to cooperate with Eurostat in a number of programmes for technical cooperation within the field of statistics. EFTA will aim for active and visible participation in the planning, execution and revision of projects and actions covered by this Administrative Arrangement.

EFTA's own technical cooperation is directed, to the extent possible, towards countries having concluded declarations on cooperation or free trade agreements with EFTA States and is mainly granted to developing countries and economies in transition. The focus is on the Western Balkans and Turkey, and countries covered by the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) and in Central Asia. The scope of the cooperation can also include EFTA free trade and prospective partners in other regions of the world.

EFTA's technical cooperation may also include joint activities with other international organisations covering the above mentioned regions such as the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.

3. EFTA supports, in priority, the following areas of statistical cooperation:
  - a) Promoting the implementation of the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and the European Statistics Code of Practice.
  - b) Comparability, conformity and harmonisation of statistics with international standards and norms.
  - c) Strengthening and increasing the efficiency of national statistical systems and their institutional framework.
  - d) Statistical information necessary for the establishment of free trade areas.
  - e) Human resources development, particularly training in support of the other areas stated here.
  - f) Exchange of information, dissemination of statistics and use of new technologies.

Other areas for cooperation may be added to this list by mutual understanding between Eurostat and the EFTA Secretariat.

4. EFTA activities covered by this Administrative Arrangement are coordinated with Eurostat. In particular, actions by the EFTA Secretariat and EFTA States shall be included in the planning and reporting procedures as implemented for the European Commission and EU Member States.

Eurostat informs other Commission services as appropriate about the cooperation between Eurostat and EFTA on the basis of this Administrative Arrangement.

5. Experts from EFTA States (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland) as well as experts from EU Member States may participate in projects and actions covered by this Administrative Arrangement.
6. It is intended that two EFTA national experts are seconded to Eurostat for the duration of this Administrative Arrangement as part of the EFTA contribution in order to ensure continuity of support to the overall programming and management of projects and actions covered by this Administrative Arrangement. Their recruitment follows the procedures as for the recruitment of other national experts to Eurostat in the framework of the relevant Commission procedures.

These two EFTA national experts are not part of the contingents of experts seconded to the European Commission through the EEA Agreement and the Agreement between the European Community and the Swiss Confederation on cooperation in the field of statistics.


7. The EFTA Secretariat, represented by the EFTA Statistical Office (ESO) in Luxembourg acts as the contact point between Eurostat and the EFTA States for cooperation programmes covered by this AA. In that respect, ESO participates as observer in the various policy and management groups on statistical cooperation.

EFTA States may also participate as observers in management groups on statistical cooperation.

8. EFTA engagement for its own budget up to EUR 2.1 million for the period from 2014 to 2016 in the framework of its technical cooperation covered by this Administrative Arrangement is noted. In this budget there is a provision for the seconded experts for the aforementioned period. Specific cooperation actions are agreed between EFTA and Eurostat.
9. This Administrative Arrangement comes into effect 1 January 2014. Both sides reassess this Administrative Arrangement by 31 December 2016.
10. This Administrative Arrangement does not intend to create rights or obligations under international law.

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Luxembourg, .....



Walter Radermacher

Director-General of Eurostat

Geneva, <sup>29/10 2013</sup> .....



Kristinn Arnason

Secretary-General of EFTA