



EUROPEAN FREE TRADE ASSOCIATION



CONCEPT NOTE

Conference on Data Stewardship – Chances and Challenges
15 December 2021
EFTA House, Avenue des Arts 19H, 1000 Brussels

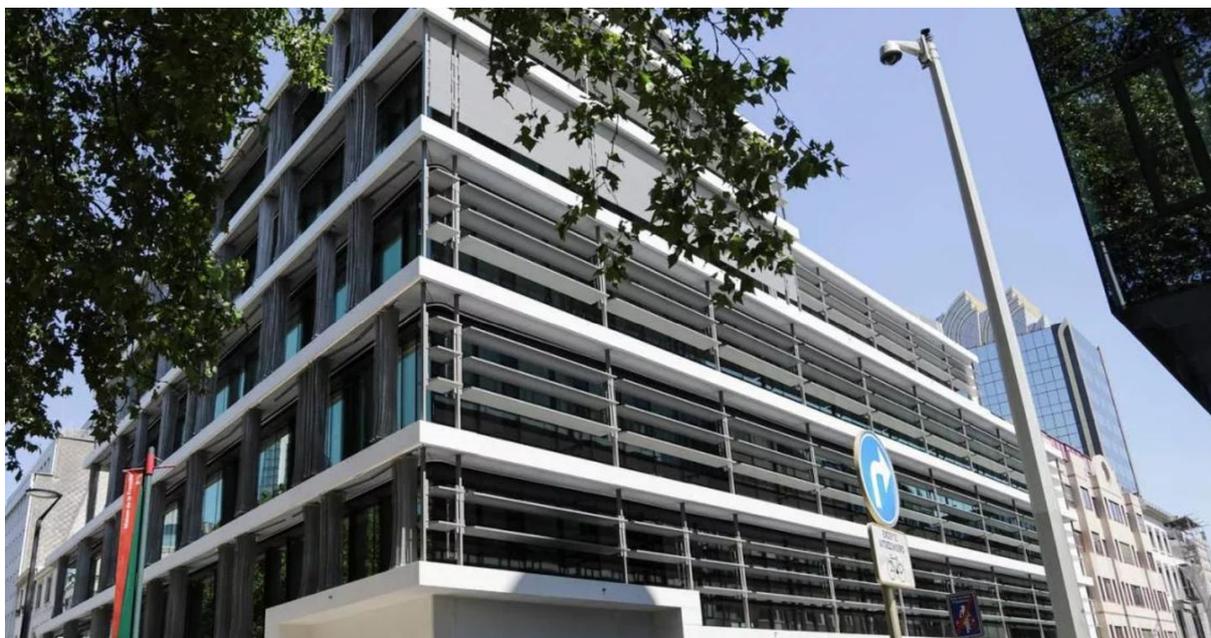
The advance of new information and communication technologies is accompanied by increasing amounts of data. The European data strategy aims to make Europe a leader in a data-driven society. Creating a single market for data will allow it to flow freely within Europe and across sectors for the benefit of businesses, researchers and public administrations. For statistical offices, these sources present potential new assets that may improve production of official statistics in various ways (e.g. timeliness of key figures, granularity of information available, accessibility of data, etc.). However, this potential comes with daunting challenges that must be addressed before any advantages can be harvested.

Examples of those challenges include:

- Producers of official statistics as well as data providers – the whole data ecosystem has to be coordinated, orchestrated and synchronised; how will other national administrations (ONAs) producing Official Statistics (e.g. Central Banks) be integrated?
- Legal bases need to be adapted to grant access for statistical purposes while ensuring confidentiality with regard to the units of analysis; what does this mean for the EEA Agreement?
- Statistical production processes need to be reviewed and eventually modified, which might also affect organisational aspects of statistical offices; how do we deal with this challenge?

Under the German and Portuguese Presidencies of the Council of the EU, some of these points have been raised during high-level workshops amongst statisticians in the ESS.

On its 30th anniversary in 2021, the EFTA Statistical Office organises a one-day conference at the EFTA House in Brussels that intends to stimulate further exchanges and reflections on these topics. The statistical offices of the EFTA Member States, their ESS colleagues in Slovenia, Poland and Eurostat, representatives from the European Central Bank and the Icelandic Central Bank, and representatives from the EFTA Secretariat will present on the current situation of these aspects, constraints encountered and discuss the way ahead.



We look forward to welcome you in the EFTA House in Brussels or joining online!