

# EFTA statistical cooperation with Eurostat

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EUROPEAN FREE TRADE ASSOCIATION

# Outlook

- EFTA Statistical Office in Luxembourg (ESO)
- European Statistical System (ESS)
- Incorporation of EU statistical legislation into the EEA Agreement
- Inclusion monitoring
- European Statistical Training Programme (ESTP)
- Technical cooperation with third countries
- Official statistics in a new EEA data framework



# EFTA Statistical Office in Luxembourg (ESO)



# EFTA Statistical Office in Luxembourg (ESO)

- 1991: establishment of ESO in Luxembourg as a liaison office between the EFTA National Statistical Institutes (NSIs) and Eurostat
- 1994: entry into force of the EEA Agreement, the EEA EFTA countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway become partners in the European Statistical System (ESS)
- 2007: entry into force of the bilateral statistical Agreement between Switzerland and the EU, Switzerland becomes partner in the European Statistical System (ESS)
- Overarching objective of ESO: to promote the full participation of the EEA EFTA countries in the European Statistical System (Protocol 30 of the EEA Agreement)



# European Statistical System (ESS)

- Definition: partnership between the Commission (Eurostat) and the National Statistical Institutes (NSIs) of all EEA Member States (EU Member States + EFTA Member States)
- Aim: partnership for the development, production and dissemination of European statistics
- The EFTA Statistical Office acts as a broker between the EEA EFTA NSIs and Eurostat:
  - Support towards participation in ESS meetings
  - Overview of legal developments in the ESS
  - Overview of transmission and dissemination of European statistics
  - Support towards statistical training in the ESS



# Incorporation of EU statistical legislation into the EEA Agreement

- A key task of ESO is to coordinate and support the EEA EFTA NSIs in the process of incorporating new EEA relevant EU legal acts in the field of statistics into the EEA Agreement
- This work consists of two main stages:
  1. Identification and preparation of relevant EU legal acts
  2. Incorporation of relevant EU legal acts into the EEA Agreement



# Incorporation of EU statistical legislation into the EEA Agreement

## Protocol 30

- Specifies that EEA EFTA countries participate fully without the right to vote in EU committees and other bodies needed for the management and development of programmes and actions devoted to statistics
- Defines obligations for data transmission by EEA EFTA countries to Eurostat
- Defines obligations for data dissemination by Eurostat in public data bases and alongside data from EU Member States

## Annex XXI

- Lists the EU legal acts concerning the development, production and dissemination of European statistics in the EEA



# Inclusion monitoring

- One key element in the statistical cooperation between the EEA EFTA countries and Eurostat is that the EEA EFTA countries shall provide data to Eurostat in accordance with their legal obligations, and Eurostat is obliged to disseminate these data through its normal dissemination channels
- For this reason, ESO monitors inclusion of EEA EFTA data in Eurostat publications and provides several indicators on data inclusion
- Part of this monitoring also includes examining situations where EFTA States' data are not included in Eurostat publications and the reasons for this





# European Statistical Training Programme (ESTP)

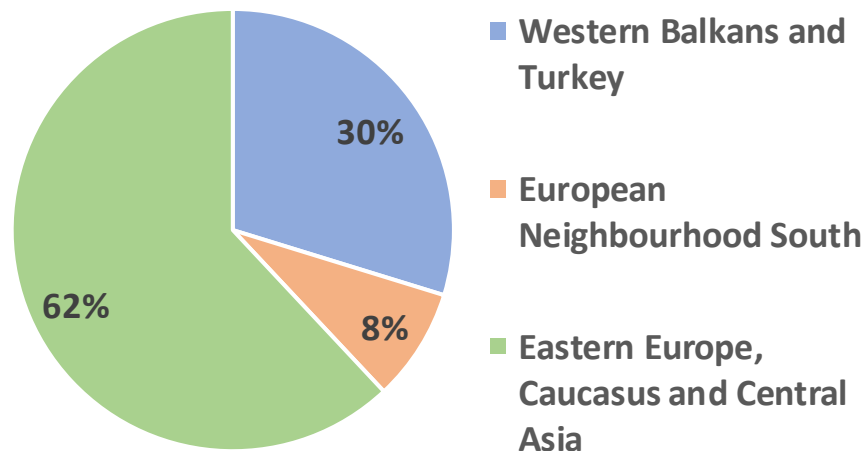
- The European Statistical Training Programme (ESTP) provides European statisticians with continuous training in new methods, techniques and best practices in order to maintain and improve the quality of national and European statistics
- The programme offers a selection of courses, workshops and seminars on a broad range of topics, which are continuously developed and revised in order to respond to emerging statistical information needs of the ESS
- Each year, the EFTA countries offer up to 4 courses in the framework of ESTP
- The full and free access for EFTA statisticians to ESTP has been of great benefit for the EFTA countries. On average a total of about 40 statisticians from the EFTA NSIs participate in ESTP courses each year.



# Technical cooperation with third countries

- Together with Eurostat and other international organisations such as the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) or the United Nations Statistical Division (UNSD), the EFTA Statistical Office (ESO) engages also in statistical capacity building in countries outside the ESS, often referred to as statistical technical cooperation with third countries
- Annual budget of 700 000 EUR implemented by financing:
  - Two expert positions in Eurostat's technical cooperation unit
  - Capacity building projects with third countries with the aim to develop their capacity to produce official statistics according to international and European standards

Technical cooperation budget by region, 2019



# Official statistics in a new EEA data framework

European Strategy for Data aims at creating a single market for data by facilitating easy share and use of data across sectors, all within a new data governance framework

Relevant EU legal acts:

- Open Data Directive and High Value Datasets
- Data Governance Act
- European Data Act

These EU legal acts do not only impact the organisation and governance of data in the European and national administrations but potentially also official statistics through supply and possibly use of data in this new data framework

ESO follows these important policy and legal developments in the EU in order to inform the EFTA NSIs about potential consequences and opportunities for them

