



## Standardisation in the European Statistical System – the Process of ESS Standardisation

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The European Statistical System (ESS) is dedicated to improve efficiency through systematic collaboration of the ESS members. This collaboration is intensified by sharing of data, services, methodologies, tools, knowledge and experience. The implementation of this collaborative system, reaffirmed by the ESS Vision 2020, is based on a wide range of common tools enabling common production, use of integrated data and systems and share of tools and infrastructure. Standardisation in the ESS is aimed at the enhancement of this collaboration by providing a common production framework and arrangements to develop, share and maintain standards in the ESS. The foreseen approach for ESS standardisation establishes a system in which standards in the ESS are established by consensus with the involvement of potential stakeholders in a transparent process; therefore standardisation in the ESS is aimed at the realisation of efficiency gains and improvement of quality by the establishment of standards for the ESS members. In order to achieve this goal, the process of standardisation has been developed for the ESS by the Sponsorship on Standardisation (regarding strategic issues) and the project ESSnet on Standardisation (with a more operational approach). The process is the backbone of the proposed standardisation system in the ESS as it provides the guarantees to realise efficiency gains by ensuring consensus, transparency, openness, balance, due process and proportionality. In order to support this process and the standardisation activities in practice, some additional instruments have been designed, such as an inventory of normative documents (including methodological handbooks and regulations). The paper presents the process of ESS standardisation, its main drivers and characteristics, the standardisation principles and highlights the benefits that standardisation can offer for the ESS and its stakeholders.

**Keywords:** standards; standardisation process; European Statistical System; ESSnet.