

ABOUT REPORTS ON QUALITY

Statistical quality is focused on quality of statistical processes and statistical outputs.

Within European statistical system is statistical quality communicated

- (1) In accordance with valid legislation,
- (2) In line with approved standards and rules, in standardised form and structure, and with
- (3) Use of common technical solutions.

Legislative framework

Statistical quality is elaborated in Article 12 of the **Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 on European statistics**, and its amendments in the Regulation (EU) 2015/759. This Regulation defines ‘**quality criteria**’ of statistical quality, i.e. relevance, accuracy, timeliness, punctuality, comparability and coherence (§1). Member states shall provide the Commission (Eurostat) with **reports on the quality** (§3).

Specific quality requirements, such as target values and minimum standards for the production of statistics, may also be laid down in **sectoral legislation**. On Eurostat web is available *Inventory of regulations in the field of statistics containing provisions on quality and quality reporting (2021)*.

In order to ensure the uniform application of the (statistical) quality criteria, the Commission adopts **implementing acts** laying down the modalities, structure and periodicity of quality reports. These acts are usually in form of standards.

Standards and recommendations

As a standard for the quality reporting according to the Article 12 of Regulation 223/2009 was by European Statistical System Committee on its 27th meeting in November 2015 endorsed the **Single Integrated Metadata Structure (SIMS) v2.0**. The SIMS contains *concepts of reference metadata* in given structure, their definitions and guidelines for their use. *Reference metadata* (sometimes called *explanatory metadata*) here focus on semantic content and quality of statistical process and its outputs.

Within the SIMS are included its underlying reporting structures, i.e. **ESMS (Euro-SDMX Metadata Structure) v2.0** and **ESQRS (ESS Standard for Quality Reports Structure) v2.0**. The ESMS type has been considered ‘user-oriented’, while the ESQRS type ‘producer-oriented’ covering also more quantitative information on statistical quality. Many concepts are common for all three structures; and all SIMS concepts have been originally included in either ESMS or ESQRS or both. The relationships between them are presented in *the SIMS Guidelines*. At the present, the structure/type of many reports has been changing from ESMS or ESQRS into SIMS. Concrete reports on quality use only selected, relevant concepts.

The **guidelines for the reports** on quality are more explicitly and into detail provided in **ESS Handbook for Quality and Metadata Reporting (EHQMR)**.

Methodology document *The ESS Guidelines for the Implementation of ESS Quality and Performance Indicators* had defined **quality and performance indicators** for individual statistical quality criteria. This document in updated version is a part of the EHQMR handbook.

Technical environment

Reports on quality are usually prepared with use of common technical environment called the **ESS Metadata Handler (ESS MH)**. Eurostat is its main administrator. This tool uses common unique codes for statistical domains, types of reports and metadata (SIMS) concepts.

ESS Metadata Handler assigns to concrete reports specific identifying shortcuts which have its contextual meaning. The web-link to the public report has a standard structure and includes such shortcut. Having the necessary information the web-link can be easily derived.

As technical standards are used SDMX and XML.

List of reports on quality

The list of concrete reports on quality (shortly the List) provided to Eurostat, including their public web-links, is available in the Excel file *List of Reports on quality*. Besides reports of standard type (see the type of report in the List) there are also included other reports which relates to statistical quality, such as inventories or methodology. Standard structure SIMS, ESMS or ESQRS is not used in such reports e.g. because of character of statistics or report.

Reports on quality in the List are broken down by statistical domains used by Eurostat, and by so called 'thematic groups' used in the CZSO web presentations. Thematic groups are defined in *Dissemination policy of the CZSO*.

In the List is also stated European sectoral legislation, if relevant.

Further information are available in Methodology part of each thematic group of statistics on the **CZSO web**.

Information on quality reporting on Eurostat web page:

<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/quality/quality-monitoring/quality-reporting>